

MAHONING SENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

January 2021 Volume:12 Issue 1



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rod Hosler

As we begin a year, we reflect on the past, both the good and bad that has occurred. Although the China COVID-19 virus and pandemic have taken a toll, our Chapter remains vibrant with exciting programs, good leadership and active members. We have been the only Chapter in Ohio and one of the few nationally that continues to meet regularly since June, a testament to our commitment to MOAA and the MSVC. We have been able to meet safely with average attendance between 17 and 25 per meeting. Not bad, but playing it safely is still a top priority, as we attempt to get back to a sense of normality which is important. Still, if you have concerns about gathering, please respond accordingly.

Bruce Bille, our 1st Vice President and programs director is developing an interesting array of speakers to enhance our monthly meetings. Mark your calendars so you don't miss any of our meetings and events. We will continue to meet at *A la Cart Catering*, a great venue with excellent meals.

Unfortunately some members have made reservations and failed to show up missing out on a great time. The chapter is obligated to pay for meals thus depleting our treasury. There are always unforeseen issues that prevent attendance. We ask that if you make a reservation and cannot come, please remit the cost of the meal. I hope you all appreciate our predicament in this matter. Thanks for your understanding.

On a sad note, the chapter has lost two outstanding members last year (not directly related to COVID), Navy CAPT Tom Petzinger and past chapter president Army LTC Gary Williams. They will be greatly missed by all. Several other members have contracted the COVID virus (not from any of our gatherings) and have recovered in good order. Still, we ask all members to remain alert and be careful.



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CHRISTMAS PARTY AND FUND RAISER

Florence Hosler

The MSVC and local Reserve Organization of America (ROA) held its annual Christmas Party and Fundraiser on Saturday 12 December at *A La Cart Catering* in Canfield. We had a great buffet dinner and everyone had a wonderful time topped off with the auctioning of gifts. This fundraiser accumulated \$580.00 to be donated to **The Youngstown Blue Coats**, veterans supporting veterans. Please take an opportunity to visit their website, www.ytownbluecoats.org for additional information. Twenty members and guests were in attendance making the fund raiser intimate and enjoyable.



(MSVC-MOAA) and (ROA/Chapter 42) present a check for \$580 to the Youngstown Blue Coats on December 21 at the charity's Hubbard office. Pictured from left to right are: MSVC-MOAA President Rod Hosler, Blue Coat leaders Patty Summers, Roseann Panning, and Pat Maiorca, ROA President Walt Duzzny, MSVC-MOAA Treasurer Florence Hosler, and MSVC-BOAA Board Member David J. Di Tallo.



Photos from the Christmas party are on the website www.msvc-moaa.org

The new year with pre and post-election turmoil will prove a challenge to us all. As MOAA members, we must be vigilant to the issues that will affect America's military. Reviewing the MOAA National electronic newsletters and monitoring the MOAA website's "legislative advocacy link" and being prepared to respond accordingly to those issues at hand are paramount. No one knows how the year will unfold, but we can do our part to affect a positive outlook. We can still make an impact by aggressively monitoring key legislative issues and contacting our Congressional legislators and of course, the President.

MSVC 2021 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER AND ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

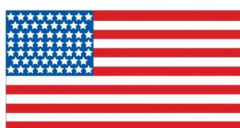
The updated MSVC Membership Roster and activities calendar for 2021-2022 will be distributed to MSVC members at the 15 January 2021 meeting. Please NOTE: The roster is for members only and should not be distributed to any other persons or organizations.

