

MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

an affiliate of

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

August 2021 Volume: 12 Issue 8



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rod Hosler

Here we are at the beginning of August and the summer is coming to a close. With all the national, state and local news out there regarding the issues of the day, we can be assured that MOAA is still with us and fighting for our military personnel and families.

Since May of 2020, our chapter has safely met monthly as the country has been gripped with the China Wuhan COVID-19 virus; business and school closings, mask mandates, isolation, and the passing of family and friends, and just plain fear amid conflicting reports and studies stoked by the news media and our own government. The COVID-19 vaccine has shown promise and millions have received it beginning in March 2021 and as a chapter, we encourage all that desire the vaccine to get it. Mask mandates were lifted in May 2021 as the country seemed to be on the road to recovery and getting back to normal. Now we are facing the Delta strain (from India) and masks are again being required in some settings. The government and the news media are again instilling fear through conflicting reports and studies. This is not the Bubonic Plague, although it is serious. We can still go about our daily lives exercising safety measures and caution. The Chapter remains open and we'll conduct our meetings and activities in person and in a safe manner. **President Franklin D. Roosevelt said it best; "We have nothing to fear, but fear itself."**

Your board of directors is busy planning for the upcoming fall meetings and activities. Please review the activities and events schedule in this newsletter. The only major change is the **December Christmas Party**, which is now scheduled for Saturday, 11 December, 12:00-4:00 PM.

The Chapter met on 22 July and conducted its annual picnic and gun shoot at the Vienna Rod and Gun Club. Twenty seven members and guests were in attendance. Mission BBQ catered the event and members brought along a side dish or dessert. The food was great. Many did not shoot but the get together was fun. Those who shot had a real blast.

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.



All members are invited to sit in on Board Meetings.



I WANT YOU

To be an MOAA-MSVC Officer

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

OPERATION DESERT SHIELD/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. Registration is \$11.00. 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. Reservations need to be received not later than Friday, 10 September: e-mail thescheetz@gmail.com or (724) 977-1200.

VA News

VA to start processing disability claims for certain conditions related to particulate matter.

VA will begin processing [disability claims](#) Aug. 2 for asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis on a presumptive basis based on presumed particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas – if these conditions manifested within 10 years of a qualifying period of military service.

VA conducted the first iteration of a newly formed internal VA process to review scientific evidence to support rule-making, resulting in the recommendation to consider creation of new presumptions of service connection for respiratory conditions based on VA's evaluation of a National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine report and other evidence.

The process concluded that particulate matter pollution is associated with chronic asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis for Veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations beginning Aug. 2, 1990 to the present, or Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria or Djibouti beginning Sept. 19, 2001 to the present. VA's review also concluded that there was sufficient evidence to presume that these Veterans have been exposed to particulate matter.

"I announced my intent to initiate rulemaking on May 27 to consider adding respiratory conditions to the list of chronic disabilities," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough. "Through this process I determined that the evidence provided was sufficient to establish presumptions of service connection for these three respiratory conditions. This is the right decision, and VA will continue to use a holistic approach in determining toxic exposure presumptions moving forward."

The Southwest Asia theater of operations refers to Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea and the airspace above these locations.

VA will conduct outreach to impacted Veterans and survivors to inform them about their eligibility and will provide information on how to apply. Veterans and survivors who believe they may be eligible for the newly established presumptive conditions are encouraged to apply. They should file a [VA Form 21-526EZ](#) if applying for the first time or a [VA Form 20-0995](#) if they are reapplying for these conditions. For more information on the new presumptive conditions, visit our website at [Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures – Public Health \(va.gov\)](#).

To apply for benefits, Veterans and survivors may visit [VA.gov](#) or call toll-free at 800-827-1000. Within the next week, you can view the interim final rule at [www.regulations.gov](#).

Welcome all women Veterans, family members, caregivers, and advocates! The Center for Women Veterans' (CWV) mission is to monitor and coordinate VA's administration of health care, benefits, services, and programs for women Veterans. We serve as an advocate for cultural transformation and to raise awareness of the responsibility to treat women Veterans with dignity and respect to #BringWomenVeteransHome2VA. Today's VA is focused on the needs of women Veterans and cultural transformation. We aim to provide an environment free from harassment. VA has introduced [White Ribbon](#), a national call to action to eliminate sexual harassment, sexual assault, and domestic violence. VA Secretary McDonough is making accountability of those who commit harassment or sexual assault an important part of creating a culture that is free from harassment and sexual assault, without fear of retaliation.

