

Our October Luncheon Meeting Melissa Wise from SOS and New Slate of Officers

Written By: LTC Mike Wisniewski

The Mahoning Valley Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America met on Thursday, October 19, 2018 at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station in Vienna to conduct its annual business meeting and to ratify the slate of officers for the MSVC Board of Directors for 2019. Three newly elected Board Members at Large are: former CPT Ralph DeLucia, USA; CDR David DiTallo, USN, Ret.; and LTC Larry Scheetz, USAR, Ret. These members were elected to a two-year term which expires December 31, 2020.

The Chapter's luncheon guest speaker was Melissa Wise, a full time Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) Support Coordinator, whose office is located in North Canton, OH. She is one of seven SOS coordinators for the state of Ohio, and one of 160 nation-wide. There are SOS offices located in every state and territory. Melissa's territory encompasses six counties in the lower tier of Northeast Ohio. This program first got its impetus in 2005 and finally came into existence in May 2009. Although Melissa works for the US Army, she and the other Coordinators service every branch of the service both active duty personnel as well as retirees. The SOS program serves over 3000 survivors in Ohio while Melissa tends to the needs of approximately 600 in the six counties she serves.

Just what is the Survivor Outreach Services program? The program essentially fills a void that existed prior to 2009. Within 15 days following the death of a serviceman, the SOS office is contacted and, in coordination with a Casualty Assistance Officer, visits the surviving spouse or family member to offer assistance to them. The Support Coordinator helps the surviving families to cope with the loss of their fallen soldier, provides information, offers assistance, socialization, and often pairs them up with other surviving families who can provide further comfort and reassurance. The program is designed to provide a longer term relationship with the survivors so that they don't feel that they have been abandoned and forgotten.

Melissa Wise has been a SOS Support Coordinator for four years. She can be contacted at 5990 West Airport Dr. North Canton, OH 44720. Office: (614) 336-4284, cell: (330) 354-2047, e-mail: melissa.m.wise.ctr@mail.mil.

Winner of the 50/50 was LTC Sam Axtell. Two books were donated by CPT Ralph DeLucia for the raffle. The first book, a large pictorial tome entitled *The Army* by the Army

Historical Foundation was won by LTC Michael Wisniewski. The second book, *The Second World War, a Complete History* written by Martin Gilbert was won by MAJ Mark Andrews. A thank you to Mark and Patty Andrews for providing the cupcakes for dessert. Any volunteers for November?

The next meeting of the MSVC-MOAA will take place on November 16th. It is a luncheon meeting at 12:30 PM, Consolidated Activities Center, YARS. The guest speaker is Harold Ryther who is the head of the USS Oklahoma remains preservation project. The 2019 Officers and Board of Directors will be installed during the meeting. The Board members are asked to arrive 10 minutes early for photos – coat & tie requested for the photo.

Also, please mark your calendars for the annual joint ROA/MOAA Charity Auction Christmas Party at the Manor Restaurant on the December 2nd starting at 5:00 pm. This is a fabulous, fun-filled event that starts off the Christmas holiday season with mirth, comradery, and delicious food. We raise money for local veteran charities/organizations by auctioning off wrapped gifts to the highest bidder. Please bring a wrapped gift valued at least \$20.00 (one per couple). Last year over \$1,200 was raised at the auction. Donations of wine for the social would be appreciated as well as a plate of your favorite cookies for desert. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided by the ROA and the MSVC. An abbreviated menu will be available. See the last page of the newsletter for all the details and to make reservations.

Chapter Earns It's Second Five-Star



Chapter—one of the best chapters in the country. This is the chapter's second five-star the three years previous were four-stars. The other six chapters also received five stars. Rod Hosler is representing Cleveland, Steve Drefahl, President, of Greater Cincinnati, Dick Calta is representing Ohio Western Reserve. They each could of hold an additional certificate as Central Ohio, Dayton Area, and the Ohio Council of Chapters each received five-stars awards.