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

Florence Hosler

I have been appointed the new Surviving Spouse Liaison and am glad to be of service to our chapter's Surviving Spouses'. I can be reached at (330) 788-3270 or hoslerfm@zoominternet.net. Our Surviving Spouses are as much of our chapter and MOAA as their former spouses. We've had to endure the trials and tribulations of being a military (active duty or reserve duty) spouse, frequent moves, raising children alone and frequent absences due to their sponsor's military service. It is important that ALL spouses ensure their sponsor's military records and DEERs are up to date; ID cards can be obtained from the ID Card Section of the 910th Airlift Wing at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station in Vienna, call 330-609-1095 **for an appointment**; have important telephone numbers and contact information available. Many of our spouses are now in their senior years and often live alone. I encourage all of the chapter members to contact a Surviving Spouse near you and offer to bring them to a meeting, perhaps keep an eye on them. Our February meeting will be a working lunch where we'll discuss important information for the military member and their spouse.

The military has always been a close knit community whose slogan is "we take care of our own."



BECOME A MOAA NATIONAL PREMIUM (ANNUAL) OR LIFE MEMBER:

The Chapter currently has 108 members: 44 Life members, 24 Premium (Annual) Members, and 40 Basic members. Premium (Annual) and Life level of membership allows members full access to all MOAA benefits, travel service, free information publications, and discounts at many MOAA supported businesses. Basic member are MOAA National members, but pay no National MOAA dues and only have access to the MOAA website receiving just the electronic newsletter. Paying Premium or Life member dues also funds the programs sponsored by MOAA, and more important MOAA's lobbying efforts with Congress. Get full MOAA National benefits by becoming a Premium or Life member. Use the MOAA web site www.moaa.org/join or call 1-800-234-6622

KEEP MOAA NATIONAL INFORMED

Personal information listed on the MOAA National membership roster can only be changed by you, the individual member. Correct your information via your login at www.moaa.org, "My Profile" Information or call 1-800-234-6622. Changes include:

- address
- email
- telephone number
- rank or military status

FRIDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2021 LUNCH MEETING AND PERSONAL AFFAIRS WORKSHOP – "BEING DEAD IS NO EXCUSE"

A recent MOAA National Leaders Workshop conducted 13 -14 November revealed that many members and spouses were not aware of those actions and services available when a spouse dies. To assist in this the Chapter will conduct a lunch workshop for Friday, 19 February at 12:00/ Noon – 2:00 PM at A La Cart Catering in Canfield, The focus will be on those actions to assist and prepare everyone in the event of the death of the member or spouse. This two hour event will have speakers and materials from the Mahoning County Veterans Service Commission; the Veterans Affairs (VA); Ohio Survivor Outreach Services, and others. Members are encouraged to bring their spouses to this event. If you are interested in attending this workshop contact Rod Hosler (hosler1@zoominternet.net) as soon as possible in order to ensure enough support publications are available. **There are two (2) MOAA publications that will be used: 1.) Personal Affairs Guide, February 2017, and 2.) Survivor's Planning Guide, January 2019. Please note: To obtain your copies of these helpful publications, you need to personally contact MOAA National's Member Service Center (MSC) at 1-800-234-6622 (provide your eight digit member number). MOAA will send hard copies directly to your home address within seven to ten days, so call MOAA as soon as possible to obtain your copies. **Reservation for the lunch/workshop must be received not later than Monday, 15 February at msvcmoaa@gmail.com or (330) 788-3270.** State COVID requirements will be observed.**

YOUNGSTOWN VA CLINIC NAMED AFTER MSVC MEMBER CARL NUNZIATO

It's official, the U.S. Senate has adopted legislation to rename the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Youngstown after Vietnam veteran and MOAA-MSVC Member Major Carl Nunziato, USA, Ret. of Boardman. "Carl Nunziato is a true son of Ohio and an American patriot who deserves this honor. I'm proud that my Senate colleagues passed this important legislation to name the Veterans Affairs clinic after Major Nunziato," said U.S. Sen. Rob Portman in the news release.

Nunziato was seriously wounded resulting in the amputation of both legs. Returning home, Carl studied law and earned his degree in 1971 from the Case Western Reserve University's School of Law. He was instrumental in getting the current clinic at 2031 Belmont Ave. built in 1991 and the new, larger facility at 1815 Belmont Ave., about a half-mile from the existing location.

