

# MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

an affiliate of

## MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

February 2026



### From the President's Desk

Fellow Members:

Thank you for a terrific turnout of 31 members and guests at our February 20 Lunch Meeting with Mahoning County Veterans Service Commission Officer Mr. Paul Webber. A Navy veteran and disabled veteran himself, Webber filled in for our own CW3 Nate Walker, who was taking advantage of the clear skies to bag some flight time. How can I get in on that?

Mr. Webber's presentation covered the Department of Veterans Affairs Disability Compensation system, specifically what it covers, who is eligible, and how to apply. If you have a follow up question for him, he can be reached at the MCVSC at (330) 740-2540.

A note of caution: while other VSO's and even some private entities offer VA Disability Claims processing, the service commission's Service Officers are specially trained in this matter. Moreover, they DO NOT charge a fee for their services. BE WARY OF PAYING ANYONE to file a VA disability claim on your behalf.

Lastly, I note with sadness the passing of former chapter member LTC Larry Scheetz, USA (Ret), who died on January 27, 2026 and whose wake was Saturday, February 21. Several of our current chapter members attended, and our chapter did send the family a condolence card.

Looking ahead to our final Lunch Meeting of the (hopefully soon to end winter season), our Friday, March 20 Lunch Meeting will be a video teleconference with a member of MOAA's Legislative Affairs Team, who will fill us in on our association's top legislative priorities for 2026. Reservations are due Monday, March 16 and guests are welcome.

Finally, our first dinner of the calendar year is right around the corner with our April 16 Cadet Night. Please make plans to attend and note that attire is coat and tie. Regardless of whether you can make it, please consider contributing to our "But a Cadet Dinner" program via our secure website or upon check-in. YES, THE ICE CREAM BAR WILL BE BACK!

Contact me at [mvcmoaa@gmail.com](mailto:mvcmoaa@gmail.com) anytime if you have questions, concerns, or comments.

Sincerely,

David J. DiTallo, President



### AFTER ACTION REPORT (AAR) – February ASSEMBLY

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) - Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter met February 20 at A La Cart Catering in Canfield, Ohio to learn about the Department of Veterans Affairs Disability Claims process from Mahoning County Veterans Service Commission (MCVSC) staffer Paul Webber.

A native of Butler, PA, Mr. Webber enlisted in the U.S. Navy in July 1990 and served on active duty for twenty years, first as a Gunner's Mate and later as a Personnel Specialist, before returning in August 2010. His service included eleven years at sea on East Coast surface ships. Upon leaving the Navy, Webber worked as a Service Officer for the Disabled American Veterans in Cleveland, Ohio beginning in 2013 before joining the MCVSC in 2019.

Webber's presentation covered VA Disability Compensation, who is eligible to apply, and how to apply for benefits, including surviving spouses. Those with questions may contact the MCVSC at (330) 740-2540 or their local county's commission. Several Veterans Service Organizations (VSO's) also offer counseling and filing of disability claims, but Webber cautions on engaging private, for-profit groups who offer this service, stating many charge exorbitant fees.

The chapter also welcomed two new members to its ranks, retired U.S. Air Force Colonel Wayne Recknor and retired U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Robert ("Bob") Holzbach. Recknor and Holzbach were presented with MOAA Service Flag Lapel Pins, as were former U.S. Army Major Janel Rice and retired U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Peter ("Pete") Bollinger, who joined the chapter in 2025.

With 31 members and guests in attendance, the chapter raised \$140 for its Cadet Fund, with Pete Bollinger winning the 50/50 Raffle and two others receiving books. That's a lot of BBQ, Pete!



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## LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS:

### \*\*U.S. Senate:\*\*

#### - \*\*Dave McCormick (R)\*\*

- Office: SD-B40C Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
- Phone: 202-228-5306
- Website: mccormick.senate.gov

#### - \*\*Senator John Fetterman (D)\*\*

- Office: B40B Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
- Phone: 202-224-4254
- Website: fetterman.senate.gov

#### - \*\*Senator Bernie Moreno (R)\*\*

- Office: B33 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510
- Phone: 202-224-2315
- Website: moreno.senate.gov

#### - \*\*Senator Jon Husted (R)\*\*

- Office: SR-198 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
- Phone: 202-224-3353
- Website: husted.senate.gov

### \*\*U.S. House of Representatives:\*\*

#### - \*\*Representative Mike Kelly (R)\*\*

- District: PA District 16
- Office: 1707 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC
- Phone: 202-225-5406
- Website: kelly.house.gov

#### - \*\*Representative Michael A. Rulli (R)\*\*

- District: OH District 6
- Office: 2082 Rayburn House Office, Washington, DC 20525
- Phone: 202-225-5705
- Website: rulli.house.gov

