



CENTRAL OHIO CHAPTER

A Joint Non-Partisan MOAA Affiliate

*Our Mission: Taking Care of the Troops
through Legislation & Support*

CONNECT

Central Ohio News



Connect, the Central Ohio Newsletter, is published by the MOAA-Central Ohio Chapter, which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are non-partisan. Join us—your membership helps us achieve the Mission. Visit our website www.moaa-centralohio.org to join.

Editor: [CDR Bill Roberts USN \(Ret\)](#). Let me know how I can improve your Newsletter!

Need to contact a Board Member? Click [HERE](#) for a complete listing and contact information!

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President's Corner May 2023

Recently it was my privilege and honor to accompany LT Col (Ret) McKeon as she distributed \$500 scholarships to one deserving ROTC cadet at each of the six detachments our Foundation supports. It was a wonderful time as we witnessed the outstanding future leaders of our military. Your donations to the Foundation enable us to support both veterans and future military. To that end, it was recently revealed to me that if you have a regular IRA, any withdrawal from it that you donate to a 501(C)(3) charitable organization is tax free. I recently did it with my IRA and it worked like a charm. All you have to do is put it on your 1040 as a Qualified Charitable Distribution and the amount you donated will be deducted from your total taxable withdrawal. Pretty neat, I think!



Keeping shots up to date is important for all of us. This link tells you all about what is covered under TRICARE and who can administer the vaccinations.

<https://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/IsItCovered/InfusionMedication>

Our Past President and past legislative liaison recently traveled to Washington DC, where they contacted all 17 Ohio legislative offices to lobby for legislation for veterans and active duty personnel. Of particular importance was the TRICARE pharmacy issue—low reimbursement has forced independent pharmacies and Kroger out of the program, so veterans in remote locations have to travel long distances for their medications. They also received very positive responses on the issue of the low “housing allowance” reimbursement for our active duty servicemembers. I would encourage all to visit the MOAA National website and click on the AIA section to make your opinions known to our representatives and senators.

Again I would encourage all to take some third Friday of the month and join us for lunch at the Berwick. (Starting in June—there’s no luncheon at the Berwick in May because of the area-wide Armed Forces Day luncheon.)

Thank you for your time,

Alex

Notes from the Membership Log May 2023

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: WO4 Richard Buergel, USA/RET, Life MOAA Member; Mrs. Angela Buergel, Spouse Member.

The winner of the April 50/50 raffle was LTC Joe Machado who won \$10 & donated it to the Foundation. We only had 8 people present at the April luncheon.

Our next luncheon will be on Friday, the 19th of May, at the Villa Milano for Armed Forces Day. We have reserved a table for 10 and there are currently 2 spots left. If we can get 10 more individuals who want to go, we will reserve another table. The cost is \$40.00/person.

Please remember to register ahead of time for any luncheon so the restaurant knows how many individuals to prepare for.

In April, I sent recruitment letters to 5 officers by email and 1 officer by snailmail in hopes of encouraging new members to join our Chapter from the April monthly list sent out by MOAA.

If you have not yet paid your 2023 dues, expect a follow-up phone call as a reminder.

Continually serving,

Nancy F. Rey, LCDR, US Navy (Ret)

Membership VP and Life MOAA Member

“The larger our number, the greater your voice!”



[Legislative News May 2023](#)

Active legislative campaigns appear on the MOAA website in the Key Advocacy Center at [MOAA Issues](#). The website includes six categories – Active Duty, Family, Guard & Reserve, Retirees, Survivors, and Veterans. One featured alert under the Active Duty tab is entitled “Urge Your Legislators to Pay Full Housing Costs for Servicemembers”. I would encourage you to visit this site and take action by contacting Congress using the drafted message. Here is more information on this alert: “The availability of affordable rental housing is a national problem—one made worse for servicemembers thanks to frequent moves and the unique needs of their profession. Servicemembers don’t choose where they are stationed, and they are always on call. The challenges mount further for families, with spouses of those in uniform more likely to be unemployed or underemployed. Servicemembers and their families living on-base have their BAH cover 100% of the rent and utility costs. However, those off-base only have BAH cover 95% of rent and the utilities. We need to end this cost-cutting measure for our troops. Our nation expects 100% from our servicemembers, so please help us ensure they get 100% of their housing allowance by supporting BAH restoration.”

Other issues include supporting the All-Volunteer Force and opposing TRICARE for Life Fees. From the “Active Legislative Campaigns” page, hit the “Write” button to the right of the title and description of each bill. Fill out your personal information and then hit the “submit” button at the bottom of the page. The entire process takes about two minutes.

MOAA is also supporting 32 key bills, which may be found on the “MOAA-Supported Legislation” page at the [MOAA Action Center](#). This is a great list since you can click on

the name of the bill to learn more about it. If you have any questions, please contact Jen Travers at ericjen2001@msn.com.

For the Ohio Council of Chapters support of MOAA Advocacy in Action, go to [OCC Advocacy](#) below.

[ROTC/JROTC Update May 2023](#)

[AFROTC Dining Out Thank You](#)

I received the following email on 30 March:

From: Paulicivic, Corbin F.

Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 9:28 AM

Subject: Thank you for making Dining Out 2023 a success!

