

CINCINNATI MILITARY OFFICERS NEWS

VOL 52 No. 4 , November 2024

Subscribe to a life membership in this chapter and national MOAA. See Page 4.

December 13: General Membership Meeting, Holiday Celebration, and Election.
**(NOTE: THIS NEWSLETTER CONSTITUTES YOUR OFFICIAL NOTICE OF THE
ELECTION OF NEXT YEARS OFFICERS AT CLOVERNOOK COUNTRY CLUB ON
DECEMBER 13, 2024 DURING THE MEETING STARTING AT NOON.)**
(registration form is on page 4 including important Toys for Tots information)



Greetings, all. It is time for one of the year's premier events. As stated in the headline above, this gathering will be our general election meeting. The board recommended slate of officers is as follows: President, COL Rick Bevington, USA (Ret.); 1st and 2nd Vice President (Vacant); Co-Secretaries, CAPT Alan Echt (USPH, Ret.) and CAPT Hank Gurry (USN., Ret.); Treasurer, CAPT Mike Glaser (USN, Ret.), and nominations from the floor are welcome. And our toys for Tots collections. The meeting is also our Holiday Party. As you can see from this photograph taken at last year's event showing our distinguished visitors, it is a celebration worth attending! See you there.

REPORT ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING MEETING.

Another fine MOAA event took place September 19, 2024 at Hoppin' Vines in Montgomery Ohio. Our group enjoyed delicious pizza and hors d'oeuvres, fellowship, socialization, and camaraderie with fellow MOAA members as we rekindled relationships that will lead to a more robust Chapter. Hoppin' Vines also has a mini bowling alley, which some of us have enjoyed, and a terrific selection of beers and wines. It is also the frequent gathering place for watching Army football (the team is 7-0 so far this year).

While the recruiting meeting is a fine socialization event at a great place to meet, everyone is encouraged to invite new potential members if you meet them in church, other organizations, or in your circle of friends. For this MOAA chapter to survive and thrive, we need the help of everyone. Most of us are members of other organizations that are dedicated to our respective services; as we are stronger together, please consider inviting such persons to a general meeting as your guest.

2024 CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD

(phone # prefix is area code 513 unless noted)

Executive Committee

President CAPT Bill Heitbrink, USPHS 319-331-2466
Immed PP CAPT Mike Glaser, USN 280-6256
1st VP COL Richard Bevington, USA 741-9727
2nd VP Vacant
Co-Secretary CAPT Alan Echt, USPHS 573-0315
Co-Secretary CAPT Hank Gurry, USCG 459-0465
Treasurer LTC Paul Fellingner, USAR 451-9881
Chaplain CPT Dick Swan USA 217-521-2559
Legislative Ofc CAPT Alan Echt, USA 421-0118
Spouse/ Surviving Spouse Liaison
ILT Ken Bowman, USA 600-4094

State Council

Delegate

CAPT Bill Heitbrink, USPHS 347-3193
Alt Delegate Immediate PP or 1st or 2nd VP

Committees

Programs COL Richard Bevington, USA/ 741-9727
CAPT Hank Gurry, USN 459-0465
Membership LTC Dan Shea, USA 792-0344
ROTC/JROTC LtCol Brad Hamant, USAF 439-3140
Historian CPT Dale Stalf, USA, 374-612
Sympathy/ ILT Ken Bowman, USA 600-4094
Personal Affairs
Vietnam Commemoration/
Public Affairs LTC Al Brauer, USA 677-8320
TOPS LtCol Brad Hamant, USAF 439-3140
CinMoaaNews LTC Rob Croskery, USA 8132445580
Webmaster Lt Col Matt Wenzel, USAF (805) 450-4571

Service Representatives

Army BG Tom O'Brien, USA 421-0118
Navy/MC CAPT Steve Drefahl, USN 752-4097
USPHS LCDR Karl Feldmann, USPHS 815-1537
Air Force Lt Col Brad Hamant, USAF 439-3140
Space Force Lt Col Matt Wenzel, USAF (805) 450-4571
CG/NOAA CAPT Steve Drefahl, USN 752-4097

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS 2024

Please mark your calendars.

Monitor www.cincymoaa.org for updates.

- **Our final Meeting in 2024 is the Holiday Party and elections--** Friday, 13 Dec 1200 hrs
(Clovernook Country Club) (1130 social hr)

Note: This is an election meeting, and this newsletter constitutes the official announcement.

PURPOSES OF THE GREATER CINCINNATI MOAA CHAPTER

The purposes of Military Officers Association of America as stated by national are printed on the outside of each Newsletter. The corresponding purposes of our Chapter as stated in our BYLAWS, Article II are:

(a) To promote the purposes and objectives of the Military Officers Association of America

(b) To foster fraternal relations among retired, active and former officers of the uniformed services.

(c) To protect the rights and interests of personnel of the uniformed services and their dependents and survivors.

(d) To provide useful services for members and their dependents and survivors.

(e) To serve the community and the nation.

Your officers and Board members welcome your comments and suggestions on steps that may be taken to strengthen our Chapter and its benefits to all members.

