



## Greetings

This is the seventh 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](http://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 contact the newsletter Editor, Roy Yaple at 810-599-8306

## 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 the chapter's web site at [www.semimoaa.org](http://www.semimoaa.org) the chapter publishes this newsletter and maintains a MOAA web presence at <https://www.moaa.org/chapter/southeasternmichigan/>.

## Chapter Member Welcome

The chapter is very pleased to welcome CDR Don Walker, US Navy (Retired) as a member of the Southeastern Michigan Chapter, MOAA. Welcome Commander Walker!

## Chapter and National Membership/Combined Join Form

Our chapter has been a MOAA affiliate for over 60 years and is one of nearly 400 chapter affiliates of the national MOAA organization which was formed in 1929 originally as The Retired Officers Association (TROA).

To encourage chapter and MOAA membership, the Southeastern Michigan Chapter followed the practice of many other chapters, and recently began using a **Combined Chapter Join Form**. This form, when completed, includes membership information (status, rank, address, etc.) and then asks the member if they are a member of MOAA. If not, MOAA provides a membership incentive by offering a free one-year MOAA BASIC Membership.

At the same time, the new MOAA member also pays their annual chapter dues of \$20 to become a chapter member. Note that the BASIC membership offer is only good for new MOAA members. Members who have had their MOAA membership lapse are not eligible for a second free BASIC membership but may resume their membership in MOAA at the three-year PREMIUM level or LIFETIME level.

If you are a chapter member who is a MOAA PREMIUM Member or LIFETIME member, the form is also used to renew annual chapter dues. You will receive a reminder in December of this year for calendar year 2025 annual chapter dues of \$20 and just need to return your JOIN Form with your dues payment. Note that payment of PREMIUM dues to MOAA is separate.

If you have a new member prospect and have questions, please contact [yapler@comcast.net](mailto: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 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.

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 two more 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 (2 openings).

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.

### Legislative Update

Legislative advocacy occurs on a national and a state level. For the national level, the MOAA Legislative Action Center, accessed via [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org) allows those registered to make use of pre-drafted emails written to support key military legislation. The functionality within the Legislative Action Center automatically determines which members of Congress match with the sender and the sender can select which item of legislation that they want to support. Members are encouraged to register and submit emails periodically in support of legislation including but not limited to:

- Restoration of Basic Allowance for Housing to 100%
- Passage of the Major Richard Star Act
- Support of TRICARE For Life

On the state level, the Michigan Commanders Group web site includes legislative advocacy functionality that enables you to support state military legislation including initiatives for suicide prevention, hyperbaric oxygen treatment, and veteran treatment courts, among others.

See [www.michigancommandersgroup.org](http://www.michigancommandersgroup.org)

You can register for this and then you can send emails to your state legislators in support of the military issue(s) of your choice.

### **Chapter Volunteers Lead to New Chapter First**

On June 8 and 9, chapter members volunteered in the concessions at the Selfridge Air National Guard Base Open House and Air Show. While accounting is still in progress, we expect that this community service effort will be the first chapter fundraising effort in chapter history.

### **Our Next Meeting**

Our next chapter general membership meeting will be on Tuesday August 20, 2024, at the Gazebo Banquet Center, 31104 Mound Road, Warren Michigan. The show time will be Noon with a luncheon banquet starting at 1215PM. Chapter members, spouses, and guests are welcome to attend.

We are honored that our guest speaker will be the Honorable State Representative Joseph Aragona of the 60<sup>th</sup> District in the Michigan House of Representatives

We will enjoy a luncheon banquet that includes the following:

Baked Chicken  
Roast Pork Loin  
Mostaccioli  
Potatoes  
Vegetable mix medley  
Salad(s)  
Rolls, butter  
Coffee, hot tea, soft drinks  
Dessert

The cost is \$25 per person; dress is casual. Payment in advance is required by August 14, 2024. Please click [HERE](#) to pay online, or send and make checks payable to

Southeastern Michigan Chapter MOAA  
4704 Mount Brighton Drive  
Brighton MI 48116

### **Thank You to All Who Completed the Chapter Survey!**

To gather information on chapter interests, the chapter developed a comprehensive member survey and interest grid. We are in the process of compiling survey results and a summary report of conclusions and response actions. Thank you again to everyone who responded to the survey.

## **VA Healthcare, Pension and Compensation; Weekly Zoom Calls**

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. Please contact chapter member Henry Storm at [ancientgrape@gmail.com](mailto:ancientgrape@gmail.com) or Roy Yaple at [yapler@comcast.net](mailto:yapler@comcast.net) for links to these weekly Zoom events. *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*

If you are in the White Lake or Milford area, please feel free to contact Henry Storm or Roy Yaple ([yapler@comcast.net](mailto: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.

## **Retired Affairs Office (RAO) Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mount Clemens, MI Seeks Volunteers**

The Retired Affairs Office (RAO) is looking for at least two volunteers to support the office at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Volunteers work to answer phone calls and serve clients walking into the office. Shifts are normally one day per week with three hours in the office and one hour travel time per shift. Shift days are Tuesday through Friday and shift hours are 9-12 or 12-3. The work is normally not too physical but does become more physical closer to the Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) date (this year September 21). RAD support involves setting up and tear down of tables and chairs, vacuuming, and bringing food and beverages into the RAD location (Wagner Enlisted Dining Facility at Selfridge) on the base in Mount Clemens. Knowledge in military personnel matters is a plus but not a requirement. Spouses of chapter members can also volunteer. If you are interested, please contact [yapler@comcast.net](mailto:yapler@comcast.net)

## **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. Please see the link below

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/washtenaw-county-vet-fest-2024-tickets-841489516797#:~:text=Washtenaw%20County%20Vet%20Fest%202024,at%2010%3A00%20AM%20%7C%20Eventbrite>

## **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 also 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 are 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. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact [yapler@comcast.net](mailto:yapler@comcast.net)

### **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.

### **Upcoming 2024 Southeastern Michigan MOAA Chapter and Board Meetings**

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

Noon, Tuesday August 20, 2024, The Gazebo Banquet Center, 31104 Mound Road, Warren, MI 48092, Buffet Dinner starts at 1215PM.

November 7, 1130AM, location TB 31104 Mound Road, Warren, MID

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](mailto:yapler@comcast.net) for an invitation.