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# Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



March 2015 • Volume 5 Issue 3

Navy Operational Support Center Youngstown • MSVC—MOAA  
3976 King Graves Road Bldg 540 • Vienna, OH 44473-5980

## MOAA Brand Refresh After Twenty Years – New Tagline “Never Stop Serving” – New Logo

MOAA introduced its 2015 brand refresh. The new materials, first introduced to chapter and council leaders in October 2014, will be incorporated gradually at the national level as inventory is updated. Chapters and council leaders also are asked to gradually introduce the new logo in all of their affiliate’s communications and materials.

Why a brand refresh?

MOAA represents more than 380,000 members across all demographics, and to remain strong as an organization, it is critical to remain relevant to each member. MOAA’s leaders set out to answer the question, “Why MOAA?” This discovery process led to identifying the shared value between military officers and MOAA — service. Like MOAA, officers have a service mentality — their oath to support and defend

never ends. Similarly, MOAA promises to never stop serving military personnel and their families.

The association’s new tagline, “Never Stop Serving,” defines why MOAA matters and clearly represents the mission. It also becomes a strong call-to-action for officers who have more to give.

An important aspect of the brand refresh is updating MOAA’s logo. Over the years, the shield logo has become a recognizable emblem among our core membership; however, it also has become dated. The refreshed logo has a modernized look that appeals to a younger demographic yet retains the heraldry and legacy of the old logo.

The new logo also signals change to get MOAA noticed and encourage current and prospective members and external audiences to explore MOAA and discover the value it offers.

What does this mean for chapters and councils?

The MOAA logo is an immediate representation of our brand, and it is important the association’s chapters use the logo, the MOAA seal, and each approved variation of the logo in accordance with MOAA’s Brand Book.

Many MOAA affiliate publications and banners bear the old MOAA logo or seal, and it is not necessary to reprint existing materials that bear the old logo simply to replace it. However, as council and chapter leaders refresh their communications, reprint materials, or introduce new items, they should use the new MOAA logo.



## The Plight Of Our Nation’s Homeless Veterans and Activities To Help Vets In Our Area

by LTC Michael O. Wisniewski

Another riveting presentation was enjoyed by the Chapter membership at a dinner meeting at the YARS in Vienna. The “changed format” at the Consolidated Activity Center (CAC) involves having a scrumptious meal served in a separate dining area apart from where our guest speaker, Dr. Robert Marcus, gave his presentation. Dr. Marcus spoke about the plight of our nation’s homeless Veterans and some of the activities he is involved in to help the homeless Vets in our area. Dr. Marcus is the Homeless Outreach Coordinator serving Mahoning, Trumbull, Columbiana and Portage counties. He is employed by the Veterans Administration and spent six years working in the Suicide Prevention Program before becoming the Homeless Outreach Coordinator for the past 20 months. With over 30 years of experience in the mental health

field as a clinician, director of clinical services, and administrator of clinical programming, Dr. Marcus was also an instructor at Penn State, Gannon University, Youngstown State University and at the Univ. of Pittsburgh, where he obtained his PH.D in Counseling.

Dr. Marcus presented some interesting statistics about the homeless Veterans. Veterans make up 11% of the general population in this country but one third of the nation’s homeless are Veterans. It’s very difficult to get accurate numbers of just how many homeless Veterans we have in this county. The figures range anywhere from 107,000 to 300,000 but these include people who happen to choose to be homeless and get along just fine with just a monthly disability, retirement, or social security check. The government conducts a “Pit Count” census every year from sunset January 27<sup>th</sup> to sunrise January 28<sup>th</sup>

whereby truck stops, shelters, and camp sites across the county are canvassed to determine how many homeless people there are. Did you know that 45% of the homeless Vets suffer from some form of mental illness such as PTSD and anxiety attacks and that 50% suffer from some form of substance abuse? While the homeless in general are typically 30–40 year old, the home-

*continue on page 2*



President Rod Hosler presenting the MSVC flag set to Dr. Robert Marcus

## President's Notes



We had a great meeting with a very good turnout in February despite the cold weather. Our guest speaker Dr. Robert Marcus from the Youngstown VA Clinic spoke about the problem of homeless veterans and the actions his office is doing to resolve the problem locally. As a result of his presentation, our chapter is providing three thirty-day bus passes which have become critical solution to the local situation. It was a really good presentation.