#### - \*\*Representative David P. Joyce (R)\*\*

- District: OH District 14
- Office: 2065 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515-3514
- Phone: 202-225-5731

### \*\*Presidential Contact:\*\*

#### - \*\*President Donald J. Trump (R)\*\*

- Office: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, Washington DC 20500
- Switchboard: 202-456-1414
- Website: whitehouse.gov

### \*\*Additional Resources:\*\*

- MOAA Legislative Update: <https://moaa.quorum.us/> or 1-800-234-6622 ext. 215

### \*\*State Legislative News:\*\*

- Ohio Legislature
- Pennsylvania Legislative Notifications

## MSVC Board Members:

### President:

Dave Di Tallo, Commander, USN (Ret.)  
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President@msvc-moaa.org

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Roderick Hosler, LTC, USA (Ret.)  
Legislative Liaison

Stephen J. Motika, Major, USA (Ret.)  
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Ralph DeLucia, Captain, USA (Fmr.)  
YARS Base Community Council Liaison

### Historian:

Dennis Gartland, Captain, USA (Fmr.)

### Chaplain:

Dave Long, Major, USA (Ret.)

### Surviving Spouse Liason:

Florence M. Hosler, Lieutenant, USNR (Fmr.)

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MSVC–MOAA Jan 26 Legislative Update  
From Rod Hosler

LEGISLATIVE SITREP – March 2026

MSVC-MOAA Legislative Liaison Update

Quick briefing from the advocacy front lines.

First, the good news: the Department of Veterans Affairs officially scrapped the proposed disability ratings rule that had the veteran community reaching for their blood pressure meds. MOAA pushed hard, arguing that a “pause” wasn’t enough. The rule is now gone—mission accomplished, benefits protected.

Second, caregiver support legislation is moving forward in the House. The bill strengthens programs that help the family members who carry a large part of the load caring for wounded and disabled veterans. In military terms, they’re the unsung logistics command of the veteran community.

Third, MOAA is backing the GUARD VA Benefits Act, which targets the growing problem of unaccredited operators charging outrageous fees to help veterans file VA claims. Translation: fewer sharks circling the veterans’ benefits waters.

On Capitol Hill, MOAA leadership also testified before Congress outlining priorities such as improving the transition from military to civilian life, expanding caregiver support, increasing oversight of VA administrative actions, and continuing the fight against fraud targeting veterans and survivors.

Finally, a recent Blue Star Families survey revealed a troubling trend: many military families say they wouldn’t recommend service to their own relatives due to quality-of-life concerns. Issues like housing costs, healthcare access, and family support remain front-and-center in advocacy discussions.

Bottom line: MOAA continues pressing Congress and the VA to protect earned benefits and strengthen support for those who serve and those who stand beside them.

Members are encouraged to stay engaged through MOAA’s Legislative Action Center and keep communication open with our congressional delegations.

Respectfully submitted,  
Legislative Liaison  
MSVC-MOAA



**Scan the QR code** to deploy your message directly to Capitol Hill.

Surviving Spouse Corner:  
Florence Hosler, Surviving Spouse Liaison

Surviving Spouse Liaison Report

Subject: Strengthening Survivor Support Through Awareness of TAPS

In alignment with our commitment to support surviving spouses within our chapter and community, this report highlights the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), a national nonprofit organization dedicated to providing compassionate care and comprehensive support to those grieving the death of a military service member or veteran.

TAPS services are provided at no cost and are available regardless of era of service, discharge status, or cause of death. Core services include:

- 24/7 Military Survivor Helpline (1-800-959-8277)
- Peer-based emotional support
- Survivor care teams and casework assistance
- Grief seminars and retreats
- Programs for surviving children and young adults

While MOAA provides advocacy and legislative protection of earned benefits, TAPS specializes in emotional and peer-based grief support. These missions are complementary.

As our membership ages, it is reasonable to anticipate an increase in surviving spouses who may experience isolation following loss. Early awareness of resources such as TAPS can make a meaningful difference during times of transition.

In keeping with MOAA’s mission to support servicemembers, families, and survivors, I respectfully recommend the board consider the following actions:

1. Include TAPS contact information in surviving spouse resource materials.
2. Ensure continued awareness of TAPS programs within chapter leadership.
3. Periodically reference TAPS in chapter communications.
4. Incorporate TAPS referral information into our response protocol upon notification of a member’s passing.

Our commitment to officers and their families does not conclude at retirement nor at loss. Strengthening our awareness of and connection to TAPS enhances our ability to serve with professionalism and compassion.



