

MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

an affiliate of

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rod Hosler

The Chapter continues to be a model for the Ohio Council of Chapters. We continue to remain open and conduct our meetings and activities in person and in a safe manner.

The Chapter's annual ROTC/JROTC Cadet Dinner on 30 April went off without a hitch. Dave DiTallo did a great job organizing everything and recognizing all the Lieutenants and cadets, and their families and cadre. I'd like to express my thanks to the nine chapter members that sponsored cadets and guests. On a side note, new Chapter member MAJ Jarred Elliss, YSU ROTC Assistant Professor, has been selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. Congratulations and well done.

I'm sad to report our Second Vice President and Membership Chairman, Mike Briceland has tendered his resignation due to health and family concerns. Dave DiTallo has stepped forward to assume those duties and in accordance with our By Laws, was approved by the Board of Directors. He will step down as the Student Affairs Chairman.

Memorial Day is fast approaching when we recognize and honor America's deceased service personnel and veterans. We will be decorating the graves with flags in Calvary Cemetery (Mahoning Ave. and Bella Vista Ave) in Youngstown on Saturday, 15 May at 9:00 AM. Our section is up by the mausoleums, just look for our flag. This won't take much time and part of our way of recognizing those who've gone before us. I hope to see you out there for this program.

Many communities are hosting Memorial Day programs and I encourage all of you to participate locally. However, if you choose not to we are partnering with the ROA for a short ceremony on Monday, 31 May at 8:30 near the entrance to Oak Hill Cemetery in Youngstown.

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

MSVC Hosts Cadet Night

By David J. Di Tallo

After cancelling its annual event in 2020, The Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter – Military Officers Association of America (MSVC-MOAA) convened Friday, April 30 for its first Cadet Night since 2019 at A La Carte Catering, Canfield, Ohio.

This year's event was attended by thirty members and nineteen guests, the largest turnout ever in MSVC's ten year history. Thanks to the generosity of chapter members and a grant from the United Services Automobile Association (USAA), \$1373 was raised for the chapter's Cadet Fund, also a record.

Cadet Night recognizes outstanding high school and college ROTC cadets and impending college ROTC graduates preparing to receive their armed forces commissions and begin their military careers.

MSVC awarded the MOAA ROTC Medal and a three hundred dollar cash award to Youngstown State University (YSU) Army ROTC junior class cadet Ryan Lewis of Beaver, PA. Cadet Lewis enlisted in the Army in 2014 and served three years as an Artillery Mechanic with overseas deployments to Kuwait and Eastern Europe. He works full time while attending YSU and ROTC and plans to be married this August.

MSVC also awarded the MOAA Junior ROTC Medal and a fifty dollar cash award to Joscelyn Zorky and Vincent Sciortino from Austintown Fitch High School's Air Force Junior ROTC program.

In addition to JROTC, Cadet Zorky participates in Civil Air Patrol, Choir, Cross Country, Indoor/Outdoor Track, National Honor Society, and the Ohio Association of Student Leaders. She will attend Kent State University and Air Force ROTC this fall, majoring in Aeronautical Systems of Engineering Technology. Cadet Zorky hopes to become an Air Force pilot and fly transport aircraft. She was accompanied by her parents, John and Susan Zorky, and her Senior Aerospace Science Instructor, Colonel Kevin Riley, USAF (Ret).

Cont. on pg. 4

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

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

What Is DIC?

DIC is a monthly benefit paid to eligible survivors of a military service member who died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, OR
veteran whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease, OR
veteran whose death resulted from a non service-related injury or disease, and who was receiving, or was entitled to receive, VA Compensation for service-connected disability that was rated as totally disabling for at least 10 years immediately before death, OR
since the veteran's release from active duty and for at least five years immediately preceding death, OR
for at least one year before death if the veteran was a former prisoner of war who died after September 30, 1999.

Who Is Eligible?

