



MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

an affiliate of

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

March 2026



From the President's Desk

Fellow Members:

We had an interesting video teleconference for our March 20 Lunch Meeting with two (2) MOAA staff members at our Association's offices in Alexandria, VA. Ms. Jen Goodale and Mr. James ("Jimmy") Santos, both veterans, explained MOAA's 2026 legislative priorities and the current Congressional landscape they are navigating, as they prepare for this spring's annual Advocacy in Action.

Thank you to those who have picked up the challenge to utilize MOAA's Legislative Action Center and send your U.S. Senators and Representatives one message per month. You are also encouraged to call their local offices directly, especially if there is a question or problem you are facing as you navigate the federal bureaucracy.

Looking ahead to next month, we transition to third-Thursday dinners with our annual Cadet Night on April 16. This is our BIG event of the year with the largest number of guests, so I hope you will block the date on your calendar and plan to attend.

This year we have something new for Cadet Night: we will raffle off a Jim Tressel-autographed, Youngstown State University Football, with the proceeds earmarked for our Student Affairs programs. Chapter member Rick Williams, YSU's Associate Director of Veterans Affairs worked to get it, and we are grateful to him and the YSU Athletic Office.

Even if you cannot attend, our Treasurer, Bruce Bille, has set up a website for you to purchase a raffle ticket. And, of course, we will have a link on our website for our "Buy a Cadet Dinner" program, for you to defray the meal expenses of cadets and other guests.

Once we get past Cadet Night, we will continue with our usual spring and early summer schedule, with a May Dinner meeting at A La Cart Catering in Canfield, OH and then take "our show on the road" to the Golden Corral restaurant in Hermitage, PA in June and our Gun Shoot & BBQ Picnic in Vienna, OH in July. Check the newsletter for more details.

Thank you for your continued support. Write to me anytime at msvcmoaa@gmail.com with any questions that come up.

David DiTallo
President

Mission Accomplished: MOAA Foundation Achieves 501(c)(3) Status

**MISSION
ACCOMPLISHED**



The Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter of MOAA has reached a major milestone, and it is one worthy of a sharp salute to the board members who helped make it happen.

The Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter of MOAA Foundation has now been officially recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) public charity. Even better, the IRS determination confirms that contributions made to the foundation may be tax deductible, subject to applicable tax rules.

That is not just a paperwork victory. That is a big step forward for the future of the foundation and for the chapter's ability to support meaningful charitable work in our community.

The IRS letter also confirms the foundation is classified as a public charity under Section 509(a)(2). In practical terms, this gives the foundation stronger footing for charitable giving, future fundraising, and long-term mission support.

A special word of appreciation goes to the board of the Mahoning-Shenango Valley Chapter of MOAA. This kind of success does not happen by accident. It takes vision, persistence, follow-through, and a willingness to stay on mission through the administrative equivalent of a long march with extra gear and no complaining. In other words, the board did what good leaders do: they got it done. (Continued on Page 4)

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MSVC-MOAA Dinner MEETING

THURSDAY 16 April 2026



MOAA-MSVC will host its monthly dinner meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at A La Cart Catering, Canfield, Ohio. This special evening will feature our Cadet Night Recognition.

Schedule:

- Check-in: 5:30 PM
- Dinner: 6:00 PM

Cost: \$20 per person (payable at the door)

Please RSVP no later than Monday, April 13 by emailing:

mcvcmoaa@gmail.com

Mark your calendar now—we look forward to seeing you on April 16!



By popular demand, MSVC-MOAA now has a private Facebook group for members. It is a secure place to share chapter news, updates, event reminders, and member discussion without outside clutter. Scan the QR code and join the conversation.



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.

Chapter
Calendar

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).

CADET OFFICER RANKS



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:

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Legislative Update From Joe Mersol

LEGISLATIVE SITREP – April 2026

MSVC-MOAA Legislative Liaison Update

Quick briefing from the advocacy front lines.

