Greetings

This is the fifth 2024 edition of the Metro Detroit Meteor, the chapter newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Chapter of MOAA. For this issue, the newsletter will be available from the chapter web site, www.semimoaa.org and via a link emailed to you. If you have content of interest to the membership or would like to play more of a role in developing the newsletter, please let me know.

Communication Update. Chapter Web Site and Web Presence

In addition to the chapter's web site at www.semimoaa.org the chapter publishes this newsletter and maintains a MOAA web presence at https://www.moaa.org/chapter/southeasternmichigan/.

Chapter and National Membership/Combined Join Form

The chapter is now using a "Combined Chapter Join Form" to allow new members to sign up for both national MOAA membership and chapter membership. The form combines the MOAA national member options with the chapter membership option. National and chapter dues remain separate. MOAA national memberships are of three types: BASIC which provides a free one-year MOAA membership, PREMIUM, a renewable three-year membership, and LIFETIME membership which is self-explanatory. If you have never been a national MOAA member, complete the form to join both national MOAA with a free BASIC MOAA membership and a chapter membership (dues are $20). Otherwise, complete the form and send it to the address on the form. We will contact you to finalize the specific type of MOAA national membership.

MOAA Continues Transition to New Association Management System (AMS)

Early in April, MOAA began its transition to a new AMS System for keeping track of member and dues status. Efforts to complete the transition are challenging and we request that you remain patient. Contact national MOAA at (800) 234-6622 or (703) 549-2311 with any question or to make any suggestions: MOAA membership support (join, renew, upgrade), change of address, legislative action, benefits information, magazine subscriptions, or for general assistance. You may also contact any staff member through these phone numbers. The MOAA Member Service Center representatives are ready to assist you Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time. The transition to the new AMS is expected to be complete by late April at which time access to the MOAA site, www.moaa.org will resume.

Legislative Update

The national MOAA legislative campaign, Advocacy in Action, completed in mid-April in Washington DC. MOAA chapter members from Michigan, teamed with a MOAA national staff member, met with Michigan's Congressional delegation to advocate for the following legislation:

a. Passage of the Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282/S.344).
b. Passage of the BAH (Basic Allowance for Housing) Restoration Act (H.R.2537/S.1823).
c. Legislation to protect TRICARE for Life.

Continued follow up with Congress is crucial to drive pending legislation into real results. If you have not signed up for the MOAA Legislative Action Center, I encourage you to do so and make use of the already-prepared email messages that you can send to your Congressional members. Note also that you do not need to be a chapter or MOAA member to send emails via the Legislative Action Center.

Chapter General Membership Meets Next for Luncheon Meeting Noon June 20, 2024

The Cpl Richard W. Menge VFW Post 6756 will be the site of the next general membership meeting at noon on June 20, 2024. The post is located at 25500 Sherwood Road, Centerville, MI and is being considered as a standard chapter meeting location. Please come out and see what you think. We will be ordering individually from a limited menu found in the event flyer previously emailed. The event will be pay as you go with beverage from a cash bar. LCDR Rich Higgins, US Navy (Retired) will be our guest speaker discussing U.S. Submarines - Past, Present, and Future. Please see sample menu below:

Hamburger/Cheeseburger w/ Fries	$7.00
Nathan's Hot Dog w/Fries	$6.50
Add Chili	$1.00
Add Jalapeno or Onion	$0.50
Fish Sandwich with Fries	$8.00
Philly Cheese Sandwich w/ Onions & Bell Peppers	$8.00

A' La Cart Sides

French Fries	$3.00
Onion Rings	$3.50

Please RSVP NLT Friday, June 14 to:
Larry Powell / l-spowell@ameritech.com or text/call 586-382-0124

Selfridge Open House Air Show Information, June 8 and 9, 2024

Selfridge Air National Guard Base will host the world-famous USAF Thunderbirds Aerial Demonstration Team as part of its Open House and Air Show on Saturday and Sunday 8 and 9 June 2024 at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Mount Clemens, MI. As a chapter first, several chapter members will be serving as Open House volunteers on those days.

VA Resources-Suicide Prevention and Awareness

Veteran suicide is a major problem in America. Please see this link for assistance. If you are a Veteran in a mental health crisis and you are thinking about hurting yourself—or know a Veteran who is considering this—get help right away. You are not alone.

https://www.va.gov/health-care/health-needs-conditions/mental-health/suicide-prevention/

VA Healthcare, Pension and Compensation. PACT Act Implementation

Chapter members are welcome and encouraged to attend the weekly 4PM Thursday Zoom coffee and the noon Sunday Zoom podcast on VA Healthcare and Disability Claim topics. Please contact chapter member Henry Storm at ancientgrape@gmail.com for links to these weekly Zoom events or access them via the Veteran Facilitator channel on YouTube.

