

# MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

an affiliate of

## MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

November 2021 Volume: 12 Issue 11



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rod Hosler

The Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter has passed its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we've accomplished remarkable achievements, and I know the next ten years will be just as phenomenal. Thanks to all who've made this possible.

**Veterans Day.** On Thursday, 11 November our nation again recognized Veterans Day. Once known as Armistice Day to celebrate the end of World War I, it's now Veterans Day to recognize and honor all Veterans from all of our wars, hot and cold. This is our day, so to all of our Veterans I say, "thank you for your service." Some folks say "thank you for your service," and it may just be a hollow statement; but for a great many Americans, "thank you for your service" is genuine and comes from the heart. Our service, whether we volunteered or were drafted, Regular, Reserve or National Guard in any military branches has played an integral part of the freedoms and liberties of our country. We've experienced good days and bad days, and it wasn't always easy or fun. When many shirked their responsibilities, we answered the call and went, because it was our duty. We were there. Our service and sacrifice have earned us the title of Veteran. Thank you for **your** service.



### Editorial

Today the country seems to be falling apart. Leaders at all levels both military and civilian seem to have forgotten what their primary duty is. To take care of American soldiers and citizens, and make their lives better. Everything they do should strive for that endeavor. When you put American soldiers, Veterans and citizens behind others that have not earned the privilege it is not right. One can only see what is taking place today and know it's not right and not acceptable.

Taking care of soldiers and veterans (citizens too) is what we do and have done. This should be a welcomed endeavor of our elected politicians, yet we must continually seek approval to get the bare necessities! Government law enforcement, security and intelligence agencies spying on citizens; revenue collection agency monitoring your bank transactions; vocal citizen deemed domestic terrorists; our capitol building fenced off to prevent public access; papers to be checked and individual status verified; failure to meet mandated measures result in punitive actions and persecution; and the education of our children skewed. Free speech is curbed and censorship becomes the norm. All these actions are reminiscent of totalitarian regimes of the 1930s and 1940s through 1980. We know who and what they were, and millions suffered during their reign. More often than not, our elected officials and their surrogates become rulers and we are becoming subjects. Not an acceptable outcome. As Veterans and citizens, we deserve better.

In 1776 American patriot Thomas Paine wrote a pamphlet, *The Crisis*, in which he declared, "These are the times that try men's souls; the summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."

Rod Hosler

All members of MSVC may submit an editorial for inclusion in our newsletter.

**[NOTE: The opinions expresses by the author do not represent the views of MOAA and/or MSVC.]**

## [Statement from VA Secretary Denis McDonough on the passing of former VA Administrator Max Cleland](#)



Max Cleland. ARLINGTON, VA, UNITED STATES. 09.19.2014. Photo by Staff Sgt. Sean Harp, Defense Imagery Management Operations Center.

### [Are you eligible to file for benefits based on presumptive exposure?](#)

Were you exposed to hazardous materials while serving in the military, such as from Agent Orange or burn pits? Did you serve in Vietnam, Thailand or Southwest Asia? If so, you may be eligible to file for service-connected benefits based on presumptive exposure.

### [New "Ask VA" portal allows anyone to contact VA securely](#)

Do you want to find more information on VA benefits and services? Do you have a question, concern, recommendation, or compliment for VA? Then use the new "Ask VA" portal!

### [VA extends presumptive period for Persian Gulf War Veterans](#)

VA has extended the presumptive period for qualifying chronic disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses in Persian Gulf War Veterans.



## [The Benefit Under Threat: Saving TRICARE For Life](#)

Karen Ruedisueli

Ruedisueli is MOAA's Director of Government Relations for Health Affairs. October 2021 marked the 20th anniversary of TRI-CARE For Life (TFL), one of the largest expansions of the military health care benefit and a huge win for MOAA and other military advocates who worked tirelessly to secure a robust health care benefit for Medicare-eligible military retirees.

While the 20th anniversary provides an opportunity to reflect on the TFL victory and the advocacy efforts that drove it, we are also reminded of the importance of protecting the benefit for current Medicare-eligible retirees as well as future generations of TFL enrollees, all of whom sacrificed greatly in support of our nation.

### [Virtual Retiree Appreciation Day: MOAA Legislative Update on Pay and Benefits](#)

November 22, 2021

Many of you attend the Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) on your local installation each year. RADs are hosted by bases to show appreciation to their retiree populations by offering presentations, exhibitions, and discounts at commissaries and exchanges.

Usually, MOAA conducts its "Legislative Update on Service Pay and Benefits" presentation at several dozen installations each year. With many RADs canceled in 2020 and 2021, we hope they start back in earnest in 2022 ... which is why we're hosting this virtual RAD.

