

MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

an affiliate of

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



NOVEMBER 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Roderick Hosler

Just a reminder that the Chapter is now meeting on **Fridays** for our monthly winter lunch meetings. We are still experiencing some difficulties in tabulating the number of meals to order at A La Cart. Advanced notices are sent out in time for you to decide to attend. We ask you for an RSVP to determine attendance so, will you please respond by emailing me at msvcmoaa@gmail.com if you are coming or not.

November as always been an important month for America (review the Historical Events in November) especially 11 November. On that day in 1918, World War I ended with the Meuse-Argonne Campaign resulting in Germany signing an Armistice ending the fighting. But tragically the war continued in North Russia as American soldiers desperately fought against overwhelming numbers of Bolsheviks at Battle of Tulgas, also called the "Peace Day Battle." Point of interest, although outnumbered five to one, the Americans (with some Canadians and British) defeated the Bolsheviks in a pitched battle, but not without significant casualties on all sides.

We also celebrate Thanksgiving during the last days of November. Thanksgiving is more than Pilgrims and peaceful Indians having a dinner to give thanks. In November 1863, Abraham Lincoln declares a "Day of Thanksgiving" honoring the Union victories at the Battles of Gettysburg, 1-3 July; and Chattanooga, 23-28 November, that were significant in helping to end the Civil War.

The most important event in November, is our privilege and right to VOTE, casting our ballots for the candidates and issues of our choosing. As Americans, it is our solemn duty to exercise this franchise and vote. I hope all of our members had an opportunity to vote.

OCTOBER DINNER MEETING ROLLUP

The Chapter hosted its monthly dinner meeting on Friday, 18 October at A La Cart Catering in Canfield. Our program was MOAA's Legislative Advocacy presented by our chapter Legislative Officer MAJ Joe Mersol. Joe not only talked about MOAA's advocacy program but also local issues and the process. Timely program. The chapter had 27 members and guests present. Thank you all for your support.



President Rod Hosler presenting Joe Mersol with a MSVC challenge coin. Photo by Bruce Bille



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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Joe Mersol, Legislative Liaison

Advocating for Veteran Legislation: A Call to Action

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is spearheading efforts to secure essential benefits for our community. These include:

- **Dole Act Advocacy:** The Dole Act seeks to expand VA resources for in-home and community-based care, improve mental health support, and enhance the caregiver program for elderly and disabled veterans. This legislation emphasizes extending care options and increasing resources for veterans' health and well-being.
- **Junior Enlisted Pay Raise:** MOAA advocates for an increase in basic pay for junior enlisted personnel, citing rising costs and economic challenges. This raise aims to alleviate financial stress and improve recruitment and retention within the military.
- **Tax Provisions for Military Families:** MOAA is pushing for targeted tax benefits to better support service members, veterans, and their families. Key provisions include reducing penalties on early withdrawals from retirement accounts, offering tax credits, and other financial relief designed to ease the burden for military families.

Supporting these efforts is straightforward and impactful.

To get involved:

Learn More: [MOAA's Website](#)

Take Action: Contact your lawmakers to voice support for these initiatives, whether by phone, email, or participating in local advocacy events.

MOAA Resources: Visit MOAA's advocacy section to access resources on contacting representatives, signing petitions, and sharing support with fellow veterans.

Your voice is crucial in securing these advancements. Let's rally for meaningful, lasting change to support our fellow service members and their families.



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Chaplain: Ralph Minton, LtCol, USAF (Ret.)
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NOVEMBER MOAA-MSVC LUNCH MEETING FRIDAY, 15 NOVEMBER

The Chapter is hosting its monthly lunch meeting on **Friday, 15 November** at A La Cart Catering in Canfield. Our program is World War I Artifacts presenter is MAJ Steve Motika and LT Al Lind. Check-in starts at 11:30 AM, with lunch at 12:00. The cost is \$20.00 and you may pay for your meal at the door. **RSVPs** not later than **Tuesday, 12 November**, at msvcmoaa@gmail.com or (330) 788-3270, and please let us know if you are bringing a guest. Please remember that *we pay for all meals ordered and if you reserve a meal and do not attend, you are responsible for the cost of that meal.* **MARK YOUR CALLENDER NOW.** Hope to see you there.

