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Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



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Receiving the Level of Excellence (LOE) Award from General John Tilelli, Jr., USA, Ret., MOAA's chairman of the board.

This has been a great month for the Chapter. Our meetings continue to be not just social get together, but a place where we receive interesting information. Last month I learned things about the Cuban Missile Crisis from retired CIA Officer John Raica of Hubbard that I never knew. His presentation was quite informative.

On 27 and 28 October, I and my wife attended the MOAA National General Meeting Arlington, Va. to receive our 4-Star Level of Excellence (LOE) Award Streamer (all we need now is a Chapter flag). This was an event to behold. First and foremost for me and MSVC was winning a LOE after being in existence just three years is an outstanding accomplishment. Of the 412 local MOAA chapters, we were one of about 134 to receive LOE recognition. This includes active participation in chapter programs, and active legislative affairs program and the numbers of MOAA National members. We can do better next year and perhaps be awarded a 5-Star LOE. To do so we need to continue our active programs and increase the number of MSVC members to become MOAA National members. With that in mind I encourage all MSVC members to ramp-up the membership and become MOAA National members. Remember, MOAA National is our direct voice with those in power in the halls of government.

continue on back

Oct. 1962 Where Were You?

Do you remember where you were and what you were doing when you first heard that President John F. Kennedy was shot? Do you remember hearing the news of the Challenger Space Shuttle disaster? I bet you remember that tragedy as if it happened yesterday. Now, can you think back to anxiety and suspense you felt during the Cuban Missile Crisis while you were glued to the TV to hear any piece of news that would calm your fears of a nuclear holocaust? Well, the guest speaker at our last Chapter meeting, John Raica, born in Sharon, Pa. and now lives in Hubbard, Ohio actually took part as a CIA Agent who analyzed photographs from high level U-2 manned flights over Cuba to discover several Russian medium range missiles sites being deployed throughout Cuba. As part of a team of photo analysts, he helped to provide the photographic proof that President Kennedy needed to announce to the world a naval quarantine of Cuba on October 23, 1962. The very next day the United States went to DEFCON 2 for the first time in history bringing 130 ICBMs and over 1400 long range bombers on full alert. By October 27, low level reconnaissance flights all over the island verified that all 24 missile sites were fully operational with intermediate range missiles capable of hitting as far north as Washington, DC. With spine tingling suspense, the United States and the world awaited Nikita Khrushchev's response. On October 28th, Khrushchev finally backed down and announced the turn-around of missile carrying cargo ships and agreed to the return of missiles from a total of 42 different sites throughout the island. Between October 22nd and December 7th, over 82 U-2 missions were flown over Cuba and Mr. Raica's team of analysts worked 24-7 to verify that the missile sites were being disassembled.



Mr. Raica presented the Chapter members with a slide show and some actual photographs and negatives taken during the Cuban Missile Crisis as well as some of the letters and certificates of commendation he received for his work during this intense period. John then explained how satellite photography became more precise as increased technology advanced the resolution of film photography through the late 1960's to the mid 1970's. The business of satellite imaging also changed dramatically from air drop film canisters from satellites to instantaneous real time electrical optical systems.

President Rod Hosler presented the MSVC flag set to Mr. Raica at the end of his very interesting and informative presentation. Following the presentation, President Hosler conducted the Annual Business Meeting of the Chapter with Secretary Janet Oglesby passing out printed copies of the Officers Reports and Committee Reports. The reports were approved and the slate of officers and board members as presented was also approved for the 2015 term of office. Any Chapter member wishing to serve on the Board anytime during 2015 can make their desire known to President Hosler as there is still a position for a board member at large.

**New Location in January. Where? TBA.
The kitchen at YARS is being remodeled
through the middle of February.**



MSVC recognized YSU Army ROTC Cadet James Stiger (center) by presenting him with the Second Lieutenant insignia of rank. Cadet Stiger will graduate from YSU on 13 December with a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering and will also be Commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army's Corps of Engineers. COL John Koshan (far left) and LTC Gary Williams (far right) are alumni of YSU ROTC. LTC Rod Holser (2nd left) was past MS instructor at YSU. CPT Stephanie Crawford is the present MS instructor and also MSVC newest member.



MSVC board members proudly display their 4-Star Level of Excellence streamer. Janet Oglesby-Secretary, John Koshan-Legislative Affairs, Peter Mihai, Past President, Dick Calta-Chapter Development, Gary Williams-1st Vice President. Back row: Bruce Bille-Treasurer, Rod Hosler-President. Missing were Nick Spano-2nd Vice President, Mike Wisniewski-Public Relations, Don and Bonnie Rasile, Personal Affairs.

President Message from Page 1

The other part of the trip to MOAA National's meeting was receiving extensive information regarding MOAA's legislative efforts to improve the forces (active, reserve and retired) that depend on the government for sustainability. MOAA National was the only organization of 37 service and veterans organizations that led the campaign to increase the COLA for the military and retirees. It was MOAA National understanding of the true figures that swayed Congress to respond positively to increasing the COLA. MOAA National figures and computations were better and more insightful than those provided by the Department of Defense to the Senate and House. MOAA National is in the forefront of leading the charge to end the "Sequestration" that is devastating the military and down grading our national defense. This can only be done by the vast numbers of MOAA National members that make up our organization. Let's carry the fight to maintain our strong armed forces, sustain our retirees, and the ensure the security of our nation. You still make a difference. LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD.

Finally, as I continue to say, any organization is only as good as its membership and their active participation, and the MSVC-MOAA is becoming one of the better chapters in Ohio and perhaps the country. We have much to be proud of. I encourage all MSVC-MOAA members to continue to attend our dinner meetings, to meet other officers, renew old acquaintances and meet new members. It's up to US to keep our chapter active and vibrant. Thanks for your continued support to MSVC-MOAA and MOAA National.

Rod Hosler, MSVC President "It's important that people know what you stand for, and what you won't."

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA/RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter

Mahoning Chapter

Joint Christmas Party



When: Sunday, 7 December 2014

Where: The Manor Restaurant

3104 South Canfield Niles Road

Route 46 and Kirk Road

Austintown, OH 44451 or GPS Youngstown

Social: 1645 (4:45 P.M.) Cash Bar

Dinner: 1730 (5:30 P.M.)

Entrée Items will be from a special limited menu

prices ranging from \$10-\$20. All choices available...

Fish, Chicken, Steak, Pasta. Plus tax and gratuity.

RSVP No later than Monday, December 1st.

You must have reservations.

Who: Members, Spouses, Guests

Table seating are in rows so singles please come and fill-in.

Attire: Coat & Tie/Equivalent

Program: Each couple/guest is asked to bring a gift-wrapped \$10 holiday gift. Each gift is auctioned off with the proceeds going to an applicable veteran's charity.

Make your reservation by leaving a message for Janet Oglesby 330-568-4456 or by email jlo52800@neo.rr.com Please indicate how many will be attending.

Bring your checkbook!