This newsletter is published by the Greater Cincinnati Chapter, which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are non-partisan. Articles in this newsletter are the opinions solely of the individual authors and do not necessarily express the policy or opinions of the newsletters editor or publisher and do not reflect an endorsement by the Chapter or the National organization of MOAA, unless so indicated. Advertisements that appear in this publication do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or this affiliate.

TAPS

If you are aware of an MOAA member who has passed away, please inform the Membership chairman, Thank you.

Board Meetings

2d Friday every month, 1200-1300 hrs, Red Cross Bldg, 2111 Dana Avenue, Cincinnati, with noted exceptions. Spouses and Members are always welcome.

CONSIDER JOINING MOAA AS A LIFE MEMBER

Life membership in Cinci MOAA is quite reasonable, Dues based on age at your nearest birthday.

Up to 55 years old.....	\$161.25
Age 56-70...	\$127.50
Age 71-89...	\$93.75
Age 90 and over...	Dues Waived

See <https://chapterdues/moaa.org/Membership.aspx> .

Also consider joining MOAA national as a life member.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By William Heitbrink, CAPT USPS (Ret.)

Greetings, all. Our chapter needs members who can contribute fresh ideas to its operation. We need to develop social activities to enhance camaraderie and fellowship among all officers and former officers of the uniformed services. In addition, our chapter's mission is to be active in advocacy efforts at the national, state and local level. The National MOAA does a great job at the national level, and individuals support the National MOAA by using the Advocacy website to submit letters to our Senators and Representatives. However, advocacy at the state and local levels is the responsibility of the local chapters and the state council of chapters. I encourage you to give us your thoughts on possible improvements in our chapter activities, and read the column of Alan Echt in this newsletter. If attending in person is difficult, there is an option to phone-in. Typically three- or four-members do so. We need board members, and we will endeavor to make your participation work. Contact any board member to get more information. Their phone numbers are listed on page 2. **One final note: Please SAVE THE DATE of March 29, 2025 for a dining out, details tbd.** I look forward to seeing you at the General Membership Meeting and Holiday Party on December 13, 2024 at 1130 hours at Clovernook Country Club!

MILITARY SABBATH ON 10 November 2024 at 1100 HOURS

by Tom O'Brien, BG (Ret), USA

The beautiful Holy Cross-Immaculata Church in Mt. Adams was built over a century and a half ago under the supervision of Bishop Fenwick. It is a lovely edifice adjacent to the Ohio River, and is famous as the church where Cincinnatians gather every Good Friday to “pray the steps”. Since 1972 the Military Sabbath has been a hallmark of local Veterans Day activities. While our Chapter has been, in the past, a named sponsor (along with the Navy League as prime sponsor), this year we are a co-lead sponsor. The event is thus one of our official activities, and you are encouraged to attend. An Army Chaplain, the Elder Glee Club, and the Sea Scout Honor Guard will participate, and we will enjoy coffee and donuts following the ceremony. The singing of the Navy Hymn is always a highlight. While this service is officially a Catholic Mass, everyone is welcome and many veterans of other faiths attend. The wear of the appropriate service Class A uniform is encouraged but not required. Those members attending will gather outdoors and enter as a group during the processional. Please tell your veteran friends about this moving and traditional service. We look forward to seeing you there and joining us in worship, then fellowship at the social hour following the service.

2024 DUES ARE DUE—

If you have not yet paid your chapter dues, please do so by sending a check to Dan Shea, LTC, US Army, (Retired) our membership chair, at the address below. If you are uncertain as to your status, call him at (513)254- 9836, or email him at dshea@cinci.rr.com to inquire. Dues are \$30 for three years, \$22 for two years, or \$12 for one year. A life membership in the chapter is \$161.25 for ages up to 55 years (nearest birthday), \$127.50 for ages 56-70, \$93.75 for ages 71-89, and waived for ages 90 and above. To renew, cut out and return the form below, or use this link: <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx0>

*****cut here***** Cincinnati MOAA Chapter Membership Renewal

Name _____ Rank _____
E-mail address _____ Renewing: 1 year (\$12) _____ 2 years (\$22) _____ 3 years (\$30) _____ Life (see table) _____
Make your check payable to: Greater Cincinnati Chapter / MOAA Mail Renewal Form and Check to LTC Dan Shea, 5736 Woodway Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45236 *****cut here*****

NEWSLETTER LINKS FOR VETERANS AND RETIREES

- Army: Army Echoes : <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/army-echoes>
- Navy: Shift Colors: <https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Media-Center/Publications/Shift-Colors>
- Air Force: Afterburner: <https://www.retirees.af.mil/library/afterburner>
- Coast Guard/NOAA/PHS: The Long Blue Line <https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Human-Resources-CG-1/Retiree-Services-Program/Newsletters>
- Marines: Semper Fidelis <https://www.hqmc.marines.mil/Portals/61/Docs/MMSR-6/VOL%2067%20NO%203%20JUL-SEP%202023.pdf?ver=Ff7NHwtmRHjufztGWSBOSA%3D%3D#:~:text=Semper%20Fidelis%20is%20published%20quarterly,or%20the%20Department%20of%20Defense>