Carl was also involved in making sure buildings in the area are accessible to those with wheelchairs, and, in May 2018, the Veterans Resource Center at Youngstown State University was named for him.

The new U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs clinic costs \$24.75 million, and will be 40,561 square feet with the clinic taking up 38,319 square feet. One of 18 VA medical clinics locations in northeast Ohio, it will provide primary, mental health and specialty care to more than 10,500 area veterans each year.



LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Rod Hosler

The following is a review of MOAA's legislative priorities for the coming Congressional session. MOAA is already working to inform and influence the incoming administration and the new Congress regarding critical issues affecting the America's military. These initiatives were identified in a previous MOAA website and electronic newsletter by MOAA staffer Dan Merry.

These objectives are broad in nature and are subject to refinement and interpretation depending on the latest legislation, as well as activities on the Hill or within the administration and its departments. Visit the MOAA Advocacy news page for the latest on all these subjects and others.

- * Protect the value of the military health care benefit (potential elimination of 18,000 medical billets and closure of 22 medical facilities).

- * Protect the military health system's pharmacy benefit, and achieve flexibility in TRICARE pharmacy copays.

- * Address barriers to accessing care within the military health system, including TRICARE coverage gaps and mental health care access challenges.

- * Protect family support programs, and ensure military-provided services (housing, PCS, child care) are affordable, readily available, and meet quality standards.

- * Sustain pay raises for the troops and COLA raises for retirees.

- * Ensure Coast Guard members are paid during a government shutdown.

- * Sustain Veterans Health Administration (VHA) foundational missions and services.

- * Achieve equity of benefits, protections, and administrative support for Guard and Reserve members consistent with their active-duty counterparts.

- * Reform the presumptive process to support veterans claiming service-connected disabilities for toxic exposures.

- * Achieve concurrent receipt of service-earned retirement pay and VA disability pay.

- * Protect Arlington National Cemetery as an option for those currently eligible to receive full military honors through expansion of our national cemetery.

- * Improve survivor benefits.

Again, please take a few moments to visit the MOAA web site and link to ADVOCACY section scroll down to Legislative Action Center. This identifies all of the legislative issues and bills that MOAA supports which require your active involvement to take action. Remember to contact your Congressional representatives (Senate and House) to express your concerns. Please remember that there are also many state legislative issues that require your support as well. It is sad to note that no meaningful Congressional legislation has taken place since January 2020. MOAA National will be actively monitoring the legislative efforts of Congress and keep all members apprised of on-going actions of major concern.

COVID INFORMATION FROM JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL

Here is some very useful Coronavirus-19 (COVID-19) information and facts from the Johns Hopkins Hospital information sheet related to COVID-19 and preventive measures. This is extremely informative and seems to be about the latest release of personal handling of this medical issue and is worth the time to study the given information for your personal care. This certainly makes the COVID-19 protection methods more understandable.

