

Dayton Area Chapter – Military Officers Association of America



Officers Call



Editor: Terry Cooney

MARCH 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Our February event was a presentation from Al Bailey who is currently the President of Honor Flight Dayton but was also one of the founders of the national Honor Flight network. As you probably know, Honor Flight's mission is to transport veterans to Washington DC to visit the memorials honoring those who served and sacrificed for our country, but Al's description of a typical Honor Flight event described much more, i.e., public salutes, bands, active-duty honor guards, meetings with other veterans, etc. These are meaningful and emotional events for the participants. Our own Leslie Buerki, who has served as a Guardian on an Honor Flight (Guardians accompany the participants and provide support as necessary), also spoke of her experiences and the value of Honor Flight to the veterans. I believe this presentation was one of the best we have had. Thanks to Al and Leslie!



Originally, our March event was to be a presentation from Jon Brenneman, the President of MOAA Vacations, one of MOAA national's affinity contractors. Unfortunately, Jon had to cancel for various reasons. He was planning to describe the various tours that will be available to MOAA members, with our attendees as its guests, i.e., all food and drink was to be provided for us. We're attempting to reschedule, so stay tuned.

After MOAA Vacations cancelled, Terry Cooney was able to schedule another speaker for us on very short notice, Kudos to Terry! Our March event will be a presentation from Tim Espich, the Executive Director of the Greene County Veterans Service Office and a retired Army Master Sergeant. He will describe the operations of his agency, which include providing VA claims assistance to veterans and dependents and emergency financial aid. Please join us at TJ Chumps in Fairborn on March 19 at noon. Make your RSVPs to Terry at tcooney8@gmail.com or 937-427-0590 Hope to see you there!



Our next surviving spouse luncheon will be on March 17 at noon, also at TJ Chumps in Fairborn. I will send email invitations to the spouses separately, but anyone wishing to attend is welcome. Please make RSVPs to me at trobisch63@gmail.com or 757-327-1388.

Also, please keep in mind the MOAA Ohio Council of Chapters Convention in Columbus from May 13 – 15. The organizers from the Central Ohio Chapter plan on having numerous interesting speakers and activities. More information is available on its website at <https://www.moa-centralohio.org/>.

The Military Officers Association of America is an independent politically non-partisan organization operated to benefit members of the uniformed services, their families and survivors

Finally, I encourage everyone to visit our website at www.daytonmoaa.weebly.com where you can find information about our organization and functions, legislative issues, as well as our current and past newsletters. Also, MOAA National's website at www.moaa.org contains information concerning MOAA resources, member benefits, and current news/event of interest to the military community.

Tom Robisch
President

PLAN AHEAD

19 March	1200 Lunch at TJ Chumps – Director Greene Co. VSO
2 April	WSU Theater – Sweet Charity 2pm
22 May(tentative)	Clodhoppers Base Ball Game
July (Date TBD)	Dayton Dragons Outing

MARCH LUNCHEON - DIRECTOR CREENE CO. VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION

Join us at 1200 in TJ Chumps on 19 March for a presentation by the Greene County Veterans Service Organization. The Veterans Service Office provides VA claims assistance to veterans and their dependents as well as emergency financial assistance to eligible veterans and their dependents. They also provide door to door transportation to and from the VA Medical Center for Greene County veterans. Tim Espich is a retired U.S. Army Master Sergeant and former Director of the Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs and worked in multiple roles with the Ohio Department of Veterans Services. He is currently the Executive Director of the Greene County VSO.

Please contact Terry Cooney at 937-427-0590 or tcooney8@gmail.com NLT16 March to make a reservation so that we can alert the restaurant as to the size of the group.

"SWEET CHARITY" THE MUSICAL AT WSU

Come join your fellow MOAAites on **Saturday, 2 April, at 2 PM** in the Wright State Festival Playhouse to enjoy the groovy dance musical hit, *Sweet Charity*. The play tells the story of Charity Hope Valentine, an eternal optimist in a hard-luck world. Filled with exuberant dance, joyous song, and a nod to the swingin' 60s, this production gives you a special "behind the scenes" look at how a major musical would have felt in rehearsal.

Terry Cooney is the POC for this event. Contact him by 10 March at (937) 427-0590 or email tcooney8@gmail.com to make reservations. The cost is \$22/person. Please mail a check payable to "DAC MOAA" to Terry Cooney at 2421 Clubside Dr. Beavercreek, OH 45431. We will meet for dinner after the performance at a location still to be determined.

NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD

Our Executive Board currently has several vacancies. Below is a listing of these positions and a brief description of duties:

1. **First Vice-President.** The 1st VP position is an office that involves very few required duties. The main function is to fill in for the President in his/her absence, which has been infrequent in the past. The occupant of this position can become more involved in chapter business as desired.
2. **Surviving Spouse Liaison.** Initially, it must be understood that the purpose of this position is not to serve as a fiduciary, Survivor Assistance Officer, or Casualty Assistance Officer. Rather, the DAC Surviving Spouse Liaison acts as a resource and conduit for disseminating information and assistance upon request. This function will not require creating a process because Jan Lorette, our departing Surviving Spouse Liaison, has completed an excellent

and comprehensive pamphlet that contains substantial information concerning available services as well as contact information for all relevant agencies.

