

CINCINNATI MILITARY OFFICERS NEWS

VOL 50 No. 4 November, 2023

Subscribe to a life membership in this chapter and national MOAA. See Page 4.

MOAA DINING OUT ON 4 NOV 23 (by Rob Croskery, LTC, Ret., USA)

In the 1981 Movie “Arthur”, the sarcastic butler (Hobson, played by John Gielgud) to a rich, drunken playboy (Arthur Bach, played by Dudley Moore) meets up with a coarse young waitress (Linda Marolla, played by Liza Minelli). Sizing up young Arthur's new, lowlife friend, Hobson remarks, in a voice dripping with sarcasm, “Usually, Madam, one would have to go to a bowling alley to meet one of your caliber”.

Hobson's experience with bowling alleys was far too limited. Had he journeyed to the bowling alley of the Highland Country Club on the evening of November 4, 2023, he would have seen a gala suited to the highest of High Society, as the pictured officers and spouses of the MOAA joined together in a delightful and memorable evening. In the finest traditions of the service, we welcomed guest of honor MG John Altenberg (USA, Ret.), former Deputy Director of the Judge Advocate General, to celebrate the “Dining Out”, a tradition carried on from the British Officer's mess.

Following the welcoming remarks, the Pledge of Allegiance, and a beautiful invocation by Ken Bowman, talented singers Dan Shea (LTC, Ret., USA) and Tom O'Brien (BG, Ret., USAR) led the assembled multitude in a rousing chorus of “Altenberg”. You may not be familiar with the name, but the tune sounded remarkably like “H-A-R-R-I-G-A-N”, which is probably the reason that our Irish crooners (absent yours truly, who had hightailed it to Tennessee) selected it as a welcome to our Honored Guest, MG John D. Altenberg (MG, Ret. USA).

General Altenberg then delivered a fabulously intriguing, educational, and inspirational message. He has had a rich and varied career. After obtaining his Juris Doctorate from the University of Cincinnati, he then served in the JAG Corps in many capacities, including advising the Fifth Special Forces Group, setting up the military tribunals at GITMO in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and serving as the Deputy Judge Advocate General. He spoke of his experiences, his local roots, his family, and provided a thoroughly entertaining and educational message.

Those attending their first Dining Out were treated to their first experience of the magic and high pageantry of the military toasts and ceremony. Following the benediction, all departed, having enjoyed a wonderful meal and great comraderie in a unique setting.



Left: General Altenberg speaks



Right: Officers and Spouses enjoy the Dining Out

2023 CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD

(phone # prefix is area code 513 unless noted)

Executive Committee

President CAPT Bill Heitbrink, USPHS 347-3193
Immed PP Vacant
1st VP ILT Ken Bowman, USA 600-4094
2nd VP COL Richard Bevington, USA 741-9727
Co-Secretary CAPT Alan Echt, USPHS 573-0315
Co-Secretary CAPT Hank Gurry, USN 459-0465
Treasurer LTC Paul Fellingner, USAR 451-9881
Chaplain Skip Fellingner, USA 931-3226
Legislative Ofc BG Tom O'Brien, USA 421-0118
Spouse/ Surviving Spouse Liaison
ILT Ken Bowman, USA 600-4094

State Council

Delegate
CAPT Bill Heitbrink, USPHS 347-3193
Alt Delegate Immediate PP /1st / 2ndVP

Committees

Programs COL Richard Bevington, USA/ 741-9727
CAPT Hank Gurry, USN 459-0465
Membership LTC Dan Shea, USA 792-0344
ROTC/JROTC LtCol Brad Hamant, USAF 439-3140
Historian CAPT Roger Argalas, USCG 759-6267
Sympathy/ ILT Ken Bowman, USA 600-4094
Personal Affairs
Vietnam Commemoration/
Public Affairs LTC Al Brauer, USA 404-0115
TOPS LtCol Brad Hamant, USAF 439-3140
CinMoaaNews LTC Rob Croskery, USA 8132445580
Webmaster Lt Col Matt Wenzel, USAF (805) 450-4571

Service Representatives

Army BG Tom O'Brien, USA 421-0118, USA
Navy/MC CAPT Steve Drefahl, USN 752-4097
USPHS LCDR Karl Feldmann, USPHS 815-1537
Air Force Lt Col Brad Hamant, USAF 439-3140
Space Force Lt Col Matt Wenzel, USAF (805) 450-4571
CG/NOAA CAPT Roger Argalas, USCG 759-6267

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS 2023

Please mark your calendars.