President Joseph R. Biden Jr. (D) The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Washington DC 20500
Switchboard: 202-456-1414 www.whitehouse.gov

OHIO

Senator Sherrod Brown (D) U.S. Senate
Hart Senate Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-2315 www.brown.senate.gov

Senator James D. (J.D.) Vance (R) U.S. Senate
B40-C Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202)224-3353 www.vance.senate.gov
240 East 9th Street, Room 3061
Cleveland, OH 44199

Representative David P. Joyce (R)
U.S. Congressional OH District 14
2065 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515-3514
(202) 225-5731 www.joyce.house.gov
8500 Station Street
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Representative Michael A. Rulli
U.S. Congressional OH District 6
2082 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20525
(202)225-5705 www.rulli.house.gov
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(330) 967-7312

PENNSYLVANIA

Senator Robert Casey Jr. (D) U.S. Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-6324 www.casey.senate.gov

Senator John Fetterman (D) U.S. Senate
B40B Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-4254 www.fetterman.senate.gov/

Representative Mike Kelly (R)
U.S. Congressional PA District 16
1707 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5406 or
33 Chestnut Avenue Sharon, PA 16146
(724) 342-7170 www.kelly.house.gov

STATE LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Ohio [Ohio Legislature](#)

Pennsylvania [Pennsylvania Legislature](#)

Presidents message cont.

Finally, a friendly reminder that the **MSVC-MOAA annual fundraiser** will be in conjunction with the **MOAA/ROA Christmas Party** set for **Saturday, 14 December**, 12:00/Noon-4:00 PM at A La Cart Catering. The festivities begins with a social gathering at 11:30 AM followed by a holiday concert performed by the 5th Avenue Brass , 12:00 -1:00 PM; dinner at 1:00 – 2:00 PM; followed out annual fund raiser, 2:00-4:00 PM.

The “Park Avenue Brass” quintet is a local world class group of musicians. The dinner will be \$20.00 per person, followed by the gift auction. Please bring a wrapped gift valued at about \$25.00 to be auctioned off. The proceeds will go to support the chapter and our local scholarship programs and veteran’s programs. This will be a wonderful event and great time to start the holiday season. Mark your calendars and hope to see you there.

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**Surviving Spouse Corner:
Florence Hosler, Surviving Spouse Liaison**

[Avoid These Surprises During Your Time of Loss](#)

Finances and Benefits

The Social Security death benefit is only \$255. Pensions are paid forward. You should be prepared for a possible prorated claw-back of the last month of your spouse’s pensions.

The year after your spouse dies (if you have no dependents), taxing agencies will consider you a single person. That means that you will pay taxes at a higher rate. Deductions are reduced by one-half when you are single. If you do not already own a credit card in your name with a large available credit balance amount, it may be difficult to get one on your newly reduced income.

Funeral Costs, Timing, and Requirements

Burial costs can run from \$5,000 to \$20,000. If you delay the interment too long, there might be casket storage costs. These costs must be paid when the arrangements are made.

A casket burial at Arlington Cemetery might be a six-month delay. Burial at your nearest national cemetery can usually be arranged in one to two weeks; a year wait might be required for a cremation burial.

You will be asked for your spouse’s birth certificate, DD Form 214, your spouse’s parents’ names and their mother’s maiden name.

If a religious service is held, as a member of a church or synagogue, you might be surprised with costs for music, program printing, security, flower attendant, and clean-up fees. Sometimes, there are even pastoral fees.

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Surviving Spouse; cont

Social/Personal Concerns

Grief can affect your memory and reasoning skills. Take a trusted friend or child with you to important appointments. Your power of attorney papers should be changed as soon as practicable. Your new best friend might be the county veteran service officer.

You might not realize or remember who attended the funeral. Have a guest book. Use it also to note especially thoughtful or kind acts that were shown to you. Later, in review, you can express your appreciation with less emotion and more gratitude.

Children, friends, and neighbors will rally around, but slowly their life will resume to normalcy. Yours will not. You must build your life anew. It's a difficult task, but you can do it.

A Season to Be Grateful

The holidays are filled with special family times that include beautiful memories. These memories can be sweet and make you all warm inside, but they also can cause sad emotions relating to the loss of a loved one.

As Thanksgiving approaches, it can be beneficial to focus effort and energy on what you are grateful for in your "new life" since the loss of a loved one. I am grateful for:

- The enduring and unwavering support of my family, friends, and community — as a military surviving spouse, these are near and far.
- My good health that allows me to support my family and grandchildren as they grieve and help others as well.
- Being able to enjoy every new day. To be able to walk daily and enjoy meeting people, nature, trails, lakes, the ocean, sunrises, and sunsets.
- Beautiful memories and our legacy that I can pass down to my children and grandchildren.
- The strength and all the beauty life has to offer.
- My resilience to persevere.
- My faith. I look forward to meeting my spouse again.
- All life's experiences. These experiences, whether they are good or bad, shape us throughout this life. They keep us alive.

MSVC CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2024 MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Note: Unless otherwise noted, all chapter meetings are held at A La Cart Catering, 249 Lisbon Street, Canfield.

