

MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rod Hosler

How can we as Americans make a difference in our country today? That's a tough question that deserves an answer, but the answer is a moving target. (Excuse the analogy.) As hard-working military, veterans, and citizens of what use to be the greatest country in the world, we seem to be nothing more than a coin purse for Congress and the government. Problems and critical issues have not been addressed and not solved. Congress and the government are letting us down.

Things may be a little better on the military and defense side, but there are problems and issues looming there as well. Top Generals reported the Army ended the fiscal year short almost 20,000 Soldiers. That equates to almost a light combat division. To make matters worse, a recent study citing recruiting woes, will cause the Army to shed up to 28,000 troops next year.

A recent survey finds Military families and veterans are less likely to recommend young people to join up. Why? Perhaps young Americans don't want to join an organization that is systemically racist and serves a county that is the cause of all the world's woes. Or at least that what the left continues to promulgate. Another new study finds even more young Americans are unfit to serve in the military. Much can be laid on the shoulders of our schools, communities and even the family.

Military family housing and soldier barracks are increasingly unfit to reside in as indicated by recent revelation at Fort Stewart, GA.

Congressionally mandated reduction of military healthcare personnel and shifting of military healthcare functions and facilities will move more than 155,000 Military Health System Patients to civilian care starting this year.

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15 SEPTEMBER DINNER MEETING ROLLUP.

The Chapter's 18 September Dinner Meeting featured two YSU Army ROTC cadets the talked about their training at ROTC Advanced Camp, Fort Knox, KY this summer. Cadets Brandon Greathouse and Scotland Shaffer described the challenges they experienced at Fort Knox. YSU Army ROTC Cadre MAJ Jim Woodard and MAJ (Retired) Kevin Bukowski accompanied the cadets. We also welcomed a new chapter member Former Navy Lieutenant Richard Ocker of Youngstown. The attendance was 26 including guests.



YSU ROTC Cadets Greathouse and Shaffer

MSVC coin presentation by chapter Pres. Rod Hosler to Cadets Shaffer, Greathouse and MAJ Woodard.



Photos by Bruce Bille

MOAA Resources: Spouse and Family

DoD Considering Full-Day Universal Pre-K for 4-Year-Old Military Kids

This article by Karen Jowers originally appeared on [Military Times](#), the nation's largest independent newsroom dedicated to covering the military and veteran community.

Full-day universal pre-kindergarten for 4-year-olds is being considered by Department of Defense officials, one of several efforts under way that would open learning opportunities for more military children through the [Department of Defense Education Activity](#).

Other efforts include an ongoing pilot program that allows some military children living outside the installation to apply to attend on-base [DoD schools](#) in the continental U.S.; and a pilot program that allows military children in rural areas to apply for the DoDEA Virtual High School.

AUSA Meetings and Events

Professional Development for the Professional Soldier

AUSA has several series of on-line briefings, found at this link: [AUSA.org](#) .
You must register for webinars.

At the moment there are no new on-line events.

Underlined articles are links



Strengthen the MOAA Community

By: Pat Green

While waiting in my little cabin in the remote Georgia mountains for a handyman, I decided to do an online search for a nearby MOAA chapter. I found one only 30 miles away, so I emailed my phone number to the chapter president and awaited a response.

The next day, he called and invited me to their chapter meetings, the state convention, and their Christmas dance. I responded with an invitation to my Florida chapter. We had such a lovely warm chat. It was almost like speaking to a member of my family.