Monitor for updates.

- **General Meeting and Elections- Dec 8 at Clovernook Country Club**

See the form in this newsletter. Note that this newsletter,, the form, and the President's Column herein constitute the official notice of the Annual meeting and elections.

- www.cincymoaa.org is our official website.

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.

This newsletter is published by the Greater Cincinnati Chapter, which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are non-partisan. Articles in this newsletter are the opinions solely of the individual authors and do not necessarily express the policy or opinions of the newsletters editor or publisher and do not reflect an endorsement by the Chapter or the National organization of MOAA, unless so indicated. Advertisements that appear in this publication do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or this affiliate.

TAPS

If you are aware of an MOAA member who has passed away, please inform the Membership chairman, Thank you.

Board Meetings

2d Friday every month, 1200-1300 hrs, Red Cross Bldg,
2111 Dana Avenue, Cincinnati.
Spouses and Members are always welcome.

BECOME A CHAPTER LIFE MEMBER

Life membership in Cinci MOAA chapter is quite reasonable, Dues based on age at your nearest birthday.

Up to 55 years old.....	\$161.25
Age 56-70...	\$127.50
Age 71-89...	\$93.75
Age 90 and over...	Dues Waived

See <https://chapterdues/moaa.org/Membership.aspx> .

Also consider joining MOAA national as a life member.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN by William Heitbrink, CAPT USPA

Military Sabbath: All Officers and Spouses are invited to the annual Military Sabbath Service at Holy Cross Immaculata Church in Mt Adams on 12 November at 1100 hours. This is the 51st annual ecumenical Military Sabbath. Active duty and veterans will join the initial processional, there will be a social hour afterwards. The service features stirring military music, including the singing of the Navy Hymn.

Ohio Council of Chapters: From Sept 29-30, The Ohio Council of Chapters had its biennial membership meeting at the Youngstown Air Reserve Center. During the day, there were several interesting speakers:

1. Ms. Lila Quintiliani (MOAA) gave a 45-minute talk to familiarize attendees with the financial services she provides both MOAA members and military (active duty, reserves/NG, or veterans).
2. LTG Michael Ferriter (USA Ret) spoke to the group about the history of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum from the initial planning and fund raising, to the present day. This museum is in downtown Columbus.
3. BGen Peter Collins (USMC, Ret.), a member of the Greater Cleveland Chapter, spoke about the construction of a new USS Cleveland.
4. LT Florence Hosler (Former Lt, USN) emphasized the need for both spouses to prepare for the death of one of them, so that the surviving spouse has all the legal, financial, and personal affairs (i.e., funeral plans) in an easy-to-access place (NOT a safe deposit box).
5. LTC Rod Hosler (USA, Ret.) discussed MOAA's Legislative Action Center, where members can log on, pick a topic, and submit a letter to your legislators. The letters are sent electronically to the member's legislators. (Note: The Hoslers are from the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter of MOAA.) In my experience, this system is very easy to use, and we should submit all the letters.

The CEO of MOAA, Lt Gen Brian Kelly (USAF, Ret.), attended the opening reception and spoke at the convention banquet. MOAA remains strong with about 350,000 members and it remains a forceful advocate for all service members and veterans. However, the organization is having financial challenges as it is spending too much money from its reserves. This was reportedly caused by the implementation of "Tricare for Life" which eliminated the market for insurance sold by MOAA. The organization is developing other businesses to replace the lost income. I suspect that this financial situation will probably result in less support for chapters and more emphasis on virtual meetings.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: This Newsletter constitutes official notice of the Membership business meeting on December 8th. At this meeting, the membership will vote to approve the 2024 board. The 2024

proposed board membership is posted in Table 1. Our 1st VP declined the office of presidency, so I have been nominated to remain President for 2023. Rich Bevington has been nominated to become 1st VP. He is slated to become President at the start of 2025. In reviewing the 2024 Board, we have several needs. To ensure the vitality of the chapter, we need more more and younger board members. We urgently need a second VP to succeed Rich Bevington. Paul Fellingner wants to retire from the position of Treasurer which he has capably done for 30 years. To facilitate this transition, we have created the position of assistant treasurer. We need an additional board member to work collaboratively with Hank Gurry to arrange our meetings and programs. “At Large” board members can join the board and learn about the functioning of our chapter. New members can join the board with the approval of the board members. Acceptance by the board is highly likely.

