

MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rod Hosler

We are now over thirty days into the year and everything is rapidly changing. A new administration is quickly consolidating power as it begins to govern a divided nation. Unity is a must as the country moves forward. We wait to see what changes take place and how the new administration will support the needs of America's military. MOAA continues to be the lead ensuring America's military remain on the cutting edge.

This month marks the 30th anniversary of the of the Persian Gulf War. Like the attack on Pearl Harbor, many of us know where we were when news came about the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990. America's quick response with the coalition buildup during Operation Desert Shield, and the beginning of the Desert Storm, augured well for a swift victory.

August turned into February 1991 and after six months of preparation and bombings, Operation Desert Storm was launched. The "mother of all wars" quickly came to an end after three days of ground combat. Fifteen years after Vietnam, America's military had been vindicated.

Since the Persian Gulf War, the United States has found itself mired in conflicts in southwest Asia. Many served there and many supported America's effort to maintain peace in the region. As we look back and remember our service and the men and women we served with, I'm sure that your memories will be those of pride.



MOAA Chapter Installs New Leaders

by David J. Di Tallo

Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter – Military Officers Association of American began the new calendar year by welcoming several guests and installing new Officers and Board Members at its January 15 lunch meeting at La Carte Catering in Canfield, Ohio.

Fifteen members and spouses were on hand to welcome guest Richard Duffett, Mayor of Canfield, to swear in returning Board Members-at-Large David Di Tallo and Ralph DeLucia and current Treasurer Florence Hosler as Surviving Spouse Liaison. Mayor Duffett is a 1981 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and served on active duty for as a Surface Warfare Officer assigned to USS DWIGHT D EISENHOWER (CVN 69) and USS FRANCIS HAMMOND (FF 1067). After leaving active duty, he began a career in safety and emergency management before being elected mayor in 2017.

The chapter also welcomed as a guest retired U.S. Marine Corps Colonel Brian M. Kennedy. Col. Kennedy graduated from Poland Seminary High School in 1984, was commissioned in 1989 through Navy ROTC at The Ohio State University, and served a career as a Naval Aviator flying the AH-1W COBRA attack helicopter. Since retiring in 2014, he has been appointed to the Mahoning County Veterans Service Commission and is President of Kennedy Trucking in Youngstown.

The chapter's final guest and speaker was former naval officer Stephen Brown, whose service included duty on small surface combatants conducting anti-infiltration patrols off the North Vietnamese coast during the Vietnam War. In 1973, his ship cleared key North Vietnamese ports and waterways of active U.S. mines as part of the Paris Peace Accords ending the conflict and enabling the release of American prisoners of war. He is currently owns and operates Oak Tree Hydroponics Farm in Akron, providing communities and restaurants with superior-grade lettuce and is the author of three novels.

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Why Join MOAA?

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military servicemembers and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers. MOAA members proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country: NEVER STOP SERVING.

To Join MOAA National: use the web site www.moaa.org/join or call 800-234-6622



Florence Hosler, SSL

msvc-moaa@gmail.com

Surviving Spouse Corner: 2020 Review

By: Anne Hartline

Despite obstacles created by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the Surviving Spouse Advisory Council (SSAC) continued to serve all surviving spouses and spouses in the focus areas of encouraging, engaging, and educating. Some major accomplishments were:

- **Surviving Spouse Liaison Training at MOAA's Regional Leadership Conferences** — SSAC members led training at the in-person Florida conference in January and at the virtual events in Colorado Springs and Louisville in September and November, respectively.

Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter — Membership continues to grow, with 134 members from 30 states. The chapter meets quarterly on the third Tuesday of January, April, July, and October at 1 p.m., Eastern Time. The 2020 July and October meetings took place via Zoom. For more information, email mssvco2@gmail.com or go to the [surviving spouse section of MOAA.org](http://surviving-spouse-section-of-moaa.org).

Articles for MOAA Newsletters — SSAC members wrote monthly articles that are published on the first Thursday of each month in [The MOAA Newsletter](#). Read past articles [here](#).

Cont. on pg. 6

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.

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Walt Duzzny won the 50-50 lottery, with \$23 in net proceeds going to the chapter's Cadet Fund. An additional \$26 was also collected for the Cadet Fund through direct donations. Thank you!



Mayor of Canfield Richard Duffett (right) administers the oath of office to new MSVC-MOAA Officers and Board Members (from left to right) Ralph DeLucia, David Di Tallo, and Florence Hosler at the chapter's January 15 lunch meeting.



MSVC-MOAA President Rod Hosler (right) presents a chapter coin to Canfield Mayor and guest Richard Duffett (left) at its January 15 lunch meeting.



MSVC-MOAA President Rod Hosler presents a flag stand to January 15 lunch meeting speaker Stephen Brown.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Rod Hosler

A new administration is now in Washington and America is anticipating legislation that will improve the condition of its citizens and military. But alas, it seems that Congress seems to be reverting to its standard modus operandi.

Regardless, the voice of 350,000 members of MOAA speak loud and clear, as MOAA continues to strongly advocate and support the needs of America's military.

The MOAA web site with a link to legislative ADVOCACY is a comprehensive link addresses the key issues of legislation that each one of us to follow and ensure are enacted. MOAA Legislative update can be found at: takeaction.moaa.org or 1-800-234-6622 ext. 215.

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. Contact information can be found on page 5.

MOAA National will be actively monitoring the legislative efforts of Congress and keep all members appraised of on-going actions of major concern.

