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Volume XIII, Issue 9

THE METRO DETROIT METEOR

MOAA Military Officers Association of America

Chapter Board Members

President - LCDR Rich Higgins, USN (Ret)
Vice President - 1LT Rob Kull, ARNG
Treasurer - Vacant
Secretary - LTC Larry Powell, USA (Ret)
Surviving Spouse Liaison - COL Noreen Diedo, USA (Ret)
Past President - CDR Roy Yaple, USN (Ret)

Chapter Address

Chapter Digital links:

- Chapter web site, www.semimoaa.org
- MOAA web presence.

https://www.moaa.org/chapter/southeasternmichigan/

For all non-digital correspondence use the following address:
560 Barrington Rd. Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230

Important Information

Chapter Meeting & Elections

Our Chapter elections will take place at the Nov 6 lunch meeting. More details below.

Disclaimer

- The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a nonprofit military and veterans association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors.
- The Southeastern Michigan Chapter of MOAA (SEMI M OAA) is affiliated with the Michigan Council MOAA and the national MOAA Organization and are all nonpartisan
- All material or other information - including links - contained in the SEMI MOAA newsletter is provided as a public service to military service members and their families.
- The contents of this publication is subject to periodic updating.
- Although every attempt is made to ensure that information is accurate and timely, the content is presented "as is" and without warranties.
- Use of the information is strictly voluntary and at the user's sole risk.

Membership

Membership is open to those who hold or have ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and their surviving spouses.

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. Although membership in the national MOAA organization is not a requirement to join this Chapter, we strongly encourage you to join. The basic level of MOAA membership is free.

To become a member click HERE

US Representative Names and Districts

Click to open webpage

5 - Tim Walberg
6 - Debbie Dingell
7 - Tom Barrett
8 - Kristen Rivet
9 - Lisa McLain
10 - John James
11 - Haley Stevens
12 - Rashida Tlaib
13 - Shri Thanedar

119th Congress

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"Never Stop Serving" – What It Means to Us

Fellow Members,

Membership in the Southeastern Michigan Chapter of MOAA is more than belonging to a group of fellow officers–it's an opportunity to make a tangible difference in the lives of veterans, military families, and our broader community. Whether you have a few minutes a month or a few hours a week, every member has something valuable to give through what we call the "Three Ts":Time, Talent, and Treasure.

Time is perhaps the simplest, yet most powerful contribution. Taking a few moments to contact your elected officials–through MOAA's Legislative Action Center or the Michigan Commanders Group–helps ensure that the voices of Michigan's servicemembers and retirees are heard in Lansing and Washington. Advocacy is the heart of MOAA's mission, and your time spent speaking up truly matters.

Talent is what keeps our Chapter active and effective. We rely on members who step forward to serve as officers, committee chairs, or event volunteers–bringing their experience, creativity, and leadership to every meeting and initiative. If you have organizational, communication, or technical skills, your talents can strengthen our programs and expand our outreach.

Treasure represents the financial support that sustains our efforts and enables us to give back. Contributions to the MOAA Foundation and other worthy causes featured on our website directly support scholarships, emergency relief, and community service projects benefiting veterans and their families.

Together, these three forms of participation ensure that we, as a Chapter, continue to "Never Stop Serving." Every member's Time, Talent, and Treasure are vital to our shared success–because together, we make a difference.

Sincerely,
Rich Higgins, LCDR, USN (Ret.)
President

2025 Meetings

Board Meetings			Chapter/Other Meetings		
Jan 16	Feb 20	Mar 20	Jan 30 Chapter Lunch	Apr 7-10 Advocacy in Action	May 1 Chapter Dinner National MOAA Visit
Apr 17	May 14	Jun 19	May 10 International Armed Forces Dining out	Jun 12 Chapter Lunch	Jul 9 Chapter ZOOM Meeting
Jul 17	Aug 21	Oct 16	Sep 18 Chapter Luncheon	Sep 20 Retiree Appreciation Day	Oct 16 Chapter Zoom Mtg
			Nov 6 Chapter Mtg / Election of Officers	Nov 9 Veteran's Day Remembrance	Dec 13 Wreaths Across America

Due to the extensive geographic footprint of the chapter, we do not have a standard meeting location. Rather, we move the meeting location around to accomodate our members. The meetings are announced well in advance via email, our website and this newsletter. If you need information about chapter happenings, contact one of our Board members at this link.

Legislative Corner

The MOAA Advocacy Update

Every week, MOAA's advocacy leaders and other experts discuss issues of importance to our members and the uniformed services community. Watch the latest **here**.

