

MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

an affiliate of

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

January 2022 Volume: 13 Issue 1



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rod Hosler

The Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter has completed another noteworthy year. Even with all of the confusion and aggravations of China COVID-19 virus and its associated variants, politics and the economy. We've survived and will continue to thrive. The past year has shown that we continue to regularly meet safely and experience worthwhile meetings, speakers that entertain and inform. The upcoming year will continue to prove our chapter is alive and, vibrant and relevant. We've accomplished much during the past year; from receiving another 5-Star LOE, 5-Star Harris Communications Awards (our newsletter and website), to our active legislative efforts and not to mention our generous donations to need Veterans charities.

The new year will prove to be another gold medal year. We've lined up many spectacular speakers and topics. Additionally, we hope to get a great turnout in support our upcoming state convention, 13-15 May. Although the country will face many challenges this year, we should all endeavor to safely get out and support our monthly meetings. Take the China COVID-19 virus in stride, and deal with the political climate of the "mid-terms" without raising our blood pressure. Active participation in MOAA and MOAA related activities will be the catalyst in which we can better ourselves and our chapter!



PRESENTATION OF MCVS / ROA CHRISTMAS FUND RAISING DONATION

Rod Hosler, President of the MSVC and Florence Hosler, MSVC Treasurer presented a cheque for \$1,050.00 on behalf of MSVC and ROA Chapter 42 to Veterans' Outreach on Monday, 20 December. Receiving this donation were Mr. Bob Julian, Vice President-Treasurer and Services Director and Ms. Teri Ely, Executive Director of Veterans Outreach. Minus overhead expenses, 82% of the donation is going to needy veterans of the area, both the Youngstown area and Mercer County, Pennsylvania. Also, on Monday the 20th, Rod and Florence presented \$300.00 in gas cards to Rick Williams, Director of the YSU Carl Nunziato Veterans Resource Center to support veteran students.



Bob Julian, Services Director, Florence Hosler MSVC
Teri Ely, Executive Director, and Rod Hosler, MSVC
Photo by Veterans' Outreach staff member



Florence Hosler, MSVC, Rick Williams, YSU
YSU Veterans Center Director, Rod Hosler,
MSVC



Joe Wallace is a 13-year veteran of the United States Air Force and a former reporter for Air Force Television News

There are a variety of rules and regulations governing the wear of military uniforms. Each branch of service has a manual that dictates the wear, use, and maintenance of that service's uniform items. There are references to allowed and disallowed wear of uniform items in the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and there are even rules for uniform wear in the United States Code.

Common Rules For Wear Of The Uniform As A Veteran OR As A Retiree

Some common rules for wear of the uniform apply to all regardless of status. You cannot wear your military uniform:

- In connection with political or commercial interests
- During off-duty civilian employment
- At public speeches, interviews, picket lines, marches, rallies, or public demonstrations, "except as authorized by competent authority"
- Any situation where wearing the uniform "would bring discredit upon the Uniformed Services"
- When "specifically prohibited" by DoD Regulations
- In criminal or civil court
- At any event deemed to be "anti-government in nature"

There are additional restrictions. You cannot wear a battle dress uniform to a formal event, for example. The uniform worn must be appropriate to the event. The wearer must have insignia, rank, medals and ribbons, etc. that were either current at the time of military discharge (retirement or separation) OR which are current now. You cannot mix and match.

Wearing The Uniform As A Military Retiree

Military retirees—those who served for 20 years or more and receive or are eligible to receive military retirement pay—are permitted to wear their uniforms in more circumstances than those who separated from military service but did not reach the qualifying number of years of duty to draw retirement pay.

For the purposes of these rules, anyone medically retired qualifies as a military retiree.

Wearing The Uniform As A Veteran

Veterans are described as military members who served but did not accumulate 20 years of service. These troops separate from military service but do not draw retirement pay.

Wearing a uniform as a veteran is technically only permitted during special occasions "typically centered around military service and family events" including military funerals, military weddings, etc. Military-themed holiday events such as the 4th of July may also be appropriate for uniform wear as long as the events don't violate other guidelines associated with political speech, employment, etc.

The same wear of the uniform rules mentioned above apply including the prohibition on mixing and matching uniform items which are current and/or those worn at the time of separation.

Grooming Standards While In Uniform As A Retiree/Veteran

Obviously those who wear the uniform after retirement or separation cannot be forced to maintain the same grooming standards including weight, haircut and color, jewelry, fingernails, accessories, etc. as active duty troops.

That said, it's considered a standard part of military customs and courtesies to apply the same grooming standards to non-active duty/retired/separated uniform wear as when the veteran or retiree served.