The MSVC will continue to have interesting and insightful presentations at our monthly dinner meetings. Please attend and be part of the program. Our 26 March meeting will feature Mr. Herman K. Breuer, Service Officer Director at the Trumbull County Veterans Service Commission. He will speak about the mission of the Trumbull County Veterans Service Commission and how it can support you as a veteran. It should be a most interesting program.

The chapter membership continues to be strong with 91 members, 2 auxiliary members, and 10 spouse members. I continue to urge all MSVC chapter members to become MOAA National members. Remember, MOAA National is our direct voice with those in power in the halls of government. Visit our chapter web site at [MSVC-MOAA.org](http://MSVC-MOAA.org) and share our newsletter. As always, I continue to salute MSVC-MOAA members for their stalwart accomplishments and yeoman work for the Chapter. With the tireless efforts of our chapter leadership, we and MOAA can't succeed.

The MOAA National legislative efforts to improve the armed forces (active, reserve and retired) that depend on the Federal government for sustainability continues to be strong and leads the campaign to be heard on Capitol Hill. MOAA National is in the forefront of leading the charge to maintain the force, keep TRICARE viable and 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 ensure the security of our nation. The Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC) is looking at wide sweeping changes to military pay and benefits (for retirees too). The MCRMC proposals are bold and if implemented, they would transform military pay and benefits. You still make a difference. LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD.

The MSVC-MOAA is donating a onetime \$500 to the Northeast Ohio USO to be used for USO Lounge at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station. Located in Building 201 on the Air Station, this USO Lounge is the only one of its kind at any reserve facility. I want to thank the MSVC-MOAA

*Continue in the next column*

## Homeless Veterans continue from page 1

less Veterans as a group are much older with 40% of them having served in Viet Nam. 85% of homeless Vets have a high school diploma or GED while only 34% of the general homeless population is as educated.

Dr. Marcus explained why so many become homeless citing alcohol and substance abuse, broken relationships, job loss leading to spiraling financial problems. It takes approximately 10 years for a Viet Nam Vet to become homeless while only 18 months for an OIF/OEF Vet to finish the downward cycle. It is interesting to note that more female vets are becoming homeless than males.

There are many government and private programs and agencies to assist the homeless Veteran obtain food, shelter, and even employment. These range from a week's stay at the Rescue Mission to long term HUD voucher programs in subsidized housing. However, most of the funding and services are entrenched in the larger cities such as Cleveland and areas such as Youngstown and Warren have limited resources. Dr. Marcus cited a few heart rendering examples of how he and his Outreach Program was able to help specific individuals. There are a number of ways in which an individual or an organization can help the plight of our homeless Veterans. The VA clinic in Youngstown, where Dr. Marcus is located, and other support agencies welcome donations of time, talent, and finances from individuals and local organizations. One program in particular that these Veterans treat as "gold" is a 30-day bus pass which often is a necessary prerequisite to having some mobility in finding employment.

At the end of the program, President Rod Hosler presented Dr. Marcus with our Chapter flag set. At the suggestion of one of our members, the Board of the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter has met and authorized the purchase of several of these bus passes to give to Dr. Marcus for his Homeless Outreach Program.

and our man on the USO Board of Directors, Bruce Bille for this important support for our troops and their families.

**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."***



## Legislative Issues – March 2015

*Legislative Affairs Co-Chair, COL John Koshan*

A new Secretary of Defense and a new Congress are getting a chance to address the same old problems. How to sustain a viable military that supports our National Defense strategy and National Security using **LESS MONEY**. Given what we know today this could be Mission Impossible.