The December 8th membership meeting registration form is attached to this newsletter. As has been the practice in recent years, we will bring contributions for the Toys for Tots campaign conducted by Marine Corps Reserve. The toys should be appropriate for children under 12-14 years of age. Simply choose toys that your relatives would select. The only restriction is that a toy cannot look like a weapon. Last year, the local Toys for Tots program distributed 49,706 Toys to 14,939 children (see <https://cincinnati.oh.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/default.aspx?nPageID=0&nPreviewInd=0&nRedirectInd=3>). In past years we have given an impressive pile of gifts. This program deserves our support.

Table 1. Proposed 2024 MOAA Cincinnati Chapter Board of Directors

Elected Officers

President (Officer) CAPT Bill Heitbrink, USPHS	1st Vice President COL Richard Bevington, USA
2nd Vice President OPEN	Co-Secretary CAPT Alan Echt, USPHS
Co-Secretary CAPT Hank Gurry, USN	Treasurer LTC Paul Fellingner, USA
Other Key Positions	Immediate Past President VACANT.

Legislative CAPT Alan Echt, USPHS	Chaplain OPEN
Spouses/Surviving Spouses 1LT Ken Bowman, USA	Asst Treasurer NEW POSITION
State Council Delegate CAPT Bill Heitbrink, USPHS	Alt Delegate COL Richard Bevington, USA
Standing Committees: Programs OPEN	Co-Programs CAPT Hank Gurry, USN
Membership LTC Dan Shea, USA	ROTC/JROTC LtCol Brad Hamant, USAF
Historian CPT Dale Stalf, USA	Sympathy/Personal Affairs 1LT Ken Bowman, USA
Vietnam Commemoration LTC Al Brauer, USA	TOPS LtCol Brad Hamant, USAF
Newsletter LTC Rob Croskery, USA	Webmaster LtCol Matt Wenzel
Public Relations LTC Al Brauer, USA	

Service Representatives

Army BG Tom O'Brien, USA	Navy/Marine Corps CAPT Steve Drefahl
Air Force LtCol Brad Hamant, USAF	USCG/NOAA OPEN -Steve Drefahl to fill if needed
Space Force LtCol Matt Wenzel USAF	USPHS LCDR Karl Feldmann
At Large Members	CPT Skip Fellingner, USA

**MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
GREATER CINCINNATI CHAPTER
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2023
1130 – No Host Social
1200 hrs – Mess Call
Clovernook Country Club
2035 Galbraith Road
Cincinnati, OH 45239**

*******NOTE: THIS FORM AND THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN IN THIS NEWSLETTER CONSTITUTE YOUR OFFICIAL NOTICE OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTION OF THE CINCINNATI CHAPTER OF THE MOAA BOARD FOR THE YEAR 2024—SEE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN FOR SLATE OF NOMINEES*******

Send in your invitation (below) NLT November 29, 2023 to attend.

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:
Friday, December 8, 2023, Clovernook Country Club**

Name: _____ Rank & Service: _____

Spouse/Guests: _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Cost: \$20.00 per person Total Reservations: _____ times \$20= \$ _____
Buffet Lunch with 2 entrees

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

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: pwf5493@aol.com. Please make reservations **NLT than 29 November**. No refund for cancellations after that date.

2023 DUES ARE DUE—Please pay now, if you have not done so

If you have not yet paid your chapter dues, please do so by sending a check to Colonel Dan Shea, membership chair, at the address below. If you are uncertain as to your status, call him at (513)254-9836, or email him at dshea@cinci.rr.com to inquire.