- * This virus is not a living organism. It is a protein molecule (RNA or DNA) covered by a protective layer of lipid (fat), which, when absorbed by the cells of the ocular (eyes), nasal (nose) or buccal mucosa (mouth), changes their genetic code (mutates) and converts into aggressor and multiplier cells.
- * Since the virus is not a living organism, but is a protein molecule, it cannot be killed. It has to decay on its own. The disintegration time depends on the temperature, humidity and type of material where it lies.
- * The virus is very fragile; the only thing that protects it is a thin outer layer of fat, and that is the reason why soap or detergent is the best weapon. The foam CUTS THE FAT (that is why you have to scrub for 20 seconds or more, to create lots of foam). By dissolving the fat layer, the protein molecule disperses and breaks down.
- * HEAT melts fat; this is why it is necessary to use water above 77 degrees for hand washing, laundry and cleaning surfaces. In addition, hot water makes more foam, making it more effective.
- * Alcohol or any mixture with alcohol (hand sanitizer) over 65% DISSOLVES ALL FAT, especially the external lipid layer of the virus.
- * Any solution with 1 part bleach and 5 parts water directly dissolves the protein, breaking it down from the inside.
- * Oxygenated water increases the effectiveness of soap, alcohol, and chlorine, because peroxide dissolves the virus protein. However, because you have to use it in its pure form, it can damage your skin.
- * NO BACTERICIDE OR ANTIBIOTIC WILL WORK because the virus is not a living organism like bacteria; antibodies cannot kill what is not alive.
- * The virus molecules remain very stable at colder temperatures, including air conditioning in houses and cars. They also need moisture and darkness to stay stable. Therefore, dehumidified, dry, warm and bright environments will degrade the virus faster.
- * UV LIGHT on any object that may contain the virus breaks down the protein. Be careful, it also breaks down collagen (which is protein) in the skin.
- * The virus CANNOT go through healthy skin.
- * Vinegar is NOT useful because it does not break down the protective layer of fat.
- * NO SPIRITS, NOR VODKA, serve. The strongest vodka is only 40% alcohol, and you need a minimum of 65%.
- * LISTERINE is 65% alcohol.
- * The more confined the space, the higher the concentration of the virus there can be. The more open or naturally ventilated, the less.
- * You have to wash your hands before and after touching any commonly used surfaces such as: mucosa (mouth area), food, locks, knobs, switches, remotes, cell phones, watches, computers, desks etc.... and don't forget when you use the bathroom.

Legislative Contacts:

MOAA Legislative Update moaa.org/takeaction
or 1-800-234-6622 ext. 215

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Senator Patrick Toomey (R)
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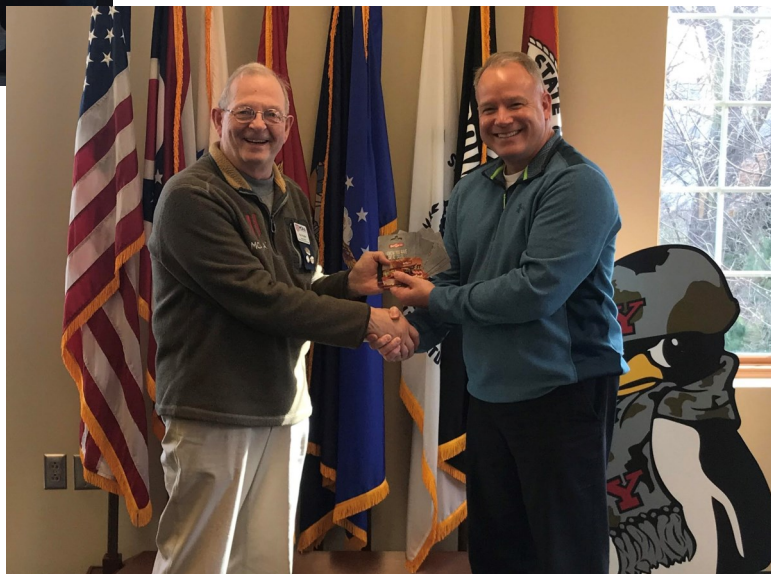
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MSVC-MOAA Officers and Board of Directors members present GetGo Gift Cards to YSU Associate Director of Veterans Affairs Patrick ("Rick") Williams at the Carl Nunziato Veterans Service Center, Wick Avenue, Youngstown, OH. Pictured (from left to right): Al Lind, Bruce Bille, Florence Hosler, Rod Hosler, Rick Williams, Mark Andrews, and Ralph DeLucia. (Photo by Jake Duncan)



MSVC-MOAA President Rod Hosler presents GetGo Gift Cards to YSU Associate Director of Veterans Affairs Patrick ("Rick") Williams at the Carl Nunziato Veterans Service Center, Wick Avenue, Youngstown, OH. (Photo by Jake Duncan)



Austintown Fitch High School's Veterans Memorial.