Shortly after the new congress was convened in January they enacted a Continuous Resolution (CR) to fund the government at current levels through Sep'15 and the Administration had submitted a proposed FY 2016 Budget that will become effective in Oct'15. Congress now has started the process of budget review and development. Both the Pentagon and MOAA have been in discussions with the various committees and sub committees responsible for budget development. With the budget now taking center stage, several issues over the coming months will drive the discussions, those are the recommendations of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC) and the Pentagon's FY 2016 Request. Unfortunately, the Budget request must reconcile with **SEQUESTRATION**. As noted in previous updates SEQUESTRATION requires arbitrary cuts to the Defense Department. Nearly \$1 Trillion in projected defense spending over the next decade. The current budget request for the Defense Department is projected to be \$37 Billion above what the law allows (The 2011 Budget Control Act). Secretary Carter has said that the budget request would help the Military begin to recover after 14 years of war and enable the military to invest in a new generation of weapons for the future. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Gen. Dempsey, has noted that the budget request provides no slack or margin left for error. The Secretary of Defense has stressed that forced to fund less than the FY2016 request would leave the Military **unable** to execute our Defense Strategy and leave our National Security vulnerable. Sequestration is a National Security issue of significant magnitude and reducing Military Spending in the hopes of improving our financial situation may result in more internal and external instability. The law needs to be changed. Debt reduction is a national priority, but so is National Security. Congress has their work cut out for them, let us hope that they are up to the task. Can the new congress find cost savings to fund the proposed Defense Budget is anyone's guess? Congress and the White House have forced themselves into making false choices between people and the military infrastructure / weapons systems. Infrastructure is a political hot button. The quickest way to show cost savings is to draw down troop levels and shift personnel costs onto the backs of our service members and families.

This then brings us to the recommendations of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Committee (MCRMC). As noted in last month's update, the recommendations of this committee were to show ways to modernize Military Pay and Benefits so as to generate budget savings for the Defense Department. Specific areas were:

**Military Retirement:** Moving away from the current 20 year vesting system to a blended defined benefit and 401K style package.

**Health Care:** Eliminating TRICARE for Military families and working age retirees and replacing it with commercial insurance plans.

MOAA's biggest concern and by extension ours also, is that the new congress will look at the MCRMC proposals with the purpose of saving money or cutting budget and make decisions based on arbitrary numbers, not considering the effects on readiness, and recruiting and retention. Those things necessary to maintaining our National Security. For this reason MOAA is continuing their lobbying efforts and is providing testimony to both Houses of Congress on the effects of the MCRMC recommendations and to the Budget and Sequestration.

MOAA's legislative goals were summarized in our January update and are available if needed. These goals are the road map for dealing with our legislators. Each of us are asked to respond to MOAA's legislative calls to action. These are found in the Military Officer magazine and in the various email updates sent from MOAA. We are urged to provide feedback to MOAA and input to our legislators concerning these actions. The next few months of legislative activity will be busy and critical in determining where our Military is headed. All of us need to take part in this process. Our country's future is at stake. We need to get involved.

## Legislative Contacts

**MOAA Weekly legislative updates** [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org) or **1-800-234-6622 ext. 215**

**Pres. Barack Obama (D)**

The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington DC 20500  
Switchboard: 202-456-1414  
[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

**OHIO**

**Senator Sherrod Brown (D)**

United States Senate  
713 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-2315  
Fax (202) 228-6321  
[www.brown.senate.gov](http://www.brown.senate.gov)

**Senator Rob Portman (R)**

United States Senate  
448 Russell Senate Office Bld.  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-3353  
[www.portman.senate.gov](http://www.portman.senate.gov)  
*Representative District 6*

**Bill Johnson (R)**

192 East State St.  
Salem, OH 44460  
Phone (330) 337-6951  
Fax (330) 337-7125  
<http://billjohnson.house.gov>

*Representative District 13*

**Tim Ryan (D)**

241 West Federal St.  
Youngstown, OH 44503  
Phone: (330) 740-0193  
Fax: (330) 740-0182  
<http://timryan.house.gov>

**PENNSYLVANIA**

**Senator Robert Casey Jr. (D)**

393 Russell Senate Office Bld.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-6324  
Fax: (202) 228-0604  
[www.casey.senate.gov](http://www.casey.senate.gov)

**Senator Patrick Toomey (R)**

248 Russell Senate Office Bld.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-4254  
Fax: (202) 228-0284  
[www.toomey.senate.gov](http://www.toomey.senate.gov)

*Representative District 3*

**Mike Kelly (R)**

33 Chestnut Avenue  
Sharon, PA 16146  
Phone: (724) 342-7170  
Fax: (724) 342-7242  
<http://kelly.house.gov/>

Email the legislative contacts through their web site.





