



**GREATER CINCINNATI CHAPTER
2017
YEAR IN REVIEW**



THE 2017 BOARD

- President – CAPT Steve Drefahl, USN
- Immediate Past President, ROTC/JROTC Liaison, Vietnam Commemoration Coordinator, 2019 State Convention Chairman – LTC Al Brauer, USA
- 1st VP, Membership Chairman – CAPT Mike Glaser, USN
- 2nd VP, TOPS (Transition Services) – LtCol Brad Hamant, USAF
- Secretary, State Council Delegate, USPHS Representative – CAPT Alan Echt, USPHS
- Legislative Affairs – BG Tom O'Brien, USA
- Spouses/Surviving Spouses – Diane Lochocki
- Chaplain – Rev. (CPT) Joe Boone, USA
- Historian – LtCol Dick Probst, USAF
- Sympathy/Personal Affairs, USCG Service Representative – CAPT Roger Argalas, USCG
- CinMOAA News Letter/Public Affairs, State Council Newsletter, Website, Social Media – CWO3 Kym Mader, USN
- VA Brick Liaison – BM2 Ben Staubach, USN
- Army Service Representative – COL Bob Greene, USA
- Air Force Service Representative, Alternate State Council Delegate – MAJ Ed Knox, USAF
- Navy/USMC Service Representative – CAPT Rex Settlemoir, USN

FINANCIAL REPORT JANUARY – NOVEMBER 2017

STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENDITURES

REVENUE

Dues	\$ 815.25
Meals	4,014.00
Other	<u>1,181.00</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	\$6,010.25

EXPENDITURES

Meals	\$4,147.54
Postage	547.59
Other	<u>945.36</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$5,640.49

INCOME OVER/ (UNDER) EXPENDITURES \$ 369.76

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Checking balance	\$ 7,454.46
CD	<u>4,136.90</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$11,591.36

RESERVES

Life Reserves	\$ 5,250.14
Prepaid Dues	970.19
VA Brick Project	3,519.35
Charitable Reserve	<u>1,533.00</u>
TOTAL RESERVES	\$11,272.68

WORKING CAPITAL \$ 318.68

MEMBERSHIP

Our chapter membership continues to grow. At the end of last calendar year (December 31, 2016) we had 333 members. At the end of November 2017 we had 353 members, an increase of 20 members. Sixty-six members are newly commissioned officers (commissioned within the last two years) who are encouraged to join during the ROTC programs we attend throughout the year. We ask that all members reach out to their peers and encourage eligible military officers (active duty, former officers, reserves, National Guard and retirees) to join. Nationally we have over 370,000 members.

OUTREACH

- Vietnam War Commemoration Program – This program was established in 2008 as part of the National Defense Authorization Act. We became a partner of the Vietnam War Commemoration program in 2016 thanks to LtCol Al Brauer's efforts. Its purpose is to recognize, thank and honor our veterans who served on active duty during the Vietnam War Period November 1, 1955- May 15, 1975 regardless of location. During 2017 we honored 118 eligible veterans at four different events (UAW Local 863 Moving Wall, UAW Veterans Day Meeting, Twin Lakes Retirement Village Veterans Day and Downtown Cincinnati Rotary) and at each of our Chapter's membership meetings.
- 37th National Veterans Wheelchair Games – The Greater Cincinnati area hosted the 37th National Veterans Wheelchair Games July 17- 23. Over 700 athletes competed in over 19 sporting events. Captain Rex Settlemoir's Gun Club, the Fairfield Sportsmen's Association hosted the trapshooting event and he suggested that we volunteer to assist. Chapter members volunteered at the trapshooting event as well as other venues. An excellent article highlighting our participation was in the national MOAA October magazine.



- ROTC/JROTC Program- Our Chapter presents medal and certificate sets to all local JROTC (8 units) and ROTC (5 units). Many thanks to the chapter members who served as presenters. Chapter members also attended multiple commissioning ceremonies. Col Paul Fellingner, Jr served as the UC Army ROTC summer commissioning speaker. Graduating cadets and midshipmen were invited to join MOAA via the "Gold Bar Program". This program provides for free basic membership until age 35. Over 30 Xavier and UC Army second lieutenants joined. The chapter hosted the annual ROTC/JROTC Appreciation Luncheon in April. Special recognition was extended to six units (3 JROTC and 3 ROTC). National MOAA scholarship and grants winners were also invited to attend this luncheon.



- Navy Sabbath – The Chapter participates in the Navy Sabbath held annually in November at the Immaculata Church, Mt. Adams. MOAA Member and Chapter Past President and current Chapter Board member and Legislative Affairs, BG O'Brien served as the Commander of Troops and several Chapter members actively participated.
- Toys for Tots - This was our first year participating in the Toys for Tots drive. Numerous toys and a check for \$100 presented to Toys for Tots USMC representatives. We hope to make this an annual event.

SPOUSES/SURVIVING SPOUSES

In 2016 Diane Lochocki, a Surviving Spouse joined our Board and is actively working with spouses and surviving spouses to get them more involved in our Chapter. She established a Spouses/Surviving Spouses Corner in our Chapter's newsletter and publishes articles that are of interest to our members focusing on Spouses/Surviving Spouses. The Spouses /Surviving Spouses Group put together a terrific basket "Basket of Christmas Cheer" that was raffled at the December Membership Meeting. Diane will continue to look for ways to engage our spouses and surviving spouses and encourage them to attend our membership meetings.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS/DINING OUT

We had four membership meetings and a Dining Out in 2017.

