

MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

an affiliate of

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

August 2023 Volume: 14 Issue 7



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rod Hosler

The MOAA Ohio Council of Chapters

(OCC) Convention. The MSVC is cohosting the OCC Convention along with the Ohio Western Reserve and Cleveland Chapters; and our chapter leadership is expending a great deal of effort to make this a success. The OCC Convention will take place 29-30 September 2023 at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station in the Community Activity Center (CAC). Program speakers coming from the Washington, DC area are the MOAA President and CEO, Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret.); Gen. Lester Lyles, USAF (Ret.) the former CEO of USAA, and CAPT Erin Stone, Director of the Councils and Chapters of MOAA. Additionally, 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 and banquet. The OCC will also conduct its quarterly meeting on Sunday, 01 October, 10:00 – 12:00 and all are invited to attend.

The convention programs will touch on MOAA's legislative efforts, membership opportunities, and a myriad of other topics and issues. Cost is \$59.00 for five meals, and those that desire, may stay at the Eagles Nest Lodge on base can do so for \$89.00 per night. **Reservations for the Eagles Nest Lodge can be made by calling: (330) 609-1120 or (330) 609-1411.**

Over \$5,000.00 worth of great items will be auctioned off with proceeds going to the National Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus. A separate drawing will take place to reimbursement one lucky member the lodging cost in the Eagles Nest.

Reservations and meal costs for the convention **MUST be received NLT 30 AUGUST** and registration forms is located at the MSVC web site www.msvc-moaa.org or mail in the enclosed form.

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20 JULY PICNIC MEETING ROLLUP

The Chapter conducted its annual picnic and gun shoot meeting on Thursday, 20 July at The Vienna Fish and Game Club. The picnic was catered by Mission BBQ. Everyone had a blast. Not everyone took the opportunity to shoot but all had a great time, eleven members were in attendance. Such a good time we forgot to take any photos!!

MSVC STEAK AND CORN ROAST DINNER MEETING FOR THURSDAY, 17 AUGUST

The Chapter will conduct its monthly meeting and annual Steak Fry and Corn Roast Dinner on Thursday, 17 August at 5:30 PM with dinner at 6:00 PM at A La Cart in Canfield. The program speaker is Denise Brownlee of DOVE; an outreach organization and program that arranges kidney donations for veterans. This will be an extremely informative presentation. One of their missions is to "encouraging people to give, so Vets can live." Denise is a proud kidney donor who saved the life of a veteran. Reservations must be received by Monday, 14 August Call: 330-788-3270 or Email: msvcmoaa@gmail.org.

Since this is a special steak dinner, those members that make reservations and do not come will be asked to reimburse the chapter for those meals as the chapter will have committed for so many meals. I hope you all understand, and I hope to see you all there.

NOMINATION FOR MSVC LEADERSHIP AND BOARD FOR 2024-2026 YOUR CHAPTER, NEEDS YOU.

It's that time again, when the chapter is seeking new leadership for the Board of Directors. As officers we have all stepped up to lead and be in charge. You have the talents that we need. All positions are available to be filled: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasurer and six Board of Directors. The positions are not hard because it's a team effort. It's time you step forward. Nominations in August and Elections in October. Contact Rod Hosler or any current Board member of your interest and intent. MOAA's motto is Never Stop Serving

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Legislative Contacts:

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

President Joseph R. Biden Jr. (D) The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Washington DC 20500
Switchboard: 202-456-1414 www.whitehouse.gov

OHIO

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Phone: (202) 224-2315 www.brown.senate.gov

Senator James D. (J.D.) Vance (R) U.S. Senate
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Cleveland, OH 44199

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Phone (330) 337-6951 www.billjohnson.house.gov
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Representative David P. Joyce (R)
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or 8500 Station Street
Mentor, OH 44060 (440) 352-3939

PENNSYLVANIA

Senator Robert Casey Jr. (D) U.S. Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Bld. Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-6324 www.casey.senate.gov

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

Representative Mike Kelly (R)
U.S. Congressional PA District 16
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Washington, DC
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Phone: (724) 342-7170 www.kelly.house.gov

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

MOAA's Legislative Priorities for the 118th Congress

As the legislative slate is wiped clean for the 118th Congress, grassroots support becomes even more vital to achieving MOAA's advocacy objectives.