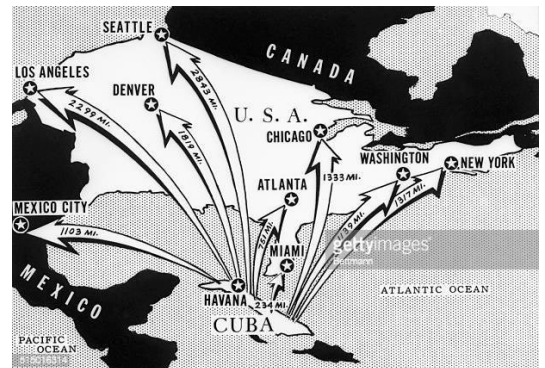
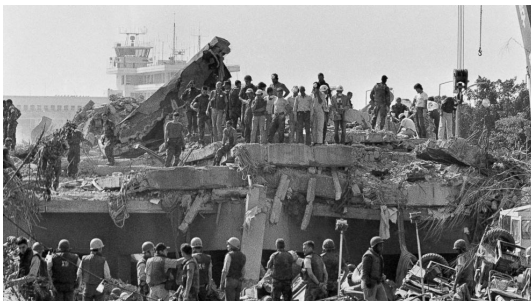
I like to think of MOAA as a community, where joys, ambitions, sorrows, loyalties, and good works are shared. Connections of past service, local activities, charitable work, and legislative initiatives cement the bonds of friendship.

To strengthen our community, reach out. If you hang your hat at a second home, vacation someplace regularly, or spend more than a week with grown children or old friends in other locales, check to see if a MOAA chapter is nearby. By attending a meeting, you might gain new insights, learn their methods and successes, form bonds, and maybe reconnect with old friends. Observe the surviving spouses functioning in that chapter. Pick up pointers, and share your chapter's successes.

[Find a MOAA Chapter Near You](#)

Military History, Events and Commemorations for October

- 07 OCT 2001: Start of Operation Enduring Freedom.
- 09 OCT: Columbus Day – Discovery of America, 1492.
- 13 OCT 1775: Birthday of the U.S. Navy.
- 14 OCT 1962: Cuban Missile Crisis begins.
- 23 OCT 1983: Beirut Marine Barracks Bombing.
- 25 OCT 1983: U.S. Invasion of Grenada.



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS – Rod Hosler

Congress continues to do what Congress continues to do. Practically nothing. Have they made the lives of the average American citizen better? I don't think so. One can only look around and see what is happening and know who is to blame. Everyone has an excuse and continue to pass the buck. Responsibility is not in the vocabulary of people in government. Yet again, lawmakers miss the budget deadline. Why? With all the so called best and brightest in Congress, no one is smart enough to tackle the budget. This squarely falls on the shoulder of the Speaker of the House. But to add insult to injury, a 1.5 trillion dollars omnibus bill, over 2,500 pages, was reviewed by a congressional budget committee for only one hour, 1:30 am – 2:30 and without bipartisan review to be voted on 11 October. What's in it, what goes for defense, what goes to pork barrel spending and other wasteful spending? During a time of skyrocketing inflation, we continue to add to the debt and the debt drives inflation. We just can't seem to get ahead.

There is at least one organization that is trying to ensure legislation to improve Americas military is a viable force. MOAA continues to monitor the legislative actions before Congress. The MOAA's legislative priorities and issues can be found at the legislative take action alerts on the MOAA website at <https://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/>. To learn more about the PACT Act, go to the MOAA web site. Please take a few moments to visit the MOAA web site and the link to ADVOCACY section, scroll down to the Legislative Action Center. This link identifies all of the legislative issues and bills that MOAA supports which require our active involvement "to take action." The needs of our military should always be the first priority of Congress. Contact your Senators and Representatives. Remember that there are also many state legislative issues that require your support as well.

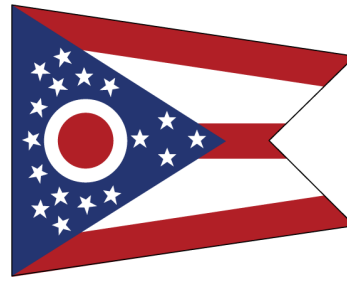
MOAA's motto: "Never Stop Serving," is a practice we all can subscribe to.

DINNER MEETING, FRIDAY, 21 OCTOBER.

The Chapter's October Dinner/Business Meeting is set for Thursday, 21 October, 12:00 –2:00 PM at A La Cart in Canfield. The program will be the Chapter's annual business meeting and election of Chapter leadership. Reservations for this dinner meeting must be received not later than Monday, 17 October. Please RSVP to msvcmoaa@gmail.com or call (330) 788-3270.



STATE LEGISLATIVE NEWS



OHIO

[Ohio Legislature](#)



Pennsylvania

[DOCUMENTS REPORTED OUT BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS](#)

These links take you to current OH & PA bills of military and veteran interest.

