



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.

Our mission is to promote the purposes and objectives of MOAA; foster fraternal relationships among retired, active duty, and former officers of the uniformed services and their reserve and national guard components; protect the rights and interests of active duty, retired, reserve and national guard component personnel of the uniformed services, their dependents and survivors; provide useful services for members and their dependents and survivors; and serve veterans, community and the nation.

Your membership helps us achieve the Mission! Visit our website www.moaa-centralohio.org to join the chapter, or click on the shield at right to learn about National MOAA membership.

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 listing and contact information.

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President's Corner

As a charitable organization, we perform volunteer services for servicemembers and families who are presently serving, veterans and families who have served, and students in ROTC who will serve. Why? Because, as humans, we love to assist others in their endeavors and journeys in life. Why military focused? Because it reflects the core values and experiences of our own lives. With that in mind, let's discuss two upcoming events that deserve our support.

Central Ohio Veterans' Stand Down

The 31st Annual Central Ohio Veterans Stand Down is scheduled for 23 October 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Greater Columbus Convention Center (400 N. High Street, Columbus, OH 43215). Parking is free at the Goodale Street Garage.

Admission is free to veterans carrying a valid veteran ID (e.g., DD214, VA Medical card, or veteran organization membership card). Veterans can walk in on 23 October or pre-[register on-line](#) for Early Bird Intake—Early Bird enables veterans to bypass much of the intake process at the event. (Early Bird registration runs from 1 August to 13 September 2026.)

Services available at Stand Down include academics, Buckeye Military Moms, Columbus Legal Aid, disc golf, grocery, haircuts, housing, home essentials, jobs, Rocky Boots, veteran recreation, VA Medical, and a Women's Lounge. Click [here](#) to learn how to get involved as a volunteer.

ROTC Scholarships/Central Ohio Chapter:

Thanks to your generous support, MOAA Central Ohio provided \$6,750 in scholarships to ROTC students last year. To continue to support our ROTC chapters, please contribute through our website link at <https://moaa-centralohio.org/Donations>. Thanks for giving!

Please let me hear your suggestions, and thanks again for the opportunity to serve.

Chris



Notes from the Membership Log

Seventeen members attended our July luncheon at the Rusty Bucket in New Albany. Col Alex Bettinger won the 50/50 raffle and donated his winnings to the Foundation. We were to honor Surviving Spouses but unfortunately none were able to be present at the

luncheon. If you have any suggestions regarding speakers you'd like to hear at the luncheons, let President Chris Curry know about them.

Our next Chapter luncheon will be Friday, 21 August at the Rusty Bucket in New Albany. If you plan to attend, please contact LTC Jeff Collins by 14 August at jmcwindsor@yahoo.com so that we can give the restaurant a headcount.

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2026, please send a check, or use [MOAA's online payment system](#). If you know of someone who might like to join the Central Ohio Chapter, please refer them to https://moaa-centralohio.org/member_application.cfm.

Hope to see you at the August board meeting or luncheon. Everyone is welcome at either gathering.

On-line Payments

Our Chapter is enrolled in MOAA's online payments system (at no charge to us). To pay dues or give donations, go to the DONATIONS page on the MOAA Central Ohio website (<https://moaa-centralohio.org/Donations>) and click on the orange PAY NOW button. Fill in your name and email on [the page that opens](#). Click the orange ENTER button to go to a page that will enable you to pay dues as well as donate.

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

[Help MOAA continue to advocate](#) for active duty, reserve, and retired service members and their dependents. Click [this link](#) to learn more about MOAA's advocacy.

MOAA's key advocacy priority is the Take Care of America's Veterans Act (TCAVA), which is omnibus legislation including more than 20 MOAA-backed bills, including three of MOAA's longest-standing legislative priorities: the Major Richard Star Act (to end the unfair pay offset faced by combat-injured veterans who lose a dollar of retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation); the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement (3R) Act (supporting family caregivers who sacrifice careers and retirement security to care for severely wounded veterans); and the Love Lives On Act, which eliminates the termination of survivor benefits for spouses who remarry before age 55.

