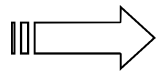


CINCINNATI MILITARY OFFICERS

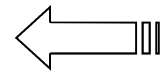
VOL 32 No. 5
September 2005

NEWS

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



*Please fill out your Survey and return. We
want to hear from you.*



LUNCHEON: "DAV"

WHERE: HOLIDAY INN—Riverfront
660 West 3rd Street, COVINGTON, KY

WHEN: FRIDAY, 7 October 2005

TIME: 11:30 AM – Social Time
12:00 PM – Luncheon Program follows Luncheon

Speaker: MAJ. Gary Weaver

Disabled American Veterans (DAV), National Communications Director and MOAA member, MAJ. Gary Weaver will talk to us about what the DAV is doing. The board members had the pleasure of holding their last board meeting at the DAV headquarters as well as having a personal tour and were amazed at the operations and what was being accomplished there. The headquarters even has it's own museum and is worth going to see.

LUNCHEON RESERVATION: Friday, 7 October 2005—Holiday Inn—Riverfront, Covington, KY.

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

Entrée choices: (Includes rolls, butter, salad, vegetables, starch, and beverage)

STUFFED PEPPERS _____

FISH CAKES (w/Tarter sauce) _____

Total Reservations _____ @ \$17.00 = Total \$ _____

For those who returned their survey by Aug 31 subtract \$1.00 for discount \$ _____

Net 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 4 October. No cancellations after that date.

2005 CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD

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

Executive Committee

President	LT Chuck Kenny, USN	489-2957
Immed PP	1LT John Erby, AR	777-1538
1st VP	CWO3 Kym Mader, USN	759-0852
2nd VP	COL Dean Smittle, USAF	922-6018
3rd VP	1LT John Erby, USAR	777-1538
Secretary	Vacant	
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 Bob Greene, USAR	859-689-4321
Arrangements	LTC Paul Fellingner, USAR	451-9881
Membership	LT Chuck Kenny, USN	489-2957
Goodwill	LTC Earl Nichols, USAR	859 261-4266
Personal Affairs	COL Dean Smittle, USAF	922-6018
Historian	Vacant	
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:

- To promote the purposes and objectives of the Military Officers Association of America
- To foster fraternal relations among retired, active and former officers of the uniformed services.
- To protect the rights and interests of personnel of the uniformed services and their dependents and survivors.
- To provide useful services for members and their dependents and survivors.
- 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.

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 2005 (all at Holiday Inn- Riverfront, Covington)

Fridays: Feb 4 (lunch), Apr 1 (lunch), June 3 (lunch), Aug 5 (lunch), **Oct 7 (lunch)**, Dec 2 (lunch)

BOARD MEETINGS - Naval Reserve Center - Gilbert Ave & Victory Parkway,

Fridays at 1300 hrs. In 2005: January 7, March 4, May 6, July 8, September 9, November 4.
Spouses and guests are welcome at all meetings.

NEXT MEETING

The December meeting brings us to the end of another year honoring our local JROTC's and ROTC's and selecting our new officers and honoring past presidents. Make sure you come to show your support and be heard.

MOAA UPDATES

VA Has Cash Coming - When Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson acknowledged to Congress a few weeks ago that the VA would come up \$1.5 billion short on its health care budget this year, and that the budget submitted for 2006 is \$2 billion short of what the VA really needs to care for returning veterans, it set angry House and Senate leaders scrambling to make up the shortfall.

On July 26, House and Senate conferees hastily agreed to add \$1.5 billion in supplemental FY2005 funds to the FY2006 Interior Appropriations bill (H.R.2361). The full House passed that legislation yesterday, and Senate action is expected today (July 29) so it can be sent to the president for immediate signature into law.

As for next year's shortfall, the House and Senate Appropriations and Veterans Affairs Committee leaders are still working that issue, but have pledged to ensure VA health care is fully funded.

After years of dismissing the claims of veterans' organizations' claims of chronic VA under-funding, Congress finally seems embarrassed enough to stop overlooking this shameful problem.

President Signs Bill With Emergency Funds for Veterans Health Care - On August 2 the President signed the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2006.