We are women Veterans proud to serve our sister Veterans and those who serve them. Stay in touch, sign up for email, follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) @VAWomenVets. We share information on benefits and services, events, stories, research and more. Thank you for your service!

Surviving Spouse info.

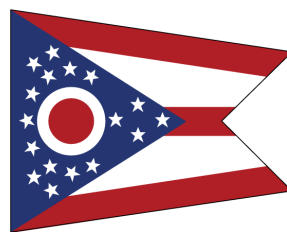
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4. Social and personal affairs support. When a death occurs within the chapter membership, surviving spouses can assist the widow or widower with the sometimes complicated task of changing names on accounts, notifying insurance companies, stopping military retired pay, and applying for Social Security benefits as well as military survivor entitlements. Help with planning a funeral and burial arrangements also can be very useful. A surviving spouse who already has dealt with these tasks can offer support during a time when the recently bereaved member might be feeling overwhelmed and confused. The ability to provide the social support needed to accomplish the necessary adjustments can make the newly bereaved spouse feel more confident and comfortable.

Surviving spouses also can help a new widow or widower regain a social life through friendships and organized social events. MOAA meetings and other occasions can provide this for those spouses. Becoming active in a local chapter is a good way to take advantage of this benefit. National membership is a wonderful source of help when questions arise about anything related to the military career of the deceased.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

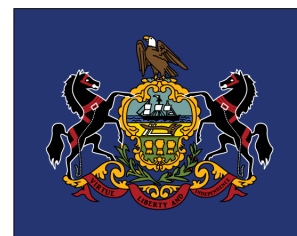
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OHIO

[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.

Legislative Contacts:

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

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OHIO

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

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YSU-ROTC ALUMNI PICNIC



MSVC members Jim Fairbanks, Irv Maurer and Chapter President Rod Hosler

Robin Hanni with Irv Maurer



Rick Williams and Mike Briceland

Rick Williams, Joe Paydock, Jared Elliss and Irv Maurer



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

By **Patricia Farnsworth**, *Former Surviving Spouse Advisory Council member*

Surviving spouses of deceased military officers can serve MOAA chapters in many ways. Chapters should welcome these members and encourage them to become active in not only the chapter but also national MOAA. Here are four ways surviving spouses can contribute to MOAA chapters:

1. Recruiting. Having participated in activities on many military bases and within the community, surviving spouses might know others — both surviving spouses and couples — who have retired and are living in the chapter area and can help recruit them as new members. Welcoming these potential members and encouraging them to become active members serves national MOAA and local chapters as well as the new members themselves.

2. Leadership roles. Surviving spouses, formerly referred to as auxiliary members, are eligible to serve as chapter officers. Many chapters now have a surviving spouse in an office, sometimes even serving as president.

3. Event planning. Surviving spouses can help organize chapter luncheons or dinner meetings, a task for which they might be well prepared. Those who have been members of officers' wives' clubs wherever their spouses were stationed usually have helped with planning meetings and arranging for speakers or entertainment.

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D-DAY REENACTMENT AT CONNEAUT, FRIDAY, 20 AUGUST, 6:30 AM – 6:00 PM

The Mahoning County Veterans Service commission is sponsoring a one day trip to Conneaut for its annual D-Day Reenactment, the largest in the country. Experience battle reenactments, Allied and Axis camps and military displays; and an assortment of militaria and food vendors will be on hand. For all Mahoning County **VETERANS** only, bus transportation and lunch is provided. **Reservations for this trip are necessary, and can be made by calling the Veterans Service Commission at (330) 740-2450 not later than Tuesday, 17 August.** This will be a fun and exciting event.

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



Sept 18th (Saturday)

Veteran/ROTC Alumni

Reunion Dinner

Sept 19th (Sunday)

2021 5th Annual Golf Outing

- Avalon Golf & Country Club
- 5:30 p.m. Social Hour/Cash Bar, 6:30 p.m. Dinner, Cincinnatus 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

Look for MSVC-MOAA's hole sponsorship !



"I had no idea we had this kind of technology."

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

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.

19 NOV – Lunch Meeting, 12:00/Noon, A La Cart Catering, Canfield.

11 DEC – MOAA/ROA Christmas Party, 12:00 to 4:00 PM, A La Cart Catering, Canfield.

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