Take Action : <http://takeaction.moaa.org>



MSVC-MOAA President Rod Hosler (center) and Board Member at Large David Di Tallo (right) welcome guest Colonel Brian Kennedy, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret) to its January 15 lunch meeting.

All photos by Mike Wisniewski



The new Austintown Fitch HS Jr. ROTC program is off to a great start. There are volunteer opportunities for veterans to assist as well. Please check out the article link below and let's continue supporting their efforts!

https://www.youngstown.afrc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/2480274/910th-airmen-boost-austintowns-fledgling-jrotc-program/fbclid/IwAR3ayTu0CGuJ2HCdwbyqJDVFrDy0cU9m4w-7OfBT9Dp7isTuu3zMr6_Tosk/



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NEW CARL NUNZIATO VA CLINIC IN YOUNGSTOWN OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The new Youngstown VA Clinic named for MSVC member Carl Nunziato is open for business. The first patients were treated on Tuesday, 19 January. At a cost of \$24.75 million, the new clinic is about 35,000 square feet, 10,000 square feet larger than the old facility. The newest of eighteen VA medical clinics locations in northeast Ohio, it provides primary, mental health, specialty care and pharmacy services to more than 10,500 area veterans. The official grand opening and dedication ceremony is programed for sometime in February or March. Hours of operation are Monday thru Friday, 07:30 AM – 4:30PM.

ROD HOSLER RELINQUISHED LEADERSHIP OF THE OHIO COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

MSVC President LTC Rod Hosler, USA, Ret. who served as the President of the Ohio Council of Chapters (2018-2020) relinquished leadership of the Council to MG Dan Hahn on Saturday, 16 January, at a swearing-in ceremony at the National Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus. Additionally, the OCC installed new officers for 2021-2023, in a ceremony was conducted both in person and virtually. Officiating was COL (USAF Ret.) Dick Calta, New OCC officers installed are President, MG Daniel Hahn, USA, Ret. (Ohio Western Reserve Chapter); 1st Vice President, CAPT Michael Glaser, USN, Ret. (Greater Cincinnati Chapter); 2nd Vice President LTC William Radcliffe, USAR, Ret. (Central Ohio Chapter); 3rd Vice President, CAPT Michael Mentas, USN, Ret. (Central Ohio Chapter); Secretary/Treasurer, LTC John Anderson, USA, Ret. (Ohio Western Reserve Chapter); Legislative Affairs Officer, LCDR Bryan Beamer, USPHS (Greater Cincinnati Chapter); and Surviving Spouse Liaison Officer, Former LT Florence Hosler, USN (Mahoning-Shenango Valleys Chapter). Officers present were Dan Hahn, Mike Glaser, Mike Mentas and John Anderson; with Bill Radcliffe, Bryan Beamer and Florence Hosler sworn in virtually. The Presidential Gavel of authority was presented to Dan Hahn by outgoing President LTC Rod Hosler, USA, Ret.



Officers preparing for swearing in are left to right: Secretary/Treasurer LTC John Anderson, 3rd VP CAPT Mike Mentas, 3rd VP CAPT Mike Glaser, and President MG Dan Hahn. Outgoing President LTC Rod Hosler is standing far right. (Photo by Lynda Farkas, Surviving Spouse and President, Ohio Western Reserve Chapter)

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Legislative Contacts:

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

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**Celebrating the Elimination of the “Widows Tax”** — In February, several SSAC members attended the congressional reception on Capitol Hill to [celebrate the elimination of the Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset](#), also called the widows tax. The repeal of the widows tax is the result of lobbying and letter-writing dating back to the mid-1970s when associations like MOAA (then TROA) and others were lobbying for full payment of SBP without offsets to Social Security and DIC.

**Selection of New SSAC Members** — Barbara Bowman (Oklahoma), Renee Brunelle (Florida), Patricia Green (Florida), and Vivianne Wersel (North Carolina) were selected to serve on the council from 2020-24, with the option of remaining on for two additional years. [Read more about members of the SSAC.](#)

**Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award** — Mary Dunagan from the Cape Canaveral (Fla.) Chapter was selected for this award. She also serves as the surviving spouse liaison for the Florida Council of Chapters. [Read more about Mary and her accomplishments.](#)

**Facebook Group Name Change** — The group was renamed [“Surviving Spouses and Friends”](#) so people other than surviving spouses can join.

The opportunity to serve as an SSAC member for the past six years has been a great honor for me. MOAA is an organization composed of a myriad programs designed to serve members and led by incredible professionals. I feel I have been part of an SSAC team that has blazed new trails for surviving spouse members and spouses of living uniformed servicemembers. We changed our name from “auxiliary members” to “surviving spouse members” to represent our status as voting MOAA members. What began as an almost total focus on advocacy six years ago has developed into a broad spectrum of programs.

I especially appreciate the opportunity to assist in the development of the surviving spouse liaison training for the MOAA regional conferences. I am confident the new SSAC will raise services to higher levels as they “never stop serving.”

## 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



### Mahoning-Shenango Valleys Chapter Membership Requirements

The membership in MSVC shall be composed of: men and women who are or have been commissioned or warrant officers of the seven United States uniformed services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service). Surviving spouses of deceased individuals who, if living, would be eligible for membership. MSVC memberships are open to all eligible people.

Contact : [msvc-moaa@gmail.com](mailto:msvc-moaa@gmail.com) for more information or download the membership form here: <http://msvc-moaa.org/wp-content/uploads/docs/2021-MSVC-Member-Application.pdf>

### 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)  
\*FREE