MOAA has rolled out its 2026 Advocacy in Action playbook, and the marching orders to Congress are clear: take care of those who wore the uniform, those still wearing it, and the families who have been serving right alongside them without ever getting hazardous duty pay. This year's campaign focuses on four priorities that go straight at fairness, readiness, and protecting earned benefits.

First, MOAA continues pushing for passage of the Major Richard Star Act, which would fix the offset that reduces retirement pay for many combat-injured veterans who were medically retired before reaching 20 years of service. Translation: if you were wounded in combat and forced to retire early, Uncle Sam should not be playing keep-away with benefits you already earned. MOAA reports about 54,000 combat-injured veterans are affected.

Second, MOAA is backing the Shutdown Fairness Act, which would make sure servicemembers keep receiving pay and benefits during government shutdowns. Because a staff sergeant trying to buy groceries should not have to wonder whether Congress forgot how a calendar works.

Third, the GUARD VA Benefits Act remains on the radar. This bill targets unaccredited operators who charge veterans ridiculous fees for help filing VA claims. In other words, MOAA is trying to clear a few more sharks out of the benefits pool.

Finally, MOAA is supporting the Military CARE Act, which would give TRICARE beneficiaries a more direct way to report access-to-care problems at military treatment facilities and get those complaints routed where they need to go. That matters, because military families already have enough to deal with without needing a map, a flashlight, and a bloodhound just to find decent healthcare access.

Bottom line: MOAA is taking a disciplined package of priorities to Capitol Hill and continuing the fight to protect pay, benefits, healthcare access, and veterans from bad actors. Members are encouraged to stay engaged through MOAA's Legislative Action Center and keep the pressure on our elected officials. As always, freedom is not free — and apparently neither is common sense in Washington.

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



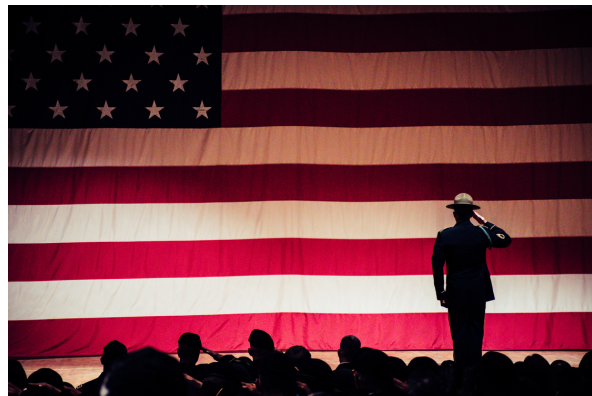
Mission Accomplished: MOAA Foundation Achieves 501(c)(3) Status (Cont)

This new status may also create additional giving opportunities for supporters. For example, individuals age 70½ or older who are taking required minimum distributions from an IRA may, in many cases, be able to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution directly to an eligible 501(c)(3) organization. IRS guidance explains that a properly completed QCD can count toward an RMD if all rules are satisfied. ([irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov)) Because these rules are technical, donors should always check with their tax advisor or IRA custodian before making the gift.

This is an important win for our chapter, our foundation, and the community we serve. It gives us a stronger platform to continue supporting veterans, families, and charitable initiatives with credibility, structure, and purpose.

To the board: thank you for your leadership, your hard work, and your commitment to seeing this mission through. You have helped build something that can serve others for years to come.

Well done. Mission accomplished. Now, as always, onward.



Tax note: The Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter of MOAA Foundation is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) public charity. Donors should consult their tax advisor regarding deductibility, Qualified Charitable Distributions, and other tax-related matters.



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.

**Membership
Application**

ELIGIBLE UNIFORMED SERVICES



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 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 msvc-moaa.org/membership, or by mailing a check to MSVC-MOAA, P.O. Box 5342, Poland, OH 44514.

Current Strength Report:

Regular Members: 68
Spouse Members: 11
Surviving Spouses: 4
Friends of MOAA: 3
Life Members: 6
Dues-Exempt (Active Duty): 21



As of this report, \$1,260 has been received in dues with \$200 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.



LOL

Please send us pictures of you when you were in the service so we can include them in future publications

