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Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



April 2015 • Volume 5 Issue 4

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

Our March Guest Speaker Herm Breuer Director of the Trumbull County VSC



President Rod Hosler presenting the MSVC flag set to Mr. Herm Breuer

Herm Breuer, director of the Trumbull County Office of the Veterans Service Commission (TCVSC) for the past two years, was the guest speaker at our Chapter's most recent dinner meeting on March 26, 2015 at the Consolidated Activities Center, Youngstown Air Reserve Station in Vienna. Speaking before our largest gathering to date, Mr. Breuer mesmerized our members with his experiences in Iraq as a turret gunner for the detail that provided security for the Commander of Northern Iraq. Among the many awards he received for his service, the Purple Heart was earned for being wounded by a roadside bomb

during one of those scary encounters. Herm proceeded to speak at length about the various and diverse benefits and services the Trumbull County Veterans Service Commission offers to honorably discharged veterans from all walks of life who may need some form of assistance either financially or otherwise.

The VSC provides professional assistance in filing claims for federal benefits earned while in the service of our nation. The list of federal benefits include service-connected compensation, non-service connected pension, burial benefits, VA life insurance and educational benefits. There are a number of State benefits that the office can also provide assistance in obtaining. These include license plates, hunting and fishing licenses, Ohio War Orphans Scholarships, Ohio Children's Home and the Ohio Veteran's Home. Among the benefits that are funded directly by Trumbull County through its 1/2 mill property tax assessment include: rent or mortgage payments, utilities, heating oil, real estate taxes, home owners insurance, clothing, transportation, limited medical, food, and transportation to Cleveland VA hospitals. The VSC will provide emergency financial assistance not only to veterans but also to widows and children of veterans who are in need. However, certain requirements must be met before financial assistance can be given.

Aptly suited for the job as Director, Mr. Breuer is actively involved in other veteran organizations as a Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 606, Service Officer for the DAV Chapter 11, and Chaplain and Service Officer for VFW Post 1090. He is also a member of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America,

the Wounded Warrior Project, and a member of the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers. In October 2011, he became the first veteran of Iraq or Afghanistan to be elected as the President of the Ohio State Association of County Veteran Service Officers where he represented all 88 county officers and over 250 Service Officers.

During his presentation, Herm brought out several interesting facts about the TCVSC. Within the State of Ohio, which has the 6th largest veteran population in the US, the VSC is unique in composition and operation to all the other Veteran Service Commissions in the United States. The Commission is comprised of five members from local Veteran Organizations who are appointed by a judge. Presently the office is staffed by five service officers and two administrative personnel. In the past year the office has been able to transport between 1600 and 1800 veterans to the Cleveland VA Hospital using a van on a daily basis. The office provides

continue on page 5

The Mercer Memorial Day 500 Committee
Cordially invites you to the
Presentation of the Flight 93 Hero Flag
To the Citizens of Mercer
Monday, April 27, 2015 at 11:00 A.M.
The Mercer County Courthouse, First Floor

Light refreshment will follow
RSVP to Dr. Maureen Johnson at 724-922-8345



A follow-up on our February meeting with Dr. Marcus on homeless veterans in the Youngstown area. The chapter purchased three 30 day bus passes for veterans in the Youngstown area. Former LT Florence Hosler, USN is presenting the tickets. The chapter hopes to repeat this in the near future.

President's Notes



I believe Spring is finally here! We had a great March meeting with very good turnout despite the ongoing construction at the CAC. Our guest speaker was Mr. Herman K. Breuer, Director of the Trumbull County Veterans Service Commission. He spoke about its mission, how it supports local veterans, and a bit about his military experiences.

It was an interesting and entertaining presentation.

In February Dr. Robert Marcus of the Youngstown VA Clinic spoke about homeless veterans and the problems they face. As a result of his presentation, our chapter presented him with three thirty day bus passes which will assist needy veterans.

A handful of chapter members enjoyed the United States Army Field Band & Soldiers' Chorus at Champion High School. The Musical Ambassadors of the Army do several different genres along with patriotic music.

The MSVC-MOAA donated \$500 to the Northeast Ohio USO for the new USO Lounge (Building 201) at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station, which had its grand opening on Saturday, 11 April. Our Treasurer Bruce Bille is a member of the Board of the Northeast Ohio USO, and was instrumental in developing this facility.

The Chapter is presenting the MOAA Medal to outstanding cadets from East High School Army JROTC Cadet on the 17th. YSU Army ROTC Cadet on the 23rd. Trumbull Career and Technical Center AF JROTC on May 2nd. Also on the 23rd we will be presenting the Second Lieutenant insignia of rank and Officer's Guide to YSU Army ROTC graduating cadet, Jared L. Hedig. Well done Cadets!

