

MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rod Hosler

As we continue to move forward into this new year, there are many activities and programs available for our members. Attendance at our monthly meetings is always a first step, and our programs, I hope inform and entertain. We are always looking for fresh topics and speakers, so if you have any thoughts, please let me know.

There is a vacancy on the Chapter board of directors. We would like to fill this position with a spouse member to give us another perspective in the way we govern and run the chapter. If you are interested, please contact me or Dave DiTallo if you are interested.

[NOTE: The opinions expresses below by the author do not represent the views of MOAA.]

This is a wonderful country. I don't want to sound doom and gloom, but we are facing a critical time in our country. Political uncertainty, economic problems arising from high inflation, increasing gas and food prices, unsecured border, and a world in crisis. It seems the people we elect to make our lives better and keep the country on the right track have lost sight of their duties. We even have to "beg" our legislators to enact legislation that looks to the needs of America's soldiers and their families. Taking care of the troops and American citizens should be job one. At times we feel like second class citizens and our elected and government officials do nothing to help. We can make a difference at the ballot box. Primary election will take place in May. Don't sit home and be swallowed up by apathy. Make your voice be heard. One might ask, who is really funding the candidates, the average citizen or the wealthy elite, and who will the politician listen to. Vote the bums out and install people that will represent you, for family and your needs.

Cont. on pg. 6

March Meeting

Our 18 March luncheon meeting program topic was Active Shooter Defense and was presented by Jeff Duzzny who served on the Mahoning County Sherriff's Emergency Response Team.

Jeff's advice? RUN, HIDE, FIGHT ...in that order. Self preservation is more important than heroics, when you can safely fight back and are capable you can. Assist wounded and get them to safety when you can asses the situation.



Jeff Duzzny and
MSVC President
Rod Hosler

Photos by Mike Wisniewski



Nate Walker presented
MSVC a flag flown from his helicopter during his deployment to
Iraq.

MOAA Resources: Spouse and Family

[DoD Officially Kills Plan to Merge Commissaries, Exchanges](#)

By Karen Jowers [Military Times](#)

A top Pentagon official has quashed the idea of consolidating the military commissary and exchange systems, nearly two years after her predecessor ordered the merger to move forward.

Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks rescinded the previous memorandum and directed DoD "to cease all efforts to consolidate the Defense resale entities" in the April 4 memorandum, obtained by Military Times. The Defense Commissary Agency, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, the Navy Exchange Service Command and the Marine Corps Exchange "play a vital role in providing community services for our service members and their families," Hicks wrote. The commissary is the military benefit for discounted groceries; the exchanges are retail stores that provide tax-free and discounted items. The exchanges also operate other programs, ranging from overseas school lunches to theaters and food outlets, depending on the service branch. Exchanges put part of their profits back into morale, welfare and recreation programs on military bases.

For years, some officials within DoD have taken aim at the cost of the commissary benefit in particular, which receives about \$1 billion a year in taxpayer dollars to provide discount groceries to authorized customers in military communities around the world. In the fiscal 2023 budget proposal, DoD asks for \$1.2 billion for the operation of the 236 commissaries.

[Pregnant Military Women Face Long Wait Times, Long Drives for Needed Care](#)

by Patricia Kime and Konstantin Toropin , [Military.com](#)

Camp Lejeune, located on the North Carolina coast, is home to more than 30,000 Marines and another 30,000 families. It's hardly an out-of-the-way post. In fact, it's a major installation that is host to more than 10 units and training schools.

Yet despite its size and significance, the base's hospital is struggling to provide care to pregnant Marines and expectant family members.

"If I see a patient in clinic today and I tell her to follow up in two weeks, I'm either opening up my lunch, staying after night shift, or forgoing that two-week follow-up and seeing her in about six weeks, because my next available appointment is about six weeks out," a provider at Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune told [Military.com](#).

