

MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

MAY 2020 Volume:11 Issue 4



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rod Hosler

"These are the times that try men's soul,...." Thomas Paine, 1776. The China/Wuhan Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation has curtailed many the MSVC-MOAA activities for May to include our Thursday, 21 May dinner meeting which is cancelled. Hopefully, all draconian restrictions will be lifted in time for our June meeting.

One of our signature programs has taken a hit, we haven't been able to publicly recognized local outstanding ROTC/JROTC cadets. Dave DiTallo did send the MOAA ROTC medals to cadets from Youngstown State University Army ROTC, East High School Army JROTC and Trumbull County Technical Center Air Force JROTC. YSU Army ROTC commissioned four cadets as Infantry, Military Police and Ordnance Second Lieutenants on Friday, 1 May at Stambaugh Stadium. These new second lieutenant were presented with officer's branch insignias, Officer's Guide and MOAA National Basic and Chapter membership. * See April 2020 newsletter

We'll try to keep everyone updated through our newsletters and e-mails. As it stands now, our next scheduled monthly dinner meeting will be on **Thursday, 25 June** at the **Golden Corral in Hermitage, PA** Mark your calendars and we will keep you posted.



Colonel Marvin Harris Communications Award

As mentioned in our April newsletter, the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter was awarded the Colonel Marvin Harris Communications Award, FIVE STAR recognition for our printed newsletter and website. We hope to present these awards to Janet Oglesby and Bruce Bille at our June diner meeting.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Key Issues and Bills before Congress

Federal - HR 333

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans' disability compensation, to extend eligibility for concurrent receipt to chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service, and for other purposes. **MOAA Supported**

Federal - HR 413

A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the work opportunity credit to small businesses which hire individuals who are members of the Ready Reserve or National Guard, and for other purposes. **MOAA Supported**

Federal - HR 847

A bill to provide interim appropriations for the Coast Guard Retired Serviceman's Family Protection and Survivor Benefits Plans for each fiscal year after fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes. **MOAA Supported**

Federal - S 1047

A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to create a dependency and indemnity compensation allowance for surviving spouses receiving dependency and indemnity compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. **MOAA Supported**

Federal - S 21

A bill making continuing appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event of an appropriations act expired prior to the enactment of new appropriations (official title to be confirmed). **MOAA Supported**

May 2020

China/Wuhan Coronavirus (COVID-19)

We all need to be concerned and on guard for the China/Wuhan Coronavirus (COVID-19), and yes it did come from Wuhan, China. The state of Ohio is beginning to open up, and is slowly releasing the draconian restrictions, thank goodness.! Please follow the guidelines from the CDC and state of Ohio, you should be alright. Practicing standard sanitation and hygiene regimens is a top priority.

- Continue practicing social distancing. stay at home if you don't feel well.
- Encourage frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water.
- Keep nose and mouth covered when coughing or sneezing, use the crook of your elbow or handkerchief or tissues, and dispose of them properly.
- Use hand sanitizer, with at least 60% alcohol content, is a secondary option.
- Avoid going out if you feel sick and avoid others who may be sick.
- Get plenty of rest and eat a proper diet and drink plenty of fluids (water or juice).
- If you don't feel well within 24 to 48 hours, go to your doctor.



Our friend Pete Mihai, past president of MSVC-MOAA has been diagnosed with the Corona Virus. He also is a diabetic. If you want to send a card or say a prayer, he would appreciate it.

Copeland Oaks

800 S. 15th St.

Sebring, Ohio 44672

Coronavirus Resources MOAA website

[Coronavirus.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus Website](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

[CDC Advice for Higher-Risk Individuals VA Coronavirus Website](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

[TRICARE Coronavirus Information](https://www.tricare.mil/coronavirus)

[DoD Coronavirus Response Website](https://www.dod.mil/coronavirus)

[Health.mil Coronavirus Information](https://www.health.mil/coronavirus)

[Military OneSource Coronavirus Resources](https://www.militaryonesource.com/coronavirus)

[National Institutes of Health Coronavirus Information](https://www.nih.gov/coronavirus)

[From MOAA: What You Need to Know About the CARES Act](https://www.military.com/coronavirus)

[Latest Coronavirus News from Military.com](https://www.military.com/coronavirus)

[Latest Coronavirus News from Military Times](https://www.militarytimes.com/coronavirus)

House Bill Would Provide Relief from TRICARE Pharmacy Copays During COVID-19 Crisis

Karen Ruedisueli

MOAA's director of government relations for health affairs

MOAA continues to make progress toward a possible TRI-CARE pharmacy copay waiver during the COVID-19 national emergency.