Our membership continues to be strong with 91 members, 2 auxiliary members, and 13 spouse members; and 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 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 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, ensure the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission doesn't gut military benefits with sweeping changes, and end the "Sequestration" that is devastating the military and down

Continue on page 5

MSVC-MOAA 2015 Calendar

Date	Location and Program
4/17	E. High School JROTC awards program RSVP for 1800 pasta dinner 1800-1700
4/23	YSU ROTC Awards Program RSVP for 0800 Breakfast Buffet
4/23	MSVC at YARS-Program-Employer Support of Guard and Reserve see page 6 RSVP
4/25	MOAA Ohio Council of Chapter Meeting at YARS, MSVC Hosts 0900 hr -1200
4/27	Hero Flag Presentation Mercer County Courthouse 1100 RSVP see page 1
5/2	TCTC-JROTC awards program at 0900
5/16	Placing the flags at Calvary Cemetery Mahoning Ave. 0800 Armed Forces Day at Buhl Park Hermitage PA 1000-1900 YSU ROTC Commissioning Ceremony Reception Kilcawley Center 1300
5/28	MSVC at YARS-ROTC/JROTC recognition dinner. The chapter will be asking for donations to help defray the cost of the guests meals.
6/25	MSVC Meeting Golden Corral, Hermitage, Program TBA
7/23	MSVC Picnic at Centennial Park in Salem, Program TBA
TBA	Scrappers Game
8/9	Wings-n-Wheels Show Ernie Hall Aviation Museum SLOAS Airfield 4033 North River Road Warren, 44484 www.erniehallaviationmuseum.org
8/21-22	D-Day Conneaut, Ohio www.dddayohio.us
8/27	MSVC at YARS-Steak Fry/Corn Roast, Program TBA
9/24	MSVC at YARS-Program TBA
9/25-26	MOAA Ohio Council of Chapters Convention at Fairborn Holiday Inn, Dayton, Ohio
10/22	MSVC 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 hosler1@zoominternet.net 330-788-3270 or Gary Williams at gwilliams15@comcast.net 330-385-4873	



Legislative Issues – April 2015

Legislative Affairs Co-Chair, COL John Koshan

Congress continues its work on the FY 2015 Budgets and there is not a lot of legislative accomplishments to report on since our last newsletter. Congress did manage to squeeze in a Spring break and an Easter Recess. Our hope is that all of our members enjoyed a blessed Easter Holiday.

As the Budget continues to take center stage we see the recommendations of the Military Compensation Retirement Modernization Committee (MCRMC) becoming more of the discussion. As we have discussed in the last several newsletters these recommendations were designed to modernize Military Pay and Benefits so as to generate budget savings for the Defense Department. MOAA has been testifying along with other advocacy groups on the pros and cons of these recommendations. **BIG** questions remain as to the lasting effects these recommendations could have on the wellbeing of our Military.

The changes to the Retirement system would provide for a 401K-type program, similar to the civilian workforce. Under the proposal service members would see a reduction in retired pay but would receive matching government contributions. This new system, unlike today's system, would allow a service member who retires with less than 20 years to receive retired pay, but a member who retires at 20 years or more would get paid less from year 20 until full retirement than they would otherwise get in today's system.

The MCRMC also recommends privatizing TRICARE with service members and their families moving to a health care system similar to Federal Civilian employees. MOAA believes this is detrimental to the force. The Surgeon's General echoes MOAA's concerns.

Most recently the White House has given cautious support for the changes proposed by the MCRMC. MOAA is encouraging the administration to consider its (MOAA's) testimony given to the House Armed Services subcommittees. When considering these changes its important to remember that past attempts of this nature have had negative effects on recruiting and retention.

Changing pay and benefit programs can have negative effects on the force but the BIG specter or the 1000lb Gorilla, hanging over everything is SEQUESTRATION. No amount of words can adequately describe the negatives that this will have on our military. Forced to enact the Budget cuts required by SEQUESTRATION would in effect reduce our military to "Pretender Status", a hollow force. The recent House of Representatives proposed budget added monies to a "wartime" funding account not subjected to Sequestration Caps thereby boosting overall Defense spending. Some Budget trickery, but the real solution is to solve our nation's Budget Deficit and eliminate SEQUESTRATION. The Budget Deficit is this country's greatest security threat.