At MOAA's national annual business meeting, MSVC President Florence Hosler accepted the Five-Star Level of Excellence award for the

Websites and Phone numbers for TRICARE Dental & Vision Program

You must take-action during a four-week “Open Season” window from **November 12 to December 10**, to enroll in the dental plan that will meet your needs in 2019.

Compare plans/cost for both dental and vision based on your zip code www.tricare.benefeds.com

National/International Dental Plans

Aetna Dental: 877-459-6604

<http://www.aetnafeds.com/fedvip-dental.php>

Delta Dental: 855-410-3255

<https://feds.deltadentalins.com/fedvip/index.php>

FEP BlueDental: 855-504-2583

<https://www.fepbluedental.com/>

GEHA: 877-434-2336

<https://www.gehadental.com/>

MetLife: 888-865-6854

<https://federaldental.metlife.com/>

United Concordia Dental: 877-438-8224

<https://www.uccifedvip.com/fedvip/home/>

Regional Dental Plan

Humana: 877-692-2468

<https://feds.humana.com/dental/>

National/International Vision Plans

Aetna Vision: 877-459-6604

<http://www.aetnafeds.com/fedvip-vision.php>

FEP BlueVision: 888-550-2583

<https://dvtv.davisvision.com/bluevision/>

UnitedHealthcare Vision: 866-249-1999

<https://fedvip.myuhcvision.com/MWP/Landing>

VSP Vision Care: 800-807-0764

<http://www.choosevsp.com/>

Where you enroll and set-up payments

www.benefeds.com

If you need to TALK to an Agent

OPM Registration and Information Line

1-877-888-3337

Listen and work through the prompts, finally you hear “Say Agent” to speak with an agent.



**NEED AN
INTEREST
FREE COLLEGE
LOAN?**

IT'S EASY TO APPLY

Students (under age 24), who are children of former, active or retired officers or active or retired enlisted personnel from the seven uniformed services are eligible to apply. Students are selected on the basis of their scholastic ability, activities and financial need.

Contact us at edassist@moaa.org or 800.234.6622

 **The Scholarship Fund**
“Touching the Future”
www.moaa.org/education

Interest-free loans, MOAA's main program, are renewable annually for up to five years of full-time undergraduate study. Assistance is available only to students who have not yet earned an undergraduate degree. The interest-free loan and grant program provides \$5,500 loans, which are renewable for up to five years of undergraduate study. Students selected as loan recipients and their military parent must sign a promissory note before funds can be disbursed. Loans are disbursed in two increments: one-half by early August and one-half by mid-December.

Eligibility

Students (under age 24) who are children of former, active or retired officers or active or retired enlisted military personnel are eligible to apply. If such a child served in a Uniformed Service before completing college, however, his or her maximum age for eligibility will be increased by the number of years he or she so served, up to five years. Military academy cadets are not eligible for this program. Selected students must have a sponsor that is a PREMIUM or LIFE member of MOAA or if enlisted, a member of Voices for America's Troops.

Selection Criteria

Qualified students with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale are selected on the basis of their scholastic ability, activities, and financial need.

Deadline and Content

The online application opens in November and must be completed and submitted no later than noon EST March 1st of the following year. Please note: If March 1st falls on a weekend, the application will close at Noon on the next business day. Semifinalists are notified in March. Recipients are notified in May.

Seven Things to Know About VA's New Website

Visitors to VA.gov next month will see a new look for the Department of Veterans Affairs website, one VA officials say will improve beneficiaries' experience and increase the odds that they'll find the answers or contact information they're seeking online.

Here's a bit more about the new setup to get web surfers up to speed before the official launch on Veterans Day.

