

MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER

an affiliate of

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

January 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rod Hosler

We begin a new year with hopeful anticipation of a year better than the last, but this is an election year and folks are already choosing sides. It may be a rocky year at that. Regardless of one's political inclinations remember our main focus is to advocate for our military, making their lives better.

It is unfortunate that we are an unhappy country whose citizens are not enjoying the fruits of their citizenship and hard work, but have a government that does not listen to its citizens. Crime runs rampant in our cities, our borders are overrun with illegal migrants who deplete the treasury of a government that cares more for them, than their own citizens. We have a foreign policy that appears to weaken our very security and emboldens our enemies. We have a national culture that undermines our very identity as Americans, denigrating our history, creating programs that again deplete our treasury, and belittling the hard working people who keep the country strong. The greatest cruelty is an over bloated government that does not care for or makes better, the lives of ordinary citizens. From our greedy government, we are nothing more than purse feeding a corrupt system.

Even our one time great military is affected. Funding shortfalls, manpower issues and ambiguous missions have created a military that may not be up to providing our national security and the defense of the country. We were short 40,000 recruits last year alone. WHY? What has caused this dramatic shortfall? Simple, lack of Leadership at all levels, mostly senior leaders. Why is pay lagging; why is housing unlivable because of mold; why can't young married soldiers afford adequate housing; why are young military families on food stamps? Why do we not have enough resources to train and fight a war, We insult the very demographics that provide the best in American youth, Who wants to defend and fight for a country that tells you that we're systemically racist and all of the world ills is because of America. These are issues that all good leaders should be concerned with. I was always taught; leaders take care of the troops.

I guess many senior officers forgot what good leadership is all about. They always say, it's the funding and funding controlled by the civilian government. But it is not just taking care of the troops, but our ability to fight and win wars. It seems that our senior military and civilian leadership lacks the will to do what is right. The United States has not fought and won a war achieving victory since World War II. We may not realize it but our enemies have, no wonder the world does not respect us, except wanting our money. Shame.

The supreme insult to the country is the degradation of the American citizen by the very government chartered to take care of them. For the past sixty years, public discourse in the form of demonstrations, some peacefully and some violent have taken place. People want their voices heard and sometimes this is the only way. But nothing would match the violence that rocked the country during the summer of 2020. Dozens of cities burned and hundreds of private business looted, police officers injured and private and public property destroyed. Even Lafayette Park across the White House vandalized and occupants of the White House (staff) placed in danger and no condemnation from Government. But on 6 January, the capitol was stormed and congress, fearful of their pampered lives hid from their constituents. No major destruction except for a few windows, no police were killed, and conclude after several hours, business as usual. Ignore the plight of the people. One demonstrator killed, two died on site, thousands arrested, deprived of constitutional protections, still languishing in jail awaiting trial and due process because of the label of insurrection. One might wonder is this what happens when government ignores some of the people or just the deplorable ones. Talk about governmental over reaction and over reach, Germany, 1920. Find others to blame for ignoring the people. All this is reminiscent of the Boston Massacre of 1770 and the Boston Tea Party of 1773. One might conclude, the government is attempting to create the destruction of the United States of America, but why and to what end. Sometimes the enemy is not so obvious. We all hope that the new year will bring peace, prosperity and reason to our troubled country.

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

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Joe Mersol, Legislative Liaison, Member at Large

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) has been actively involved in the legislative process concerning the FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Key priorities of MOAA in the ongoing legislative discussions include:

- **TRICARE Benefit Protection:** MOAA supports a House provision that requires a detailed report on access to the TRICARE pharmacy benefit, in response to significant cuts to the retail pharmacy network.
- **Restoring the Military Housing Benefit:** The organization is advocating for an increase in the Basic Housing Allowance (BAH) to 96% of local rental and utilities costs, aiming to eventually restore the full 100% benefit.
- **Boosting Servicemember Compensation:** MOAA supports a 5.2% pay raise and reforms to the military pay table to address recruiting challenges and provide higher pay for younger members.
- **Preserving Earned Burial Benefits:** As Arlington National Cemetery nears capacity, MOAA backs a proposal for identifying potential locations for a new national cemetery, thereby protecting burial benefits for future generations of retirees.
- **Strengthening DoD Hiring Power:** Another focus is on eliminating the "180-day rule" to allow the Department of Defense to immediately hire talented military retirees for its staffing requirements.
- In addition, MOAA has outlined several legislative priorities for veterans in the new year, emphasizing various veteran-related issues. These include protecting veterans from unauthorized fees for disability claims, preserving burial benefits, expanding coverage under healthcare programs for children of eligible veterans, improving survivors' benefits, supporting military sexual trauma survivors, expanding services for aging and disabled veterans, and allowing surviving spouses to remarry while retaining benefits.

These priorities reflect MOAA's commitment to the needs and rights of military service members, veterans, and their families.

STATE LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Ohio [Ohio Legislature](https://www.ohiolegislature.gov/)

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

FRIDAY, 19 JANUARY MOAA LUNCH MEETING NEW

The Chapter will conduct its monthly lunch meeting on Friday, 19 January at 12:00/Noon at A La Cart Catering in Canfield. Please arrive between 11:30 AM and 12:00. The chapter will install new officers. The luncheon meeting program will be 'Camp Garfield,' presented by Lieutenant Colonel Shaun Robinson the camp commander and chapter member. Reservation for the luncheon must be received not later than Monday, 15 January 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 reserve meals count. Thank you for your understanding.] Hope to see you all there to support our chapter and its new leadership.



