

MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

an affiliate of

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

July 2025



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Roderick Hosler

ELECTIONS TO FILL MOAA-MSVC LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

We are approaching the end of the year and a time when we elect new chapter officers. We need your help. All organizations need "new blood" in order to thrive. Our chapter is no different. Please consider becoming a chapter officer or board of directors member. "It ain't that hard." We have all learned and practiced leadership in our military life and civilian endeavors. Your MOAA Chapter can use your expertise. Nominations will take place in September with elections in October. Do your part to keep the chapter alive. Talk to any current officer or board member if you're interested. Don't sit on the sidelines.

EDITORIAL COMMENTARY: . For the past several years I've been observing the political landscape of the liberal/progressive party. We find out that there was a major conspiracy among leaders of the Democratic Party with senior officials of the intelligence community and probably in congress as well to undermine the newly elected president and his administration beginning in 2016. Talk about undemocratic. And in 2025 the opposition party seems to be leaderless with every loud mouth in office spouting anti-American rhetoric verging on, as a former Speaker of the House of Representatives stated, insurrection. A foul mouthed junior congresswoman from Texas rants and advocates violence. A Senator from New Jersey rants about fighting the administration. Partisan judges rule and make decrees that exceed their constitutional authority in an effort to hinder the administration. New York may be about to elect its first Socialist mayor. It seems there is an anti-American and Anti-Constitution wind blowing.

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THURSDAY, 24 JULY 2025 DINNER MEETING ROLLUP:

The Chapter conducted its annual picnic on Thursday, 24 July 2025 at the Vienna Fish and Game Club. The dinner was catered by Mission BBQ from Niles and it was a great meal. As a side note, we also conducted our gun shoot at which those that wanted to shoot had a chance to sharpen their skills. This year there were more members that attended the picnic side of the day than the shooting side, nevertheless everyone had a great time, the food was wonderful and the comradery was outstanding. There were 22 members in attendance, and so busy shooting and eating we forgot to take pictures of the actual event.

AUGUST MOAA-MSVC STEAK FRY AND CORN ROAST DINNER MEETING – THURSDAY, 21 AUGUST 2025

MOAA-MSVC will have its annual steak fry and corn roast dinner meeting on **Thursday, 24 July 2025** at A La Cart Catering in Canfield. The program is "Concerned Veterans for America," and will be presented by Mr. Adam Miller. Check-in starts at 5:30 PM, with dinner at 6:00 PM. Dinner cost is \$20.00 and you may pay for you meal at the door. **RSVPs** not later than **Monday, 18 August**, at msvcmoaa@gmail.com and please let us know if you are bringing a guest. **MARK YOUR CALLENDARD NOW** and see you on the 21st.



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AUGUST LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Major (Ret.) Joe “Beans-Bullets-&-Benefits” Mersol
MSVC-MOAA – Where the Briefings Are Sharp and the Humor Is Mandatory

INTEL DROP: NEW VA BURIAL BENEFITS – NOW WITH EXTRA HONORS

As of 2025, the VA is expanding burial benefits faster than a PX on payday.

Now more veterans will qualify for VA-furnished headstones, markers, and medallions—even if they're buried in private cemeteries. Survivor reimbursements have also been streamlined, ensuring your loved ones aren't buried in paperwork.

Bottom Line: You served with honor—now you'll be buried with it, too. And this time, without your spouse having to call 14 different 1-800 numbers.

STAFFING CUTS AT THE VA: WHO ORDERED THE BUREAUCRATIC SLIM-FAST?

MOAA President Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret.) is sounding the klaxon. The VA plans to cut 50,000 jobs—a move that threatens to undermine care for veterans nationwide. This isn't fat-trimming, it's muscle-stripping.

MOAA is engaging Congress to ensure critical services don't disappear with the staff.

Commander's Intent: Support troops in scrubs and stethoscopes, not just those in Kevlar.

FY26 NDAA: SHOW ME THE MONEY (AND THE TRICARE FIXES)

Congress is teasing the FY2026 NDAA like a blockbuster movie. Highlights include:

Pay raises for troops that might actually compete with rising bacon prices.

Pilot programs for TRICARE modernization (less paperwork, more real care).

Support for spouse employment and mental health services.

But don't get too comfy—none of this is locked in until Congress locks in the budget.