December 13, 2024 Membership Meeting

This will be our eighth year of supporting the Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign. The December membership meeting is Friday, December 13, 2024, at Clovernook Country Club, 2035 W. Galbraith Rd, Cincinnati, OH. Social/cash bar is at 11:30 and the lunch and meeting start at noon. One of the goals of the Greater Cincinnati Chapter, MOAA is to continue to increase our community outreach and involvement. We are asking each member to donate to this wonderful program. In the past we have asked each member to bring a gift for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. **Because of the date of our meeting, this year is different. We are asking each member to bring a cash donation or a check made out to Greater Cincinnati Chapter/MOAA. We will then combine the donations and make one donation to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign from the chapter.**

REGISTRATION FORM FOR HOLIDAY AND ELECTION MEETING DEC 13

13 Dec 24-Clovernook Country Club—2035 Galbraith Rd—Cincinnati, OH 45239

Name: _____ Rank & Service: _____ Spouse/Guests: _____
Email: _____ Phone #: _____ (ARE YOU A NEW MEMBER, OR FIRST TIME OUT? _____) Buffet Lunch with two entrees. @ \$25.00 Total # Reservations _____ = Total \$ _____

Make Checks payable to GREATER CINCINNATI CHAPTER/MOAA and mail to LTC PAUL FELLINGER, 5493 Delhi Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45238-5139, (Phone (513) 451-9881) or email: pwf5493@aol.com. Please make reservations NLT than 4 December 2024. No cancellations after that date. Thank you.

Legislative Affairs

by CAPT Alan Echt

Greetings, fellow members. I write today to encourage all of you to become engaged in the legislative process, and to give you steps to do so. Most of our Chapter's members live in three Ohio Congressional districts: OH-1, OH-2, and OH-8. OH-1 includes all of Warren County and the eastern part of Hamilton County. OH-2 consists of 15 counties in southern and southeastern Ohio: Adams, Brown, Clermont, Clinton, Gallia, Highland, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Pickaway, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Vinton. OH-8 is made up of all of Butler, Darke and Preble Counties plus part of Miami and Hamilton Counties. OH-1 is represented by Congressman Greg Landsman, OH-2 is represented by Congressman Brad Wenstrup (an MOAA member), and OH-8 is represented by Congressman Warren Davidson. Congressman Wenstrup is not running for reelection in OH-2. One of our members, Orlando Sonza, is running against incumbent Greg Landsman for his congressional seat in OH-1. Two new candidates, David Taylor and Samantha Meadows, are running for the open OH-2 seat. And Vanessa Enoch is running against incumbent Warren Davidson. This MOAA chapter cannot give a political endorsement in these races, but encourages you to do your research and vote, keeping in mind the potential impact on the issues facing MOAA members and spouses.

In this month's column, I wanted to inform you about your Representative's sponsorship of a couple of MOAA's top priorities. The Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282) would allow Chapter 61 disability retirees to receive veterans' disability compensation and retired pay or combat-related special compensation. Introduced by Representative Gus M. Bilirakis, the bill has 326 cosponsors, including Rep. Landsman. Representatives Davidson and Wenstrup are not cosponsors of the bill (please see <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/1282/cosponsors?pageSort=alphaByState> for an alphabetized list of cosponsors by state). You can urge your legislators to support the Major Richard Star Act here - <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/43784/>

According to MOAA, "The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act addresses a [long list of MOAA's legislative priorities](#), covering everything from assisted living services to caregiver benefit access to home-based care." Introduced by Representative Juan Ciscomani, the bill has 50 cosponsors, including Rep. Wenstrup. Representatives Davidson and Landsman are not cosponsors (please see <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/8371/cosponsors?s=1&r=1&q=%7B%22search%22%3A%22The+Senator+Elizabeth+Dole+21st+Century+Healthcare+and+Benefits+Improvement+Act%22%7D&pageSort=alphaByState> for an alphabetized list of cosponsors by state). Your involvement is critical to keeping this legislation at the top of lawmakers' to-do lists. [Click here to contact your legislators](#) to ask them to pass the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act.

While our Chapter is not a political animal, we highly urge all of you to get involved in matters of importance to the military, USPS, retirees, and spouses. Our collective contributions in these matters can reap great dividends in these matters.



Greater Cincinnati Chapter
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
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Cincinnati, OH 45202

Postmaster: Dated Material. Please Expedite



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

***PURPOSES OF
MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA***

- TO inculcate and stimulate love of country and flag;
 - TO defend the honor, integrity, and supremacy of our National Government and the Constitution of the United States;
 - TO advocate military forces adequate to the defense of this Country;
 - TO further the education of children of service personnel;
 - TO foster fraternal relations between all branches of the various services from which our members are drawn;
 - TO aid active and retired personnel of the various services from which our members are drawn and their dependents and survivors, in every proper and legitimate manner.
 - TO present their rights and interests when service matters are under consideration, and
 - TO foster the integrity and prestige of uniformed service.
- from the Preamble to the Association's Bylaws*