- In January we installed our new officers and recognized Past Board Presidents.



Past Presidents (L to R) – CAPT Jack Meyer, LTC Tom Grimes, COL Bob Greene, BG Tom O'Brien, Maj Ed Knox, CWO3 Kym Mader and LTC Al Brauer

- In April we held our annual ROTC/JROTC Recognition lunch event.
- At our June lunch Honor Flight Cincinnati Executive Director Cheryl Popp and Columnist, Writer and TV Host Peter Bronson shared the history of Honor Flight and shared extremely meaningful stories of those veterans who served, shared their stories and went on an Honor Flight
- In September we had an evening event. Our speaker, retired federal administrative law judge Rudolf Jansen, gave an informative presentation about his all-inclusive work gathering veterans' histories using many sources, including the veteran's oral history, military records, unit histories, and more to create a comprehensive history of the veteran's service.
- In December at our luncheon we recognized our Past Presidents, held our Toys for Tots campaign, passed new Chapter Bylaws, elected and installed our Board Officers, recognized several individuals for their support and service and reviewed 2017.
- Our 2nd Annual Dining out was held in November at the Highland Country Club. We had over 40 attendees. Our guest of honor and keynote speaker was Congressman and Army Reserve Colonel Brad Wenstrup. Colonel Wenstrup served a tour in Iraq as the Chief Surgeon in medical unit. Also present was Steve Lee, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for Southern Ohio. It was a wonderful evening. We are looking to make this an annual event.



L to R Steve Lee, CAPT Steve Drefahl,
Congressman & COL Brad Wenstrup



NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA

Every year CWO3 Kym Mader publishes six newsletters that are chocked full of useful information including upcoming events such as Membership Meetings, the Spouse/Surviving Spouse Corner, information on our military benefits, articles on TOPS (Transition Services), the 2017 MOAA State Convention and numerous other topics of interest to our members. We can stay well informed and are thankful that we have such a comprehensive and interesting newsletter, a website www.cincymoaa.org and a facebook page.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

We have an active Legislative Officer in our Chapter.

- Chapter membership was kept apprised of MOAA issues and positions and encouraged to contact members of Congress.
- Information on State Issue 2 (the VA Price Initiative), which was opposed by the Ohio Council of Chapters along with other veterans organizations, was communicated to chapter members.
- Legislation to apply the "trailing spouse" provisions to the USPHS and MOAA personnel was tracked and supported.
- Close liaison was maintained with a chapter member who is a member of congress and information received from a US Senator on issues pertaining to the uniformed services.

DONATIONS

The chapter made total donations of \$900. Donations were made to ROTC Units, Honor Flight, Joseph House, Toys for Tots and to the memory of WWII veteran Mike Shiller.

STATE OF OHIO MOAA CONFERENCE

Every two years an Ohio state conference is held. Hosts rotate among the Ohio Chapters. This year the conference was hosted by the Mahoning-Shenango Valleys Chapter and held at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Vienna, Ohio. Seven members attended along with four spouses/friends for a total of eleven attendees. The weekend event was chocked full of good information and top notch speakers. A highlight of the conference was the presentation by MOAA's National President and CEO, Lt GEN Dana Atkins. The Greater Cincinnati Chapter will be hosting the next state convention in 2019.



Chapter members who attended the Ohio State Convention with Lt Gen Atkins and the 5 Star Award
L to R – Maj Ed Knox, LTC Bob Knueven, CWO3 Kym Mader, CAPT Steve Drefahl, Lt GEN Atkins,
COL Bob Greene, CAPT Alan Echt and CAPT Mike Glaser

5 STAR CHAPTER

For the third year in a row our chapter received the highest award for chapter excellence, the 5 Star Level of Excellence Award for 2016. The award is based on a range of criteria including recruiting and retention of members, participation in legislative affairs, a strong board with key positions filled and a succession plan in place and community outreach. Our chapter scored the highest possible score in all categories.

MEMBERS MILITARY SUPPORT BEYOND THE CHAPTER

Many of our members provide leadership and actively participate in other military support organizations. This includes such things as serving on ROTC Alumni Boards (Xavier and Ohio State University), Association of the US Army (AUSA) local board, the GE Aviation Veterans Network and running/walking in military/DAV fundraisers, volunteering at an Ohio Veterans Home, working with People Working Cooperatively in helping veterans repair their homes, supporting youth groups learning to shoot and helping veterans complete their income taxes. Many of our members are also members of other military support organizations such as the Navy League, AUSA, AUSN, and the Reserve Officers Association (ROA) to name a few.

2018 IMPORTANT DATES

- Membership Meetings pending approval of the Board
 - March 9, 2018 – Social Hour Noon, Membership Meeting 1230, Topic – ROTC Recognition
 - June 8, 2018 – Social Hour Noon, Membership Meeting 1230, Speaker TBD
 - September 14 – Social Hour 1800, Membership Meeting 1830, Speaker TBD
 - December 7 – Social Hour Noon, Membership Meeting 1230, Changing of the Guard, 2018 in Review
- Dining Out – We will be having our third annual Dining Out November 10, 2018. No Host Social 1800, Mess Call 1850.

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT AND REMEMBER: “NEVER STOP SERVING”