## The United States Army Field Band & Soldiers' Chorus

The Musical Ambassadors of the Army  
*Washington, DC*

### *In Concert!*

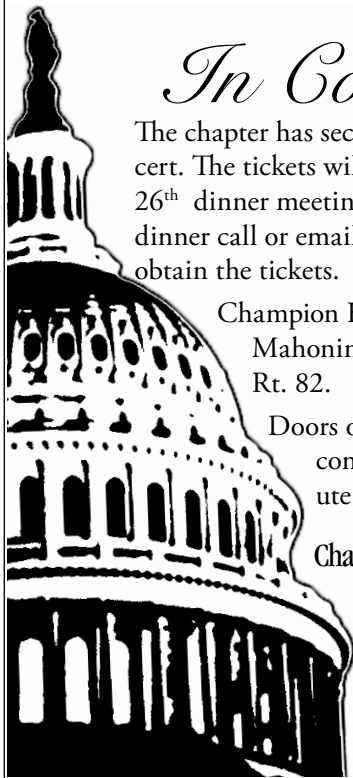
The chapter has secured tickets for this free concert. The tickets will be passed out on our March 26<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting. If you can't attend the 26<sup>th</sup> dinner call or email (page 6) Janet Oglesby to obtain the tickets.

Champion High School Auditorium 5759  
Mahoning Ave. NW this is Rt. 45, off  
Rt. 82.

Doors open at 6:00 seating is first  
come first served. It is a 90 min-  
ute concert with an intermission.

Champion High School Auditorium  
Warren, Ohio

April 1, 2015 • 7:00 PM



### USO Lounge at YARS Seeking Equipment Donations

The USO Lounge at YARS will be the first in the country on a dedicated Air Reserve Base. The former Officer's Club, Building 201, has been allocated to becoming this alternative activity area for the Airmen. It will be nonalcoholic, and be equipped with a gaming area, computers, a big-screen TV viewing area for sports or base broadcasts, high-top tables for snacking and brand-name gourmet coffee station.

Vizio 65" LED TV ..... \$878  
Playstation 4 gaming systems for LAN (need: 4) . each: \$400  
Floor cabinet/counter for coffee station ..... \$360  
Cabinet/stand for popcorn machine. .... \$260  
Gaming table, round, with separations. .... \$240  
Wall cabinet for coffee station ..... \$220  
Refurbished Dell 760 computer (need: 2). .... each: \$175  
Hi-top table, 2 hi-top chairs-set (need 3) ..... each: \$151  
Chairs for TV area (needed: 10). .... each: \$150  
Keurig Coffee Brewer. .... \$150  
Hi-speed WiFi Router ..... \$140