The Act included \$1.5 billion in emergency funds for the Department of Veterans Affairs as an additional amount for "Medical Services." These funds cover the fiscal year 2005 shortfall as acknowledged a little over month ago by Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Jim Nicholson.

The Department of Veteran's Affairs has also requested an additional \$1.9 billion for fiscal year 2006. House and Senate Appropriations and Veterans Affairs Committee leaders are continue to work that issue, but have pledged to ensure VA health care is fully funded.

Help Stop Medicare/TRICARE Rate Cuts -

Once again, Medicare is planning a 4.3% cut in provider reimbursement starting in January of 2006. Under the current statutory payment formula, Medicare is projected to cut payment levels by 26% over the next six years.

MOAA is concerned not only for our seniors in the TRICARE For Life (TFL) program, but for all TRICARE beneficiaries -- because TRICARE provider reimbursement rates are tied by law to Medicare's. We must protect against reductions in Medicare/TRICARE rates, so that providers are willing to accept both Medicare and TRICARE patients

The problem is the statutory reimbursement formula is flawed. It doesn't accurately reflect the true cost of running a physician practice. It just cuts physician payment rates when the economy goes down, which has no bearing on provider costs.

Representatives Clay Shaw (R-AZ) and Ben Cardin (D-MD) have introduced **H.R. 2356** in the House and Senators Jon Kyl (R-AZ) and Jon Corzine (D-NJ) have introduced **S. 1081** in the Senate to try to address this problem.

H.R. 2356 increases Medicare physician payments by 2.7% in 2006 instead of the projected 4.3% cut. It also would establish a more relevant physician payment formula based on the actual cost of providing care.

S. 1081 would take a shorter-term approach, increasing Medicare physician payments by 2.7% in 2006 and 2.6% in 2007. Unlike the Shaw-Cardin bill, it would not address the flawed reimbursement formula.

H.R. 2356 and **S.1081** are posted on MOAA's Web site "Bills of Interest". To send messages urging your legislators to cosponsor them, visit <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/>. Scroll down to "Health Care Issues" to click on the applicable bill, and enter your ZIP code in the box to send a message.

MOAA UPDATES (continued)

2006 COLA May Be Largest in 14 Years - Earlier this week, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that inflation broke out of its summer doldrums with a half-point jump in July. So far this fiscal year, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has risen 3.2%.

The 2006 COLA will be determined by dividing the three-month average CPI for July, August and September 2005 by the average CPI for the same three months of 2004.

Even if inflation is flat for the remaining two months, that would make the 2006 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) the largest retirees have seen since the 3.5% 2001 COLA, and the second-largest since the 3.7% COLA in 1992.

While some may like the bigger retired pay increase, that only means that living expenses already have gone up more rapidly than usual, and retired pay, Social Security, SBP and other annuities are only chasing those expenses after the fact. Given a choice, we'd prefer lower inflation and the resultant lower COLAs. Check out the month-by-month inflation track and historical CPI/COLA information on MOAA's Web site at http://www.moaa.org/controller.asp?pagename=lac_factsheets_retired_2a

Key Benefits Panels Get MOAA Input - MOAA Director of Government Relations Col. Steve Strobridge (USAF-Ret) is scheduled to testify on concurrent receipt issues before the Veterans Disability Benefits Commission today.

Next Wednesday, Strobridge will be one of three Military Coalition (TMC) witnesses presenting inputs to the Defense Advisory Committee on Military Compensation (DACMC).

The Disability Commission is reviewing the full range of veterans' disability programs and is scheduled to make recommendations to the President by next August. DACMC owes recommendations to the Secretary of Defense this fall on adjustments to military pay and retirement programs, options to shift more health care costs to military beneficiaries, and modifications to Guard and Reserve personnel and compensation programs to reflect 21st century expectations for the Reserve components.

We'll provide summaries of the two hearings and the text of the MOAA/TMC testimony in next week's legislative update. For more information on the DACMC and the Veterans Disability Benefits Commission, visit <http://www.defenselink.mil/prhome/dacmc.html> or <http://www.va.gov/vetscommission/> respectively.