The **surviving spouse** if he or she:
validly married the veteran before January 1, 1957, OR
was married to a service member who died on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training,

Legislative Issues

By Rod Hosler

There are no featured legislative issues before Congress except massive spending bills. None of which are geared toward America's military. However, 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 with a link to legislative ADVOCACY addresses the key legislation issues. MOAA Legislative update can be found at: www.takeaction.moaa.org.

As the past President and member of the Ohio Council of Chapters, I participated in a virtual meeting with the staff members of Congressman Bill Johnson and Tim Ryan on 11 May. Topics covered were 1.) Basic Needs Allowance, 2.) Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform, and 3.) Parity for TRICARE Young Adults. All topics were well received and each Congressman was urged to Co-Sponsor these legislative issues.

Please take a few moments to visit the MOAA web site and link to the ADVOCACY section scroll down to the 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.

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

MSVC Board Announces “Bring a Friend” Initiative

By David J. Di Tallo

The MSVC Board of Directors established a new policy in 2021 to help grow its membership entitled, “Bring a Friend”.

While spouses, family members, and friends of chapter members have always been and will continue to be welcomed at our monthly events, “Bring a Friend” is aimed at current, former, and retired officers, who are eligible for MOAA membership.

For the remainder of the calendar year, guests meeting MOAA membership criteria will have the cost of their meal covered by the chapter. In addition, if the guest subsequently joins our chapter, his/her host will receive a ten dollar gift card.

Through this program, MSVC has already welcomed two new members, LTC Genevieve Germaniuk, USA (Ret) (hosted by Bruce Bille) and MAJ Jared Elliss, USA (hosted by Rod Hosler).

As your new Second Vice President/Director for Membership I challenge you to cull through your rolodex or Gmail Contacts for someone eligible for MOAA membership and “Bring a Friend” to an event this year.

Finally, our Treasurer reports that less than 40% of our chapter members have paid their 2021 annual dues of twenty dollars. Please pay your dues promptly to the chapter treasurer, Florence Hosler, so we may continue to support the public work of our chapter, such as the recent Cadet Night, and provide quality programs and venues for our monthly gatherings.



New Member Profile – Genevieve Germaniuk

By David J. Di Tallo

MSVC-MOAA added a new member to its roster last month, LTC Genevieve Germaniuk, U.S. Army (Ret) of Warren, Ohio. A native of St. Paul, MN, she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Wagner College, Staten Island, NY. While studying for her degree, she was a candidate in the U.S. Army Student Nurse Program as a Private First Class her junior and senior years and received a direct commission as a First Lieutenant upon graduation.

After Basic Training at Ft. Sam Houston, TX (Regimental Home of the Army Medical Department), LTC Germaniuk had active duty assignments at Reynolds Army Hospital, Ft. Sill, OK, Basset Army Hospital, Ft. Wainwright, AK, Fitzsimons Army Medical Center, Denver, CO (where she became a certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner), and Kimbrough Army Hospital, Ft. Meade, MD.

After marriage to her husband Humphrey (deceased), LTC Germaniuk transferred to the Individual Ready Reserve and moved to Rome, Italy, where he attended medical school and she performed her annual active duty training at Landstuhl, Germany.

Upon their return to the U.S., LTC Germaniuk held several Active Reserve nurse assignments at several Army hospitals before retiring in December 1998 as Chief Nurse, 4213th U.S. Army Hospital Unit, Malone NY and settling in Warren, OH with her husband.

In 2002 LTC Germaniuk became an OSU Trumbull County Master Gardener Volunteer, and she continues to sing with the Stambaugh Chorus and the Warren Civic Chorus. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership and the Citizens Advisory Board for the Eastgate Council of Governments and is active in her church, St John Paul II Parish, as a lector and member of the finance committee.

Please be sure to say hello to our newest chapter member at our next meeting.

Welcome aboard, Genevieve!





MSVC/MOAA Awards were given to (front left to right) YSU/ROTC Cadets Dejanais Stipetich, Sophia Patronis and Katie O'Brian. (Rear) 2LT Ryan Geisse, 2LT Kyle Ritenour and Cadet Ian Murphy by MSVC president Rod Hosler and ROA president Walt Duzzny .



