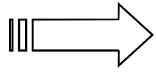


# CINCINNATI MILITARY OFFICERS

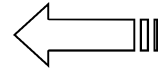
VOL 35 No. 3  
September 2008

# NEWS

GREATER CINCINNATI CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
AN AFFILIATE OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



***Renew your dues – please see page 5!***



## LUNCHEON: Hamilton County Veterans Service

**WHERE:** Manor House Restaurant at Maple Knoll  
600 Maple Trace Dr., Springdale, OH (Gathering Room)

**WHEN:** FRIDAY, 24 October 2008

**TIME:** 12:00 PM – Social Time  
12:30 PM – Luncheon..... Program follows Luncheon

**Featuring: William Boettcher, Director, Hamilton County Veterans Service**



Mr. Boettcher has held many appointed and elected offices within AMVETS, most recently as their National Commander at the 60th National Convention in Spokane, Washington 2004. He is currently the Director, Hamilton County Veterans Service Commission. Mr. Boettcher also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Friends of Fisher House at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center and holds membership in the Scottish Rite, Free and Accepted Masons, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Marine Corps League, Vietnam Veterans of America and 40 ET 8.

**LUNCHEON RESERVATION:** Friday, 24 October 2008—Manor House Restaurant at Maple Knoll—Springdale, OH

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Rank & Service:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Spouse/Guests:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(ARE YOU A NEW MEMBER, OR FIRST TIME OUT? \_\_\_\_\_ )

Entrée choices:

Lunch Buffet \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 12.00

(Menu changes daily but always includes a selection of homemade soups, 3 salad selections, three entrees, two vegetable dishes and a side dish and includes Manor House bread pudding for dessert )

Total Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks payable to GREATER CINCINNATI CHAPTER/MOAA and mail to **LTC PAUL FELLINGER, 5493 Delhi Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45238-5139**, (Phone (513) 451-9881) or email: paulf@shriverco.com. Please make reservations NLT 21 October. No cancellations after that date.

## 2008 CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD

(phone #'s are area code 513 unless noted)

### Executive Committee

President	1LT John Erby, USAR	777-1538
Immed PP	CWO3 Kym Mader, USN	759-0852
1st VP	CWO3 Kym Mader, USN	759-0852
2nd VP	LTC James Hoeh, USAR	481-4045
Secretary	MAJ Ed Knox, USAF	674-7755
Treasurer	LTC Paul Fellingner, USAR	451-9881
Chaplain	Vacant	
Dir Govt Rel	CAPT Clyde Middleton, USN	859 331-1879
Past Natl Bd	MAJ Isaac Mincy, USAF	542-6145

### State Council

Delegate	CAPT Jack Meyer, USN	489-7361
Alt Delegate	LTC James Hoeh, USAR	481-4045

### Committees

Program	COL Dean Smittle, USAF	922-6018
Arrangements	LTC Paul Fellingner, USAR	451-9881
Membership	CWO3 Kym Mader, USN	759-0852
Goodwill	Vacant	
Personal Affairs	Vacant	
Historian	Vacant	
Public Affairs	COL Dean Smittle, USAF	922-6018
R.O.T.C.	1LT John Erby, USAR	777-1538
CinMoaaNews	CWO3 Kym Mader, USN	759-0852

### Service Representatives

Army	1LT John Erby, USAR	777-1538
Navy/CG/PHS	CAPT Jack Meyer, USN	489-7361
Air Force	LTC Jim Sholar, USAF	859 384-2922
Marine Corps	MAJ Parker Lillie, USMC	281-5807

## PURPOSES OF THE GREATER CINCINNATI MOAA CHAPTER

*The purposes of Military Officers Association of America as stated by national are printed on the outside of each Newsletter. The corresponding purposes of our Chapter as stated in our BYLAWS, Article II are:*

- (a) To promote the purposes and objectives of the Military Officers Association of America
- (b) To foster fraternal relations among retired, active and former officers of the uniformed services.
- (c) To protect the rights and interests of personnel of the uniformed services and their dependents and survivors.
- (d) To provide useful services for members and their dependents and survivors.
- (e) To serve the community and the nation.