MOAA needs your help to keep momentum for existing priorities such as the Major Richard Star Act, which would benefit tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans and had the support of two-thirds of Congress at the end of last session. We also need your work on behalf of new objectives and emergent issues, often via immediate action to keep up with the stop-and-go pace of legislation. To keep connected, ensure you are signed up for *The MOAA Newsletter* and [register as an advocate](#) at our Legislative Action Center.

Here is a look at MOAA's priorities, in support of the 50th anniversary of our all-volunteer force and to address the challenges facing our uniformed community. Note: Our advocacy team remains active on many other issues not listed here; our priorities will be shaped throughout the year depending on concurrent successes or emerging issues that warrant an all-hands approach. Additionally, we share many interests with The Military Coalition and other stakeholder groups, and leverage those relationships to expand our reach on Capitol Hill.

Compensation and Service-Earned Benefits

Problems: The ongoing recruiting crisis and unit level personnel shortages create a "do more with less" [Personnel "Perfect Storm"](#) for the force and further erode the quality of life for servicemembers and their families. DoD is in a war for talent and is struggling to recruit the force we need to defend our country.

Military Housing

Problems: The Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) is designed to cover 95% of housing costs, a steady drop from 100% that took place between 2015 and 2019. This left [military families to cover](#) anywhere from \$100 to \$184 out of pocket each month. With rising housing costs – both for rental properties and home sales – an estimated 75% of military families are paying over [\\$200 out of pocket each month](#), according to a Blue Star Families survey. BAH should be restored to 100%, the BAH calculation methods should be revised to keep pace with rapid changes in the market, and the housing profiles used in the calculation should be reviewed to reflect current military demographics.

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Legislative issues:

Health Care for Currently Serving and Retirees

Problems: The military health care benefit is at risk. TRICARE beneficiaries are paying more for prescription drugs while the value of the TRICARE Pharmacy Program has been slashed via a growing list of non-covered drugs, more restrictive prior-authorization policies that are out of step with best practices, and a 25% reduction to the retail pharmacy network. These cuts disproportionately impact the elderly and those with chronic medical conditions, making it more difficult and costly to adhere to medication regimens.

Health Care and Benefits for Veterans

Problems: Passing the comprehensive toxic exposure reform bill, the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act was a monumental victory. Now comes the hard part of ensuring it works as Congress intended.

Service Families

Problems: Spouses struggle with employment across the board and are constantly fighting to find and maintain employment through PCS moves. The unemployment rate among active duty spouses has hovered between 22% and 24% for over a decade. Efforts to address this issue have focused primarily on providing educational and professional development opportunities for military spouses; however, the other side of the coin is incentivizing businesses to hire someone who will likely move in two or three years. A multipronged approach is necessary to address the high unemployment rate.

Survivors

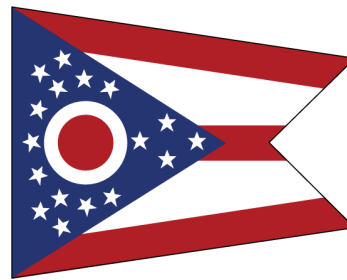
Problems: When a retired servicemember passes, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service recoups their last month of retirement pay. This is frequently a terrible surprise for a new survivor and adds unnecessary financial stress to a grieving widow. Oftentimes, survivors have their checking account cleared out due to the recoupment and are put under extreme financial duress in the wake of their servicemember's passing.

Guard and Reserve

Problems: The reserve component is facing a recruiting crisis. Our nation relies upon these servicemembers to respond to disasters at home and remain in the rotation to deploy worldwide in support of the active component. Members of the National Guard and Reserve must sustain their readiness, and medical care is required to keep the force deployable and support recruiting and retention.



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.

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.

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



Florence Hosler, SSL

msvcmoaa@gmail.com

Surviving Spouse Corner: Calling All Bibliophiles

By: Lt. Col. Suzanne Walker, USA (Ret) Walker joined the MOAA staff in 2004 as the executive assistant to the president and the association's meeting and conference director. Among her current duties, she serves as staff adviser to MOAA's [Surviving Spouse Advisory Council](#).

Summertime is the perfect time to catch up on reading. Whether you read e-books or enjoy turning the pages of books or magazines, there are so many wonderful stories to enjoy.

MOAA's summer reading list is available in *Military Officer magazine* each year (*Premium and Life members can access the digital version of the July issue [at this link](#)*), and you can find great suggestions from libraries, magazines, or recommendations from friends and family.