*If you can't attend on the 22nd you will be able to listen to the recorded session at your leisure.*



## MOAA IN ACTION: MAJOR LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Repealing SBP-DIC offset, known as the 'Widows Tax' – saving up to \$12,000 per year for nearly 67,000 surviving spouses.\*

Executing a credible game plan for oversight of DoD's health care – protecting continued access to quality care.\*

Securing comprehensive privatized military housing reform – improving housing, establishing Tenant Bill of Rights, and Congressional oversight.\*

Lessening impact of TRICARE fee hikes (Family = \$300 vice \$900) – fighting multiple efforts to end grandfathering for those who entered service before Jan. 1, 2018.\*

Protecting TRICARE For Life (TFL) – blocked five consecutive administration budgets proposing TFL enrollment fees (2013-2017).\*

Maintaining pay raise comparability – ensuring pay raises for our uniformed services keep pace with civilian sector increases.\*

Providing Wounded Warrior protections and caregiver enhancements – securing multiple improvements to VA caregiver programs.\*

Defeating 'COLA Minus 1 Percent' – ending Congressional attempts to reduce retired pay, costing an E-7 retiring after 20 years \$83,000, and an O-5 \$124,000, by age 62.\*

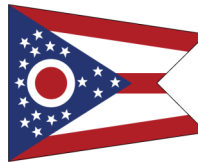
Securing major GI Bill upgrades to include transferability – and improving benefits for National Guard on Title 32 orders.\*

Boosting compensation significantly for retirees with 50% VA disability – still fighting for the rest to include those medically retired.\*

Improving Guard and Reserve TRICARE coverage – and securing a premium cut.

Ensuring Guard and Reserve retirement age credit for active duty service – now allowing 90 days to stretch over two consecutive years.

## LEGISLATIVE ISSUES



### OHIO

H. B. No. 407 Establish the Safe Shelter Initiative Program for Ohio veterans

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. **Referred to House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee 6/16/21**

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. **Back and forth between House and Senate on amendments.**



### Pennsylvania

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

Your Editor is now able to receive updates on legislation of interest to MSVC members from both state legislatures, but things do move slowly so please contact your state representatives to urge them on.

*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](mailto:msvcmoaa@gmail.com).*



## Legislative Contacts:

**MOAA Legislative Update** [moaa.org/takeaction](http://moaa.org/takeaction)  
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241 West Federal St. Youngstown, OH 44503  
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393 Russell Senate Office Bld. Washington, D.C. 20510  
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### Surviving Spouse Corner: Know Your State-Level Military Benefits

*Dr. Vivianne Wersel*

Many MOAA surviving spouses receive survivor benefits from DoD and the VA. Besides these benefits, state-level benefits are available to those who meet the criteria. State benefits are state-driven, unlike federal or VA benefits or entitlements.

Surviving spouses might not be aware of these state-level benefits because there is not a one-stop-shop website for military survivors.

Some states are more "military friendly" than others. The amount of benefits can vary from state to state; some offer as many as 60 and as few as 22 benefits to retired veterans, according to the Center for a New America Security (CNAS). The challenge is determining what benefits are passed on to the survivor after the veteran or servicemember dies. CNAS says military survivors receive less than 50% of what states offers to veterans.

To determine what state benefits are available to survivors, begin by looking at the individual state benefits for veterans using the CNAS benefit finder. Next, locate the state you are targeting and then search for the "Beneficiary" category. It is important to verify eligibility, as many of the webpages might be outdated.

Some state benefits include (but, again, vary from state to state):

Academic scholarships

Property tax exemption or reduction of property tax (For example: Military surviving spouses who receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation from the VA are eligible for up to a \$45,000 deduction in the assessed value of their home for property tax purposes.)

Survivor Benefit Plan tax exemption for state tax

Free admission to national parks

Free fishing and hunting license

Being aware of state-level benefits can also help surviving spouses determine whether they want to stay or relocate to optimize their benefits. Many independent variables need to be considered, such as cost of living and proximity to family support. Knowing the state-level benefits is a helpful tool in this decision-making process.

### **Death of MSVC-MOAA Member Major Matthew Chikosky, USA, Retired.**



MAJ Matthew Chikosky, USA, Retired, from Hermitage, passed away on 22 October 2021. Matt was a YSU ROTC graduate and commissioned in 1969 as a Military Intelligence officer. He served in Korea, Fort Huachuca, AZ, Germany and other installations. In 1984, Matt was assigned to the Joint Chiefs of Staff as a member of the Joint Planning Staff for Space, which designed and established the Joint Space Command in Colorado Springs, CO. He authored three important publications: *Spaced Based Battlefield Deception*, 1981; *Criticality of United States Space Systems*, 1986 and *Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Master Plan*, 1988. Matt retired from the Army in 1989. He is survived by his wife Karen whom he married in 1981. Throughout his life, Matt was kind and considerate to others and a generous gentleman.

