

# CINCINNATI MILITARY OFFICERS NEWS

VOL 53 No. 4, November 2025

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

## SEPTEMBER 11 REMEMBRANCE GATHERING AT HOPPIN' VINES

On the solemn day in remembrance of 9-11, about twenty five members and spouses of our military and uniformed officer fraternity gathered for a short program and fellowship. After an informational presentation by LTC (Ret.) Dan Shea. COL (Ret) Rick Bevington gave some short remarks and welcome, and introduced LTC (Ret.) Robert F. Croskery, who offered a prayer honoring those who died on September 11, 2001, and then spoke briefly about the Fall 2027 State MOAA Convention. That convention will be hosted by the Cincinnati Chapter. Because September 18 2025 is the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary United States Air force, The MOAA Troubadours led the crowd in singing the Air Force song. We all finished with a rousing chorus of God Bless America. See you in December (form below).



**Left Picture: (left to right) Rick Bevington (COL Ret USA) who presided over another successful meeting; and MOAA Troubadours Dan Shea (LTC, Ret. USA); Tom O'Brien (BG Ret USA) and Rob Croskery (LTC Ret USA) .**



**Right: Happy Birthday to the US Air Force! Banner is Publicity Poster (shared by public permissions, DSV)**

## December 12, 2025 Membership Meeting and Election

This will be our ninth year of supporting the Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign. The December membership meeting is Friday, December 12, 2024, at Clovernook Country Club, 2035 W. Galbraith Rd, Cincinnati, OH. Social/cash bar is at 11:30 and the lunch and meeting start at noon. One of the goals of the Greater Cincinnati Chapter, MOAA is to continue to increase our community outreach and involvement. We are asking each member to donate to this wonderful program. **Because of the date of our meeting, this year is different. We are asking each member to bring a cash donation or a check made out to Greater Cincinnati Chapter/MOAA. We will then combine the donations and make one donation to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign from the chapter.** The December meeting also is our election meeting. See page 3.

### GREATER CINCINNATI CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA LUNCH

RESERVATION: Friday, 12 December 2025—Clovernook Country Club— 2035 W. Galbraith Rd. Cincinnati, OH.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank & Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ ARE YOU A NEW

MEMBER, OR FIRST TIME OUT? \_\_\_\_\_

Buffet lunch with two entrees. \$30 per person.

Total Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ X \$30 = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks payable to GREATER CINCINNATI CHAPTER/MOAA and mail to CAPT MICHAEL GLASER, 6788 Brookville Road, Oxford, OH 45056, (phone) 513-835-2491, or email michael.h.glaser@gmail.com.

Please make reservations **NLT 3 December**. No cancellations after that date.

## 2025 CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD

(phone # prefix is area code 513 unless noted)

### Executive Committee

President COL Richard Bevington, USA 741-9727  
Immed PP Bill Heitbrink, USPHS 319-331-2466  
1st VP Vacant  
2nd VP Vacant  
Co-Secretary CAPT Alan Echt, USN 573-0315  
Co-Secretary CAPT Hank Gurry, USN 459-0465  
Treasurer CAPT Mike Glaser, USN 280-6256  
Chaplain CPT Dick Swan USA 217-521-2559  
Legislative Ofc CAPT Alan Echt, USN 573-0315  
Spouse/ Surviving Spouse Liaison  
ILT Ken Bowman, USA 600-4094

### State Council

Delegate

COL Richard Bevington, USA 741-9727  
Alt Delegate Immediate PP or 1st or 2nd VP

### Committees

Programs CAPT Hank Gurry, USN 459-0465  
Membership LTC Dan Shea, USA 254-9336  
ROTC/JROTC LtCol Brad Hamant, USAF 439-3140  
Historian CPT Dale Stalf, USA, 374-6127  
Sympathy/ILT Ken Bowman, USA 600-4094  
Personal Affairs  
Vietnam Commemoration/  
Public Affairs LTC Al Brauer, USA 677-8320  
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  
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 Steve Drafahl, USN 752-4097

### MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS 2025

Please mark your calendars.

Monitor [www.cincymoaa.org](http://www.cincymoaa.org) for updates.

- **Next Meeting in 2025 is the General Membership Meeting** on December 12—come to this great event and also support Toys for Tots
- PLEASE CONSIDER GETTING INVOLVED IN THE 2027 FALL CONVENTION. Details Follow.

## 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.**

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### TAPS

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

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### Board Meetings

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

### CONSIDER JOINING MOAA AS A 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.

## **From The Command Post; MOAA Purpose, Military Sabbath on November 9, and Official Notice of Election on December 12, 2025** by COL Rick Bevington (USA, Ret.)

Many people are unfamiliar with the MOAA. You are welcome to borrow (and modify) my “elevator speech” explaining the MOAA and why it is an endeavor worthy of our time.

“The MOAA is a non-profit military service association dedicated to protecting the earned benefits of all ranks. The MOAA works to ensure that our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired and former members of the uniformed services, their families and surviving spouses. Membership is open to those who hold or have ever held a commission or warrant in any component of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, US Public Health Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Space Force and surviving spouses. The Greater Cincinnati chapter directly supports veterans’ service organizations, university ROTC and high school JROTC programs and community military events.” The Cincinnati chapter is one of the most active in Ohio, with around 250 members inspired by camaraderie of shared experience, service and purpose.