### MSVC-MOAA 2015 Calendar

Date	Location and Program
3/24	For all Veterans of the Valley, Luncheon catered by Lariccia's (free) St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Church Social Hall 764 Fifth St. Struthers RSVP to Lois by 3/20 797-2902
3/26	YARS-Program, Herm Breuer, Director Trumbull County Veterans Service Commission. Spouses are encouraged to attend.
4/1	Champion High School-US Army Band and Chorus. Tickets are required for free admission. The chapter has obtained tickets for the concert.
4/23	YARS-Program TBA
4/25	MOAA Ohio Council of Chapter Meeting at YARS, MSVC Hosts 0900 hr to 1200
5/16	Armed Forces Day at Buhl Park
5/28	YARS-ROTC/JROTC recognition dinner the chapter will be asking for donations to help defray the cost of the guests meals.
6/25	Golden Corral, Hermitage, Program TBA
7/23	Picnic at Centennial Park in Salem, Program TBA
TBA	Scrappers Game
8/27	YARS-Steak Fry/Corn Roast, Program TBA
9/24	YARS-Program TBA
9/25-26	MOAA Ohio Council of Chapters Convention at Fairborn Holiday Inn, Dayton, Ohio
10/22	YARS-Speaker TBA
12/6	MOAA/ROA Christmas Party
YARS - Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Vienna, Ohio	
TBA - To be announced	
Suggestions for programs contact:	
Rod Hosler at <a href="mailto:hosler1@zoominternet.net">hosler1@zoominternet.net</a> 330-788-3270 or	
Gary Williams at <a href="mailto:gwilliams15@comcast.net">gwilliams15@comcast.net</a> 330-385-4873	

LED Gaming Monitors (need 4) .....each: \$140  
HP 20" Monitor (need 2). ....each: \$100  
Chairs for LAN Gaming area (need 4). .... each: \$90  
Computer desk/station (needed: 2) ..... each: \$80  
Hi-top chairs for dining area, set of 2 (need 3) ... each: \$76  
PS4 Video game (needed: 12) ..... each: \$60  
End tables for TV area (need 4) ..... each: \$60  
Coffee maker, 12-cup (need 3) ..... each: \$50  
Internet access, monthly (need 12) ..... each: \$50

If you have any questions or referrals, please contact:

Bruce A. Bille, Second Vice President

Youngstown Air Reserve Station Support Office

USO Northern Ohio Voice/Text: (330) 333-0397

Fax: (330) 617-8515 E-mail: [USOTrumbullCo@gmail.com](mailto:USOTrumbullCo@gmail.com)

## ReCap of MOAA National Northeast Regional Leadership Workshop

by Florence Hosler

The workshop was held February 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> in Dover Delaware, this was another training opportunity offered to chapter officers by MOAA national. Rod and I headed off in good weather for what turned out to be a very well organized and information packed weekend.

The agenda covered seven areas important to chapter development and health:

- Importance of chapters
- Chapter organization
- Chapter membership challenge
- Grassroots legislative support
- Community involvement
- MOAA support to chapters
- Communications

Chapters are the grass root supporters of MOAAs' legislative goals and "ambassadors" in the community by giving back, telling the MOAA story and bridging the civilian and military gap.

Two important points for chapter recruiting as well as retention were developing a chapter mission/vision and remaining focused on them. This will keep members and potential members interested and involved.

In legislative affairs, the chapters are the starting point for MOAA nationals' focus. Other events of course influence this

effort as well; budget requests, economic conditions among others. This years' *Storming the Hill* will focus on three areas of interest:

- Sustaining pay and benefits and curtailing cuts
- Reject disproportional TRICARE fees and changes
- Eliminate harmful sequestration issues

Chapters can also get involved in state veterans issues as well.

Community involvement gives members a chance to give back and become involved in something larger than themselves, and chapters involved in the community will outlive social chapters.

***Never Stop Serving!***

### Request from Personal Affairs Chairs

The care and comfort of our hospitalized and homebound members is an ongoing concern in our Chapter. Feel free to contact the Chapter Personal Affairs Chairs or any MSVC board member to make them aware of a fellow member or family member in need of support or assistance.

Also, the Chapter Personal Affairs Chairs or Secretary will send an appropriate card for any hospitalized, homebound, ill, injured, or lonely member who needs to have contact.