## By Popular Demand



Our group is excited to introduce a private Facebook page designed exclusively for our members! This new platform provides a secure and focused environment for communication, ensuring that only members have access to the information shared. By joining, you'll stay updated on all group-related activities, discussions, and announcements without the distraction of ads or outside input. This page serves as a valuable tool to enhance our community's communication and keep everyone informed and engaged. We encourage all members to subscribe to the page and be part of this exclusive space. Remember, it's private, so your participation and insights will remain within our group. Join us and stay connected!



## MSVC-MOAA LUNCHEON MEETING



FRIDAY, 20 March 2026



MOAA-MSVC will host its monthly luncheon meeting

on **Friday, 20 March 2026** at A La Cart Catering in Canfield. **The program topic: MOAA 2026 Legislative Priorities/Legislative Action Center (LAC).** Check-in starts at 11:30 AM, with lunch at 12:00 Noon

**Luncheon cost is \$20.00 and you may pay for you** meal at the door. Please **RSVPs** not later than **Monday, 16 March** to [mcvcmoaa@gmail.com](mailto:mcvcmoaa@gmail.com) **Mark your CALENDAR NOW** and see you on Friday the March 20th.

## 2026 CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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

**Lunch Meetings (3rd Friday each month, OCT-MAR):** Gather at 11:30 am, Lunch at Noon.

- **MAR 20** – Lunch Meeting, Topic: VTC with MOAA Legislative Affairs

**Dinner Meetings (3rd Thursday each month, APR-SEPT):** Gather at 5:30 pm, Dinner at 6:00 pm.

- **APR 16** – Cadet Night Recognition Dinner.
- **MAY 21** – Dinner Meeting, Topic and Speaker: TBD.
- **JUN 18** – Dinner Meeting at Golden Corral Buffet, Hermitage, PA. Topic and Speaker: TBD.
- **JUL 16** – BBQ Picnic at the Fish and Game Club of Vienna.
- **AUG 20** – Meeting, Topic and Speaker: TBD.
- **SEPT 17** – Dinner Meeting, Topic and Speaker: TBD.

**Other Meetings:**

- **OCT 16** – Lunch Meeting, Topic and Speaker: TBD.
- **NOV 20** – Lunch Meeting, Topic and Speaker: TBD.
- **DEC 05** – Christmas Luncheon and Chapter Fundraiser (1:00 pm to 4:00 pm).

Chapter  
Calendar

## 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 [mssc-moaa@gmail.com](mailto:mssc-moaa@gmail.com) for more information or download the membership form here.

[Membership Application](#)

#### ELIGIBLE UNIFORMED SERVICES



#### BECOME A MOAA NATIONAL PREMIUM ORLIFE 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 Corner

Joe Mersol

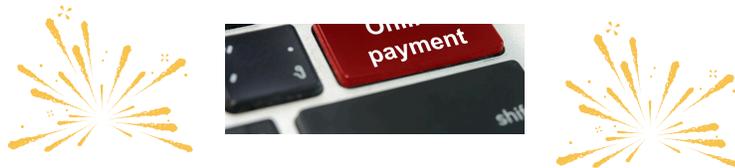
The Mahoning-Shenango Valleys Chapter has officially launched the 2026 membership year in accordance with our Constitution and Bylaws. Annual chapter dues remain \$20. Dues may be paid at any meeting, online at [mssc-moaa.org/membership](http://mssc-moaa.org/membership), or by mailing a check to MSVC-MOAA, P.O. Box 5342, Poland, OH 44514.

#### Current Strength Report:

Regular Members: 67  
Spouse Members: 11  
Surviving Spouses: 4  
Friends of MOAA: 3  
Life Members: 6  
Dues-Exempt (Active Duty): 21

\$20

As of this report, \$1,000 has been received in dues with \$460 still outstanding. If you have not yet renewed, please take a moment to do so. Strong membership ensures strong advocacy, meaningful programming, and continued support to our veterans and ROTC/JROTC scholarship initiatives. Every member strengthens the mission.



## YSU JIM TRESSEL SIGNED FOOTBALL RAFFLE

The YSU Carl Nunziato Veterans Resource Center in conjunction with the YSU Athletics Department has graciously donated a 2023 commemorative YSU football signed by JIM TRESSEL. This signed football will be raffled off at the MSVC Cadet Recognition Night Dinner on 16 April. Raffle tickets will be sold starting at our January through March luncheon meetings and at our 16 April dinner meeting. Proceeds will go toward our ROTC/JROTC Scholarship Fund. This is a great item that will enhance any den or office.



enjoy every moment.



Larry Scheetz  
JUL 8, 1954 - Jan 27, 2026