Austintown Fitch HS Air Force JrROTC Cadet Joscelyn Zoky is presented with a MSVC/MOAA award by President Rod Hosler and Treasurer Florence Hosler .



1st Vice-President Bruce Bille and President Rod Hosler present Austintown Fitch HS Air Force JrROTC Cadet Vincent Sciortino with a MSVC/MOAA award.

All photos curtesy of Mike Wisniewski. More photos from the event can be found on our website <https://msvc-moaa.org/msvc-news>

Cadet Sciortino participates in varsity baseball, National Honor Society, Key Club, Kiwanis Club, Spirit Club, Spanish Club, and the Tackling Illiteracy Club. He will attend John Carroll University and Army ROTC this fall, majoring in accounting. Cadet Sciortino was joined by his parents, Michael and Karen Sciortino, and Aerospace Science Instructor Senior Master Sargent Thomas Marhulik, USAF (Ret.).

YSU's ROTC program was further represented by four cadets graduating this calendar year (three this May and one in December) and two Second Lieutenants who graduated in December, 2020 and who were unable to attend a fall chapter event. Graduating cadets are presented with a set of rank and branch devices and copies of The Army Officers Guide, the cost of which is split with Reserve Organizations of America, Chapter 42. They were accompanied by their instructor, Major James Woodward.



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Legislative Contacts:

MOAA Legislative Update moaa.org/takeaction
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OR

married the veteran within 15 years of discharge from the period of military service in which the disease or injury that caused the veteran's death began or was aggravated,

OR

was married to the veteran for at least one year,

OR

had a child with the veteran, AND cohabited with the veteran continuously until the veteran's death or, if separated, was not at fault for the separation, AND is not currently remarried.\*

**Note:** A surviving spouse who remarries on or after December 16, 2003, and on or after attaining age 57, is entitled to continue to receive DIC.

The **surviving child(ren)**, if he/she is not included on the surviving spouse's DIC unmarried AND under age 18, or between the ages of 18 and 23 and attending school

**Note:** Certain helpless adult children are entitled to DIC. Call the toll-free number below for the eligibility requirements.

The **surviving parent(s)** may be eligible for an income-based benefit.

#### How Much Does VA Pay?

Benefit rate tables, including those for children alone and parents, can be found at [https://benefits.va.gov/Compensation/current\\_rates\\_dic.asp](https://benefits.va.gov/Compensation/current_rates_dic.asp).

#### UPCOMING MSVC CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2021

**21 MAY** – Luncheon Meeting, at A La Carte Catering, Canfield; Topic: MOAA National speaker CAPT Frank Michael, Program Director, Council and Chapters.

**03 JUN** – MSVC Board Meeting, VSC

**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.

A famous Admiral and an equally famous General were fishing together when a sudden storm hit. When it died down both renowned warriors were struggling helplessly in the water. The Admiral floundered his way back to the boat and pulled himself painfully in. Then he fished out the General, using an oar. Catching his breath, he puffed: "Please don't say a word about this to anyone. If the Navy found out I can't swim I'd be disgraced." "Don't worry," the general said. "Your secret is safe. I'd hate to have my men find out I can't walk on water."

## 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



#### NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS

The chapter welcomes eight new members since last month's newsletter into the ranks of MOAA National and our Chapter. They are: LTC Genevieve M. Germaniuk, USAR, Retired; MAJ (P) Jared Elliss, USA, YSU ROTC; MAJ Jim Woodward, USA, YSU ROTC; 2LT Ryan P. Geisse, USAR, Active; 2LT Kyle Ritenour, USA, Active; 2LT Katie E. O'Brien, USA, Active; and 2LT Sophie M. Patonis, USA, Active. The chapter also welcomed former U.S. Army Captain Robert Lohr, guest of member Mark Andrews. Mr. Lohr is a YSU ROTC alumnus (Class of 1976), who served in Air Defense and later Artillery.

#### SAVE THE DATE

#### YSU ROTC ALUMNI PICNIC REUNION

**SATURDAY, JULY 31, 2021**

**POLLOCK HOUSE PAVILION**

### 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