Retired U.S. Air Force Colonel Kevin Riley, Senior Aerospace Science Instructor, Austintown Fitch High School Air Force JROTC at MSVC's November 20 lunch meeting (photo by Mike Wisniewski).



Retired U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sargent Tom Marhulik, Aerospace Science Instructor, Austintown Fitch High School Air Force JROTC at MSVC's September dinner meeting (photo by Mike Wisniewski).



AFHS Launches New AF JROTC Program

By David J. Di Tallo

The area's newest Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) program was inaugurated in September at Austintown Fitch High School (AFHS), with two retired U.S. Air Force veterans leading the way. Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter had a chance to meet them at their September and November meetings, and they both agreed to a "virtual" interview to let chapter members know how the new unit is doing, what challenges they face, and what MOAA and other veterans groups can do to help.

Colonel Kevin Riley, of Brookfield, Ohio, is the Senior Aerospace Science Instructor at AFHS and a career Contracting and Communications/Cyberspace Officer. Though not from the area originally, his two most recent assignments before retiring were as Commander, 910th Mission Support Group and 910th Airlift Wing Community Partnership Director at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Vienna, OH. At the MSVC November lunch meeting Col. Riley explained that he became interested in JROTC from an Air Force colleague at a previous assignment, who had chosen to pursue the program in retirement.

The chapter got to meet Senior Master Sargent Tom Marhulik, AFHS's Aerospace Science Instructor at its September dinner meeting at Boardman Township Park. SMSgt Marhulik grew up in Trumbull County and graduated from Matthews High School. His final assignment prior to retiring was as C-130H Loadmaster with the 910th Airlift Wing.

SMSgt Marhulik explained that he was not quite ready for retirement when he left active duty. "I felt I had more to offer and was not ready to leave the military," he stated. "One day I received a phone call from a friend (who) stated that AFHS was starting up a JROTC program, and thought I would be a good candidate for the position." After interviewing with Col. Riley and twice with the school's principals, and he was selected for the position.

"I have loved every minute of it!" Marhulik offered. "I enjoy working with the cadets/students and teaching those things that will make them better students, better employees, better leaders, and better role models in their families and community."

According to Col. Riley, fifty cadets from all four high school grades are currently enrolled in JROTC. "We started the school year with about seventy," he explained, "but we had have some students drop out, while others have joined at the urging of faculty and other cadets." Austintown schools have both in-person and online classes this year, and Col. Riley noted that JROTC classes are meeting daily, both for academics, drill, and physical education.

SMSgt Marhulik explained that several days a week the cadets do drill and ceremony procedures using modified rifles and guidons. "The drill and ceremony procedures seem to spark their interest, more than history, and we are developing our physical fitness component as well."

In addition to the Air Force JROTC curriculum (for a list and description courses, go to <http://www.austintownschoools.org/1/courses/4>), the instructors prepare the cadets for their lives after high school. "We (teach) the importance of respect to others, as well as to self, hold them to a higher standard as representatives in the school and the community, and try to instill confidence and leadership," Marhulik noted. They also want cadets to be self-reliant and aware of their surroundings.

Fitch High School has long tradition of including service members and veterans in its academic and social life. In 2015, a student built the school's Veterans Memorial outside the main entrance as an Eagle Scout Project, with life-sized renderings of service members from each branch of the Armed Forces. In 2017 the school hosted its first "Lunch with a Veteran" and in December 2019 it dedicated a POW/MIA chair in its basketball court and holds a school-wide assembly each Veterans Day.

Most recently AFHS invited American Legion Post 301 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4237 (both of Austintown) to place a POW/MIA Chair of Honor at Falcon Stadium on September 11 and provided a choir for the Mahoning County Veterans Day Observance on November 11.

MSVC plans to include AFHS in its annual awards program next spring. In addition to current JROTC programs at Youngstown's East High School and the Trumbull Career and Technical Center (Champion), the chapter has offered to award a MOAA Junior ROTC Medal and Certificate and cash award to deserving AFHS cadet and include him/her in our annual Cadet Night Dinner, tentatively scheduled for April 2021.