On behalf of the Detachment 645 Dining Out Team, I sincerely thank you for contributing to our event! We couldn't have done it without you. The Military Officers Association award means so much to us at Detachment 645! I know you're busy, so I appreciate the time you took out of your schedule to do this! With your direct support of our Air Force ROTC community, our cadets received the recognition they deserved, and our event proceeded better than it would have otherwise. Cadet Hyatt is especially grateful that you were with us that night to highlight his achievements. Once again, thank you for helping us make Dining Out the best event it could be!

Very Respectfully,

CORBIN F. PAULICIVIC, C/2d Lt, AFROTC, Support Officer, Golf Flight

[Shameless Petition!](#)

We encourage you again to please consider a **tax-deductible** donation to the MOAA Central Ohio Chapter Foundation ROTC scholarship fund. This fund provides financial assistance to outstanding ROTC cadets and midshipmen.

Through your donations, we've been able to double our scholarship award from \$250 to \$500 for each recipient—Thank you! While this is a huge improvement, we all know that college expenses can eat up \$500 quickly, so we are working to increase this award even more in future years. *To do that, we need your help.*

Please send your checks to: MOAA-COC-Foundation
P.O. Box 361632
Columbus, Ohio 43236-1632

and indicate "ROTC scholarship donation" on the check.

You can also go to <https://moaa-centralohio-foundation.org/> and click “Donate” to use a credit card or PayPal.

The MOAA COC Foundation is approved by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) foundation for tax purposes. Thanks for supporting our future leaders!

Marston McKeon
Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
marston66@hotmail.com



[Adopt a Service Person Update May 2023](#)

The following is a message I received from one of our troop personnel in Iraq: “Just wanted to thank you for your generosity in sending the care package I very much appreciate it. Having the Cheez-its, the beefsticks (some of my favorite) were great treats to remind me of home. Also, the cards & the other stuff are also appreciated. I’m being moved to another camp soon. I appreciate your support.”

It is rare to get a thank you note. These troops are in harm’s way and often in outposts. We’ll keep sending them our care boxes and please keep their safety in your prayers. Thank you for supporting this endeavor.

Dorothy Williams
861-423-7016



[Cincinnati MOAA 50th Anniversary](#)

On March 30, George and I attended the 50th Anniversary Celebration for the Greater Cincinnati Chapter at the Metropolitan Club in Covington. A short history was given about the 125 military officers who gathered at a luncheon, and with a \$50 grant from MOAA national headquarters, started the Cincinnati Chapter. The longest serving member was honored, and all past presidents were presented with MOAA ball caps which dated their years of service. Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, President and CEO of MOAA, was the guest speaker. He spoke of MOAA’s goal to protect earned benefits, especially pharmacy benefits. The new Crisis Relief Fund was discussed, and also MOAA’s efforts to benefit not only officers, but all military personnel. Many active-duty commands were represented. Current state president LTC Bill Radcliffe and his wife Patricia also attended. It was a wonderful evening celebrating 50 years of accomplishments for the Greater Cincinnati Chapter. —Dorothy Williams

2022 Col Marvin Harris Communications Award

The Central Ohio Chapter's Newsletter and Website received a four-star rating from MOAA National. Many thanks to Walter Rey for his efforts as Webmaster and CONNECT editor!



Notes

The Major Richard Star Act

Please go online to <https://moaa.quorum.us/> and urge your legislators to “Support Concurrent Receipt.” This is the Major Richard Star Act, which did not make it through Congress last year. Passage of this legislation will end the VA “offset” by authorizing combat-injured veterans to receive their full DoD retirement pay and their full VA disability compensation.

Columbus Armed Forces Day Luncheon

Save the date—Friday, May 19, 2023—for the 2023 Armed Forces Day Luncheon, which will honor the United States Coast Guard. Details (location, time, cost and featured speaker) will be announced on the Military/Veterans Educational Foundation (MILVETS) of Ohio website <https://www.ohiomilvets.org/>

Ohio Council of Chapters (OCC) Convention

The OCC Biennial Convention will be held at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station in Vienna, Ohio, September 29—October 1, 2023. To register, go to the OCC website at <https://ohiomooaa.org/> and click on the Convention Announcement Flyer.

Central Ohio Veterans Stand Down

The Central Ohio Veterans Stand Down committee and the Knights of Columbus Council 1056 Delaware held their annual “Fore” Our Veterans Golf Outing on April 30. The event included a memorial to the late Pete Wilkinson, at his favorite volunteer post at Oakhaven Golf Club.



Ohio Council of Chapters Advocacy in Action

Ohio Council of Chapters President Bill Radcliffe and First Vice President Mike Mentas participated in this year's Advocacy in Action event in Washington, DC. Escorted by MOAA staff and board members, they visited all 17 Ohio Congressional offices to lobby in support of MOAA's efforts to restore the TRICARE Pharmacy Network and to restore the active duty Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) to 100% of housing costs.

Bill wrote that he and Mike found overwhelming bipartisan support for these issues given the dangers to our national defense today. A congressman on the Armed Services Committee told his chief of staff to arrange a meeting with the Chair to see what can be done to get this legislation to the floor. Several requested the name of the individual who drafted the language for the Pharmacy legislation. The individuals with families in Ohio were very familiar with the loss of pharmacies (Kroger is headquartered in Cincinnati).

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