The U.S. military health system is in the middle of seismic changes that will send many of its civilian patients to private care. While planned reductions in uniformed medical personnel have yet to begin, the shift to private care is underway in some places --

Cont on pg. 3

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES : KEY GOALS FOR 2022

As we head into the second session of the 117th Congress, please take note of MOAA's legislative priorities highlighted below. For 2022, we are continuing the momentum established over the previous year to carry our efforts into the second session of Congress. It is important to note all co-sponsors carry over, as do our messages and continued engagements.

Continuity and consistency of effort will be paramount to success — and we are closing in on many of these issues, so stay plugged in and ready to engage your legislators. There are other issues not listed here that are also being worked by our full staff of lobbyists. Our priorities will be shaped throughout the year depending on concurrent successes or emerging issues that warrant an all-hands approach.

We appreciate your grassroots efforts, which shore up all the work we are doing in the Capitol region. You can [follow us online](#) for updates on our progress.

Here is what we are focused on for 2022 (click each link for more on the topic):

[Sustain pay raises and adequate BAH for the troops and COLA raises for retirees.](#)

[Ensure the Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service continue to receive pay during a government shutdown.](#)

[Protect the value of the military health care benefit.](#)

[Protect the Military Health System pharmacy benefit, and achieve flexibility in TRICARE pharmacy co-pays.](#)

[Address barriers to accessing care within the MHS, including TRICARE coverage gaps and mental health care access challenges.](#)

[Protect family support programs, and ensure military-provided services \(housing, PCS, child care, youth programs, financial counseling\) are readily available and meet standards for quality and costs.](#)

[Achieve equity of benefits, protections, and administrative support for Guard/Reserve members consistent with their active-duty counterparts.](#)

[Sustain Veterans Health Administration \(VHA\) foundational missions and services.](#)

Reform the presumptive process to support veterans claiming service-connected disabilities for toxic exposures.

Achieve concurrent receipt of service-earned retirement pay and VA disability pay.

Protect full military honors and burial at Arlington National Cemetery for those currently eligible.

Improve survivors' benefits.

Support a quality transition experience from active duty to veteran status for all service-members.

Recognize the pandemic continues to affect the lives of our servicemembers.



Military Healthcare:

often leaving patients waiting months for appointments, including expectant mothers who require consistent care to avoid potentially life-threatening complications.

It's not just happening at Lejeune: Military family members and lawmakers have reported appointment access problems in the Pacific Northwest, California and Japan.

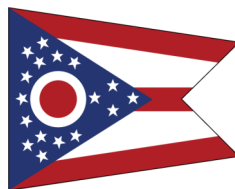
In these affected areas, the civilian network of doctors who are supposed to help support military patients doesn't really exist.

Link on the article title for more.

OHIO COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS (OCC) CONVENTION

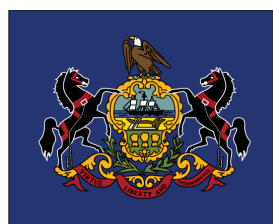
The OCC convention scheduled for 13-15 May in Columbus has been cancelled for an assortment of reasons.

STATE LEGISLATIVE NEWS



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, now in House Committee.**



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. A Concurrent Resolution establishing the Task Force on Women Veterans' Health Care within the Joint State Government Commission. **Reported as amended 01/24/2022**

House Bill 688 P.N. 646 An Act establishing the Veterans' Housing Assistance Program; and making appropriations. Referred to VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, Feb. 26, 2021

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 <https://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
Phone: (202) 224-4254 www.toomey.senate.gov

Representative Mike Kelly (R) District 16

33 Chestnut Avenue Sharon, PA 16146

Phone: (724) 342-7170 www.kelly.house.gov



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Not much going on but here are some links for Ohio and Pennsylvania tax information that might be helpful now or in the future.

[Ohio State Report Card](#)

[Pennsylvania State Report Card](#)

Make sure you are claiming all the exemptions and benefits you are due under your state laws. Both states are veteran and surviving spouse friendly.

JROTC Competition Results

East High School Army JROTC

1st place Overall School
 1st Place LET 1 Unarmed Drill Team
 1st Place Varsity Unarmed Drill Team
 2nd Place LET 1 Color Guard
 4th Place Varsity Color Guard
 2nd Place Raider Team
 2 Place Academic Team
 Knock out Competition 1st Place-Aysha Otero, 2nd Place-Ilenys Marciano, 3rd Place-Braylun Anderson
 All three Cadets from East High School!



