

MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

an affiliate of

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

March 2021 Volume:12 Issue 3



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rod Hosler

Spring is around the corner and the pandemic seems to be leveling out and even on a downhill run. The COVID vaccine is now on hand and being administered. I hope all members are taking the opportunity in obtaining the vaccine at the earliest. Our 19 February lunch/workshop focused on "personal affairs," and the actions necessary to prepare for the death of the member or spouse. If you missed the program, please refer to last month's newsletter and order the MOAA publications we used and are helpful in handling your end of life personal affairs.

As a chapter we continue to provide safe in-person meetings at A La Cart that are interesting and informative. Our top quality newsletter and website continue to provide information for our members and anyone interested in the chapter and the things we do.

Our Student Affairs Officer, Dave DiTallo has put together a great program for our 30 April Cadet Night Dinner, in which we recognize our local ROTC/JROTC Cadets, so please mark your calendars and plan to attend. There are two new Second Lieutenants, four soon to be commissioned Cadets and three other outstanding Cadets in attendance. I solicit your support in sponsoring a Cadet for this noteworthy event.

On another note, as mentioned, our monthly lunch meetings remain a success while maintaining the COVID safety requirements. Our normal meeting attendance has been about twenty-four, with thirty-one at our February meeting. Once reservations are received, A La Cart prepares a set number of meals. When members fail to attend, the Chapter must cover the cost of that meal. This depletes our treasury, reducing our ability to conduct those programs we sponsor. In that light, I solicit your assistance to rectify this situation. If you make a reservation and do not attend, please remit the cost of that meal. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Finally, I solicit and encourage all current Chapter members to invite a former officer eligible for membership to attend one of our meetings. The Chapter will purchase that officer's lunch or dinner and the sponsoring officer will receive a \$10.00 gift card when the guest joins MOAA and the chapter.

MSVC Learns Being Dead is No Excuse

by David J. Di Tallo

Benjamin Franklin famously stated in a 1789 letter that nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes. At its monthly luncheon meeting on February 19, Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter – Military Officers Association of American (MSVC-MOAA) learned an important addendum, namely that being dead is no excuse.

In its largest turnout in over a year, nineteen chapter members, nine spouses, and three guests were on hand for a workshop devoted to survivor planning and veterans' benefits at A La Cart Catering in Canfield, Ohio. Two chapter members also joined in via Zoom (from sunny Florida!).

The chapter's newly appointed Surviving Spouse Liaison and current Treasurer and Newsletter Editor, Florence Hosler planned the event, making use of her personal experiences, as well as MOAA guides and on-line forums. She began by sharing several insights from Margareta Magnusson's 2018 book The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning: How to Free Yourself and Your Family from a Lifetime of Clutter, which is available from Amazon in hardcover, paperback, audio, and Kindle.

Hosler also reviewed two valuable tools MOAA makes available free of charge to Premium and Life Members, its *Personal Affairs Guide: A Personal Inventory for Peace of Mind* (2017) and *Survivor's Planning Guide: A Handbook for One of Life's Toughest Assignments* (2019). Each contain advice and fill-in checklists members can use to organize vital documents and end-of-life planning decisions, as well as service points of contact, DEERS, and DFAS telephone numbers survivors WILL need following a service member, retiree, or veterans death.

Cont. on pg. 3

Being Dead Is No Excuse: The Official Southern Ladies Guide to Hosting the Perfect Funeral

By Gaydon Metcalf and Charlotte Hayes

The inspiration for the program, and a fun read!

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

msvcmoaa@gmail.com

How to Become an Effective Advocate

By Dr. Vivian Wersel

It can be very frustrating to find yourself in a position when legislation needs to be changed, but you are unsure where to start.

My nearly 16 years' experience in legislation as an advocate affords me the opportunity to share with you how you can become more involved in improving military survivor benefits. Many surviving spouses already are seasoned advocates, thanks to MOAA and other veterans service organizations. However, for those who are new to this frontier, the following guidance can help you learn to advocate and navigate the process with confidence.

- **Find your passion.** Choose an issue that directly affects you. This will have more of an impact when telling your story.