MOAA supports TCAVA as the path "most beneficial to veterans," although the funding approach is concerning to MOAA and has caused some veterans organizations to oppose the legislation. To urge your representatives to support TCAVA, click [here](#).

Writing takes about two minutes. Either click one of the links above, or from the “[Active Legislative Campaigns](#)” page, click on the “Write” button to the right of the title and description of each bill. Fill out your personal information and then click the “Submit” button at the bottom of the page. *(You can customize MOAA’s wording, but legislators tend to count their “issue mail” instead of reading it.—Ed.)*

You can find the bills MOAA supports on the “MOAA-Supported Legislation” page here: [MOAA Action Center](#) This is a great place to learn more about the bills, including the current status of each one.

When you fill out the “Act now!” information, the last item asks you to indicate your MOAA Chapter. When you see the “SELECT” prompt, scroll down or type “**OH02**” to get the Central Ohio Chapter.

[ROTC/JROTC Update](#)

Here are links from our college ROTC programs:

[OSU AFROTC DET 645 Facebook](#)

[Ohio U Army ROTC Web page](#)

[OSU Army ROTC Web page](#)

[Capital U Army ROTC Facebook](#)

[OSU Naval ROTC Facebook](#)

Check out the ROTC Instagram pages for more photos and updates:

OSU Army: [Instagram.com/theosuarmy/](https://www.instagram.com/theosuarmy/)

Capital: [Instagram.com/capitalrotc/](https://www.instagram.com/capitalrotc/)

OSU AF: [Instagram.com/osuafrotc/](https://www.instagram.com/osuafrotc/)

OU Army: [Instagram.com/ohiouarmyrotc/](https://www.instagram.com/ohiouarmyrotc/)

OSU Navy: [Instagram.com/osu_nrotc/](https://www.instagram.com/osu_nrotc/)

OU AF: [Instagram.com/detachment_650/](https://www.instagram.com/detachment_650/)

[JROTC](#)

The JROTC Cadets are enjoying summer vacation. We'll pick back up this Autumn!

[Central Ohio Stand Down](#)

The 2026 Central Ohio Stand Down will be on Friday, **23 October 2026**, from 8 AM to 1 PM. Three ways to help:

- (1) **Donate.** Individual, organizational, and corporate gifting is welcome, and 100% of the donated funds go to serve our veterans. (See below for how to donate.)
- (2) **Volunteer.** There are three opportunities to help: Set up on October 22, Support during the Stand Down on October 23, and Pack up on October 23. **Online registration opens August 1, 2026** and anyone, veteran or non-veteran, may volunteer (<https://www.centralohiostanddown.org/registration/>).

- (3) **Donate In-Kind.** We need in-kind donations of Knit Hats, Scarves, Gloves, Sweatpants, and Sweatshirts, for both men and women—*new items only, please*—in sizes XL to 5XL.

For more information, email CentralOhioStandDown@gmail.com. The event is for veterans only and a valid veteran ID is required to enter Stand Down.

[How Can I Donate to ROTC, JROTC, or Stand Down?](#)

If you want to donate online, the instructions are in the Membership column [here](#). You can also send a check to MOAA Central Ohio Chapter, P.O. Box 361632, Columbus, Ohio 43236-1632. The MOAA Central Ohio Chapter Foundation is approved by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) foundation for tax purposes.

Marston McKeon
Lt Col, USAF (Ret)



[August Chapter Luncheon](#)

Our next Chapter luncheon will be Friday, 21 August at the Rusty Bucket in New Albany. If you are interested in attending the luncheon, please contact LTC Jeff Collins at jmcwindsor@yahoo.com by 14 August so that we can give the restaurant a headcount. We order from the menu and pay individually.

We're always looking for luncheon speakers. If you have a suggestion, please let Chris Curry know at christophertc@yahoo.com.