System Helps Veterans Get Awards and Decorations - Army veterans and their families can have an easier time tracking and receiving medals and decorations thanks to an automated system used by the Clothing and Heraldry Product Support Integration Directorate (PSID). The Web-based system eliminates extensive paperwork, reduces processing time and has capabilities such as allowing each veteran the opportunity to find out the status of his or her request or make address online. These types of inquiries that used to be handled telephonically or by letter can be entered online at <http://veteranmedals.army.mil/>. Award criteria and background for the different service medals can also be found on the Web site. Requests for medals are initiated through the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis. Eligible veterans or the next-of-kin of a deceased veteran can request medals from NPRC at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>.

President's Symposium - This year's symposium focused around Recruiting and Retention. We heard from many great speakers and had some very successful workshops. The new campaign for this year is "Give Me 10". Interesting enough talking with many other chapters we are not alone in our recruiting and retention of younger members. But we got some new ideas to try to turn that around. If you know someone who is eligible for MOAA please bring them. Check our website, www.cincymoaa.org for more information on the Symposium.

2005 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 last two digits on the top line indicate the latest year for which your dues are paid.** (Life members show LIFE). If your two-digit number is 04 or lower, please return this form (with your name sticker on reverse) along with a check for your dues. Please mark your selection of dues (one year, multi-year or life). For those of you who receive your newsletter by email, you will receive a separate notice of Dues.

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.)

Make check payable to: Greater Cincinnati Chapter / MOAA

Mail Renewal form and check to:

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

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

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

CHAPTER SURVEY

We want to thank all who returned the survey that was included in the last newsletter. The good news is that about 30% of you returned the survey. The bad news is that 70% of you didn't, and we're really interested in your opinions. It's not too late. You can return your survey via our web page, www.cincymoaa.org; or if you accidentally trashed your copy, you can obtain another by calling Paul Fellingner, 451-9881.

Although the Executive Board hasn't been presented any results yet, it appears the Board will have some issues to consider based on the valuable feedback to date, especially in regards to meeting times and days, tours, and reaching out to the younger members of the Chapter.

LAST MEETING

Although we had a smaller than normal gathering, we certainly had a very interesting presentation by Greg Rhodes on the History of the Cincinnati Reds and baseball in general. Mr. Rhodes also left us a book on the Cincinnati Reds to use in our next raffle. We also had our new PA System in use. Although in a smaller room, it worked wonderfully and we encourage everyone to come and hear the difference it makes. We are anxious to see how well it works in a larger gathering.

CONTRIBUTE TO OPERATION IRAQI CHILDREN - WIN A GREAT PRIZE

Our August speaker, Greg Rhodes, left a copy of one of his books to support the OIC project - just as did Peter Bronson in June. Mr. Rhodes' book OPENING DAY is a wonderful combination of Cincinnati Reds history and opening day memories of players and associated "baseball people" over the years. Again all new OIC contributions will be entered in a raffle at the October meeting (one chance for every \$5 contributed, 5 chances for \$25). It is not necessary to be present to win! August book winners were Etta Hoeh and LCol Joe Bagby.

OVER THE TOP! MORE THAN 1000 SCHOOL SUPPLY KITS SHIPPED!

On August 28, youth and other Messiah Lutheran Church volunteers including MOAA members Captains Gary Logsdon and Jack Meyer assembled another 136 school kits. A total of 1002 kits have now been shipped. MANY thanks to all contributors.

Additional completed kits, supplies and donations are on hand. Response to this project continues strong. Your contributions are most welcome - send checks made out to Greater Cincinnati Chapter /MOAA to Paul Fellingner, 5493 Delhi Road, Cincinnati, OH 45238. Please mark OIC on the check.

MEYER TO SPEAK AT MOAA PRESIDENTS' SYMPOSIUM

Greater Cincinnati, Tampa and Pikes Peak chapters have been asked to present significant "local outreach initiatives" at the 2005 MOAA Chapter Presidents Symposium in Wilmington, DE on September 8 -10. Captain Jack Meyer will discuss the Operation Iraqi Children project. 1st VP CWO3 Kym Mader is also attending the Symposium.



Greater Cincinnati Chapter
 MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF
 AMERICA
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 Burlington, KY 41005-9341



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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