

MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

an affiliate of

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rod Hosler

The Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter is starting off the year with a bang and has many great programs lined up for our monthly meetings. I hope more members will attend these sessions. A great deal of behind the scenes work goes into each Lunch/Dinner meeting and it is gratifying when our members enjoy them. Our Chapter will be co-hosting the Ohio Council of Chapter Convention to be held at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station 29 and 30 September. We expect a great turnout from our members to support this state convention, so please mark your calendars now.

MOAA's legislative priorities for the 118th Congress continue to address the challenges facing our uniformed community. The MOAA advocacy team remains active on these and other legislative issues; MOAA's priorities are: Compensation and Service-Earned Benefits, Military Housing, Health Care for Currently Serving and Military Retirees, Health Care and Benefits for Veterans, Service Families, Survivor Benefits, and the Guard and Reserve. Successes for these legislative issues depends on an all-hands approach by every MOAA members. *MOAA's legislative priorities and other issues can be found at the "legislative take action alerts" on the MOAA website at <https://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/>*

Despite wide bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, the clock ran out on the 117th Congress before it passed much-needed reforms to benefit 50,000 combat-injured veterans. MOAA and The Military Coalition (TMC), a group of 35 organizations (including MOAA) representing nearly 5.5 million servicemembers, veterans, their families, and survivors, are working to ensure that doesn't happen again.

TAKE ACTION: [Urge Your Legislators to Support Concurrent Receipt](#)

FEBRUARY MEETING RECAP

The Chapter met on Friday, 20 January at A La Cart Catering in Canfield. The meal was wonderful, the camaraderie great, and the program outstanding. MSVC member, Dave Long who has worked for Homeland Security presented a program on Elder Scams and Prevention, That focused on phone and e-mail scams and provided an informative handout. It's easy to be scammed and Dave identified the signs and methods of prevention. In particular, NEVER send or post a compromising photo of yourself online. They NEVER go away. But there are some people who never learn! There were 34 in attendance.

Very timely articles from MOAA

[A Military Family's Guide to Not Oversharing on Social Media](#)

Social media plays a huge role in military life. It helps us share experiences and stay connected to our friends, family and each other—whether we live across the country or the world. However, it's important to be aware that what we share on social media can make us vulnerable to scams and attacks.

[Scam Roundup: Busy Season for Fraud Targeting Servicemembers, Veterans, and More](#)

While the holiday season brought a traditional uptick in various types of scams, recent media reports show no signs of a slowdown in the new year. No matter what your financial situation, your spending habits, or your tech-savviness, it's likely you'll find yourself a target.



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MSVC-ROA Christmas Fundraiser Presentation



The MSVC/ROA donated \$500, the proceeds of the annual MOAA/ROA Christmas Fundraiser, to The Youngstown Blue Coats, a charity organization that provides coats, blankets and sleeping bags to needy and homeless veterans. President Rod Hosler, representing both MOAA and ROA, presented the check to Ms. Patty Summers, Founder and CEO, on Monday, 20 January at their Hubbard, Ohio facility. Thank you, Youngstown Blue Coats, for your stellar service to Veterans and to MOAA/ROA members for your generous donation.



Florence Hosler, SSL

msvcmoaa@gmail.com

Resources for Caregivers

When you learn your loved one is debilitated/terminal, your life has changed forever. It can affect you physically, emotionally, socially, and financially. Life as you knew it will *never be the same*.

The seven stages of a terminal illness are shock, denial, anger, bargaining, depression, testing, and finally acceptance, but they don't proceed in a linear fashion. Buckle up. It will be a bumpy ride.

A caretaker's job is challenging. The days are long, and the nights can be longer. Your life is filled with endless doctor appointments, tests, and emergency room visits. You still have bills to pay, food to prepare, sheets to change, medicines to give.

It's important to still give your loved one hope, and you must take care of yourself. Don't draw away from family and friends. *Accept help. It is very important you find time for yourself to recharge your batteries, as you are no use to your loved one if you become unable to provide the care required.*

The Elizabeth Dole Foundation's [Hidden Heroes initiative](#), which has partnered with MOAA to create the [Caregiver Guide](#), offers many community resources for military caregivers. Use home health care services, senior citizens centers, your church, your clubs, and friends. Hospitals also are good at helping you find resources for nurses, palliative care, and hospice depending on your insurance.