To stay informed, you can subscribe to the MOAA YouTube channel **here**.

To contact your legislators and to learn about what MOAA is working on with Congress, click **here**.

Effects of the Government Shutdown

For Currently Serving:

- Elective and routine medical procedures at military facilities may be canceled or postponed
- Military pharmacies will remain open, but hours may change.
- Commissaries and exchanges will remain open, as will mess halls, gyms, and child care facilities "required for readiness." Military personnel may replace furloughed civilians to allow for continuation of other services deemed "necessary or appropriate."
- Advancing Access to Care for military families using TRICARE, including prenatal and OB-GYN care.
- "Community and public outreach programs" such as concerts, military airshow appearances, and similar events that are not fully funded with nonappropriated funds (NAF) will be canceled or postponed.

- Death gratuity payments will continue. This is a change from the prior shutdown resulting from language in 2021 appropriations legislation.

For Retirees and Survivors:

- Armed services retirees, to include Coast Guard retirees, will continue to receive retiree pay during the funding lapse.
- Elective and routine medical procedures at military facilities may be canceled or postponed.
- Survivor Benefit Plan payments will continue.
- Retirees and survivors covered under the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) won't be affected.

For Veterans/VA:

- Health care facilities will remain open.
- Burials will continue at VA cemeteries, as will applications and related processing (except for pre-need burial applications).

This article appears on MOAA's website. To see more details on this article, or other related advocacy news, click this **link**.

MICHIGAN COMMANDERS GROUP

Michigan Veterans Homes:

One of the top issues for the state are the lack of veterans homes.

Expand the number of State Veterans Homes in Michigan to accommodate the various veteran population centers in the state.

A 2016 State of Michigan study that recommended seven Veterans Homes in Michigan resulted in a strategic plan, which has not been implemented.

There are currently only three veterans homes in Michigan – Grand Rapids, Marquette, and Chesterfield Township.

Contact your representatives today. Click on this **link** to send an email to them right now.

Total Force + is coming

October 28 and 29 in National Harbor, MD, more than 75 speakers, over 150 exhibitors and 3,000 attendees will meet to collaborate on changing the quality of life for the military community.

TotalForce+ brings together the entire uniformed services community – past and present – to spotlight solutions that honor your service and support your future.

At TotalForce+, you'll find:

- Benefits updates and advocacy insights.
- Career transition and personal development resources.
- New connections across military, government, and private sectors.
- A platform where your lived experience drives real change.

Registration is open to the following categories:

Complimentary Registration

- Currently serving U.S. military, uniformed service members, and their spouses
- Academy Cadet/Midshipman & ROTC
- Members of congress and congressional staff members
- Currently serving DoD/VA/USPHS/NOAA civilians, and their spouses

Paid Registration

- Other current U.S. federal government employees (GS/SES) not included in the departments listed above, and their spouses
- Representatives of industry companies
- University professors and students
- Representatives of foreign military, embassies, government
- Retired military or veterans (not currently employed in an industry related to the DoD), and their spouses

Registration fees: $350 for MOAA members, $750 for non-members
includes access to all educational sessions, Exhibit Halls and Reception

For all the details go to this **link**.

Chesterfield Veterans Home Looking for Volunteers

The MVH Chesterfield is looking for support through donations and volunteers.
For those interested in donating, the October 2025 Wish List can be found at https://www.michigan.gov/mvh/locations/michigan-veteran-homes-at-chesterfield-township then select 'wish list'.

(**IMPORTANT**: If you plan to donate, please contact Hilary at 586-256-9921 so we can acknowledge your generosity. Here is the link: https://a.co/cl2Ceff)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
We welcome new volunteers! Volunteers help make all the Home's wonderful activities possible. Game nights, bonfires, outings, bingo, movies and comedy nights, and more! There is something for everyone.
Volunteer applications are available at reception or on-line at www.Michigan.gov/mvh, select 'support' and 'volunteering'.

Special Request:
Evening volunteers are needed Monday through Friday from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. to assist with programs and outings.

