



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 listing and contact information!

IN THIS ISSUE: September 2023

- [President's Corner](#)
- [Notes from the Membership Log](#)
- [Legislative News](#)
- [Central Ohio Veterans Stand Down](#)
- [Adopt A Serviceperson](#)
- [WPAFB Retiree Appreciation Day 27 October 2023](#)
- [Outreach Director Wanted](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)

[President's Corner October 2023](#)

[Scam Alert!](#)

Board members recently received bogus emails requesting them to buy gift cards for me to provide to recipients. They were to buy them and send me the card numbers and pins. I would never make such a request, and **this is a scam. Repeat, this is a scam.** An example of one of the scam emails is below:



Subject: Re: Quick One

Okay Mary,

Here is what I want you to do. I have been working on incentives recently and I aimed at surprising the selected executive board with Apple gift cards of \$500 face value each, Therefore, I need 4 pieces of it, amounting to \$2000. You can get them at any store close to you, such as Walmart, CVS and Walgreens. I need you to get the physical cards , scratch the back out to unveil the cards pin, snap the pins clearly one after the other with your phone camera to have 4 Apple gift cards sent to me via this email ' [REDACTED]@onmail.com' to give to the selected executive. Can you get these done today or when?, and you will be reimbursed back.

Kind Regards, Alexander Bettinger

Luncheon Reservations

We recently changed our website to make it more responsive to your needs. As a result, there have been a couple of hiccups.

The latest was the luncheon reservation part. To make a reservation for our monthly luncheon, go to the [calendar on the website](#) and click on the luncheon date. The menu will come up to make the reservation and you can go from there. For your convenience, there's a direct link to the October luncheon signup in the Membership section below.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 NOAA BIRTHDAY	4 Budget Input Due Board Meeting at DSCC	5	6	7
8	9 COLUMBUS DAY INDIGENOUS PEOPLE DAY	10	11	12	13 NAVY BIRTHDAY	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 CONNECT articles due Luncheon Meeting 1130	21 OCC Quarterly Meeting 1000
22	23	24	25 OCC Leadership Roundtable/Community Outreach 1500	26	27	28

Ohio Council of Chapters (OCC) Seeks Treasurer and Secretary

The OCC needs a secretary and treasurer. The Council meets quarterly in Columbus and represents the Ohio chapters in both national and local matters. Anyone interested please contact Bill Radcliffe at 614-306-7548 or williamradcliffelc@gmail.com.

Benefits Health Care

As I discussed last month it is important to keep abreast at what is going on with our earned benefits. At a recent video conference with MOAA National, benefits were discussed. One item that stuck out was our medical benefit. To show you how significant it is, civilian DOD staff medical benefits cost DOD \$22,463 per family per annum. The premium that staff pay annually is \$6105. That is what our benefit is worth. It is vital that we keep it.

Also during the video conference it was mentioned that MOAA National provides two significant benefits. First, their website includes webinars on many subjects of interest to members. Second, they have transition services for military transitioning from military service to civilian life. Both are free to Premium and Life members.

[WPAFB Retiree Appreciation Day](#)

Wright Patterson AFB is having Retiree Appreciation Day on October 27—there are more details in the newsletter [here](#).

[Stand Down](#)

The Franklin County Standdown at the Convention Center is scheduled for 31 October with setup on 30 October. They need volunteers for both days. For signup details, and information about parking and lunch, see the newsletter article [here](#).

[Wanted: Board Members](#)

Folks, we are all getting older, and most Board members are well along. We would really like to see if we can get some younger blood on the Board. If interested, contact me—I'll even spring for a luncheon for you! Thank you for your time.

Alex

[Notes from the Membership Log October 2023](#)

You'll be able to renew your chapter membership beginning in late October. It is easy to renew and pay your dues by going to the website ([dues](#)) and logging in with your name and password. (You have an assigned password to get in, which you should then change to one you would like).

We had nine members at the September 15 luncheon. CAPT George Williams won the 50/50 Raffle and donated his winnings to the Foundation.

Please remember to register ahead of time for any luncheon so the restaurant knows how many individuals to prepare for. (This is very easy to do on the new website—here's the link for the next luncheon: [October 20 Lunch](#))

In September, I sent recruitment letters to 4 officers to encourage new members to join our Chapter from the September monthly list sent out by MOAA.

In November, all new members who joined in 2023 will be welcomed at the luncheon at the Chapter's expense. If you're eligible, you'll receive an email from me or the President—you'll then send it to the luncheon coordinator when you register for the luncheon. (Even though the Chapter is paying, you still have to register.)

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 October 2023

There are many active legislative campaigns listed on the MOAA website on the Key Advocacy Center at <https://moaa.quorum.us/issueareas>. The website includes six categories—Active Duty, Family, Guard & Reserve, Retirees, Survivors, and Veterans.

One of the featured alerts under the Active Duty tab is entitled “[Help MOAA Reverse Pharmacy Network Cuts](#).” 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: “Urge your Representative to co-sponsor H.R. 5150--a bill requiring a detailed report on the pharmacy network, which has been cut by more than 13,000 locations since 2022.”

One of MOAA’s top priorities is a report requirement to evaluate the impact of recent TRICARE Pharmacy network cuts on beneficiary access to care—such a report will help advance our efforts to reverse the network cuts. Please join MOAA in urging lawmakers to co-sponsor a standalone bill to ensure robust report requirements are included in the FY 2024 NDAA.”

Some other important issues include, “[Urge Your Legislators to Support the Respect for Grieving Military Families Act](#),” “[Tell Congress You Oppose TRICARE/TRICARE for Life Fee Increases](#),” and “[Urge Congress to Expand TRICARE Coverage to Certain ‘Gray Area’ Retirees](#).”