For more information on how individual MSVC members could assist Col. Riley and SMSgt Marhulik or support the annual awards program, please contact me at david.ditallo@gmail.com.

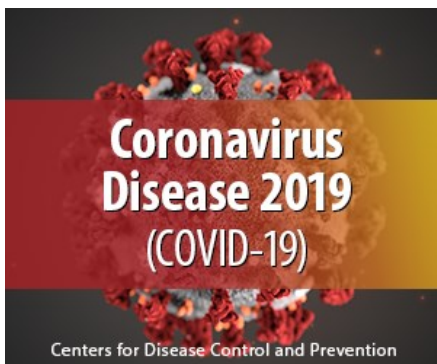
* You have to **MOISTURIZE YOUR HANDS** due to frequent washing. Dry hands have cracks and the molecules can hide in the micro cracks. The thicker the moisturizer, the better.

* Also keep your **NAILS SHORT** so that the virus does not hide there.

Here is additional information from Dr. Bonnie Henry, the Provincial Health Officer for British Columbia, with a background in epidemiology and is a specialist in public health and preventive medicine. She is also an Associate Professor at the University of British Columbia.

- 1.** We may have to live with COVID-19 for months or years. Let's not deny it or panic. Let's not make our lives useless. Let's learn to live with this fact.
- 2.** You can't destroy COVID-19 viruses that have penetrated cell walls, by drinking gallons of hot water, you'll just go to the bathroom more often.
- 3.** Washing hands and maintaining a 6-foot physical distance is the best method for your protection.
- 4.** If you don't have a COVID-19 patient at home, there's no need to disinfect the surfaces at your house.
- 5.** Packaged cargo, gas pumps, shopping carts and ATMs do not cause infection. If you wash your hands, live your life as usual.
- 6.** COVID-19 is not a food infection. It is associated with drops of infection like the 'flu.' There is no demonstrated risk that COVID-19 is transmitted by food.
- 7.** You can lose your sense of smell with a lot of allergies and viral infections. This is only a non-specific symptom of COVID-19.
- 8.** Once at home, you don't need to change your clothes urgently and go shower! Purity is a virtue, paranoia is not!
- 9.** The COVID-19 virus doesn't hang in the air for long. This is a respiratory droplet infection that requires close contact.
- 10.** The air is clean; you can walk through the gardens and through parks (just keeping your physical protection distance).
- 11.** It is sufficient to use normal soap against COVID-19, not antibacterial soap. This is a virus, not a bacterium.
- 12.** You don't have to worry about your food orders. But you can heat it all up in the microwave if you wish.
- 13.** The chances of bringing COVID-19 home with your shoes is like being struck by lightning twice in a day. I've been working against viruses for 20 years — drop infections don't spread like that!
- 14.** You can't be protected from the virus by taking vinegar, sugarcane juice and ginger! These are for immunity not a cure.
- 15.** Wearing a mask for long periods interferes with your breathing and oxygen levels. Wear it only in crowds.
- 16.** Wearing gloves is also a bad idea; the virus can accumulate into the glove and be easily transmitted if you touch your face. Better just to wash your hands regularly.

Immunity is weakened by always staying in a sterile environment. Even if you eat immune boosting foods, please go out of your house regularly to any park/beach. Immunity is increased by **EXPOSURE TO PATHOGENS**, not by sitting at home and consuming fried/spicy/sugary food and aerated drinks.



Be smart and stay informed! Stay safe and stay well, above all live life sensibly and to the fullest.

MSVC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - 2021

Beginning in January, we will be soliciting our 2021 Chapter Memberships dues at \$20.00 per person to offset the administrative costs incurred in the operations of the Chapter. Your quick response is appreciated. Renewal checks can be mailed to: MSVC-MOAA, P.O. Box 5342, Poland, OH 44514

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL for MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER MOAA

8

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)
***FREE**