Please consider joining our Board; the future of our chapter is dependent upon individuals contributing to our operations. None of these positions require a sizeable time commitment, and you would engage with a pleasant and interesting group of your peers. New Board members are always welcome, and your knowledge and experience would bring new perspectives and strengthen our organization. The occupants of these positions are full voting members. If interested, please contact Tom Robisch at trobisch63@gmail.com or 757-327-1388 or any of the other Board members listed in the newsletter.

OHIO COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS CONVENTION

The Central Ohio Chapter is hosting the State Council's biennial convention from 13 – 15 May 2022. It will be held at the Quest Conference Center at 9200 Worthington Road in Westerville, Ohio, a northern suburb of Columbus. A block of rooms at the nearby Fairfield Inn & Suites is reserved for convention attendees. A shuttle service will be available for travel between these sites.

The activities on 14 May will be the primary focus for convention attendees. The convention organizers are still working on the schedule, but invited speakers include Lt Gen Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret), MOAA's President and CEO; LTG Michael Ferriter, USA (Ret), the President and CEO of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus; MG Deborah Ashenhurst, USA (Ret), Director of the Ohio Dept. of Veterans' Services; MG John Harris, Ohio Army Nat. Gd., Adjutant General of Ohio; and Dr. Christopher Gelpi of the Ohio State University, Director of the Mershon Center for International Security Studies.

Please consider attending this event. The Central Ohio Chapter has set up a web page at <https://www.moaa-centralohio.org/moaa-ohio-state-convention/>, through which one can book a room at the hotel and register at the convention.

MOAA GOLF LEAGUE

Attention All Golfers! Believe it or not but SRING is coming. The sun is approaching the equator & every day brings more sun light except for those rainy days. The MOAA golf league will be starting soon (end of April or early May). We can always use more golf teams and subs. The league plays on Mondays except for holidays throughout the summer. We play 9 holes match play with handicaps based on your league play. All skill levels are welcome. Handicaps last year ranged 3 to 23. Membership in MOAA is the only requirement. For additional information or to sign up, contact Larry Pohl (937-477-5645) or Bob Emerson (937-545-4610). Dust off the clubs, find some balls & join the fun.

FISHER HOUSE NOW RECEIVING SUPPLIES AGAIN

Thanks to all MOAA DAC members who have supported WPAFB Fisher Houses. The Fisher House program recognizes the special sacrifices of our men and women in uniform and the hardships of military service by meeting a humanitarian need beyond that is normally provided by the DoD and the VA

The COVID impact this year has been hard on the finances of the organization but they have never closed their doors. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation by sending a check to Fisher



Nightingale House 417 Schlatter Dr Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH 45433. To make a contribution by credit or debit card contact FNHI Director Chris Stanley at (937) 672-8724. With a lessening of restrictions, Fisher Houses can now accept deliveries of donated items;

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Wright-Patt Fisher House Wish List*

- » Individually wrapped snacks (cookies, crackers, candy, etc.)
- » Individually wrapped cereals
- » Variety of individually wrapped breakfast bars
- » Individually packaged small sugar packets
- » Variety of assorted chips, individual packaged
- » Keurig coffee (K-cups) variety
- » Small coffee creamers
- » Green tea, tea bags
- » A variety of individually packaged tea bags
- » Mac and cheese (individual cups)
- » Individual small containers of apple sauce
- » Individual containers of fruit cups
- » Individually packaged microwave popcorn
- » Assorted cookies
- » Paper towels
- » Toilet paper
- » Tissues
- » Clorox Wipes containers
- » Small containers of hand sanitizers from name brands (*so they can fit them in their purses, backpacks, etc.*)
- » Red plastic solo cups
- » Triple A batteries (packages)
- » Double A batteries (packages)
- » Trash bags – 13 gallon
- » Trash bags – 4 gallon
- » Disposable paper plates (packages)
- » Laundry detergent for guests (Free & Clear, Purex or Tide) and regular Tide Pods
- » Coffee cups
- » Dishwasher Tablets (Casca

WORD TO PONDER

“We contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle” – Winston Churchill

ELECTED 2020 EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICES

PRESIDENT	TOM ROBISCH, LTC, USA	trobisch63@gmail.com	757 327-1388
1ST VICE PRESIDENT	VACANT		
2ND VICE PRESIDENT	KURT GRAFTON, MAJ USAF	kurtgrifton@yahoo.com	513-409-5625
TREASURER	DAVE GOTHARD, COL, USAF	ddgothard@aol.com	937-429-1649
SECRETARY	MIKE BOBECK, BG, USA	michael.bobeck@gmail.com	703 314-0858
PAST PRESIDENT	MIKE ONDRASEK, COL, USAF	michael.ondrasek@att.net	937-429-9297

ELECTED SERVICE/AUXILIARY REPRESENTATIVES

USAF REPRESENTATIVE	TIM CRAVEN CAPT, USAF	cravente@msn.com	937-233-3538
NAVY REPRESENTATIVE	VACANT		937-879-6230
ARMY REPRESENTATIVE	VACANT		
USMC REPRESENTATIVE	LAURENCE SIMPSON, COL, USMC	simpsonle@aol.com	937-429-1469
SURVIVING SPOUSE REPRESENTATIVE	JAN LORETTE	jblorette@gmail.com	513-970-1095

APPOINTED OFFICERS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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