MOAA continues to lobby our legislators making the case against the recommendations of the MCRMC and SEQUESTRATION. On April 15th, MOAA will **Storm The Hill** and visit all of our legislators. Significant areas of discussion will be;

- Sustain Military Pay and Benefits
 - Retirement
 - Basic Pay and Allowances
- Reject Disproportional TRICARE Fees and Changes
- Eliminate SEQUESTRATION cuts

MOAA has provided fact sheets/talking points on these topics at their Web site and are available to all members for their individual use. Additionally, messages and letters are also available for members to send 'as is' to their political representative or to use as a guide for a personal appeal. It is extremely important that our voices be heard.

Did you mail in the post cards from April *Military Officer Magazine*?

Legislative Contacts

MOAA Weekly legislative updates www.moaa.org or **1-800-234-6622 ext. 215**

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55+ Workout at YARS for Free

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 to 11:30 at the fitness center on the Youngstown Air Reserve Base, a dedicated group which consist of three MOAA members, Mike & Barb and Janet do a 30 minute workout. There are four stations—upper body, balance & cardio, lower body, core—back/abs. At each station you do three different exercises for one minute. After those three minutes you walk for three minutes. There is one station on the mat, if you can't get down, there is a chair available. There is no cost for this workout. You do need a military ID to get on the base.

Sat., May 16 **10 a.m.—4 p.m.**
Rain Date: Sun., May 17 Admission: \$10 per Person

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Bring Your Cars — Weather Permitting
Bring Howland Dragstrip Memorabilia — Photos, Trophies, Plaques, Jackets, etc.

SLOAS Airfield • 4059 N. River Rd., Warren, OH
Adjacent to the Ernie Hall Aviation Museum

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Trophies for Longest Trip, Oldest in Attendance and Appearance

FOOD VENDORS • CASH BAR



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: GARY HUNTER
330-540-0546 or GLH4242@aol.com

Proceeds benefit the Ernie Hall Aviation Museum • Museum will be open for tours.

Proceeds Benefit Ernie Hall Aviation Museum

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for all the American flags and rods to decorate the grave sites throughout the County for Memorial Day. Herm recounted a personal experience with one nursing home vet who was only receiving a 10% disability compensation. When Herm found out that he was a POW who survived the Bataan death march, he was able to get his disability increased to 100%. This particular vet had only been in captivity for a few days but survived the Bataan death march by escaping and living in the jungle until the end of the war.

The Trumbull County Veterans Service Commission is located at 180 North Park Ave, Suite 201, Warren, OH 44481. The State of Ohio has over 866,000 veterans – approximately 21,000 reside in Trumbull County. Help is just a phone call away by calling 330-675-2585, Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Mahoning County Veterans Service Commission is located at the Oakhill Renaissance Building, 345 Oak Hill Ave #100, Youngstown, OH 44502. Phone number is 330-740-2450. Ms. Susan E. Skrzynski is the Executive Director for Mahoning County VSC.

The dinner meeting was very well attended by our Chapter members. We will be providing other guest speakers and programs for your enlightenment and entertainment in the upcoming months. Watch for announcements and mark your calendars for an evening of fantastically delicious meals and good-hearted camaraderie.

President's Notes continue from page 2

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. You still make a difference. LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD.

Lastly, 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

Articles in this newsletter are the opinions solely of the individual authors and do not necessarily express the policy or opinions of the newsletter's editor or publisher. Also, the individual opinions do not reflect an endorsement by the Mahoning Shenango Valleys Chapter or the national organization of the Military Officers Association of America, unless so indicated [Copyright 2011 Military Officers Association of American All rights reserved.] For the benefit of the members. Questions or comments should be directed to: LTC Roderick Hosler USA, Ret. E-mail: hosler1@zoominternet.net

To Join MOAA National: use the web site 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
you may use credit card and PayPal and paid, regular, spouses and auxiliary dues at www.msvc-moaa.org

Navy Operational Support Center Youngstown
Attn: MSVC-MOAA
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Thursday, April 23rd Membership Meeting at YARS – RSVP by noon Monday the 20th

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: Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)

Speaker: Lt Col Chaker Fadel, USAF, Ret.
Northeast Ohio Area Employer Outreach Coordinator for ESGR

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: Garden tossed salad, white fish francaise, cavatelli Aglio e Olio (garlic & oil) fresh broccoli, dessert, rolls, coffee/tea, tax and gratuity included for \$20.00 **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
3. Or use the web site 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.



Directions: The air base is on King Graves Road which can be accessed either off Rt. 193 or Rt. 11. After passing through the security gate on Arnold Rd., take the second left onto (Spatz Rd.). The Community Activity Center (CAC), "Herk's Place", is building #113. (You'll see a loading dock, back entrance of CAC) Parking is available on either side of the building but it is easier to enter the dining area from the upper parking lot. (There are a few stairs.) The handicapped entrance is at the front of the building. There are signs that indicate that location.