Do you enjoy fiction, nonfiction, biographies, or self-help genres? It's often fun to select something you would not normally choose. For those who want a shorter read, there are some great articles in *Military Officer* and other publications. *Perhaps you've attended an event where the author signs and reads from their book – or maybe you have considered writing a memoir or fiction story of your own.*

Another way to enjoy a good read is to join a book club. Online book clubs are very popular and turn a solitary experience into a social party. Bookworms from across the country, and around the world, can find a platform to enjoy a conversation about a favorite book. Book club apps can match you to a group that enjoys the same kinds of books.

The [Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter](#) just initiated a book club that meets monthly. They alternate between fiction and nonfiction titles and vote as a group on the next selection to read. The conversation offers perspectives of the book that you might not have considered. The social aspect of the discussions makes reading much more fun. All Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter members are welcome to attend these gatherings monthly on Zoom.

The August selection is [The Confidant: The Untold Story of the Woman Who Helped Win WWII and Shape Modern America](#) by Christopher C. Gorham.

Please join us for the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter meeting Aug. 15 at 5 p.m. Eastern. Come prepared to stay after the meeting to join the book discussion (or learn about the book if you haven't had time to read it).

The MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter [was founded in 2018](#). Interested in applying? Download membership materials [at this link](#). You can also join MOAA's [Surviving Spouses Facebook group](#).

Happy reading!

NOMINATION FOR MSVC LEADERSHIP AND BOARD FOR 2024-2026

YOUR CHAPTER, NEEDS YOU. It's that time again, when the chapter is seeking new leadership for the Board of Directors. As officers we have all stepped up to lead and be in charge. We've also had successful post military careers. You have the talents that we need. All positions are available to be filled: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasurer and six Board of Directors. The positions are not hard because it's a team effort. It's time you step forward. Nominations in August and Elections in October. Contact Rod Hosler or any current Board member of your interest and intent. MOAA's motto is Never Stop Serving.



MILITARY HISTORY, EVENTS AND COMMEMORATIONS FOR JULY

6 Aug 1945: Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan

7 Aug: PURPLE HEART DAY.

8 Aug 1945: Atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan

15 Aug 1814 Battle of Fort Erie, Canada, U.S. victory over the British.

19 Aug 1942: 50 U.S. Rangers participate on the Canadian raid at Dieppe, France. Over 6,000 casualties (killed, wounded and captured) to include 3 U.S. Rangers killed, 5 wounded and 3 captured.



HOW THEY LANDED: Along the broad stretches of open beach around the French coast town of Dieppe Canadian Commandos have landed under fire to blast German-maned defenses there. The landing operation at dawn today must have appeared similar to the landing practice pictured above. In the photograph, however, the landing is being made by men rehearsing invasion assault in the Scottish Command in Britain.

Presidents message cont.

It is important that the MSVC supports this convention with our attendance. At the 2017 OCC Convention hosted by the MSVC; 95 state MOAA members attended of which 43 were from the MSVC. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, the MOAA President and CEO has passed up another state convention in order to attend our convention, so let's show him our best.

The title Officer is special and not all achieve that status. As Officers we made the committed serve and support those that serve. This was true when we took the oath and the same is true today, although our advocations have changed. As Officers we are committed. This is what Officers do. Attending and supporting the convention is part of our duty as Officers. Some have asked "what's in it for me" or "I'm not interested." Don't lose site of the "big picture." Support your chapter, MOAA and your fellow Officers. Currently **14** MSVC Members have signed up. Never Stop Serving



D-DAY CONNEAUT TRIP

The Mahoning County Veterans Service Commission is once again chartering a 52 passenger bus to take veterans to D-Day Conneaut on Friday 18 August. This is a D-Day Reenactment, and a great event to attend. You don't have to storm the beach, but sit on the hill and watch the Germans get beat again. Fun for all, except the Germans. Free Bus Transportation and Lunch provided by Panera Bread. Veterans may bring a non-veteran guest. Check their website: www.ddayohio.us Reservations are required by calling the Veterans Service Commission, 330-740-2451, NLT 11 August, first come, first serve. Arrive at 6:30 am and depart 7:00 am, return at 5:00 pm.