Gather information. Find fact sheets from [MOAA's Surviving Spouses and Friends Facebook page](#), MOAA.org, your local MOAA chapter (legislative committee), and the [Surviving Spouses Virtual Chapter](#). Construct a simple blog regarding how this issue impacts you as a military surviving spouse. Be yourself. It is important you feel comfortable discussing the issue, even if you do not have all the details. Information can be sent later.

- **Determine whether the issue is local, state, or federal.** Some examples include:
 - Federal: Improve VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, remarriage law
 - State: Professional licensure, property tax exemption, benefits of military surviving spouses

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 MARCH 2021 LUNCH MEETING

The Chapter will hold a lunch meeting for Friday, 19 March at 12:00/Noon – 1:30 PM at A La Cart Catering in Canfield. The topic will be "U.S. Military Fighting on a New Front: Cyber Warfare" presented by the staff of the U.S. Naval Academy's Center for Cyber Security Studies.

The mission of the Center for Cyber Security Studies is to enhance the education of midshipmen in all areas of cyber warfare, to facilitate the sharing of expertise and perspectives in cyber warfare from across the Yard, to provide a streamlined means of identifying priorities, to enhance inter-disciplinary research in cyber warfare, and to disseminate information, harmonize efforts and shape a common framework for cyber warfare related efforts at USNA. The Center for Cyber Security Studies will provide the support necessary for the proposed curricular and professional reforms across the Naval Academy, and for advancing the quality of education of Naval Academy graduates in all areas of cyber warfare. This center will encompass support for all programs that contribute to knowledge, study and research of cyber warfare at the Naval Academy.



Center for Cyber
Security Studies
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

Reservation for the lunch must be received not later than Monday, 15 March at msvc-moaa@gmail.com or (330) 788-3270. State COVID requirements will be observed.

Cont. from pg. 1

Also presenting during the workshop was Mahoning County Veterans Services Commission Director Susan Krawchyk, who provided an overview of the commission's work and explained what services veterans and their survivors are entitled to. She emphasized the importance of having a copy of a veteran's DD-214 form readily available, and that veterans residents of Mahoning County are eligible for a six hundred dollar burial stipend.

Ms. Krawchyk was followed by Department of the Army contractor Melissa Wise, one of seven state-wide coordinators for its Survivor Outreach Services program. Ms. Wise explained the program helps survivors of service members or veterans stay connected with someone past the Casualty Assistance Officer period, who can connect them with federal, state, local, and private resources.

To wrap up the workshop, chapter President Rod Hosler gave an overview of veterans' and surviving spouse benefits, including burial benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman, OH. He also distributed copies of *Planning Your Legacy: VA Survivors and Burial Benefits Kit*, published by the VA.

Look for all these references posted on our chapter website! msvc-moaa.org/personal-affairs

Because of the length of the workshop, the chapter did not hold its usual 50-50 raffle, but it did collect nine dollars in donations for the Cadet Fund. The chapter is planning to host its 2021 Cadet Night Dinner on Friday, April 30, and members are asked to please consider donating to the Cadet Fund ("Buy a Cadet Dinner") to help defray the meal cost of our cadet award recipients and their family members.



MSVC President Rod Hosler presented speaker Melissa Wise with a Chapter challenge coin.

Speaker Susan Krawchyk accepts a Chapter coin from President Rod Hosler



MSVC members Esther and Dennis Gartland pass out gifts to the ladies at the meeting, many thanks for the sweet treats! Walt Duzzny seems a bit disappointed!

All photographs by Mike Wisniewski

MSVC Plans 2021 Cadet Night Dinner by David J. Di Tallo

The MSVC-MOAA Cadet Night Dinner will be held Friday, April 30 at A La Cart Catering (429 Lisbon Street) in Canfield, Ohio, where we have been meeting regularly since last fall and we have found a large, welcoming, and well-appointed venue. And the food and service have been great too!

The evening begins at 6pm with appetizers (member may bring their own beer and wine), dinner at 6:30pm, and our cadet awards and recognition program at 7:15pm.