Upcoming Events

Chapter Elections are Just Around the Corner

The nominating committee has confirmed the officer slate for the upcoming election for service beginning in January. The officers nominated for 2026 are:
President: Rich Higgin
Vice President: Roy Yaple
Secretary: Larry Powell
Treasurer: Rich Higgins:
Surviving Spouse Liaison:

Elections will take place at the next Chapter lunch/meeting on November 6, 12:00pm. We will meet at the Rusty Bucket.
30450 Telegraph Rd
Bingham Farms, MI 48025

RVSP to Roy Yaple:
yapler@comcast.net

MEMBERSHIP

Chapter Seeks New Members

Our active member roster remains at 32 and we are always looking to add new members. Our chapter recently approved a member incentive for new chapter members. Any new chapter member signing up in 2025 will be credited for calendar year 2025 and 2026. Note also that if you know an officer who has never been a MOAA national member, national MOAA is still offering a free one-year MOAA BASIC membership. If you have questions about membership, please contact Roy at yapler@comcast.net The chapter Join Form is available on the chapter **website**.

Dues for national MOAA and the chapter membership are separate. We encourage a member to join both organizations.

Chapter dues are for the calendar year of $20 are due each year in January. Dues can be paid by check for $20 made out to Southeastern Michigan Chapter MOAA or via the **dues link** on the website.

Please note that the main source of revenue for the chapter is member dues. Paying dues on time at the start of the calendar year allows the chapter to operate within the annual budget with confidence. We are grateful for timely payment of member dues.

Chapter Opportunities for Service

The chapter **Treasurer** position remains open. If you are interested in serving in this position, please contact rlhigginsjr@yahoo.com We will be happy to answer questions and provide training. The major activity for this position is tracking and crediting member dues payments.

The chapter is also looking for a person to manage the chapter **ROTC/JROTC MOAA medals program**. The main period of activity for this responsibility runs from January to the end of May and involves purchasing medals and certificates and communicating with schools for delivery of medals. Note that if you are aware of a school with a JROTC program that does not have an MOAA medal, please contact yapler@comcast.net and will can almost certainly add them to our list of high schools. We currently work with the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University and 12 metro area high schools.

Surviving Spouse Info

MOAA Resources for Spouses

In addition to the many issues that MOAA and partner agencies advocate for, there are publications and other resources available.

MOAA Member - Only Spouse Publications include:

- Family Matters: A Personal Inventory for Peace of Mind. MOAA has created a publication to help your families organize vital military, benefits, financial, and family information. This electronic version allows you to update your records easily throughout the many changes and moves your family faces during your military career.
- Former Spouse Benefits: Navigating the eligibility and entitlement of the Uniformed Services Former Spouses' Protection Act (USFSPA) can be stressful. Covering topics from retired pay to tax reporting and more, this MOAA publication will be a valuable resource for you.
- Remarriage Guide: For surviving spouses of servicemembers, remarriage can make you ineligible for some military benefits and programs. MOAA hopes this publication will help you understand what benefits you are entitled to as a surviving spouse and what changes you can expect after you remarry.
- Military Spouse Employment Guide: The military lifestyle includes travel, adventure and new experiences. On the flip side, it also guarantees a transient lifestyle and challenges to maintaining a career. This publication will be a helpful resource to you in your pursuit of a career.

To access these publications click on this **link**.

VA Healthcare, Pension and Compensation; Weekly Zoom Calls

If you are in the White Lake or Milford area, please feel free to contact Henry Storm 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.

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.
This is the **link** for you to save to access the Website. Here you will find all of the links that are individually listed below :

- 12:00 - 1:00 PM EST Sunday Noon Veteran Sitrep Podcast
- 4:00 - 5:00 PM EST Thursday Vet Talk
- Facebook Page Trusted Helpers: A daily update on what is happening with your VA benefits
- 550+ Videos, created by Air Force Veteran Ed Ruckle, answering questions veterans, like you, have asked.

Please note that the VA 1010EZ, the form for applying for VA Healthcare has been revised as of this month (July 2024). If you applied in the past and were denied VA Health Care, another look with the new form may be appropriate to see if you qualify for VA Healthcare).

Just for Fun

The current drill sergeant hat evolved from the 1883 campaign hat. That headgear was a modified (flat brim versus upturned brim) Montana Peak, which was adopted for wear by the army in 1911, and abandoned in 1942. In 1964, the hat was reintroduced to become a proud symbol of the drill sergeant.
The female drill sergeant hat came into being in 1972. It was designed by Brig. Gen. Mildred C. Bailey. The original design was taken from the Australian bush hat, and was beige in color. In 1983, the color was changed to green with the style remaining unchanged.

The drill sergeants wear the campaign hat as a testament of their demonstrated professionalism, commitment to the mission, and proven leadership. The hat further symbolizes the lineage of the past, present and future of the U.S. Army.

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.

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