*LTC Don & Bonnie Rasile, Personal Affairs Chair*

[rasiled@zoominternet.net](mailto:rasiled@zoominternet.net) ..... (330) 758-3348

**To Join MOAA National: use the web site [www.moaa.org/join](http://www.moaa.org/join) or call 800-234-6622**

## Membership Application for Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Military Status \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_

Component \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Regular Member (Retired, Former, Active\* Officer of the seven uniformed US Services **Membership \$20/year**)

☐ Active \*(Regular)—☐ Reserve\*—☐ National Guard\*  
\*Free chapter membership if under government contract.  
*A non military email address is preferred, return this form*

☐ Widow(er)—Auxiliary Member (Auxiliary membership is available for surviving spouses of officers **Membership \$10/year**)

☐ Spouse (local MOAA chapter only, not national, spouse is member of chapter) **Membership \$20/year**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant DOB \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse DOB \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Newsletters will be emailed, if you prefer postal service, check this box

Member of MOAA National ☐ Yes ☐ No # \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter dues** from Jan. 1, 2015 to Dec. 31, 2015

Make Check Payable to: **MSVC-MOAA** mail to address on right

You may pay regular and auxiliary dues (not spouses) with a credit card at: [www.moaa.org/OnlineChapterDuesPayment](http://www.moaa.org/OnlineChapterDuesPayment)  
you may use credit card and PayPal and paid, regular, spouses and auxiliary dues at [www.msvc-moaa.org/membership](http://www.msvc-moaa.org/membership)

**Navy Operational Support Center Youngstown**  
**Attn: MSVC-MOAA**  
**Janet Oglesby, Secretary**  
**3976 King Graves Road Bldg 540**  
**Vienna, OH 44473-5980**



Place  
Stamp  
Here

Navy Operational Support Center Youngstown  
Mahoning & Shenango Valleys Chapter  
3976 King Graves Road Bldg 540  
Vienna, OH 44473-5980

**Return Service Requested**



MSVC is  
Sponsored by



*Welcome new member  
MAJ Carl Nunziato, USA, Ret.*

## Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting at YARS – RSVP by noon Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Where:** Youngstown Air Force Reserve Station  
Community Activity Center  
3976 King Graves Rd • Vienna, OH 44473

**Who:** Members, Spouses, Guests

*Lounge and Cash bar opens at 1530*

**Social:** 1800 (6:00 P.M.)

**Dinner:** 1830 (6:30 P.M.) **Reservations Required for the Dinner**

**Program:** 1930 (7:30 P.M.) **Welcome to join the dinner guests for the program**

**Topic:** **Veteran's Benefits/Widow's Benefits**, spouses may which to attend this as it is more likely that they will have go to the VSC office upon a veteran's passing.

**Speaker:** **Herm Breuer, Trumbull County Veterans Service Commission**

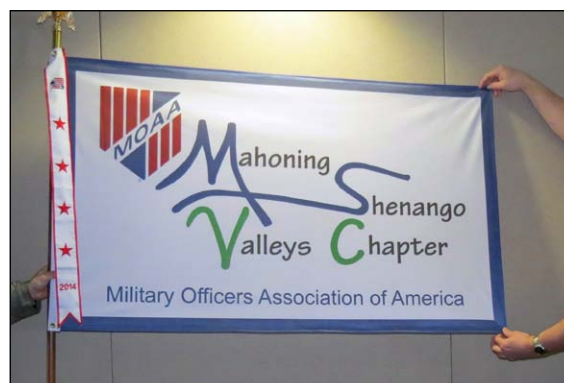
**Attire:** Business Casual which simply means no jeans or tee shirts. Attendees in the past wore a sport coat or sweater with open collar shirt and some wore shirt & tie with a sport coat.

**Menu:** House salad, two pieces of fish, eight shrimp, coleslaw, baked potato, corn, rolls, orange/pine-apple cake, coffee/tea, tax and gratuity included for \$20.00 the **chapter pays for no-shows**.

### RSVP:

1. Call Janet Oglesby, 330-568-4456 (leave a message if no answer).
2. Or Email Janet at [djo52800@neo.rr.com](mailto:djo52800@neo.rr.com)
3. Or use the web site [www.msvc-moaa.org](http://www.msvc-moaa.org) and pay with PayPal. It isn't required to have a PayPal account to use the system. You will answer "no" to the message asking if you have a PayPal account then you will be asked for credit card information. PayPal is a secure system.

You can pay at the door with cash, check, credit or debit card.



*Our new chapter flag with our four star streamer. A thank you to Bruce Bille for ordering the flag and to Don Rasile who donated the base and pole.*