The cost is \$20 per person, and reservations are due to Treasurer Florence Hosler by Monday, April 26 by email to msvcmoaa@gmail.com or hoslerfm@zoominternet.net or by phone at 330-788-3270. Attire is coat and tie (gentlemen) or seasonal dress/blouse and slacks (ladies).

We expect to host several graduating/commissioning cadets from Youngstown State University Army ROTC, as well as a junior class nominee for the MOAA ROTC Medal. At this time, we are waiting to learn if any of the area high school Junior ROTC programs will participate (school policies on extracurricular activities vary).

Thanks to the ongoing generosity of our members, we have collected money in our Cadet Fund to help defray the cost of the dinner for our cadets, but we welcome any and all contributions in any amount. You can contribute when you check-in for our March 19 Lunch Meeting or the Cadet Night Dinner itself. Feel free to "Buy a Cadet Dinner"!

The chapter also gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions from United Services Automobile Association, which helps pay for the awards themselves, as well as the dinner.

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending our chapter's flagship event.



VA OFFERS COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

The VA is offering COVID19 Vaccinations at the Carl Nunziato VA Clinic in Youngstown and Warren as well as locations in western Pennsylvania. Currently the two dose Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are available but the single dose Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine is not. Veterans registered with the VA are eligible to receive the vaccine. Call 330-740-9200 in Youngstown or in Warren, OH at 1460 Tod Ave NW, (330) 392-0311. If you are not registered with the VA, do as soon as possible. DD Form 214 is required.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Rod Hosler

MOAA continues to speak loud and clear, as we continue to strongly advocate and support the needs of America's military.

The MOAA web site legislative advocacy page is a comprehensive link addressing the key issues of legislation that MOAA is focusing on this year. [MOAA's 2021 Legislative Priorities](#)

Again, please take a few moments to visit the [MOAA web site](#) and click on the 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. 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.** MOAA National is actively monitoring the legislative efforts of Congress and will continue to keep all members apprised of on-going actions of major concern. There are 12 key bills that MOAA is supporting listed at MOAA www.takeaction.moaa.org This is a great list if you're interested in learning more about the bills. You can click on the names of the bills and learn more about each of them.

Ohio

**[H. B. No. 29 2021-2022](#) A B I L L To amend sections 317.24 and 317.241 of the Revised Code to allow a person who was discharged from the United States Public Health Service or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to obtain an Ohio veterans identification card.

Pennsylvania

There are several bills before the [General Assembly](#) pertaining to veterans housing, homelessness and Veteran's Affairs funding.

These bills of interest will be tracked and reported on here, if you know of others of interest contact the newsletter editor at:

msvcmoaa@gmail.com

This Newsletter is published by the Mahoning-Shenango Valleys Chapter (MSVC), which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are non-partisan. Any advertisements that appear in this publication/website also do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or this affiliate. 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, nor do they reflect an endorsement by the Mahoning-Shenango Valleys Chapter or the national organization of the Military Officers Association of America, unless so indicated [Copyright 2016, Military Officers Association of America All rights reserved.] Questions or comments should be directed to: LTC Roderick A. Hosler, USA, Ret.; P.O. Box 5342; Poland, OH 44514; E-mail: msvcmoaa@gmail.com.

Legislative Contacts:

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

Pres. Joseph R. Biden Jr. (D) The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Washington DC 20500
Switchboard: 202-456-1414 www.whitehouse.gov



OHIO

Senator Sherrod Brown (D) United States Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-2315 www.brown.senate.gov

Senator Rob Portman (R) United States Senate
448 Russell Senate Office Bld. Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-3353 www.portman.senate.gov

Representative Bill Johnson (R) District 6
192 East State St. Salem, OH 44460
Phone (330) 337-6951 <http://billjohnson.house.gov>

Representative Tim Ryan (D) District 13
241 West Federal St. Youngstown, OH 44503
Phone: (330) 740-0193 www.timryan.house.gov

PENNSYLVANIA

Senator Robert Casey Jr. (D)
393 Russell Senate Office Bld. Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-6324 www.casey.senate.gov