Action Step: Let your representative know we're watching—like a Company XO with clipboard in hand and checklist in triplicate.

VA + DoD: TWO SYSTEMS, ONE MISSION (AND PLENTY OF PAPERWORK)

The VA and DoD are starting to play nicer when it comes to joint healthcare—improving coordination, sharing records, and helping transitioning service-members get the care they need. But there's still friction in the foxhole.

Translation: Progress is happening, but the system still has more layers than a field-ration lasagna.

Editorial cont:

This anti-American movement is brought on by the liberal left, intellectuals in academia, and the wealthy, liberal politicians mostly from the elite of the political party not in power, and even leftist judges seem to have sinister motives to end the United States of America. What's going on!

This anti-American cancer has infected our government and many members in Congress. You know who they are? It's evident every time you turn on the TV news or read a newspaper. You see them in the “legacy media,” in the hall of government, the Congress and especially in the streets. What is their purpose? This is no less than taking over this democratic Constitutional Republic.

In recent years one political party has been anti strong borders, pro-open borders, pro-illegal immigration, pro-sanctuary city, anti-Semitic, pro-terrorist (Hamas and Hezbollah), anti-police, anti duly elected officials and programs, pro ANTIFA, anti Capitalist, pro-obstructionist, anti-workingman, racist, and the list can go on and on. This political party is the party of Jim Crow, segregation and racism. This is not the party of Harry Truman or JFK. Again, what's going on!

The present anti-American efforts used and spread by the opposition political party not in power have appeared to become by practice and doctrine; Socialist, Communist, Marxist, Maoist, and Fascists. It's as if there are “sleeping cells” at work in the country. The question is what is their purpose and ultimate goal?

These leftists preach and extol anti-Americanism, anti-semitic rhetoric, unlawful immigration, anti-immigration enforcement, sanctuary cities and states, pro-terrorist groups and violence. They look to socialism as a cure-all. The face of this once great political party has gone Socialist and the next step is totalitarian Communism. How else would you enforce an anti-capitalist economy, and anti-American culture and society? Very Orwellian.

Some of us are conservatives, some of us are “old” Democrats, and some of us are independents or libertarians, but all of us are former military officers who have given years of dedicated service to this Constitutional nation. We all invested so much of ourselves for this country to see it wasted away by those who venture to upend and destroy the Republic. Let your voices be heard. Let your efforts guide this country. Don't sit idly by on the sidelines watching our country be taken away by the left.

Editorials in this newsletter, are the opinions solely of the individual authors and do not necessarily express the policy or opinions of the newsletter's editor or publisher, nor do they reflect an endorsement by the Mahoning-Shenango Valleys Chapter or the national organization of the Military Officers Association of America.

All members are encouraged to submit an editorial of their own for publication at msvcmoaa@gmail.com

BOTTOM LINE FROM THE BRIEFING ROOM

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MOAA Legislative Update moaa.org/takeaction
or 1-800-234-6622 ext. 215

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STATE LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Ohio [Ohio Legislature](#)

Pennsylvania [Pa Legis Notifications](#) **check out the new features**

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Surviving Spouse Corner:
Florence Hosler, Surviving Spouse Liaison

Questions About USAA Subscriber's Accounts

By Susan R. Collins, a member of MOAA's Surviving Spouse Advisory Council

Recently, I've heard questions about what happens to a USAA Subscriber's Account when the account holder passes away. These accounts hold part of USAA's capital and allow the association to share earnings with members, some of whom may qualify for senior bonus distributions.

Upon the death of my husband in 2021, USAA asked whether I would like to take the money out of the account and start the account over again as a new owner, or to take some money out in small withdrawals.

[USAA bylaws](#) state that upon the death of the account holder:

"[P]ayment will be made to the widow(er) or, if there is no surviving spouse, to the estate. However, if a widow(er) entitled to such payment chooses to continue membership in his or her name, at the option of the widow(er), such amount may be paid to the widow(er) or retained in the subscriber's account; any election to receive such payment must be made in conjunction with the decision to continue membership in such widow(er)'s name."

Either option may make sense as part of your financial plans moving forward. My advice: Contact USAA to learn more about your options.

More resources regarding Subscriber's Account distribution are available [at the USAA website](#).