SAVE-THE-DATES



**\$59 covers program
and meals, lodging
\$89/night at the
Eagle's Nest**



Sept. 29, 30, Oct. 1, 2023

**Youngstown Air Reserve Station
Vienna, Ohio**

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**Ohio Council of Chapters
Biennial Convention**

**Host Chapters
Mahoning & Shenango Valleys
Ohio Western Reserve
The Greater Cleveland**

Link to registration form: [2023 OCC Convention](#)

2023 Ohio Council of Chapters Convention
September 29 – October 1, 2023
Youngstown Air Reserve Station

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete the following registration information and return by **Monday, August 14th**:

By mail:

Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter
P.O. Box 5342
Poland, OH 44514-0342

By e-mail attachment:

msvcmoaa@gmail.com

By fax:

(330) 588-3882

Registration payment of \$59, which includes all meals, will be submitted:

- Via US Mail to the address above
 Via on-line payment option: <https://ohiomooa.org/occ-convention-reservation-payment/>

Rank/Mr/Mrs: _____ Military Status: Active / Retired / Former /Spouse Branch: _____

Name: _____ MOAA Chapter: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Military Base Access *** Important! Without access you will not be able to attend the OCC Convention. ***

- I have a valid military ID which will allow me base access
 I do not have a military ID and am providing the following information to obtain base access

Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____ Driver's License State and Number: _____

Event Attendance

- I plan on attending all member events Friday and Saturday
 I also plan on attending the Sunday morning Council meeting
 I plan on attending select programs:

- 9/29; 1800 - Icebreaker Social
 9/30; 0700 - Breakfast Buffet
 9/30; 0900 - Morning Program
 9/30; 1130 - Lunch Buffet
 9/30; 1315 - Afternoon Program
 9/30; 1430 - Roundtable Discussions
 9/30; 1430 - Recreational Tour/Events
 9/30; 1800 - Social Hour
 9/30; 1900 - Banquet and Dinner
 10/01; 0700 - Breakfast Buffet
 10/01; 0900 - Council Meeting

Signature: _____ Printed: _____

Questions may be submitted to msvcmoaa@gmail.com or by calling (330) 788-3270

MSVC Board Members:

President: Rod Hosler, LTC, USA, (Ret)
hosler1@zoominternet.net 330-788-3270

1st Vice President: Bruce Bille, LT, USN, (Fmr)
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2nd Vice President: Dave Di Tallo, CDR, USN, (Ret)
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Secretary: Al Lind, LT, USN, (Fmr)
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Treasurer: Florence Hosler, LT, USN, (Fmr)
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Ralph DeLucia, CPT, USA, (Fmr)
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Dennis Gartland, CPT, USA, (Fmr)
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Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it.

George Bernard Shaw

Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things.

Peter Drucker

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 (Apr. – Sept.) - 5:30 PM gathering, 6:00 PM dinner served.]

[Lunch Meetings (Oct. – Mar.) - 11:30 AM gathering, 12:00/Noon lunch served.]

AUG 17 – Dinner Meeting, Program, [DOVE Transplant Organization](#), & **Nomination of Officers.**

SEPTEMBER 29 & 30 – **OHIO COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS, Youngstown Air Reserve Base**

OCT 20 – Lunch Meeting To be held at ENZO'S in Warren. Program TBA

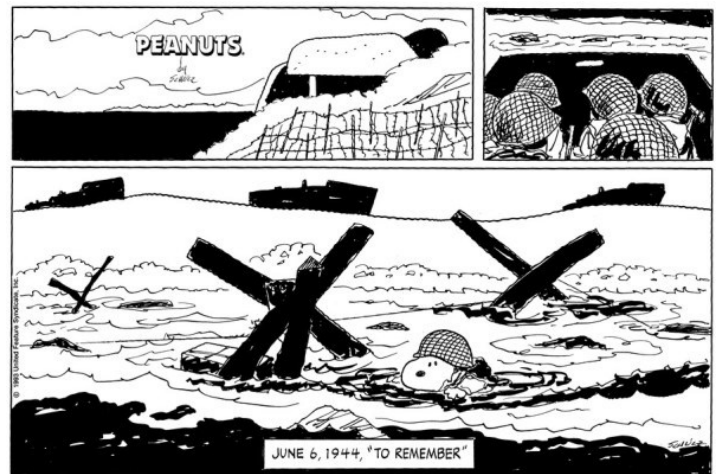
NOV 11 – Veterans Day Ceremony, Mahoning County Courthouse, Youngstown, 11:00 AM.

NOV 17 – Lunch Meeting, election of officers. Program TBA

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

"Hitler made only one big mistake when he built his Atlantic Wall. He forgot to put a roof on it."

--World War II U.S. paratrooper aphorism



"I'm very disappointed, and I hate leaving the world feeling this way."

--Private Jack Port, now 97, on the state of the world currently