Lunch Meetings (October – March): Gather at 11:30 AM, Lunch at 12:00/Noon.

Dinner Meetings (April – September): Gather at 5:30 PM, Dinner at 6:00 PM.

NOV 15 – Lunch Meeting, program: World War I Artifacts, Steve Motika and Al Lind.



DEC 14 – MOAA/ROA Christmas Party and Fund Raiser, (11:30-4:00 PM) Christmas Concert with the Park Avenue Brass (quintet) before the lunch!!



HISTORICAL EVENTS IN NOVEMBER:

- 05 November 2024 – Election Day
- 07 November 1811 – Battle of Tippecanoe, Indiana.
- 08 November 1942 – Allies Land in North Africa, Operation Torch.
- 11 November 1813 – Battle of Chrysler's Farm, Canada.
- 11 November 1918 – Meuse-Argonne Campaign in France, World War I Ends.
- 11 November 1918 – Armistice Day, later Veterans Day.
- 11 November 1918 – Battle of Tulas, North Russia, Americans against Bolsheviks.
- 14-18 November 1965 – Battle of Ia Drang Valley, South Vietnam.
- 20 November 1943 – Invasion of Tarawa.
- 23-28 November 1964 – Battle of Chattanooga, Tennessee.
- 28 November 2024 – Thanksgiving Day (observed)

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Mahoning-Shenango Valleys Chapter

Membership Requirements

The membership in MSVC shall be composed of: men and women who are or have been commissioned or warrant officers of the seven United States uniformed services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service). Surviving spouses of deceased individuals who, if living, would be eligible for membership. MSVC memberships are open to all eligible people.

Contact : msvc-moaa@gmail.com for more information or download the membership form here: <http://msvc-moaa.org/wp-content/uploads/>



BECOME A MOAA NATIONAL PREMIUM OR LIFE MEMBER:

MOAA National and Chapter membership is open to all Retired, Former, and Active Officers of the seven uniformed services and spouses can become Chapter members. Officers on active service (active or reserve duty) are exempt from paying chapter member dues.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

MOAA LIFE Membership is the most elite membership category. As a MOAA LIFE Member, you'll receive all of MOAA's PREMIUM benefits - plus more - for life. Additional benefits include spouse protection and direct access to MOAA staff experts on the dedicated MOAA LIFE Member Hotline.

PREMIUM MEMBERSHIP

MOAA PREMIUM Membership gives you total access to everything MOAA has to offer, including our full spectrum of career and financial resources, MOAA-exclusive publications, college scholarships for dependents, and countless discounts on products and travel.

MEMBERSHIP MOMENT

Florence Hosler, 2nd VP & Membership chair

Our 2025 Membership Campaign will start next January through March, you may pay next years dues at anytime now. Just note that they are for 2025. STILL \$20

Several members have renewed early, you can too! You may contact me at msvcmoaa@gmail.com or at (330) 788-3270 if you have any questions.

MILITARY IDENTIFICATION CARD RENEWALS

This is information is for our members that are military retirees. There is a new ID Card that you need to get for you and your dependent. Look at your ID Card and check the expiration date. For the military member it may read INDEFINATE and for the dependent there is an expiration date, check it out. Dependents cards become INDEF after age 65. The new ID Card is necessary for DEERS, TRICARE and other actions.

For more information go to Military.com article titled "Military Retirees and Military Dependent ID Cards" at <https://www.military.com/benefits/military-dependent-id-cards.html>

Permanent ID Cards

Family members and survivors of deceased veterans who are age 65 or older, can get a permanent ID card. However, holders of the old style paper laminate ID cards with an expiration date must get the card replaced with the new Next Generation Uniformed Services Identification Card by 2026.

Renew Your Card my Mail

Certain dependents such as fully disabled spouses or those with an incapacitated dependent might be able to renew their ID by mail. To do so, find your nearest ID card office using the RAPIDS locator. Then, give the office a call to learn if they issue IDs by mail and what their specific requirements are.

The on-line address for the RAPIDS locator is <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/locator>.

According to the locator system ID cards are available at the following places within an approximate distance of 75-miles of the greater Youngstown area. Suggestion: Before making a trip to any location, call and see what the hours of operation are, and if the site is manned.

AG HQ Ohio (Deployable 6), Camp James A. Garfield JMTC, 6499 George Rd, Ravenna, OH 44266, (614) 336-8909 This location was a more preferable; convenient, friendly and quick.

37th IBCT Columbus, 5990 W. Airport Dr. North Canton, OH 44720 (614) 336-6847 [Near airport.]

910th AW Youngstown ARS, 3976 King Graves Rd. VIENNA, OH 44473, (330) 609-1095