Advocacy in Action 2022

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

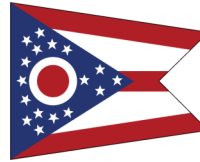
January 2022

There are many legislative take action alerts on the MOAA website at <https://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/>. The featured alerts and articles are the same ones listed as last month. The highlighted headline is entitled "Ask Your Legislators to Adjust SGLI and VGLI for Inflation With the Supporting Families of the Fallen Act". I would encourage everyone to go to the following site and take action by contacting Congress using the drafted message. Here is more information on this alert: "Service members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) coverage amounts have not been updated since 2005. This law would raise the level from \$400,000 to \$500,000 – a necessary move to preserve the value of this program in the face inflation. Ask your lawmakers to lend their support today." A few of the other issues include, "Support Health Care for Children of Disabled Veterans or Veterans Who Have Died Due to a Service-Connected Disability", "Urge Your Senators to Support Legislation Extending TRICARE Coverage to Certain 'Gray Area' Retirees", "Urge Your Senators to Support Legislation to Repeal the TRICARE Select Enrollment Fee", and "Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act". From the take action page, you have to enter your zip code and then it will take you to the draft correspondence. Enter your name, address, and POC information and follow the simple directions to send the correspondence. The entire process takes about two minutes.

There are also 25 key bills that MOAA is supporting listed on the Take Action page (link above). This is a great list if you're interested in learning more about the bills. You can click on the name of the bill and learn more about it.



LEGISLATIVE ISSUES



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. **Passed by Senate, referred to committee.**

[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. **House and Senate Conference reports agreed to: Effective 3/23/22**

Pennsylvania



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

[House Resolution 129 P.N. 2003](#) A Concurrent Resolution establishing the Task Force on Women Veterans' Health Care in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

[House Bill 688 P.N. 646](#) An Act establishing the Veterans' Housing Assistance Program; and making appropriations.

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.

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
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33 Chestnut Avenue Sharon, PA 16146
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Ralph DeLucia, CPT, USA, (Fmr)
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MSVC Leadership for 2022-2024

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.

New Board members to be sworn in at the January meeting are COL Walt Duzzny, LTC John Marino, and MAJ Steve Motika.



Florence Hosler, SSL

msvcmoaa@gmail.com

Some of our accomplishments for 2021 include:

Surviving Spouse Liaison Training. SSAC members led surviving spouse liaison trainings during virtual meetings of four Regional Leadership Workshops and one in-person workshop. The year's final workshop was held in person in San Diego, where about 125 council and chapter leaders registered and 26 participated in our training. SSAC members continue to fine-tune the training based on evaluations and comments from participants.

Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter.

The chapter now meets monthly, on the third Tuesday of each month. Every other month is a business meeting with a speaker and the other months are an informal social gathering to exchange information and ideas. Attendance varies, but usually includes 30 at the social meetings and about 60 at a more formal meeting. Former SSAC member Micki Costello is president with Gail Joyce as vice president of the virtual chapter. For more information, visit the [Surviving Spouse section of MOAA.org](http://www.msoaa.org).

Articles for MOAA Newsletters. SSAC members write monthly Surviving Spouse Corners, which are published on the first Thursday of each month in *The MOAA Newsletter*.

Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award. This year, we were able to choose two excellent recipients of the award — one representing a chapter and one representing a council. Read more about the recipients, [Donna Martin of the Greater Birmingham \(Ala.\) Chapter](#), and [Sharon Douglas of the Arizona Council of Chapters](#). Congratulations to two very deserving, hard-working surviving spouses!

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 American 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.

MSVC MEETING, Friday January 21, 2022

The new members of the Board of Directors will be sworn in at our January meeting. Guest speaker and MOAA Board member, Ted Janosko will do the honors.

Reservations must be made by end of day, Monday, January 17. Call the Hosler's at 330-788-3270 or email msvcmoaa@gmail.com. You can also make your reservation and pay for the meal at the same time on our chapter website: msvc-moaa.org on the [Next Chapter Event](#) page.

MSVC CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2022 MARK YOUR CALENDARS

All meetings are at, A La Cart Catering, Canfield, OH, unless otherwise identified.

JANUARY 21 – Luncheon Meeting, 11:30 am-1:30 pm.
COL Ted Janosko, USA (Ret) MOAA Board

FEBRUARY 18 – Luncheon Meeting, 11:30 am-1:30 pm, Personal Cyber Security.

MARCH 18 – Luncheon Meeting, 11:30 am-1:30 pm, Active Shooter Prevention.

APRIL 14 – ROTC/JROTC Recognition Dinner, 6:30 pm -7:30 pm.

MAY 13-15 – MOAA Ohio Council of Chapters Convention, Columbus.

MAY 26 – Dinner Meeting, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm, Civil War Artifacts Collecting.

JUNE 23 – Dinner Meeting at Golden Corral Hermitage, PA.

JULY 21 – Picnic/Gun Shoot at Vienna Rod and Gun Club, 4:30pm-7:00pm, Vienna, OH.

AUGUST 18 – Dinner Meeting, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm.

SEPTEMBER 15 – Dinner Meeting, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm.

OCTOBER 21 – Lunch Business Meeting, 11:30 am-1:30 pm.

NOVEMBER 18 – Lunch Meeting, 11:30 am-1:30 pm.

DECEMBER 10 – MOAA/ROA Christmas Party, 12:00 pm-4:00 pm.

OHIO COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS (OCC) CONVENTION

The OCC will convene 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 are at 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, and 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.