Reps. [Lisa Blunt Rochester \(D-Del.\)](#) and [Elaine Luria \(D-Va.\)](#) have introduced [H.R. 6573](#), the Help our Heroes Access Medicine Act, authorizing DoD to waive TRICARE prescription copays during national emergencies.

TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmaker to Support H.R. 6573](#)

While the legislation stops short of mandating a copay waiver, it outlines the decision criteria Congress expects DoD to use in evaluating a waiver during such emergencies. By doing so, it makes the intent of Congress clear: TRICARE mail order pharmacy copays should be waived under the current circumstances.

May 2020

East High School JROTC Soldiers On

By David J. Di Tallo

The coronavirus has shut down Ohio schools, but the Army JROTC “Golden Bear” Battalion at East High School in Youngstown, OH is keeping up with coursework and hoping for a return to the classroom before the end of the academic year in June, reports Senior Enlisted Instructor Douglas Moon, retired U. S. Army Master Sergeant.

According to MSG Moon, March 16 was the last day of classes, when students were sent home with course work for the next three weeks. Instructors are using online tools such as Google Classroom, Facebook, and Remind to stay engaged with their classes. “We have a lot of students that do not have computers and or internet services,” he pointed out, “so these students are difficult to contact.”

Prior to the shutdown, the battalion was having a solid year. MSG Moon explained that enrollment was down from 90 to 70 cadets from the previous year, which he attributed to an overall decline in the student population. But that did not stop the Drill Team from placing first at the Kenmore (Akron) High School JROTC Drill Competition in November, hosting three Red Cross Blood Drives, and a conducting Community Street Cleanup in Youngstown. The battalion also led the schools Hispanic Awareness Assembly in October.

Additionally, the battalion started its first ever Marksmanship Program using Crossman 877 air rifles and an indoor range in their classroom. MSG Moon reports the battalion began with a month-long safety course before competing in a postal match sponsored by Western Brown (Mount Orab, OH) High School JROTC. “A postal match is a shooting competition where team mail their targets to the host,” he explained. “East High School came in sixth place out of nine schools in its first ever competition.”

Finally the battalion welcomed its new Senior Military Instructor, retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Alessi, Ph.D. LTC Alessi is a Youngstown native and is also on faculty of Youngstown State University.

The Golden Bear Battalion is one of two area JROTC units Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter – Military Officers Association of America supports with its annual spring awards program. The chapter was forced to cancel its April 30 Cadet Night Dinner at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station, but it will still award the MOAA JROTC Medal to junior class Cadet Justin Trammell as soon as it can be arranged.



East High School Hispanic Awareness Assembly, October 15, 2019. (photo by Douglas Moon)



East High School Army JROTC Group Photo, 2019. (photo by Memory Lane Photographers)

May2020

MSVC 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

25 Jun: Dinner Meeting at Golden Corral Hermitage, PA. Pending

23 Jul: Meeting and Rifle & Pistol Shoot, Vienna Rod & Gun Club. With proper social distancing!

14 Aug: D-Day at Conneaut. Reservations required by Mahoning County Veterans Service Commission. Pending

20 Aug: Steak Fry & Corn Roast Dinner Meeting, at CAC, YARS.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL for MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER MOAA

Name: _____ Military Status _____ Spouse Name _____
Branch _____ Rank _____ Years Active/Reserve ____ / ____
Regular Member (Retired, Former, Active* Officer of the seven uniformed US Services (Membership \$20/year)

MODERN DAY COMBAT SOLDIER



MODERN DAY COMBAT SOLDIER, TOO



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SAVE THE DATE

YSU ROTC Alumni Picnic Reunion

Has been canceled