I feel safer now!!

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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](tel: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](tel:1-800-234-6622). Changes include:

- ◆ address
- ◆ email
- ◆ telephone number
- ◆ rank or military status

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

"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."

- Harry S Truman, 33rd President of the United States, and former Colonel in the U.S. Army

Membership Corner

Florence M. Hosler

When I gave up being treasurer I thought life would get easier, what was I thinking??? At least I have inherited an organized system from Dave DiTallo. He's made it so easy to step into the Membership Chair job, thanks Dave!!

MSVC is accepting your membership renewals for 2024 from now until March, after 31 March you will receive a post-card reminder. (Which means I have your address and know where you live). You can mail your dues to our PO Box, pay at a meeting or on our website through Pay Pal.

MSVC-MOAA
PO Box 5342
Poland, OH 44514

<https://msvc-moaa.org/membership>

Regular and spouse membership is \$20 Surviving spouse and currently serving are free as well as MOAA Life Members if you are age 85 or greater and have been a chapter member for five (5) years.

If you meet this criteria, please contact me at msvcmoaa@gmail.com or call me at 330 788 3270 to update your chapter membership status.



EXCLUSIVE MEMBER DISCOUNTS AND MORE

Click on the options below to explore the full value of your MOAA membership. Benefits are open to all MOAA members unless otherwise noted.

Browse by benefit type: [Financial](#) | [Travel](#) | [Shopping and Entertainment](#) | [Security](#) | [Home](#) | [Education and Leadership](#) | [Insurance](#) | [Health](#) | [Memberships and Clubs](#)



UPCOMING MSVC CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2024

MARK YOUR CALENDARS. SO YOU DON'T MISS AN EVENT OR MEETING.

Note: Unless otherwise noted, all chapter meetings are held at A La Cart Catering, 249 Lisbon Street, Canfield.
Lunch Meetings (October – March): Gather at 11:30 AM, Lunch at 12:00/Noon.

Dinner Meetings (April – September): Gather at 5:30 PM, Dinner at 6:00 PM.

Board Meetings, Veterans Service Commission (VSC), 10:00 AM - 12:00/Noon, Youngstown.

JAN 19 – Lunch Meeting. Program: Camp Garfield, LTC Shaun Robinson.

FEB 01 – MSVC Board Meeting, VSC.
FEB 16 – Lunch Meeting, program: TBD.

MAR 07 – MSVC Board Meeting, VSC.
MAR 15 – Lunch Meeting, program: Veterans' Outreach, Mrs. Teri Ely, Executive Director.

APR 04 – MSVC Board Meeting, VSC.
APR 07 – Vietnam Veterans Laying of the Roses, Downtown Youngstown, 1:00-2:00 PM.
APR 18 – ROTC/JROTC/Commissionee's Recognition Dinner, 6:00 PM.

MAY 02 – MSVC Board Meeting, VSC.
MAY 16 – Dinner Meeting, program: TBD
MAY 17 – Decoration of Graves, Calvary Cemetery, 9:00 - 10:00 AM, Youngstown.
MAY 27 – MEMORIAL DAY Ceremony, Oak Hill Cemetery, 8:30 AM, Youngstown,

JUN 06 – MSVC Board Meeting, VSC.
JUN 20 – Dinner Meeting at Golden Corral Hermitage, PA, 5:00 - 7:00 PM, program: TBD

JUL 03 – MSVC Board Meeting, VSC. (**DATE CHANGE DUE TO HOLIDAY**)
JUL 18 – Picnic Meeting at Vienna Fish and Game Club, 4:30 - 7:00 PM, Vienna, OH,

AUG 15 – Dinner Meeting (Steak Fry and Corn Roast), program, TBD.
AUG 16 – D-Day Conneaut, Free bus transportation & lunch, RSVP (330-740-2450) required.

SEPT 05 – MSVC Board Meeting, VSC, Youngstown.
SEPT 19 – Dinner Meeting, program: TBA.

OCT 03 – MSVC Board Meeting, VSC.
OCT 18 – Lunch Meeting, program: TBA.
OCT 31 – MSVC Board Meeting (**For November**), VSC.



Protect and Save Your Vital Information

Renée Brunelle

When is it ever the right time to get your important documents and information in order? Most of us think about it after someone we care for has had an incident and/or has passed away. Additionally, events such as hurricanes, fires, floods, tornadoes, and even burglary can make the actual paperwork unusable.

But through MOAA partner [Everplans](#), members have access to a platform allowing cloud-based storage of important documents and information. With controlled access to each area, we are able to share details — at a minimum, to begin the discussion about what we prefer for our health care and our final arrangements.

It is never too late to start sharing important information with trusted loved ones. All MOAA members can save on Everplans Premium, with discounts based on membership level and beginning at 30% off the annual fee for Basic members. Visit MOAA.org/Everplans to find out more.

Brunelle is a member of MOAA's Surviving Spouse Advisory Council and co-founder of Pathfinders Downsizing Solutions.