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. The entire process takes about two minutes.

MOAA is supporting 62 key bills that you can find on the “MOAA-Supported Legislation” page here: [MOAA Action Center](#). This is a great list if you're interested in learning more about the bills. You can click on the name of the bill and learn more about it. If you have any questions, please contact Jen Travers at ericjen2001@msn.com.

Central Ohio Veterans Stand Down

It’s just over a month away! Stand down is a tremendously successful annual event where the Greater Columbus community reaches out to solve the problems of veterans in need. Want to feel good about giving back? Read on and sign up!



Stand Down is a veterans-only program. Many guests’ health, housing, and job issues can be helped by one of 100-plus social service agency representatives. Guests can speak to a “real person” and get much-needed answers toward solving their challenges. The partners include the Veterans Administration, Franklin County Services; Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County

(ADAMH); American Red Cross; Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging (COAAA); Columbus AIDS Task Force (CATF); Columbus Coalition for the Homeless; Columbus Legal Aid Society; and State of Ohio Job and Family Services, plus many more.

The Central Ohio Stand Down director has invited our MOAA chapter to attend and spend time with veterans in the intake area, sharing experiences and encouraging those in need. This is a great opportunity to give back and leave the event knowing you made a huge difference to our brothers and sisters in service. I really enjoyed it last year and I'm looking forward to doing it again this year. Questions? Email me at marston66@hotmail.com.

Signup details follow. Let's have a solid showing this year! Thanks in advance!

Monday, October 30 is setup day and Tuesday, October 31 is event day. Doors open to guests at 8:00 AM and remain open until 1:30 PM.

Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High Street, Columbus, OH 43215
Exhibition Halls C and D, First Floor
Women's Stand Down Area Ballrooms B230-B235, Second Floor

PARKING is FREE to Volunteers, Guests, and Providers, ONLY AT:

- North Garage: 66 E Goodale St (closest)
- West Garage: 37 West Vine St (close)
- East Garage: 140 E Nationwide Blvd (east of Convention Center)
- South Garage: 50 E Nationwide Blvd (farthest)

Volunteers will pass out parking vouchers as folks depart the event

Sign up for Monday's set up or Tuesday's program (the day of the event) or both! Please choose only one Volunteer job slot per day when signing up (unless you are also going to sign up for the tear-down section on Tuesday, which starts at 1:30). You can click on the SignUp Genius link below to get started:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c44afa923a2face9-central1#/>

Or you can go to our website <https://www.centralohiostanddown.org/> and click "Volunteer Sign Up," which will connect you to SignUp Genius.

Once in SignUp Genius:

1. Scroll through the posted Volunteer opportunities.
2. Make your selection(s) by clicking on the gold "Sign Up" Button for a specific job.
3. When done, click the red "Save and Continue" banner (at the very bottom).
4. You will then be asked for basic contact information.

Your section leader will either send you more information as we get closer to October 30th and 31st, or will explain everything on the day of the event. General volunteer information is on our website under Volunteer Information (found within the

link marked Get Involved). If you volunteer for Tuesday (the day of the event), please sign up for a free lunch. The sign-up link is found on the Home page of the Central Ohio Stand Down website.

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



[Adopt A Serviceperson October 2023](#)

I received the following email from a Chaplain in Iraq:

Thank you so much for the care package. We appreciate the eco-friendly hand and chemical-free soaps you sent us. Items are distributed to the soldiers throughout the JOA and they are greatly appreciated. Snacks and personal hygiene products help build soldier morale. They feel important and cared for through your generosity. Thank you again.

Here are the last two boxes we sent to Iraq:

I mentioned that soldiers in Iraq wanted stickers to pass out to the children. Thank you to Nancy Rey and her scrapbooking friends for giving me a large plastic bag filled with “tons” of stickers. They will be sent next week.



Dorothy Williams
861-423-7016



[WPAFB Retiree Appreciation Day 27 October 2023](#)

The 88th Air Base Wing will host the 2023 Retiree Appreciation Day at the Wright-Patt Club (4771 Lahm Cir, Bldg. 800, Area A) on Oct. 27. The annual event links attendees with various services and agencies, including the 88th Medical Group, Wright-Patterson Base agencies, Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and Ohio Department of Veterans Services. The event is open and free to all military retirees and their family members and survivors.

Free registration will begin at 7 a.m. with the event starting at 8 a.m. and ending at 2 p.m. A lunch buffet will be available at Wings Bar & Grille for \$12.95 and will include soup, salad, and potato bar options.

For more information, call the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Retiree Activities Office at 937-257-3221 or email rao-wp@hotmail.com.

Wanted: Outreach Director

Your Foundation depends upon contributions to achieve its mission, and we need someone to step up as our Outreach Director. The Outreach Director will oversee our fundraising efforts and will serve as a member of the Foundation Board of Directors. If you are interested, please contact me to discuss it.

Alex Bettinger, Colonel USAF (Ret), President, abetting2@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Major Lawrence Miller Flag Event	28 September 2023, Remembrance Park
Ohio Council of Chapters Convention	29 Sep-1 Oct 2023, Youngstown ARS
October Board Meeting	4 October 2023, DSCC
October Luncheon.....	20 October 2023, Berwick
WPAFB Retiree Appreciation Day.....	27 October 2023, WPAFB
Central Ohio Veterans Stand Down	30-31 October 2023, Convention Center
Renew your membership for 2024	31 October 2023
November Board Meeting	8 November 2023, DSCC
November Luncheon.....	17 November 2023, Berwick
December Board Meeting	6 December 2023, DSCC
December Holiday Luncheon.....	8 December 2023, Berwick
Deadline to renew for 2024	31 December 2023

MOAA Central Ohio Chapter
P.O. Box 361632
Columbus, Ohio 43236-1632