Well done East High School JROTC Cadets

MSVC CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2022 MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Thursday, 14 April -- Dinner Meeting
 Venue: A La Cart Catering, Canfield
 Program: ROTC/JROTC Recognition Dinner

Thursday, 26 May -- Dinner Meeting
 Venue: A La Cart Catering, Canfield
 Program: Civil War Artifacts
 Speaker: Stephen Motika, Al Lind

Thursday, 23 June -- Dinner Meeting
 Venue: Golden Corral
 Program: Social
 Speaker: TBD - Larry Sheetz arranging

Thursday, 21 July - Picnic
 Venue: Vienna Fish and Game Club
 Program: Military Gun Shoot and Picnic
 ** Have confirmed food being provided by Mission BBQ - Boardman

Thursday, 18 August -- Dinner Meeting
 Venue: A La Cart Catering, Canfield
 Program: Military Spouse Recognition
 Speaker: 910th AW MilSpouse Group *Confirmed

Thursday, 15 September -- Dinner Meeting
 Venue: A La Cart Catering, Canfield
 Program: TBD
 Speaker: TBD
 On Agenda: Nomination of Officers

Friday, 21 October -- Lunch Meeting
 Venue: A La Cart Catering, Canfield
 Program: Business Meeting
 Speaker: (No speaker)

Friday, 18 November -- Lunch Meeting
 Venue: A La Cart Catering, Canfield
 Program: TBD
 Speaker: TBD

Saturday, 10 December -- Christmas Party and Fundraiser
 Venue: A La Cart Catering, Canfield

If you have any ideas for a program contact Bruce Bille at: bille.usna.82@gmail.com

Presidents message:

Even here in Ohio, there are legislators that have accrued millions toward their election or reelection campaigns. Money that exceeds what most Ohioans earn to donate. Where is this money coming from and who is obligated to who? You see it every day and you know who they are, but corrupt career politicians still seem to get elected and reelected. Now is the time to end this cycle of corruption. Become a smart voter. Learn the issues and above all learn about the candidates and their political careers. Democracy and our republican system can only survive by you, the electorate.



AUSA Meetings and Events

Professional Development for the Professional Soldier

AUSA has several series of on-line briefings, found at this link: AUSA.org.

Hot Topics, Coffee Series and Noon Report Series as well as Past Events.

US MUST PREPARE FOR IRREGULAR WARFARE THREATS (YOUTUBE)

UKRAINE FIGHT HOLDS LESSONS FOR US AR- MY (ARTICLE)

Underlined articles are links

The advertisement for MOAA Insurance Plans. It features the MOAA logo at the top left. The main text reads 'Standing with you at every stage.' in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below this, in a smaller font, is '97017'. At the bottom, in a white box, is the contact information: '1-800-247-2192 • www.moaainsurance.com/plans'.

Thanks to Mercer for their support of
MOAA chapters.

Military History, Events and Commemorations for April

6 APR 1917: U.S. entry into World War I, the war to end all wars.

9 APR 1942: U.S. forces on Bataan in the Philippines surrender, and begin the infamous Bataan Death March into captivity.

18 APR 1942: Sixteen Army B-25 Bombers led by Lieutenant Colonel Jimmy Doolittle conduct the first offensive operation against the Japanese are launched from the carrier Hornet against targets in Japan. Fifteen bombers crash in China with two crews captures and three airmen executed, one bomber lands in Siberia, Russia and its crew interned.



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.

### Senior Moment

When you are dissatisfied  
and would like to go back  
to youth, think of  
Algebra.

*Will Rogers*

### 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 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - 2021

**\$20 for members and  
spouse membership, \$10 for Sur-  
viving Spouses.**

**MSVC-MOAA  
PO Box 5342  
Poland, OH 44514**

When can your  
hot chocolate  
predict the weather?



When it's  
muggy out!

noaa.gov/education