Greetings

This is the sixth 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.

Veterans Crisis Line

The end of a relationship. Loss of a job. Housing instability. Feeling a loss of purpose. At some point, everyone will face a challenge. Some of those challenges may develop into a crisis. Recognizing a crisis in yourself or those you care about can help you know when to find support.

24/7 Confidential, Crisis Support, for Veterans and Their Loved Ones

Dial 988 then Press 1 or text 838255

Or see https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/

Communication Update. Chapter Web Site and Web Presence

In addition to our web site at www.semimoaa.org, we also publish this newsletter and maintain 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. Chapter dues are $20 and are due by January 15 of the calendar year. 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. If you have a new member prospect and have questions, please contact yapler@comcast.net.

Making the Chapter Go. Chapter Participation Opportunities 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.

Membership Coordinator

This position takes the lead in recruiting new chapter and MOAA members and retaining current members. Position develops recruiting and retention strategy and schedule of recruiting events. This position works with the Board of Directors and is vital to continued chapter viability.

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 6 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

The period of activity for this position is normally from August to November and would involve three to four hours per month.

This position is receiving bold highlighting as we need 1–3 chapter members in early August to form the committee and solicit chapter members to run for office in November and serve one-year terms beginning in January 2025.

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

MOAA Continues Transition to New Association Management System (AMS)

In April, national MOAA began its transition to a new Association Management System for keeping track of member and dues status. Efforts to complete the transition are challenging and we request that you remain patient. You can still call national MOAA at (800) 234-6622 or (703) 549-2311 for help 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 also may 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 in July at which time access to the MOAA site, www.moaa.org will resume.

Legislative Update

I hope you are signed up as a national MOAA member to receive the MOAA Weekly Newsletter via email as well as the monthly Military Officer Magazine. Both contain timely focused information on relevant current federal legislative initiatives including those where Michigan MOAA members advocated for as part of the April 2024 Advocacy in Action campaign; see below.

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. If you desire, you can also edit/modify these messages.

Chapter Leadership Seeks New Members at Right Arm Night at Detroit Arsenal June 12, 2024

Chapter President Roy Yaple and Treasurer Rich Higgins attended the Army Right Arm Night at the Detroit Arsenal in Warren, MI seeking to recruit new chapter members. We were welcomed by Warren installation Commander Carrie Mead and MWR staff. While we did not recruit any new members, we did learn a lot from the experience and are considering how we can recruit new members in this area.

Chapter General Membership Luncheon Meeting Held Noon June 20, 2024

The chapter general membership met at the Cpl Richard W. Menge VFW Post 6756 in Warren Michigan on June 20, 2024. Chapter President Roy Yaple welcomed 13 attendees and discussed recent chapter volunteer fundraising at the Selfridge Air Show and Open House on 8 and 9 June 2024. The Open House featured various exhibits and numerous aircraft static displays as well as aerial demonstrations by various high-performance aircraft including a B-2 Bomber and the USAF Thunderbirds. The meeting featured a highly informative presentation on the past, present, and future of US submarines provided by chapter member Rich Higgins.

Chapter Survey

The chapter has developed a comprehensive member survey for the membership and plans to issue it to the membership in July. While the survey has many questions with yes/no responses, please feel free to respond with additional written comments.

VA Healthcare, Pension and Compensation. PACT Act Implementation

If you are applying for VA Healthcare or considering filing a VA disability claim, and are looking for help, please consider attending the weekly 4PM Thursday Zoom coffee or the noon Sunday Zoom podcast on VA Healthcare and Disability Claim topics. Contact chapter member Henry Storm at ancientgrape@gmail.com or Roy Yaple at yapler@comcast.net 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 Yaple (yapler@comcast.net) 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.

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 Free Veterans Lounges at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW)

Summer is in full swing, and many will travel through the Detroit Metropolitan Airport (either the Warren or McNamara Terminals). Veterans are encouraged to enjoy the Freedom Center lounges at gates A43 and D17. All you need is a military ID card or a Michigan driver's license reflecting veteran status. Civilian clothes are welcome. Dependents traveling with the veteran are welcome! We have free water, coffee, and snacks. The center is staffed by volunteers, many who are veterans or former airline employees. Normally, when staff is available, the McNamara Gate A43 center is open from 6AM to 10PM and the Evans Terminal Gate D17 center is open from 6AM to 6PM.

Retiree Appreciation Day, September 21, 2024 (Selfridge Air National Guard Base)

The Retiree Affairs Office at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Mount Clemens, Michigan will be hosting the annual Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) on Saturday September 21, 2024 from 08-1200 at the Wagner Enlisted Dining Facility at Selfridge. Please refer to the flyer for registration instructions and RAD Agenda which were emailed on June 27, 2024.

Book Report by Roy Yaple, Hamilton, Author Ron Chernow, 738 pages

Maybe during the last few years you saw the play or movie version of the Lin Manuel-Miranda adaptation of this biography by Ron Chernow. Having a bit of a hearing deficiency and not being an afficionado of most rap music, I was fortunate to have had some knowledge of the history of the late 18th and early 19th century prior to the play. And while the play was masterful, knowledge of the history was very helpful. I have read three of Mr. Chernow's biographies (Grant and Washington) and enjoyed and recommend all of them. Hamilton was a dynamo who was involved in a wide variety of initiatives, projects and the formation of numerous American institutions. With George Washington, he formed a dynamic duo. Although never becoming President, he occupies a unique place in American history. After reading all three works, I found it ironic that Grant and Washington dodged many bullets in various military conflicts, but Hamilton (a proponent of dueling) died, effectively stationary, during a July 11, 1804, duel with Aaron Burr. And, the highly partisan political events of the time, for good or bad, reminded me a lot of today's political climate. A large work, well researched, and propelled by Alexander Hamilton's own energy, I recommend Hamilton by Ron Chernow.

Upcoming 2024 Southeastern Michigan MOAA Chapter and Board Meetings

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

- 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. Our next Board of Directors meeting will be at 7PM on July 18 via Zoom.