Military History, Events and Commemorations for January

16 Jan 1991: Desert Storm (Persian Gulf) began with massive aerial bombardment.

27 Jan 1973: Vietnam War cease fire.

31 Jan 1990: Panama Campaign ended. Strongman Manuel Noriega seized by U.S. forces.

(I have found three versions of this one)

"We're surrounded. That simplifies the problem."

"All right, they're on our left, they're on our right, they're in front of us, they're behind us...they can't get away this time"

"They are in front of us, behind us, and we are flanked on both sides by an enemy that outnumbers us 29:1. They can't get away from us now!"

- Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller, USMC

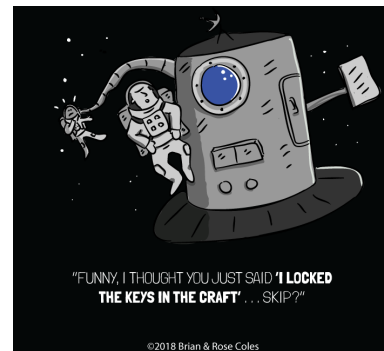
MOAA MEMBERS AMONG NEW NASA ASTRONAUT RECRUIT CLASS

by Kevin Lilley, National MOAA

Two MOAA members will be among the ten NASA recruits set to begin astronaut training this January. Maj. Marcos Berrios, USAF, and LCDR Jessica Wittner, USN, will join a military-heavy, (nine out of ten) field of NASA candidates who could be a part of planned missions to the moon and Mars in coming years. More than 12,000 people from all fifty states applied for consideration. [More information can be seen at the MOAA website.](#)



The newest astronaut recruits, pictured here at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, from left: Maj. Nichole Ayers, USAF; Christopher Williams; Maj. Luke Delaney, USMC (Ret); Lt. Cmdr. Jessica Wittner, USN; Lt. Col. Anil Menon, USAF; Maj. Marcos Berrios, USAF; Cmdr. Jack Hathaway, USN; Christina Birch; Lt. Deniz Burnham, USNR; and Andre Douglas, former Coast Guard officer and graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. (NASA photo)



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

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 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

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

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There has been some confusion over dues to MOAA and MSVC/MOAA. We are an affiliate of MOAA and thereby collect dues for the chapter, your MOAA national dues are separate from the chapter though you can pay **BOTH** on the MOAA website.

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. Thanks.

## YOUR MEDICARE PART B RATES WILL SPIKE IN 2022. HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL PAY

by Kevin Lilley, National MOAA

Medicare Part B premiums will rise by the highest level in the program's history next year, with most Part B users paying 14.5% more than they did in 2021.

The Standard Part B 2022 premium of \$170.10 is up from \$148.50 in 2021. This is the monthly amount paid by beneficiaries who had a modified gross adjustment income of \$91,000 or less on their 2020 individual tax return or \$182,000 or less on a 2020 joint return.

The increase dwarfs last year's 2.7% standard rate of hike. A Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) fact sheet offers three main reasons for the increase: Rising health care prices and utilization as patients return to provider offices for routine care while COVID-related expenses persist, a \$4-permonth increase brought about by legislative fix that lessened last year's increase during the COVID-19 pandemic, and uncertainty regarding costs and coverage of Aduhelm, a new Alzheimer's medication. More information can be seen at the MOAA website.

## 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



## MSVC/ROA Team Up for Christmas Lunch and Charity Auction

By David J. Di Tallo



Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter-Military Officers Association of America (MSVC-MOAA) and Reserve Organizations of America/Chapter 42 jointly hosted its annual Christmas Lunch and Charity Auction Saturday, December 11 at A La Cart Catering, Canfield Ohio.

With 38 members and guests in attendance, the two groups together raised \$1050 for this year's recipient, Veterans Outreach. Located at 7 Belgrade Ave, Youngstown, OH 44505, Veterans Outreach is a non-profit, charitable organization founded in 1994 to provide immediate relief for veterans with varying needs, such as housing, utilities, auto repair, clothing, and food.

Members can learn more Veterans Outreach by visiting their website, <https://veteransoutreach.com/>, by calling them directly at 888-2VETNET, or emailing them at [ohio@veteransoutreach.org](mailto:ohio@veteransoutreach.org).

Special thanks goes to Mrs. Rose Pacalo (and her daughter) for the Christmas-themed table decorations and Friend of the Chapter Andrew Gall for leading us in *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. Also, many thanks to our "staff" photographer, Mike Wisniewski, for his many photographs.



Fr. Gall leads the singing!



Rose & Nick Pacalo



Don & Bonnie Rasile



Jim & Linda Shurtleff



Anna & Robin Hanni

Our best photographer Mike !!



Mike & Barbara Wisniewski



Al Lind





Gifts galore



Dave Di Tallo at work



with sister Tricia



Mark and Pat Andrews



Dennis McMahon



Beth & Ralph Minton



Paul & Carol Stepuk



Rod Hosler, Elf-in-Chief



Jeanne & Jim Fairbanks



Genevieve Germaniuk (luckiest winner!!)



Bill & Virginia Meshot



Thanks to Tricia Di Tallo and Mike Wisniewski for all the photos.

More will be on the chapter website soon.



Marlene & Andy Gall



Barb Wisniewski & Walt Duzny