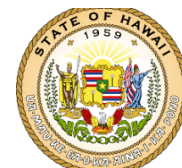
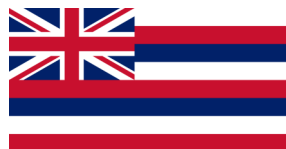
MSVC CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2025
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Note: Unless otherwise noted, all chapter meetings are held at A La Cart Catering, 249 Lisbon Street, Canfield.
Dinner Meetings (April – September): Gather at 5:30 PM, Dinner at 6:00 PM.

- JUL 24 – Picnic at Vienna Fish & Game Club, 4:30 - 7:00 PM, Vienna.
- AUG 21 – **Dinner Meeting** (Steak Fry and Corn Roast), Program: Concerned Veterans for America, Speaker Mr. Adam Miller.
- AUG 15 – D-Day Conneaut, Free bus transportation & lunch. RSVP required.
- SEP 18 – **Dinner Meeting**, Chapter Board Nominations, Program TBD
- OCT 17 – Lunch Meeting, Vote for Board Positions, Program: Estate Planning and Lessons Learned; MAJ Joe Mersol and Cmdr. David DiTallo.
- NOV 11 – Veterans Day Ceremony, Mahoning County Courthouse, Youngstown.
- NOV 14 – Lunch Meeting, program: Veterans Issues and Programs, by Mr. Nate Walker.
- DEC 06 – MOAA Christmas Party and Fund Raiser (12:00-4:00 PM). A La Cart Catering.

HISTORICAL EVENTS IN AUGUST:

- Aug. 04 1790: Birthday of the U.S. Coast Guard (originally the U.S. Revenue Marine Service.)
- Aug. 06 1945: The first Atomic Bomb was dropped over Hiroshima, Japan
- Aug. 07 1782: Purple Heart Day, established by GEN George Washington as the Badge of Military Merit.
- Aug. 07 1942: U.S. Marines land on Guadalcanal.
- Aug. 09 1945: The second Atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan.
- Aug. 12 1898: Spanish-American War ends.
- Aug. 14, 1945: V-J Day, Japan surrender to the Allies.
- Aug. 15-16 1812: First Battle of Fort Erie, Canada. U.S. forces defeat a British attack on the fort.
- Aug. 21 1959: Hawaii admitting to the Union as the 50th state. Aloha, kanakas.
- Aug. 24-25 1814: British forces burned the Capitol, the White House in Washington, DC.
- Aug. 29 1916: Marine Corps Reserve Birthday



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, 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/docs/2021-MSVC-Member-Application.pdf>



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.

Renewing Your Military ID Card Just Got Easier –

Here's What You Need to Know!

From the desk of your friendly neighborhood Legislative Liaison, MSVC-MOAA

Attention all officers and spouses still rockin' those laminated badges of honor – if your Uniformed Services ID card is getting close to expiration, you might be able to skip the line and renew it online from the comfort of your own command post (aka your kitchen table).

Here's the sitrep:

♦ Who Can Renew Online?

Retirees, dependents, and other folks with "sponsor privileges" (that's fancy talk for people allowed to hold a military ID) might be eligible to renew online if your current card hasn't expired yet and you don't need to change anything like your name or photo.

♦ How It Works:

* The online renewal lets you:

- * Keep your same photo
- * Keep your current info (no changes)
- * Order a shiny new next-gen card with updated security features. Then they'll mail it right to your FOB (Forward Operating Base... okay, home).

* How to Start:

Go to <https://www.cac.mil/Next-Generation-Uniformed-Services-ID-Card/Renewing-Online/>

Follow the steps to see if you're eligible. If not, it'll direct you to schedule an in-person appointment the old-fashioned way (cue the 0600 wake-up call and a line around the building).

♦ Why It Matters:

This is a big win for convenience and security. These new cards are tougher to fake and easier to scan—think of them as the upgraded Humvee of ID cards.

So if you're due for a renewal and want to stay squared away without the in-person hassle, check if you qualify online. And remember—your ID card isn't just a piece of plastic. It's your key to benefits, base access, and a proud symbol of your service.

UPDATE: The Ravena Arsenal no longer provides ID card services due to personnel cuts. So it's back to the Air Reserve Base in Vienna, be sure to call and make an appointment!