Senator Patrick Toomey (R)
248 Russell Senate Office Bld. Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-4254 www.toomey.senate.gov

Representative Mike Kelly (R) District 16
33 Chestnut Avenue Sharon, PA 16146
Phone: (724) 342-7170 www.kelly.house.gov



MSVC Board Members:

President: Rod Hosler, LTC, USA, (Ret)

hosler1@zoominternet.net 330-788-3270

1st Vice President: Bruce Bille, LT. USN. (Fmr)

bbille.usna.82@gmail.com 330-333-0397

2nd Vice President: Mike Briceland, MAJ, USA (Ret.)

bricelandmj@gmail.com 330-559-0589

Secretary: Al Lind, LT, USN, (Fmr)

alcalind@zoominternet.net 330-757-0336

Treasurer: Florence Hosler, LT, USN, (Fmr)

hoslerfm@zoominternet.net 330-788-3270

Members at Large:

Mark Andrews, MAJ, USA, (Ret)

andrewsfarm333@verizon.com 724-667-9597

Dennis Gartland, CPT, USA, (Fmr)

gartlanddj@aol.com 330-637-4843

Ralph DeLucia, CPT, USA, (Fmr)

rok31A@msn.com 330-727-9205

Larry Scheetz, LTC, USA, (Ret)

thescheetz@gmail.com 724-977-1200

Dave Di Tallo, CDR, USN, (Ret)

david.ditallo@gmail.com 330-758-8597

~~~~~  
MSVC-MOAA

PO BOX 5342

POLAND, OH 44514-0342

[WWW.MSVC-MOAA.ORG](http://WWW.MSVC-MOAA.ORG) [MSVCMOAA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MSVCMOAA@GMAIL.COM)

- Local (City/County): Noise abatements, zoning ordinance
- **Cultivate relationships with staffers.** This is important because staffers are the ones who will make a difference to move the effort forward. Again, tell your story (brief). Prepare a short bio to help connect you with a staffer and or member when setting up a meeting.
- **Establish a meeting.** During COVID-19, meetings will be held via a virtual platform. There are some advantages, such as no parking issues or inclement weather restrictions. If you do not feel comfortable with a virtual meeting, call the elected official's office and asked for a phone conference appointment with the appropriate staffer or ask to leave a message on staffer's phone. Even though you did not virtually meet with the staffer or member, what is important is you raised awareness about your issue. Remember, the elected official and staffer — whether it is federal, state or local — work for you. You are their constituent.

A future webinar is being planned to provide specifics on Advocacy in Action, MOAA's signature spring advocacy event.

Dr. Wersel is the Legislative Committee Chair for the Western North Carolina MOAA Chapter and serves on the American Academy of Audiology Legislation committee. She is the public relations officer for Gold Star Wives of America Inc. and is the President/Founder of Arlington Gold Star Wives. Dr. Wersel is an adviser for Military Hearts Matter.



Our chapter received a thank you from The Blue Coats of Youngstown for our donation in January. They were able to purchase 168 pairs of new winter boots with the over \$600 dollars we raised at our Christmas party. The card will be available to view at the March meeting. Many thanks to our generous ROA/MOAA members.

## MSVC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - 2021

Since January, we have been 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



### UPCOMING MSVC CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2021

19 MAR – Luncheon Meeting, at A La Cart Catering Canfield; USNA Staff, Cyber Warfare 12pm

01 APR – MSVC Board Meeting, VRC, YSU.

30 APR – Cadet Night Dinner, at A La Cart Catering, Canfield. 5pm

06 MAY – MSVC Board Meeting, VRC, YSU.

21 MAY – Luncheon Meeting, at A La Cart Catering, Canfield; Topic: TBD.

03 JUN – MSVC Board Meeting, VRC, YSU.

18 JUN – Dinner Meeting, at Golden Corral, Hermitage, PA; Speaker: TBD.

16 JUL – Dinner Meeting, Gun Shoot and Picnic, Vienna Rod and Gun Club, Vienna. Catered by Mission BBQ.

## 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