*Your officers and Board members welcome your comments and suggestions on steps that may be taken to strengthen our Chapter and its benefits to all members.*

### LOCAL Chapter:

*CinMoaa News is published to arrive at your home 10 days before each meeting. Articles and corrections for the News must be in the hands of editor 4 weeks before each meeting date. – Mail to CinMoaa News, 8099 Pepper Pike, West Chester, OH 45069. Or E-mail [chmader@fuse.net](mailto:chmader@fuse.net).*

### For MOAA National information:

Visit the MOAA Web Site - INTERNET ADDRESS

[HTTP://www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)

### TAPS

If you know a member of MOAA who has past away, please let us know so we may pass it on.

## MEETINGS - Mark your Calendars NOW!

### REGULAR MEETINGS FOR 2008

Sat. Mar 15 (Dinner), May/June (Joint Dinner), **Fri. Oct 24 (Dinner)**, Fri. Dec 5 (Lunch)

**BOARD MEETINGS** - January 8, February 15, April 11, Sept 5.

Spouses and guests are welcome at all meetings.

### NEXT MEETING

**ROTC/JROTC Appreciation Day, Past Presidents, Elections**

## STATUS of 2008 LEGISLATIVE GOALS

Congress is about to return from the long August recess, but Hill leaders plan to adjourn by early October so legislators can go home to campaign for election.

With only a few weeks left on the planned legislative agenda, it's worth taking stock of where we stand on the legislative goals we established at the first of the year.

**TRICARE/Medicare Payments to Doctors: Goal Achieved.** Congress reversed the planned 10% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments that had been scheduled for July 1, 2008, and implemented a 1% increase for 2009.

**GI Bill: Goal Achieved.** Congress passed a major new program that will take effect Aug. 1, 2009. Members serving 36 months on active duty after 9/11/01 will be eligible for full tuition at any state school, plus allowances for housing and books. In the interim, Montgomery GI Bill rates are raised 20%. DoD is preparing regulations that will let members who commit to extended service transfer their new GI Bill benefits to a spouse or children, but details won't be known until we see the regulations.

**Military Pay Raise: Initial Goal Achieved.** The House and the Senate Armed Services Committees have both agreed with MOAA's recommendation to increase the military pay raise to 3.9% for 2009, vs. the 3.4% proposed by the Pentagon. The House went a step further to plus up the pay raise by an extra one-half percent each year for the next five years. We hope to win Senate consideration of a similar plan when they return in September.

**Concurrent Receipt: Goal in Progress.** The House didn't address the issue this year, but Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), will offer two amendments when the Senate considers its version of the Defense Authorization Bill next month. One would eliminate the offset for all with 20+ years of service; the other would cover non-combat disabled medical retirees with 15+ years of service.

**TRICARE Fees: Goal in Progress.** The House version of the annual defense bill contains language barring any increases in TRICARE fees through the end of September 2009. Senators Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Chuck Hagel (R-NE) will offer an amendment to the Senate defense bill that would establish permanent principles in law that military health care is provided to offset arduous service conditions, that military people pay large up-front premiums of service and sacrifice in addition to their cash fees, and that the percentage fee increase in any year shouldn't exceed the percentage increase in military pay.

**SBP-DIC Offset: Goal in Progress.** The House defense bill would extend the modest survivor indemnity allowance to survivors of members who died on active duty. Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) will offer an amendment to the Senate defense bill to end the offset Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities by the VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

**Guard and Reserve Retirement: Goal in Progress.** Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) will offer an amendment to the Senate defense bill that would provide retroactive credit for each 90 days of active duty service since 9/11/01 towards an early Guard or Reserve retirement. Last year's improvement only provided credit for active duty service after Jan. 28, 2008.

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### LAW CHANGED — RETIREES NOW SALUTE FLAG

*Army Echoes Issue III, Volume LII, Sep-Dec 2008*—Retired Soldiers are Still Proud! Still Serving! Congress has put Still Saluting into law for Retired Soldiers and other veterans. The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 110-181) changed Sect. 9, Title 4, U.S. Code, which covers “Conduct during hoisting, lowering or passing of flag.” Following is that section of the U.S. Code, as reworded by the law change. Please share this information with veterans and other retired military who don't get *Echoes*.