At the end of your journey, you will be so happy you had the time and could care for your loved one.

By Barbara Smith, Surviving Spouse Advisory Council member

MOAA OHIO COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS CONVENTION

The OCC will convene its biennial convention **29-30 September 2023** at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station. Tentative program speakers are: the new MOAA President and CEO, Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret.); former CEO of USAA, Gen. Lester Lyles, USAF (Ret.) and CAPT Erin Stone, Director of the Councils and Chapters of MOAA and others. **OCC has reached out to Congressman Bill Johnson to attend the convention and talk about congressional actions affecting Ohio, the military and veterans.** Friday evening, 29 September will be the meet and greet reception and Saturday, 30 September is the Convention program, banquet/keynote speaker. The OCC will conduct its quarterly meeting on Sunday, 01 October, 10.00 – 12.00. **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.

CONVENTION COUNTDOWN : 235 DAYS

MOAA-Supported Legislation

MOAA's experts in Washington are constantly reviewing and assessing any and all legislation that may impact the earned pay, benefits, and support programs of the uniformed services and veteran communities. The organization's endorsement process is deliberative; MOAA will not support or oppose any legislation without a thorough review of its potential effects, positive or negative.

Active Legislative Campaigns

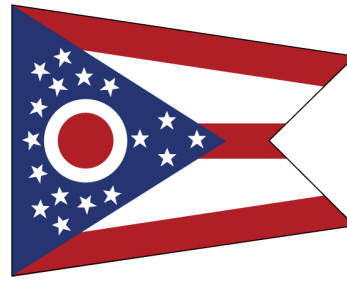
MOAA's Priorities:

Compensation and Service-Earned Benefits
Military Housing
Health Care for Currently Serving and Retirees
Health Care and Benefits for Veterans
Service Families
Survivors
Guard and Reserve

Please take a few moments to visit the MOAA web site and link to ADVOCACY section scroll down to 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. It is unfortunate that our federal legislators fail to step up and meet the needs of American's military without constants reminders and prodding to do the right thing; and people wonder why Congress has a low popularity rating. Remember to contact your Congressional representatives (Senate and House) to express your concerns. Please 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.

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.



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at every stage.**

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AMBA

ASSOCIATION MEMBER BENEFITS ADVISORS

WWW (Walters Wonderful Words of Wisdom)

Things you need to know

- *One of the largest sales forces in the US, MOAA membership, over 350,000, and all are recruiters
 - *TriCare guide in the November newsletter, a clear focus!
 - *MOAA tracking, posting where our military forces are serving
 - *Keeping our legislators focused..... on common sense practical issues affecting our military
 - *Monitoring fiscal adjustments, and their impact on our military and retirees
- And that's what YOU do!!!!!!
As a side bar.....and icebreaker.....
the Pentagon, has 284 restrooms

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Rod Hosler

MOAA's legislative priorities for the 118th Congress continue to address the challenges facing our uniformed community. The MOAA advocacy team remains active on these and other legislative issues; MOAA's priorities are: Compensation and Service-Earned Benefits, Military Housing, Health Care for Currently Serving and Military Retirees, Health Care and Benefits for Veterans, Service Families, Survivor Benefits, and the Guard and Reserve. Successes for these legislative issues depends on an all-hands approach by every MOAA members. *MOAA's legislative priorities and other issues can be found at the "legislative take action alerts" on the MOAA website at <https://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/>*

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MILITARY HISTORY, EVENTS AND COMMEMORATIONS FOR FEBRUARY

3 Feb 1943: U.S. Army transport ship *Dorchester* was torpedoed and sunk by a German U-boat. Four U.S. Army Chaplains on board removed their life jackets, handed them to frightened young soldiers, and chose to go down with the ship while praying.

9 Feb 1943: U.S. Army and Marine troops captured Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands after six months of battle, 2,000 Americans and 9,000 Japanese are killed.