If you are in the White Lake or Milford area, please feel free to contact Henry or Roy about the VA breakfast meetings, Monday, and Friday at 7AM at Leo's Coney Island in White Lake and Wednesday at 7AM at the Americus Grill in Milford. Breakfast is pay as you go and a wonderful place to enjoy fellowship with other veterans and ask questions on VA-related topics.

2024 MOAA ROTC/JROTC Medals Revisited

This year, the chapter was involved in the MOAA ROTC medals program at the University of Michigan, Michigan Technological University, and Eastern Michigan University. The chapter was also involved in the MOAA JROTC medals program at 14 area high schools.

Washtenaw County Vet Fest, August 3, 2024

The Washtenaw County Vet Fest will be held Saturday morning August 3, 2024. The event is free. The event is held at Washtenaw Community College, 4800 Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48105. \
Click HERE for more information.

Freedom Center; Enjoy Veterans Lounges at Detroit Metropolitan Airport

Many travelers will make use of air travel this summer. Military personnel and their families are welcome to enjoy the two Freedom Center veterans' lounges at gate D17 in the Evans Terminal and gate A43 in the McNamara Terminal at Detroit Metropolitan Airport. The centers are normally open daily from 6AM to 7PM in the Evans Terminal and 6AM to 10PM in the McNamara Terminal pending the availability of volunteer support for staffing. All you need is your military ID, an ID certifying that you are a veteran or your DD214. You need not be in uniform and family members are welcome. Lounges are free and normally offer water, coffee, chips, candy, and other light snacks.

Chapter Participation Options for Members

Goal: Encourage member participation in chapter operations of the Southeastern Michigan Chapter, make optimal use of chapter member time and talents.

- **Meeting, Social and Events Program Coordinator** (1 or more members)

  This position coordinates with the chapter Board of Directors to identify and schedule suitable meeting locations including dining options and speakers/programs of interest. This position also develops opportunities for community service events.

- **Chapter ROTC/JROTC MOAA Awards Coordinator** (1 or more members)

  - Purchases MOAA ROTC/JROTC medals, ribbons, certificates, and award folders from the MOAA store.
  - Coordinates with universities and high schools to mail or deliver medals, certificates, and folders.

- Coordinates with universities and high schools and chapter members to attend medal ceremonies and present medals.

  Period of activity: February to May; five to 10 hours per month in April and May. The chapter reimburses the medal coordinator for medals, folders, certificates, and mailing postage consistent with receipts provided.

  Comment: The chapter goal and program value are achieved by presenting medals to high performing students in person. However, many medals are mailed and presented by the school. Schools involved include University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University and 12 metro- Detroit area high schools.

- **Chapter Newsletter Editor**

  - Coordinates publishing the chapter newsletter; normally six to 12 issues per year. Writes newsletter content and edits content received from chapter members. Length of chapter newsletter is a function of content; normally 4 to 6 pages per issue.

- **Newsletter Contributor** (1 or more members)

  - Writes newsletter content at various times throughout the year. Normally 100-250 words per content piece. Coordinates with Newsletter Editor.

- **Personal Affairs program staff** (1 to 3 members)

  - Administers program to keep membership informed.
  - Works with chapter Chaplain and Surviving Spouse Liaison.
  - Period of activity: Throughout the year.

- **Nominating Committee** (1 to 3 members)

  - Contacts membership to solicit interest in running for chapter office.
  - Develops slate of member candidates for chapter office elections to be held annually in November.
  - Period of activity for this position is normally from August to November and would involve three to four hours per month.

- **Chapter Representative to Michigan Council of Chapters** (1 opening November 2024)

  - Attends quarterly Zoom meetings of the Michigan Council of Chapters.
  - May run for officer positions in the Michigan Council of Chapters of MOAA including President, one of three Vice-Presidents, Treasury, and Secretary.

Upcoming 2024 Southeastern Michigan MOAA Chapter and Board Meetings

Meetings of the general membership will be held on the following dates in 2024:

Thursday June 20, 1200, VFW Post 6756, 25500 Sherwood Road, Centerville, MI
Friday, September 20, Mulligans, Selfridge Air National Guard Base
Tuesday, November 7, 1130AM, location TBD

Members are also welcome and encouraged to attend meetings of the Board of Directors that are held in the evening via Zoom. If you are interested, please email yapler@comcast.net for an invitation.