### UPCOMING MSVC CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2021

19 NOV – Lunch Meeting, 11:30, A La Cart Catering, Canfield.

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

### MCVS CHRISTMAS PARTY AND FUND RAISER

Our chapter will cohost with ROA Chapter 42, our annual Christmas Party and Fund Raiser on Saturday, 11 December, 12:00 – 4:00 PM at A La Cart Catering in Canfield. As with all of our other Christmas fund raiser, we'll donate the proceeds of the gift auction to a worthy charitable activity or organization that provides assistance and relief to Veterans. Please bring a wrapped gift valued between \$20.00 and \$30.00 to be auctioned off. Come and have a good time, buy some great gifts and support a worthwhile veterans program. **Reservation for this dinner must be received not later than Monday, 6 December** at [msvcmoaa@gmail.com](mailto:msvcmoaa@gmail.com) or (330) 788-3270. State COVID requirements will be observed.



## Ohio Council of Chapters (OCC) Convention

The OCC will convene have its biennial convention 13-14 May 2022, at The Quest Convention Center, Polaris, 9200 Worthington Road, Westerville, OH (close to I-71 and Polaris Parkway in northeast Columbus). Hotel accommodations is the Fairfield Inn & Suites (Columbus - Polaris), 9000 Worthington Road, Westerville, (directly behind the Quest Convention Center) at \$109 per night. Program speakers are: Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, President/CEO MOAA; LTG Michael Ferriter, President/CEO of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum (NVMM); MG John Harris, Adjutant General of the Ohio National Guard; and CAPT Erin Stone, Director of the Councils and Chapters of MOAA. Friday evening, 13 May will be the meet and greet reception and Saturday, 14 May is the Convention program, banquet/keynote speaker. The OCC will conduct its quarterly meeting on Sunday, 15 May, 1030 – 1230 at the NVMM. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this noteworthy event. More information will be provided in the months to come. It is important that the MSVC supports this convention with our attendance.

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### This Point in History.

We mark the 2,073 anniversary of the Battle or Siege of Alesia in present day France. The battle was fought by the Roman army of Julius Caesar against a confederation of Gallic tribes united under the leadership of Vercingetorix of the Arverni. It was the last major engagement between Romans and Gauls, and is considered one of Caesar's greatest military achievements resulting in a resounding victory. Commenting on the battle, Caesar reportedly said, "they had Gaul, but we had superior mobility and firepower."



Centurion Glutealius Maximus directs the advance reconnaissance element of the Cohort I, Legion VI (Ferrata).  
(Photo by Futureous Kodakus Camerus)

## MSVC Leadership for 2022-2024

During our 15 October Annual Meeting, chapter members elected leadership to serve on the Board of Directors for 2022-2024. This leadership included many of the old principals and several new members. Our new Board members are:

COL Walter Duzzny, USA, Ret.

LTC John Marino, USA, Ret.

MAJ Stephen J. Motika, USA, Ret.

MSVC Boards members coming off their term are LTC Larry Scheetz, MAJ Mark Andrews, and CPT Dennis Gartland. On behalf of the membership, thank you for your service and contributions to the Chapter.



MG Dan Hahn presents the Five Star Award to Chapter Pres. Rod Hosler at the October chapter lunch.

Photos by Jack Russell



*"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."*

– Harry S Truman, 33rd President of the United States, and former Colonel in the U.S. Army



## 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](http://www.moaa.org/join) or call 800-234-6622

## BECOME A MOAA NATIONAL PREMIUM (ANNUAL) OR LIFE MEMBER:

The Chapter currently has 118 members: 44 Life members, 24 Premium (Annual) Members, and 50 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](http://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](http://www.moaa.org), "My Profile" Information or call 1-800-234-6622. Changes include:

- address
- email
- telephone number
- rank or military status

## Membership Minute

By David J. Di Tallo, 2nd Vice Pres/Membership Dir.

Thank you for approving the recommended changes to Article III - DUES of the chapter By-Laws at the October 15 Business Meeting, as well as the setting the 2022 at \$20 (no change from 2021).

The Officers and Board Members hope the By-Law changes will make the task of collecting dues easier, clearer, and more flexible.

As of November 4, total MSVC membership stands at 135 and MOAA membership at 116.

Also, unpaid dues for 2021 have been reduced to \$300, and some members have already paid their dues for 2022. Thank you!

If you have any questions about your chapter dues please contact Dave DiTallo at [david.ditallo@gmail.com](mailto:david.ditallo@gmail.com) 330-758-8597.

## PAYMENT OF MOAA NATIONAL AND CHAPTER DUES

MOAA National dues for Premium/Annual members are due at MOAA National headquarters each January. Likewise, Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter (MSVC) dues are also due to the MSVC Treasurer in January. To eliminate any confusion, these are **two separate billings**. MSVC Chapter dues are necessary for the operations of the chapter; funding speakers, insurance, postage, printing, scholarships, etc. All MSVC chapter members need to pay their annual chapters dues. Active or reserve duty members are exempt from paying chapter dues.



## 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: FREE as of 2022