MSVC Networking Board

Too many times, business opportunities walk right past us because we are unaware of the needs or solutions within an arm's reach of us. MSVC is starting an opportunities or networking display board so that MSVC members with businesses or talents to share can provide that information to other members of the Chapter.

Cardstock forms will be available attach your business card to and provide a description of your business or services, to be placed on the Business Networking Board

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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President's msg. cont.

And at a time of military uncertainty and fiscal troubles, the DoD will spend over 62 million dollars in renaming military installations and facilities in the south. There are more important issues facing America, should its defense and its military that to be caught up in the wokeness of today? Where is the military and civilian leadership to stop this madness?

Get out and vote on 8 November, and let your voice be heard. Change begins with you.

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

"It is important that people know that you stand for, and what you won't."

New Member Profile – Richard Ocker

By David J. Di Tallo

MSVC-MOAA has another new member with the addition of former U.S. Naval Reserve Lieutenant Richard Ocker of Boardman, who we welcomed at our chapter's September 15 Dinner Meeting.

Richard is a 1962 graduate of Thiel College and was commissioned into the Naval Reserve via Officer Candidates School, Newport, R.I. His first assignment was Gunnery Officer and Special Weapons Officer, USS CHE-BOYGAN COUNTY (LST-533).

In the fall of 1964, now LTJG Ocker completed U.S. Navy Deep Sea Diving School, was designated a Salvage Diving Officer and 2nd Class Diver, and held several assignments in the diving/salvage community.

In November 1965, Richard married Sally Griffith and one year later separated from active duty. He returned to Youngstown, Ohio to join a supervisory training program at Youngstown Sheet & Tube and was later assigned to Blooming Mill.

Richard served the remainder of his service obligation at Navy Reserve Training Center Youngstown and was promoted to Lieutenant. During this time he and Sally became parents with the birth of their son (1967) and daughter (1969).

With the closure of Youngstown Sheet and Tube's Campbell Works in 1977, Richard moved on to American Welding & Manufacturing Company, and later, with its closure in 1993, continued work as a draftsman until finally retiring in 2007.

In retirement Richard continues to be an avid motor sports fan, and he and Sally have enjoyed numerous cruises, including two Atlantic Ocean crossings.

Please be sure to welcome Richard and thank him for joining our chapter.

MSVC CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2022 MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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

NOVEMBER 06 - Vietnam Veteran's Laying of the Roses, Downtown Youngstown, 1:00 PM.

NOVEMBER 11 - Veterans Day, Mahoning County Courthouse, Youngstown, 11:00 AM.

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

Saturday, 10 December -- Christmas Party and Fund-raiser

Venue: A La Cart Catering, Canfield
The recipient(s) of the fundraiser have not been determined as of this date.

There will be a change of format this year, we will no longer have a mystery auction but instead a Chance Auction. You will be able to purchase tickets by the yard and place them in a bag in front of the **un-wrapped** item you wish to win, the more tickets in a bag increase your chances!

Be prepared to bring an item or items of at least \$20-25 value, this may be accumulated value if you have a number of small items.

The tickets will sell at \$20 a yard and you can certainly purchase as many as you wish!!

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



New member Richard Ocker with chapter

Pres. Rod Hosler

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

June Membership Corner

By David J Di Tallo

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.

Please contact me at msvcmoaa@gmail.com or call me at home at (330) 758-8597 if you have any questions regarding your membership status. The best recruiting tool we have is word of mouth. Please make use of our "**Bring a Friend**" program - invite a current, former, or retired Commissioned or Warrant Officer and/or their current or surviving spouse, and the chapter will cover the cost of their meal(s).

We also have our "**Be Our Guest**" cards, which you can hand someone you may or may know personally. If they qualify for chapter membership, they can attend a lunch or dinner meeting at no cost. Please contact me if you need any "Be Our Guest" cards.

Senior Moment

"Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe."

— **Albert Einstein**

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL for MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER MOAA

Name: _____ Spouse

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

MSVC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - 2023

\$20 for members and spouse membership.

**MSVC-MOAA
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Poland, OH 44514**