

MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

an affiliate of

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

April 2026 Chapter Update



From the President

Fellow Members,

I want to begin with a sincere thank you to all those who generously donated to our April 16 Cadet Night Dinner. We had a superb turnout of both members and guests and came out well ahead financially.

Specifically, I would like to thank MOAA Council and Chapter Affairs for its \$300 grant and our friends at the Reserve Organizations of America for their \$150 donation.

In addition to recognizing our four MOAA JROTC and ROTC Award recipients, we introduced seven of the eight YSU Army ROTC Prospective Lieutenants who will graduate this spring and begin their careers as commissioned officers. We also welcomed the cadets' family members and instructors, all through your generosity.

The chapter also was pleased to welcome two new members: former **Army Captain Kelly Lewis Nulf** of New Waterford, Ohio, and retired **Army Major Kevin Bukowski** of Salem, Ohio. Kelly was a "Be Our Guest" attendee with YSU ROTC classmate Janel Rice last fall, and Kevin is a civilian instructor with YSU's Department of Military Science. Welcome aboard!

As we look ahead to May, it is time to consider two national observances of particular importance to veterans and our chapter: Armed Forces Day on Saturday, May 16, and Memorial Day on Monday, May 25.

CADET NIGHT – AFTER ACTION REPORT

Event Overview

The Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) hosted its annual Cadet Night Dinner on April 16 at A La Cart Catering in Canfield, Ohio. The event brought together Junior ROTC and college ROTC cadets, instructors, family members, and guests from across northeast Ohio and western Pennsylvania.

Cadet Night Success

- Strong turnout of members and guests
- Financially successful event
- Supported by MOAA and ROA contributions

Award Recipients

- Karissa Benner – Austintown Fitch HS
- Leydi Cuevas Marte – Youngstown East HS
- Akirah Kimmel – New Castle HS

MOAA ROTC Award Recipient

- Cadet Onesimo Vivar-Vega – YSU Army ROTC (Class of 2027, \$300 Academic Stipend)

ROTC Recognition

The chapter also recognized seven Youngstown State University Army ROTC cadets who will graduate this spring and commission as Second Lieutenants:

- Kealin Dunston
- Aidan Gray
- Nick Johnson
- Kyle Kerchofer
- Nevin Miller
- Mitchell Newhard
- Ethan Slick



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Volunteers are again needed for the annual Decorating of the Graves at 10:00 a.m. on May 16 at Calvary Cemetery in Youngstown. I am working with the Mahoning County Veterans Service Commission to scale back the area we are responsible for in light of our chapter size. When I have the details worked out, I will send a formal announcement with a map.

Please consider donating two hours of your time to assist in this important endeavor. If you have school-age children or grandchildren who need community service hours, bring them. I will gladly sign or attest to whatever documentation they need.

Lastly, our May dinner meeting will be Thursday, May 21, at 6:00 p.m. at A La Cart Catering, with tentative guest speaker Mrs. Marly Reichert, Metro Editor of the Tribune Chronicle/Vindicator.

Dinner reservations are due by Monday, May 18.

Our June dinner meeting will be at the Golden Corral Restaurant in Hermitage, Pennsylvania, and our July event will be our annual Gun Shoot and indoor BBQ Picnic at the Fish and Game Club of Vienna.

Be sure to check the newsletter and chapter calendar on our website for these and other important dates.

Regards,
David J. DiTallo
President

These future officers will receive MOAA Commissioning Kits, including Second Lieutenant insignia, at the YSU ROTC Awards Breakfast.

Additional Highlights

- MOAA Life Member MAJ Kevin Bukowski (USA, Ret.) won the raffle for the Jim Tressel-autographed 2023 YSU championship football
- Strong member participation supported the chapter's ROTC/JROTC scholarship mission

Mission Impact

This event reinforces MSVC-MOAA's commitment to supporting and recognizing the next generation of military leaders while strengthening connections between the chapter and local ROTC and JROTC programs.



CADET NIGHT 2026 – FEATURED RECIPIENTS



JROTC & MOAA Award Recipients



YSU Army ROTC Cadets – Class of 2026

DINNER MEETING – MAY 21, 2026

FEATURED SPEAKER

Mary Seybert, Volunteer Coordinator
Understanding Home Care & Hospice

LOCATION

A La Cart Catering
Canfield, Ohio

\$ COST

\$20 per person

SCHEDULE

Check-in: 5:30 PM

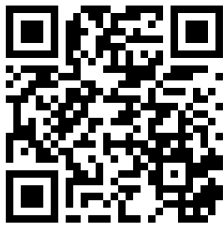
Dinner: 6:00 PM

RSVP BY MAY 18

msvcmoaa@gmail.com



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.



Follow Us for Updates

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.

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

• **MAY 21**

Dinner Meeting

Understanding Home Care & Hospice

Speaker: Mary Seybert

- **JUN 18** – Dinner Meeting at Golden Corral Buffet, Hermitage, PA. TOPIC: Sharon Regional Healthcare System
- **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: JROTC Grant Night

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).

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:

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LEGISLATIVE SITREP – APRIL 2026
Prepared by Joe Mersol, Legislative Liaison

SITUATION

April was a major advocacy month for MOAA. On April 15, members participated in Advocacy in Action 2026, delivering bipartisan priorities to Congress:

- Major Richard Star Act
- Shutdown Fairness Act
- GUARD VA Benefits Act
- Military CARE Act

ACTIVITY

- 160 volunteers nationwide
- 300+ congressional office visits
- 50+ direct meetings with lawmakers
- 25,000+ constituent messages

Major Richard Star Act

Allows combat-injured retirees to receive both retirement pay and disability compensation.

Shutdown Fairness Act

Protects pay and benefits during federal funding lapses.



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



Legislative Update (Cont)

GUARD VA Benefits Act

Addresses predatory claims practices and protects veterans seeking assistance.

Military CARE Act

Creates a digital system for managing care access and resolving issues.

WHAT COMES NEXT

- FY2027 NDAA
- Federal budget negotiations
- 2026 election cycle

ACTION FOR MEMBERS

- Use MOAA Legislative Action Center
- Contact lawmakers directly
- Share personal impact stories



Civic Action

May election find your ballot sites

Mahoning County, OH

Columbiana County, OH

Trumbull County, OH

Lawrence County, PA

Mahoning-Shenango Valleys Chapter

Membership Requirements

- Commissioned and warrant officers
- Active, retired, or former service members
- All uniformed services
- Surviving spouses

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

[Membership Application](#)



Membership Status

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:	70 +2
Spouse Members:	11
Surviving Spouses:	4
Friends of MOAA:	3
Life Members:	6
Dues-Exempt (Active Duty):	21

As of this report, \$1,360 has been received in dues with \$140 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.

Annual Chapter Dues \$20

JOIN MOAA – CONTINUE YOUR SERVICE

Membership in MOAA National and the Mahoning-Shenango Valleys Chapter is open to active duty, retired, and former commissioned and warrant officers of the U.S. uniformed services, as well as surviving spouses.

Active duty and reserve component officers are exempt from chapter dues.

PREMIUM MEMBERSHIP

- Full access to MOAA resources
- Career transition and financial planning tools
- Exclusive publications and updates
- Scholarships for dependents
- Member discounts on travel and products

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

- All Premium benefits—for life
- Enhanced spouse protection
- Direct access to MOAA experts
- Dedicated Life Member support

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Join online:
msvc-moaa.org/membership
Or contact:
msvcmoaa@gmail.com

Never Stop Serving



CADET NIGHT 2026

Recognizing the Next Generation of Military Leaders