During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.”



Retired SFC Esker McConnell, Resident Advisory Council Chairman at the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH), Washington, salutes the flag. (Photo by Sheila Abarr, AFRH Public Affairs Officer)

# Auxiliary Corner

## Surviving Spouses provide Content for MOAA Web Site

This year not only is devoted to the Year of the Chapter, but it also is turning into one of the best and busiest years for MOAA's Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee. At the committee's March 31 meeting, committee members took on the project of providing content for the Family/Survivors section of the MOAA's Web Base, [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)

With the assistance of one of the committee's MOAA staff advisors, Col. Ana Smythe, USMC-Ret., the committee members not only have begun developing content for the Web page, but they also have contributed content for the cover wrap on the August issue of *Military Officer* that was mailed to all MOAA auxiliary members. Committee members have gathered — and continue to gather — testimonials from surviving spouses, telling us why they think MOAA is important in their lives. They also have gathered auxiliary personal stories about the loss of their spouses and other articles they have written that are of interest to fellow surviving spouses. Each month, MOAA will be adding a new item in each of these categories to MOAA's Web Base.

In the Family/Survivors section, you will find a list of links that will take you directly to the offices and organizations you might need to visit for information about survivor benefits and programs. The Family/Survivor section also includes a list of books about coping with and grieving over the death of a spouse. We hope you will review this list of books and recommend any others you think would be a good addition. E-mail the book's title and author to [auxcomm@moaa.org](mailto:auxcomm@moaa.org).

Finally, please take a minute to give some thought to the Auxiliary Corner in the July issue of *The Affiliate*, asking for more chapter members to serve as an auxiliary liaisons in their chapters. About 300 additional auxiliary liaisons still are needed, so each chapter can receive monthly memos with the latest information about survivor issues.

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## TRICARE NEWS

**TRICARE ‘backs’ new surgeries** — TRICARE beneficiaries with pain from fractured vertebrae may rest assured that TRICARE “has your back.” Percutaneous vertebroplasty and Kyphoplasty, two minimally invasive back surgeries, are now covered under TRICARE. Either may replace spinal fusion, an invasive surgical procedure, for treatment of fractured vertebrae. The policy change is retroactive to March 1, 2007.

Usually occurring in patients with osteoporosis, many vertebrae fractures heal on their own with bed rest and anti-inflammatory medication in approximately three months. It is only when pain persists beyond three months that surgery is recommended. Percutaneous vertebroplasty and kyphoplasty are outpatient surgeries which can have patients back to relative normality in 24 hours.

Approval must be obtained from a provider for surgery. For more information, check out TRICARE online at [www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil).

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## RETIREE SERVICE PUBLICATIONS

**Air Force Afterburner:** [www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner](http://www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner)

**Army Echoes:** [www.armyg1.army.mil/rso/echoes.asp](http://www.armyg1.army.mil/rso/echoes.asp)

**Coast Guard Evening Colors:** <http://uscg.mil/hq/cg1/psc/retnews>

**Navy Shift Colors:** <http://www.npc.navy.mil/ReferenceLibrary/Publications/ShiftColors/>

**Marine Corps Semper Fidelis:** [www.usmc.mil](http://www.usmc.mil) (hover over “Marine Services,” click on “Retired Services,” then hover over “Retired Activities” in the left menu and click on “Semper Fidelis Newsletter”)

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## VA ANNOUNCES ONLINE CLAIMS APPLICATIONS

The VA now will accept online applications from veterans, survivors, and other claimants filing initial applications for disability compensation, pension, education, and vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits without having to submit a signed paper copy of their application.

No claimant signature is required for initial online applications received through the [Veterans Online Applications \(VONAPP\) Web site](#). This electronic application is sufficient authentication of the claimant's application for benefits. Normal development procedures and rules of evidence still apply to all VONAPP applications.

View a list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) to learn more about VONAPP. Or, for more information about VA benefits, visit the VA's Web site at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) or call their toll-free number at (800) 827-1000.

