

MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

an affiliate of

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rod Hosler

The Chapter is falling short for to 2021 membership dues renew. Currently only 30 out of 112 Chapter members have paid their 2021 dues. Please note that your Chapter dues offset the administrative costs incurred in the operations your Chapter, that includes: printing, insurance, postage, guest meal costs, new second lieutenant items, ROTC medals and scholarships, and other chapter and veteran support programs and activities. Without your dues support, the Chapter may have to reduce or eliminate some of our programs; guest speaker meal costs, new second lieutenant items, ROTC medals and scholarships, and other chapter and veteran support, etc. Your renewal response is appreciated.

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.

The Chapter met on Friday, 18 June at the Golden Corral in Hermitage, PA. Our dinner speaker was Judge Daniel Wallace of the Mercer County Veterans Court and he spoke about the Mercer County Veterans Court program. He was an Armor Captain and was involved in the first Gulf War (Operations Desert Storm). The Chapter donated \$300 to the Golden Corral's Camp Corral program for children of service members killed in the line of duty.

The Chapter has gained three new members and they are: Col. Brian Kennedy, USMCR (Retired) of Youngstown, MAJ Steve Motika, USA (Retired) of Cortland and MAJ Sarah Weber, USAR of Hermitage, PA. Welcome new members.

The 2021 Ohio Council of Chapters (OCC) State Convention scheduled for 1 - 3 October in Columbus has been postponed till late April 2022. Please save the last weekend of April 2022 on your calendars and plan to attend.

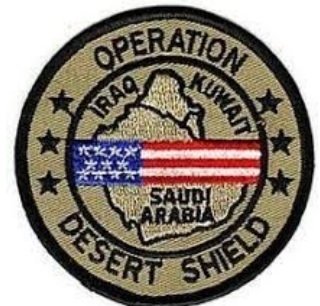
MOAA's motto: "Never Stop Serving," is a practice we all can subscribe to.

A poster for the Desert Storm 30th Anniversary Reunion. It features a close-up of a soldier's helmet on the left and a military vehicle on the right. The text reads: 'DESERT STORM REUNION 30 YEARS 25 SEPTEMBER 2021 12:00/Noon to 5:00 PM Sharon Elks Lodge 103 260 E. Connelly Blvd., Sharon, PA. Point of Contact is Larry Scheetz e-mail: thescheetz@gmail.com'.

DESERT STORM 30TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

Thirty years ago the United States launched Desert Shield and Desert Storm, the First Gulf War. Many personnel participated in this monumental American effort that resulted in victory for American and coalition forces. We celebrate the 30th Anniversary of this achievement with a reunion on 25 September 2021, 12:00/Noon to 5:00 PM at the Sharon Elks Lodge 103, 260 East Connelly Blvd., Sharon, PA.

The Point of Contact is Larry Scheetz, e-mail: thescheetz@gmail.com or telephone (724) 977-1200. Local hotels are available. Many local MOAA members and veterans participated in the campaign and this may be the only time we'll get together.



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

Getting to know the Surviving Spouse Council

By: Gail Joyce

The Surviving Spouse Advisory Council (SSAC) was established in 2004 as the Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee to report to and advise the MOAA president about issues that are important to the surviving spouses of MOAA members. Its main goal is to represent YOU — not only survivors but military spouses as well — about issues that impact each of us.

The SSAC has had numerous major accomplishments, including:

Creating and designing the [Survivor's Planning Guide: A Handbook for One of Life Toughest Assignments](#).

Starting, in 2018, the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter. The chapter currently meets via phone on the third Tuesday of each month and has grown from 10 members to 160 members from 33 states. [Learn more about the chapter.](#)

- Assisting with the 2019 passage of the bill that eliminated the Survivor Benefit Plan-Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset, which took 40 years to accomplish.
- Developing and producing the Surviving Spouse Liaison Training, which is held several times each year in conjunction with the regional chapter leadership training.