[Upcoming Events](#)

August Chapter Board Meeting	5 August 2026, DSCC, Room 905
Ohio Department of Veterans	
Services Convention	8 August 2026, Ohio Union
August Chapter Luncheon.....	21 August 2026, Rusty Bucket
September Chapter Board Meeting.....	9 September 2026, DSCC, Room 905
September Chapter Luncheon	18 September 2026, Rusty Bucket
October Chapter Board Meeting	7 October 2026, DSCC, Room 905
October Chapter Luncheon	16 October 2026, Rusty Bucket
Central Ohio Veterans Stand Down	23 October 2026
November Chapter Board Meeting.....	4 November 2026, DSCC, Room 905
November Chapter Luncheon	20 November 2026, Rusty Bucket

Ohio Veterans Convention 2026

The Ohio Veterans Convention is scheduled for 8 August at the Ohio Union on The Ohio State University's Campus. The Convention runs from 8 am to 5 pm, and doors open for attendees at 8 am. The full Convention schedule is at <https://dvs.ohio.gov/resources-for-veterans/ohio-veterans-convention-2026/convention-schedule>

Adopt A Serviceperson

From CH Abbott aboard a ship in the Arabian Sea:

Good evening from the Arabian Sea. We received your package yesterday. We are very grateful for your generosity. Thank you so much for sending us the care package. I was able to hand out the items from the box, and the Sailors were very appreciative. Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers. Our Sailors need the support, and it is very meaningful that we are being supported by veterans who have also served. If you want to continue to send packages with snacks, books, or other things that you think the Sailors could use, we are always grateful. I hope you had a wonderful 4th of July! We had a gunshoot at night with tracers after BBQ on the flight deck. It was a cool way to spend the 4th. God Bless you.

From a group deployed from Maryland:

On behalf of the soldiers currently deployed, I want to sincerely thank you for your continued support and generosity. Your kindness and encouragement mean a great deal to us while we are serving away from home. As you prepare future care packages, many soldiers would greatly appreciate everyday comfort items and essentials such as healthy snacks. Beef jerky, protein bars, nuts, instant coffee, drink mix packets, socks, batteries, phone charging cables, and handwritten notes of encouragement. These thoughtful items help boost morale and make a positive difference during deployment. Thank you again for your unwavering support for our military members. Your generosity reminds us that we are appreciated and remembered back home.

A box of paperback books and a box of snacks have just been sent to the ship in the Arabian Sea. If you would like to write a note of encouragement, please email it to me or bring it to the luncheon. I will visit a day care center to solicit pictures created by the children. Those pictures are always a big hit.

To submit names of deployed personnel, please contact Dorothy Williams at (614) 423-7016. Donations may be sent to the MOAA COC Foundation—the instructions for donating online are in the Membership column [here](#).



Dorothy Williams
614-423-7016

Happy Birthday US Coast Guard

Congress established the Coast Guard's ancestor, the Revenue Marine, on 4 August 1790.

Central Ohio VETERANS STAND DOWN

October 23, 2026 – 8am - 1pm

Greater Columbus Convention Center
400 N. High Street • Columbus Ohio 43215

Vet Services

Jobs	Female Veterans
Academic	Medals of Honor
Housing	Legal Aid
Medical	Veteran
Haircuts	Recreation
Groceries	Home Essentials
Flag Program	Provider
	Services

Volunteer

October 22, 2026
October 23, 2026
Bring a smile

Online registration opens
August 2026

More Information on our
Website

Support

Lead Sponsor: \$10,000+
Level 2 \$5,000 - \$9,999
Level 3 \$1,000 - \$44,999
Level 4 \$100 - \$999

Individual, organization, and
Corporate gifting welcome

100% of funds serve our Veterans

Details

Veterans Only

Free Parking

Free Lunch
- Online registration
opens August 2026

October 23
Doors open 8:00am
Program ends 1:00pm

Web: CentralOhioStandDown.org

Email: CentralOhioStandDown@gmail.com

MOAA Central Ohio Chapter
P.O. Box 361632
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