1. Preview of coming attractions. Secretary Robert Wilkie told the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee last month that the new site would debut on Veterans Day, and that it would be part of his goal "to make accessing VA services seamless, effective, efficient, and emotionally resonant." Can't wait until Nov. 11? Don't worry: A version of the site is online now at <https://preview.va.gov>.
2. A familiar feel. The change comes exactly three years after the launch of Vets.gov, which went live in 2015 in an effort to "streamline a Veteran's experience to discover, apply for, track, and manage the benefits they have earned in one place using any device," according to a 2017 report to Congress from the U.S. Digital Service. That site received more than 600,000 applications for health care and education benefits from its launch to the time of the 2017 report, and lessons learned in its construction informed the new VA site.
3. Picture perfect. Just how related are the two platforms? Vets.gov and the new VA site both use black-and-white images representing VA beneficiaries in and out of uniform. In some cases, they're identical.
4. What changed? Like Vets.gov, the new VA site no longer spotlights feature stories or uses large photos to direct readers toward news on current events or hot-topic issues. As Marty Jacobs, the executive director of VA's digital services team, told FCW for an Oct. 2 piece, "People don't come to government websites to read things. They come to get a task accomplished."
5. What else changed? More links are available on the main page. The current VA site has three categories displayed prominently (health care, benefits, and burials and memorials), but other information is stored in drop-down menus that can be difficult to navigate, especially on mobile devices. The new site has four featured areas (health care, disability, education, and records), followed by a dozen clear headers that take visitors to information on career and employment, pension, home loans, and other benefits.

MSVC-MOAA 2018-2019 Calendar

Date	Location and Program
11/16	Luncheon Meeting, CAC, YARS—Harold Ryther heads up the USS Oklahoma remains preservation project. (Installation of Officers)
12/2	MOAA/ROA Christmas Party, Manor Restaurant, Austintown
12/6	MSVC Board Meeting, NOC, YARS
1/3	MSVC Board Meeting, location to be announced
1/25	Lunch 1300 hr CAC, YARS—Bruce Bille USO of Northern Ohio
2/22	Lunch 1300 hr Meeting, CAC, YARS—Camp Ravenna
3/22	Lunch 1300 CAC, YARS—Jon Kolb Fitness and Wellness ?
April	No meeting
5/2	Dinner Meeting, 1830 hr CAC, YARS—Cadet Night This is our showcase event! Please plan to attend
6/27	Dinner Meeting 1830 hr Golden Corral Hermitage
7/25	Pistol & Rifle Shoot at Vienna
8/22	Dinner Meeting Steak Fry & Corn Roast, 1830 hr CAC, YARS
9/26	Dinner Meeting 1830 hr, CAC, YARS
10/25	Lunch 1300 hr, CAC, YARS—
11/15	Lunch 1300 hr, CAC YARS
12/8	MOAA/ROA Christmas Party

Date, time and place subject to change, check our web site, www.msvc-moaa.org>Activities>Next Chapter Event
 YARS—Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Vienna, OH TBA—To be announced
 CAC—Community Activity Center NOC—Navy Operational Center
 Suggestions for programs contact: COL John Koshan 330-448-4758

6. Getting personal. The new setup also allows beneficiaries to register for their own online account, which will enable them to create a personal page similar to an online banking portal, Jacobs told FCW. This feature, already available at Vets.gov, will allow the user to log on and receive personalized medical updates, check on claims and appeals, view available balances for education-related benefits, and read up on other individualized details.
7. What's next? A new tool designed to improve the process for veterans to apply for increased disability compensation is now in beta mode, meaning it's still undergoing tests prior to an official launch. Beneficiaries can use the beta version to file claims, and provide feedback on the process, here.