Dues are \$30 for three years, \$22 for two years, or \$12 for one year. A life membership in the chapter is \$161.25 for ages up to 55 years (nearest birthday), \$127.50 for ages 56-70, \$93.75 for ages 71-89, and waived for age 90 and above. To renew, cut out and return the form below, or use this link:

<https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx0>

*****cut here*****

Cincinnati MOAA Chapter Membership Renewal

Name _____ Rank _____

E-mail address _____

Renewing: 1 year (\$12) _____ 2 years (\$22) _____ 3 years (\$30) _____ Life (see table) _____

Make your check payable to: Greater Cincinnati Chapter / MOAA

Mail Renewal Form and Check to
LTC Dan Shea, 5736 Woodsway Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45236

*****cut here*****

NEWSLETTER LINKS FOR VETERANS AND RETIREES

- Army: [Army Echoes](#)
- Navy: [Shift Colors](#)
- Air Force: [Afterburner](#)
- Coast Guard/NOAA/PHS: [The Long Blue Line](#)
- Marines: [Semper Fidelis](#)

WE HAVE DISCONTINUED MOST PAPER MAILING OF NEWSLETTERS

We have discontinued mailing paper copies of newsletters to everyone who has the ability to receive them by email or to access them on the website. This change will save Chapter costs and save volunteer time and energy. If you are one of the handful of members or surviving spouses who needs a paper copy mailed because you have no direct or indirect access to email, and no access to the website www.cincymoaa.org, you may receive this newsletter by mail. If any of you are aware of someone who has slipped through the cracks and needs a paper copy, let me know. You may also, of course, print and distribute your own paper copies. As always, I welcome your help, suggestions, and submissions; you can reach me on my cell at 813-244-5580, though my secretary, Sandra, at 513-232-5297; and through email to rcroskery@gmail.com . Hooah. Rob Croskery.

CINCINNATI CHAPTER MOAA HOSTS MEMBERSHIP MIXER ON 21 SEP 2023 AT HOPPIN' VINES (by Rob Croskery, LTC, Ret. USA)

For another year, MOAA spouses and guests gathered together in Montgomery, Ohio on September 21, 2023 for a wonderful social outing and recruiting meeting at Hoppin' Vines for drinks, great hors d'ouvres, tasty pizza from coal-fired ovens and fellowship. A few hardy souls even did some bowling on the miniature lanes, (an ironic foreshadowing of the upcoming dining out, which would take place in the bowling alley of Highland Country Club).

We had many distinguished guests, and potential members present. For example, West Pointer Congressional Candidate Orlando Sonza and his West Pointer wife Jessica joined us. Those who visited Hoppin' Vines for the first time were amazed at the selection of fifty-plus brews and the enormous wine cellar.

After some eats and fellowship, Colonel Dan Shea, our enthusiastic membership director, gave a great Power Point presentation on the mission, benefits and events of MOAA. Dan does a spectacular job in this role, and asks all of us to be on the lookout for retired officers and those who have left the service that would be great additions to the organization and increase our comraderie.

President Bill Heitbrink made a pitch for new officers. We need a Second Vice President. We need a new Treasurer, to replace Paul Fellingner (who has performed the mission superbly for 30 years). We need new members at large. Obviously, our organization survives on the efforts of volunteers. Even if you can only give a limited amount of time, we would love to have you.

Finally, the assembled throng headed home, sated and happy after yet another great event.

VETERAN'S DAY BENEFITS 2023

There are literally thousands of special benefits available on Veterans Day at retail and restaurant establishments throughout America, from Applebees to Zaxby's. Rather than re-listing all of them here, here are links to pull up an amazing selection. Of course, for any individual benefit, you would be well advised to call or click on the link of the retailer to insure that it applies in your area. Thank you for your service.

<https://www.military.com/discounts/applebees-veterans-day-military-discount>

<https://www.legion.org/veteransday/260431/2023-veterans-day-discounts>

<https://vaclaimsinsider.com/best-veterans-day-freebies/>



Greater Cincinnati Chapter
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA
1071 Celestial Street (The Highland Towers) #2104
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Postmaster: Dated Material. Please Expedite



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

***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 this Country;
 - TO further the education of children of service personnel;
 - TO foster fraternal relations between all branches of the various services from which our members are drawn;
 - 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*