12 Feb 1809: Abraham Lincoln. Black Hawk War militia captain and president's birthday.

15 Feb 1898: Sinking of the *USS Maine, Havana Cuba setting the stage for the Spanish-American War.*

22 Feb 1732: George Washington, Revolutionary War general and president's birthday.

23 Feb 1945: American flag raised on Iwo Jima, 30 days of fighting continue.

Legislative Contacts:

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

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PENNSYLVANIA

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Senator John Fetterman (D) U.S. Senate
B40B Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-4254 www.fetterman.senate.gov

Representative Mike Kelly (R) U.S. Congressional PA District 16
33 Chestnut Avenue Sharon, PA 16146
Phone: (724) 342-7170 www.kelly.house.gov



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 129 members: 35 Life members, 27 Premium (Annual) Members, and 48 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

January Membership Corner

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

Our chapter said farewell to a long-time member this year, but we welcomed two new ones!

Retired Navy Captain **James Swager** has moved to Hudson, Ohio. We are sad to see him go, but we wish him all the best.

We are pleased to welcome **Mrs. Astrid Wisniewski** as our newest Spouse Member. She is married to currently serving Regular Member Steven Wisniewski, and the couple are stationed in Germany.

Also joining the chapter this month is former U.S. Army and current Ohio National Guard **Major Alec Roman**. Alec attended our January 20 Lunch Meeting as a guest of the chapter with Jim Fairbanks. Thank you, Jim, for inviting him!

Our chapter continues to make progress on membership renewals. **The deadline to renew your chapter membership is April 1 and dues remain at \$20.** If you are soaking up the sun somewhere or hibernating until spring, please pay your dues online at our secure chapter website or mail us a check. Please let us know your intentions, even if it do wish to renew.

Please continue to make use of our "Bring a Friend" and "Be Our Guest" programs.

If you have any questions regarding your membership status or know of a potential member, please email me at msvcmoaa@gmail.com or call me at (703) 859-3523.

MSVC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - 2023

\$20 for members and spouse membership.

Pay online: <http://msvc-moaa.org/membership>

Or by mail:

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

"Do not touch anything unnecessarily. Beware of pretty girls in dance halls and parks who may be spies, as well as bicycles, revolvers, uniforms, arms, dead horses, and men lying on roads -- they are not there accidentally."

Soviet infantry manual, issued in the 1930's



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.

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MSVC CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2023 MARK YOUR CALENDARS

[Note: Unless otherwise noted, all chapter meetings are held at A La Cart Catering, Canfield.]

[Dinner Meetings - 5:30 PM gathering, 6:00 PM dinner served.]

[Lunch Meetings - 11:30 AM gathering, 12:00/Noon lunch served.]

FEBRUARY 17 – Luncheon Meeting, Program: Veteran Suicide Prevention

MARCH 17 – Luncheon Meeting, Program: TBD

APRIL 20 – ROTC/JROTC/Commissionee's Recognition Dinner.

MAY 18 – Dinner Meeting, Program: Motika/Lind Presentation, Indian Wars Military Artifacts.

JUNE 15 – Dinner Meeting at Golden Corral Hermitage, PA, Program: TBD.

JULY 20 – Picnic and Gun Shoot at Fish and Game Club of Vienna, OH, 4:00 PM.

AUGUST 17 – Dinner Meeting, Program, TBD (Nomination of Officers).

SEPTEMBER 29 & 30 – Ohio MOAA Convention, Youngstown Air Reserve Base

OCTOBER 20 – Lunch Meeting (Annual Business Meeting)

NOVEMBER 17 – Lunch Meeting, Program: TBA.

DECEMBER 09 – MOAA/ROA Christmas Party and Fund Raiser, 3:30 PM gathering, 4:00 Dinner.

FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY MOAA LUNCH MEETING

The Chapter will conduct its monthly lunch meeting on Friday, 17 February at 12:00/Noon at A La Cart Catering in Canfield. The program is Veteran Suicide Prevention. The speaker is Mr. Lee Wagner who has a long career in suicide prevention and counseling. Reservation for the dinner must be received not later than **Tuesday 14 February** at msvcmoaa@gmail.com or (330) 788-3270. [Please NOTE: If you make a reservation and do not attend, we request you remit the cost of the meal as the Chapter must pay for the reserved meal count. Thank you for your understanding.] Hope to see you all there to support our chapter.