November Birthdays: 2—Rob Hanni, 2—John Koshan, 2—Debbie Lonardo, 3—BJ Sacramento, 7—Mike Wisniewski, 10—Brennan Hosack, 10—US Marines Corps, 13—John Caparanis, 19—Matt Andrews, 21—Sam Axtell, 26—Anthony Antolini
December Birthdays: 4—Bruce Bille, 11—Florence Hosler, 13—National Guard, 16—Brian Chadwick, 17—Matt Stefanak, 18—Steven Wisniewski, 19—Carl Nunziato, 21—Ralph DeLucia, 21—Brandy Burrows, 23—Paula Allen, 25—Tierney McCaster 25—Matt McIntire, 28—Patty Andrews 30—John Marino, 30—Jim Fairbanks

Happy Birthday

Luncheon Meeting at YARS, Friday, 16 November at 1300 hr – RSVP by Wednesday 14th by 2000 hr

Where: Youngstown AF Reserve Station
Community Activity Center
3976 King Graves Rd
Vienna, OH 44473

Who: Members, Spouses, Guests, Surviving Spouses

Social: 1230 no cash bar

Call to Order: 1300 (1:00 P.M.)

Lunch: 1305

Attire: Business Casual

Program: Harold Ryther heads
up the USS Oklahoma remains preservation project.
Annual Business meeting
Installation of Officers (Board Members Coat & Tie)



The web site msvc-moaa.org/next-chapter-event is set up to take orders, but not credit cards. It will help with accuracy of the order. Please pay at the lunch meeting with cash, check, or credit card.

Pre order from the following selections.

Entrees

Buffalo Chicken Wrap, beverage.....\$8.00

Lettuce, tomato, onion, shredded cheddar, ranch and buffalo sauce

Club Sandwich, beverage\$8.00

Ham, turkey, bacon, American & provolone cheese, lettuce, tomato and mayo

Reuben Sandwich, beverage.....\$8.00

Marble rye, cornbeef, sauerkraut, swiss and dressing

Fish Sandwich, beverage\$6.00

Tarter sauce and lettuce

Chef Salad, beverage, roll.....\$9.00

Cherry tomatoes, sliced red onions, cucumber, hard-boiled eggs, shredded cheddar, pepper jack cheese, julienne ham and turkey

Dressings available, Balsamic, Blue Cheese, Italian,
Ranch, Raspberry Vinaigrette

Side Options

if you only order side options, beverage is \$1.00:

Side Salad.....\$3.00

tomatoes, cucumbers, black olives & cheese

Dressings available, Balsamic, Blue Cheese, Italian,
Ranch, Raspberry Vinaigrette

French Fries\$1.00

Cup of Chili\$3.00

RSVP:

1. Use the web site msvc-moaa.org/next-chapter-event to place your order.
2. Email Janet Oglesby djo52800@neo.rr.com with your reservation and menu selection.
3. Or call 330-568-4456 leave a message. Make sure you state your menu selection.

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA AND RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Joint Christmas Party Sunday, 2 December



Where: **The Manor Restaurant**

3104 South Canfield Niles Road

Route 46 and Kirk Road

Austintown, OH 44451 or GPS Youngstown

Social: **1700 (5:00 P.M.)** Cash Bar and complimentary
hors d'oeuvres

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

Entrée items will be from a special limited menu
prices ranging from \$15–\$25. All choices available... fish, chicken, steak, pasta, plus-beverage. tax
and gratuity.

Who: Members, Spouses, Guests

Attire: Coat & Tie/Equivalent

Bring: Each couple/guest is asked to **bring** a gift-wrapped
\$20 gift. Each gift is auctioned off with the proceeds
going to an applicable veteran's charity. **Bring** your
checkbook.

For our dessert **bring** a plate of cookies to share.

Bring a smile, joyful Christmas spirit with the
expectation to have a *Wonderful Time!*

RSVP No later than **Monday, November 26th**
No web site reservations

1. Email Janet Oglesby djo52800@neo.rr.com with your reservation state how many are attending.
2. Or call 330-568-4456 leave a message. Make sure you state how many are attending.

Veterans Day 2018

**100th anniversary of the end of WWI
on the 11th month on the 11th day.**

Veterans Day Discounts: <https://www.military.com/veterans-day/restaurants-veterans-day-military-discounts.html>