Current members of the council represent all services and several states and bring a broad swath of experience. Each member was nominated by her chapter

Cont. on pg.4



To be an MOAA-MSVC Officer

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

ELECTION FOR MSVC OFFICER POSITIONS

Rod Hosler

The MSVC will elect a new slate of Chapter officers: President, First and Second Vice Presidents and three At Large Board Members at our October Annual Business Meeting.. Please consider throwing your hat into the ring and become a MSVC Chapter officer. You've served as officers in the Armed Forces, run businesses and been civic leaders. You have the talent. Step up to the challenge and help to lead our chapter 2022 – 2024. This is not rocket science and actually fun. This is your Chapter and you can make a difference. Nomination are set for September with election in October. See or call Rod Hosler or any current Chapter officer if you are interested or have any questions.



THURSDAY, 22 JULY 2021 PICNIC AND GUN SHOOT

The Chapter will conduct its annual Picnic and Gun Shoot on Thursday, 22 May at 4:30 PM at the Vienna Fish and Game Club on State Rt, 193/Belmont Ave. across from the Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport. Mission BBQ will cater the event. You don't have to shoot to attend the picnic. **Please bring a side dish or desert and a \$5.00 donation to off-set the cost of the picnic.** Reservation for the picnic are not necessary, but a head count is so please contact us not later than Monday, 19 July: e-mail msvcmoaa@gmail.com or (330) 788-3270. Thanks to Bruce Bille for arranging this event. **THIS IS GOING TO BE FUN.**

4:30 – 5:00 Range prep. Bring UNLOADED weapons to the range
5:00 – 5:15 Range Safety Briefing by NRA certified instructor
5:15 – 5:30 Women's Rifle and Pistol Shoot – instruction from VFGC
5:30 – 6:30 MSVC Members' Rifle and Pistol Shoot
6:30 – 6:45 Police the brass / range cleaning
6:45 – 8:00 Picnic dinner, provided by Mission BBQ

VA News

VA Asks Female Veterans to Enroll in World's Largest Medical Research Biobank

Editor's note: This article by Patricia Kime originally appeared on Military.com, a leading source of news for the military and veteran community.

The [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) wants thousands more female veterans to enroll in its Million Veteran Program -- a blood repository used by researchers to tackle the world's toughest medical questions.

The program, which began in 2011, has created the largest biobank on the planet, with 841,000 participants. The genetic material in the repository, managed by the Boston VA Healthcare System, has been used for studies on various types of cancer, cardiovascular disease, Alzheimer's, diabetes and mental health disorders, such as post-traumatic stress disorder.

Just 75,000, or 9%, of the participants are women -- a shortcoming that skews the outcome of medical research and can leave gender-specific health questions unanswered, said Sumitra Muralidhar, director of the Million Veteran Program.

"Historically, women are under-represented in biomedical research and especially when it comes to biomedical research," Muralidhar said. "There are differences in anatomy, biology and physiology in men and women and so it's really important to understand what factors influence health and disease in women."

Enrollment involves completing a questionnaire and providing a finger-prick blood sample at one of the VA's 65 participating medical centers or completing online registration followed by sample donation at a VA health facility.

Once enrollment is complete, the identities of donors are kept secret from researchers, and all samples are labeled with a code rather than with any identifying information.

The samples are, however, linked to their corresponding veterans' medical records, albeit with identifying information stripped out. Each sample also comes with completed questionnaires on lifestyle and employment, including combat experience and toxic environmental exposures.

Veterans' extensive medical histories and records, along with the genetic material, allow researchers to delve into the myriad factors that may contribute to medical issues, according to Muralidhar.

The biobank has already provided the basis for 65 research studies, with 30 more to come.

"For researchers, they are looking at numbers, how many have the disease and how many don't, and the genetics -- if you have this particular genetic change, do you have the disease or not. And then they go about trying to figure out what is causing it," Muralidhar said.

Women currently make up roughly 10% of the U.S. veteran population, but are expected to account for more than 18% by 2040.

The effort to enroll more women in the program -- VA is aiming for 5,000 more by the end of the fiscal year -- comes as the Veteran Health Administration increases services for female veterans. Lawmakers have also been calling for improvements in gender-specific health care to accommodate this growing veteran cohort.



Surviving Spouse info.

