

Metro Detroit Meteor, a newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Chapter, MOAA, Dec 2, 2023

Good Morning. This is the second Southeastern Michigan Chapter MOAA newsletter of 2023. The newsletter will come to you via email as a normal delivery; it can be mailed to you if you request it.

We Value Your Membership and Seek New Members. This newsletter is one tool we plan to use to focus on retaining current members and recruiting new members. We recently sent out a dues membership application form for your use to invite another officer who qualifies for membership. If you have questions, please contact me at yapler@comcast.net

December 5 and 12 Virtual Chapter Meetings. The chapter will hold virtual identical meetings via Zoom at 10AM on Tuesday December 5, 2023, and in the evening at 7PM on Tuesday December 12, 2023. Meeting Zoom links were sent out Saturday evening.

VA Healthcare, Pension and Compensation. Consistent with the August 2022 passage of the PACT Act and as a matter of good practice, we are encouraging chapter members to apply for VA Healthcare, request their health/service records, and make appropriate disability claims for VA benefits. We also hope members gain a better understanding of VA healthcare options in the community. Earlier this month, I distributed information on filing for VA Healthcare via the VA Form 1010-EZ and filing for copies of your medical and health records. While the PACT Act was associated with toxic burn pit exposures to those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, the expanded list of presumable conditions in the new PACT Act can apply to toxic exposures during any period of service in any location. There is a weekly 4PM Zoom coffee and a noon Sunday Zoom podcast on VA Healthcare and Disability Claim topics and I encourage you to give them a listen. Please contact chapter member Henry Storm at ancientgrape@gmail.com for links to these weekly Zoom events. If you are in the White Lake or Milford area, please feel free to contact Henry or me about the VA breakfast meetings.

Wreaths Across America, Saturday Dec 16. On Saturday 16 December at Noon, participating cemeteries across the United States will participate in Wreaths Across America wreath laying ceremonies. I will be at Resurrection Cemetery, 18201 Clinton River Road, Clinton Twp, MI. There will be a brief program starting at noon (probably about 150 in attendance) and then there will be wreaths to be placed. If you are planning to participate at another cemetery, please contact the cemetery ahead of time to verify they are participating and how you should proceed (or contact me and I can help you). If you have questions about the event, wreath sponsoring, or wreath-laying protocol, please contact me as well. There are 8500 veterans buried at Resurrection Cemetery.

Legislative. The MOAA Legislative Action Center (LAC) provides the means for you to advocate for important pieces of legislation via pre-drafted email correspondence. Once you submit the email, it is automatically routed to the appropriate Congressional office. The functionality is easy to use, accurate, and free. While it appears that the imminent fears of a crisis government shutdown have been pushed into early 2024, I recently used the LAC to send my representatives email in support of legislation that would ensure continuity of pay for military service members under shutdown conditions.

Chapter Treasurer Opening. If you have questions about or are interested in filling the position of Chapter Treasurer, please contact me at yapler@comcast.net

Chapter Dues. Annual Southeastern Michigan chapter dues are \$20 for calendar year 2024; dues renewal forms were sent via email on December 2. Dues are due by January 15, 2024.