**2008 DUES ARE DUE! Please pay now- IF you haven't done so.**

To determine whether your dues are paid, please check your address sticker on the other side of this form. **The year is shown for the latest year for which your dues are paid.** (Life members show LIFE). If your number is (2007) or lower, please return this form (with your name sticker on reverse) along with a check for your dues to bring you up to current year. Please mark your selection of dues (one year, multi-year or life). For those of you who receive your newsletter by email, your dues date is located in the TO line of your email after your name. If you are moving out of state and don't want to continue your chapter membership or have any other status change, please let us know. Also please indicate on your check the year(s) your dues are for.

Membership Renewal. Your email address please: \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Member \_\_\_\$28 for three years \_\_\_\$19 for two years \_\_\_\$10.00 for one year

Auxiliary Member (as the surviving spouse of a deceased officer)

\_\_\_\$14 for three years \_\_\_\$9.50 for two years \_\_\_\$5.00 for one year

Please renew as a LIFE member. \_\_\_\_ (Please circle amount in fee schedule.)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES		
(Fee is based on your age, nearest birthday)		
	Regular	Auxiliary
Age up to 55	\$161.25	\$80.00
Age 56 to 70	\$127.50	\$63.75
Age 71 to 89	\$ 93.75	\$46.90
Age 90 and over	\$ 10.00	\$ 5.00

Make check payable to: Greater Cincinnati Chapter / MOAA

Mail Renewal form and check to:

LTC Paul Fellingner, 5493 Delhi Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45238-5139

----- cut here ----- Dues Form -----cut here-----

**LAST MEETING**

Regrettably, the activities scheduled with the Dayton Chapter for Saturday, June 28, i.e. the tour of the Air Force museum at WPAFB and the dinner had to be cancelled due to a lack of participation. It may be scheduled in the future.

**OPERATION IRAQI CHILDREN - CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED**

To date, along with our project partners of the Messiah Lutheran Church youth group, we have assembled and shipped 2,226 school kits to our troops for distribution to school children in Iraq and Afghanistan. Rest assured the appreciation of our troops for this type of support is as strong as ever.

As a good deal of the money is in hand, we have ordered supplies for another 306 school kits which we expect to be ship within the next month. This will bring our total to 2,532 school kits. An amazing accomplishment considering our original goal was 120!

It could not have been done without your financial support. We need that support again to erase the shortfall in funds for this next planned effort. Please consider a donation to help pay for the supplies used in this latest effort. Many thanks for your continuing support. Please make out your check to MOAA, write OIC on the "memo" line, and mail to LTC Paul Fellingner, 5493 Delhi Road, Cincinnati, OH 45238.

**GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN VETERANS**

The committee is made up of women veterans representing all eras and branches of service. Each member is responsible for a specific region in the state and recruits volunteers to assist her in regional outreach. (A list of county representatives is below.) Committee members encourage women to identify themselves with pride and encourage them to stand up and be counted for their role in defense of this nation.

Informational sessions and local town meetings allow women veterans to come together to identify and address their concerns with committee members. Community service outreach programs allow the committee to inform school children, business leaders, educators and legislators about the important role women play in our Armed Forces. VA hospital visits allow women on the committee to interact and network with VA women program managers and get a first-hand look at the healthcare process. If you are interested in participating in any of these events or volunteering to help with an outreach program in your region, please call our main office at (614) 752-8941.



Greater Cincinnati Chapter  
 MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF  
 AMERICA  
 8099 Pepper Pike  
 West Chester, OH 45069-2842



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***PURPOSES OF  
 MILITARY OFFICERS  
 ASSOCIATION  
 OF AMERICA***

- TO inculcate and stimulate love of country and flag;
- TO defend the honor, integrity, and supremacy of our National Government and the Constitution of the United States;
- TO advocate military forces adequate to the defense of our country;
- TO foster fraternal relations between all branches of the various services from which our members are drawn;
- TO further the education of children of service personnel;
- TO aid active and retired personnel of the various services from which our members are drawn and their dependents and survivors, in every proper and legitimate manner;
- TO present their rights and interests when service matters are under consideration; and
- TO foster the integrity and prestige of uniformed service.

*—from the Preamble to the Association's Bylaws*