Cont. from pg. 2

and then thoroughly vetted and selected by members of the SSAC. [Meet the current members of the SSAC.](#)

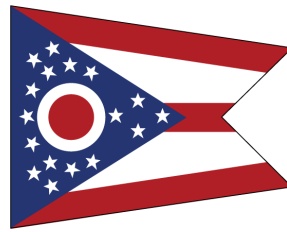
While the SSAC initially was organized to work with surviving spouses, the council has expanded its role to work with military spouses to help better prepare them for the future.

If you have questions or concerns, the SSAC is your conduit for answers and to make things happen. Please get in touch when and where you see a need at sscomm@moaa.org. We look forward to meeting you.

Gayle Joyce

She has served on the MOAA President's Surviving Spouse Advisory Council for six years and will serve as its chair beginning in October 2020. She's also co-chair of the MOAA [Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter](#).

She is a Gold Star Mother. Her youngest son, Sgt. James Casey Joyce, an Army Ranger, died Oct. 3, 1993, in Mogadishu, Somalia; the story of the mission is told in *Black Hawk Down*.



OHIO

[S. B. No. 160](#) A B I L L To amend sections 173.42, 3712.06, and 3727.75 and to enact section 3721.141 of the Revised Code to require certain entities to inform veterans about available health care benefits and to name this act the Veteran Information Act. **Has been referred to the Judiciary Committee. 6/19/21**

[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. **State Senate amendments refused by the House. 6/28/21**



Pennsylvania

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

There are several House and Senate bills before the assembly to abolish "no excuse" mail-in ballots. [Senate Bill 402 P.N. 387](#) & [House Bill 195 P.N. 1189](#)

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.

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MOAA Legislative Update moaa.org/takeaction
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SAVE THE DATE

YSU ROTC ALUMNI PICNIC REUNION

SATURDAY, JULY 31, 2021

POLLOCK HOUSE PAVILION



2021 5th Annual Golf Outing

Sept 18th (Saturday)

Veteran/ROTC Alumni

Reunion Dinner

Sept 19th (Sunday)

5th Annual ROTC Golf Outing

- Avalon Golf & Country Club
- 5:30 p.m. Social Hour/Cash Bar, 6:30 p.m. Dinner, Cincinnati Award, Key-note Speaker
- Avalon Golf & Country Club
- Registration at 7:30 a.m. with Shotgun Start at 9 a.m.
- 18 holes with cart, driving range, locker room, non-alcoholic beverages on course
- Mission BBQ at the turn
- Cocktails/cash bar at 1:00 p.m., closing luncheon at 1:30 p.m.
- Prizes to include \$10,000 Hole-in-One

Sponsorship Opportunities Available!

MSVC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - 2021

Thank you to those who have sent in their membership dues. If you have not done so you have until the end of September 2021 before further action will be taken: Payment of dues before attending a chapter meeting, and removal from the newsletter email or mailing list.



\$20 for members and spouse membership, \$10 for Surviving Spouses.

MSVC-MOAA
PO Box 5342
Poland, OH 44514

UPCOMING MSVC CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2021

17 JUL – Ohio Council of Chapter Meeting, NVMM, Columbus.

22 JUL – Dinner Meeting, Gun Shoot and Picnic, Vienna Fish and Game Club, Vienna. Catered Dinner. \$5 donation/cost 4:30 to be on time for safety brief.

19 AUG – Steak Fry & Corn Roast Dinner Meeting, A La Cart.

16 SEPT – Dinner Meeting, A La Cart Catering, Canfield **Nomination of Officers.**

15 OCT – Lunch Meeting, A La Cart Catering, Canfield, Annual Business Meeting & Election of Officers

07 NOV – Vietnam Veterans Laying of the Roses, 1:00 PM, Downtown Youngstown.

11 NOV – VETERANS DAY Ceremony, 11:00 AM, Mahoning County Courthouse, Youngstown.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL for MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER MOAA

Name: _____ Spouse Name _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

Regular Member (Retired, Former, Active * Officer of the seven uniformed US Services, Spouse (Membership \$20/year) *FREE Surviving Spouse: _____ \$10