Speaking of Comraderie, please mark your calendars to attend the Military Sabbath on November 9, 2025. Recently, our chapter has accepted the mission from Cincinnati Chapter of The Navy League to continue this honorable religious service. Here are some particulars:

- The location is the Holy Cross-Immaculata church at 30 Guido Street, Mt. Adams.
- The Catholic Mass starts at 1100. Plan on arriving by 1030 because parking can be tricky.
- The “uniform” is service dress uniform or civilian office wear. Military attendees are invited to participate in the procession in center aisle, whether in uniform or in civilian office wear.
- Fr. Sunberg (former chaplain and professor at St. Mary’s Seminary) will be Celebrant.
- The Elder HS Glee Club will provide choral accompaniment.
- The Sea Cadet Color Guard and a bagpiper will lead the procession. Attend and participate in this religious event that celebrates the faith of our nation! Hope to see you there.

**Finally, this is your official notice of the Election which will be conducted in the noon hour of the General Meeting at Clovernook Country Club (details on Page 1).**

In accordance with chapter by-laws, a new Board must be elected at the December meeting. The slate of candidates is currently open for volunteers. The chapter is seeking members who want to join to protect earned benefits and to contribute to our local veteran community. No need to sit at home or remain stuck in a routine. As commissioned and warrant officers, we are used to leading, organizing and executing important tasks. Service on the Board utilizes those very important skills. The current serving Board may be reelected to their positions at the meeting—however you are invited to consider serving as a nominee from the floor. You may be occupied with other work or family concerns, as most of us are. If you volunteer, in any position, you will be assisted by many experienced chapter members. Serving on the Board requires a limited time commitment and something important.

Join with fellow officers. Contact for volunteering or for additional information: Lee Watson, CPT, USMC (Ret) – urulee@yahoo.com Steve Drefahl, CAPT, USN (Ret) – stevedrefahl@gmail.com Rick Bevington, COL, USA (Ret) – 3rlb319@gmail.com

Still Serving, Rick Bevington, COL USA (Ret) Board Chapter President

**2025 DUES ARE DUE—**

If you have not yet paid your chapter dues, please do so by sending a check to Dan Shea, LTC, US Army, (Retired) our membership chair, at the address below. If you are uncertain as to your status, call him at (513)254- 9336, 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 ages 90 and above. To renew, cut out and return the form below, or use this link: <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx0>

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**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

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**NEWSLETTER LINKS FOR VETERANS AND RETIREES**

Army: Army Echoes : <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/army-echoes>

Navy: Shift Colors: <https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Media-Center/Publications/Shift-Colors>

Air Force: Afterburner: <https://www.retirees.af.mil/library/afterburner>

Coast Guard/NOAA/PHS: The Long Blue Line

<https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Human-Resources-CG-1/Retiree-Services-Program/Newsletters>

Marines: Semper Fidelis

<https://www.hqmc.marines.mil/Portals/61/Docs/MMSR-6/VOL%2067%20NO%203%20JUL-SEP%202023.pdf?ver=Ff7NHwtmRHjufztGWsBOSA%3D%3D#:~:text=Semper%20Fidelis%20is%20published%20quarterly,or%20the%20Department%20of%20Defense>

**MOAA NATIONAL NEWS ONLINE RELEASES LATEST COLA FIGURES FOR PAY RAISE CALCULATIONS**

In addition to the MOAA magazine, useful information can be obtained on line as well. For example, the COLA figures, delayed by the shutdown; were just released. Log into your MOAA account at moaa.org for useful up-to-date information.

**2026 COLA: 2.8%**

The September 2025 Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), released Oct. 24, was 318.139, 3.0% above the FY 2025 baseline of 308.729. This means the average CPI-W for the last three months of the fiscal year (July, August, and September 2024) is 317.265.

The baseline is subtracted from this figure, with the result divided by the baseline (and rounded to the nearest tenth), to determine the **2026 COLA of 2.8%**:  $(317.265-308.729)/308.729 = 2.76\%$

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Address newsletter questions to Rob Croskery (LTC, Ret. USA) to his email address: [rcroskery@gmail.com](mailto:rcroskery@gmail.com), or call 813-244-5580. Feel free to print and give out this issue.

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**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**  
by CAPT (Ret) Alan Echt, USPHS

Greetings, all. Here is my November, 2025 report.

**Tricare Coverage Reduction**

TRICARE For Life coverage for certain GLP-1 drugs under ended Aug. 31 because of a Defense Health Agency (DHA) decision. That change threatens both the health of those taking these medications and the overall TRICARE For Life (TFL) benefit. MOAA is asking for input from those who have lost drug coverage because of the change. Many have answered the call, but the more stories we share, the louder our voice becomes. Please use this link to share your story -

<https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/136214/>

**GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN**

As I wrote this column, the government shutdown continued. Let's hope it was resolved by the time you read this. While the Pentagon and Department of Homeland Security found temporary ways to provide paychecks to the armed forces (the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force, and Coast Guard), thousands of others in uniform, as well as thousands of retired officers, may not be as fortunate. No protections are in place for members of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Officer Corps (USPHS), who are paid on a monthly cycle. Members of the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps are paid biweekly and have already missed a check. Additionally, unlike armed forces retirees whose compensation comes from the Military Retirement Fund (and is protected from discretionary-funding debates), retirees from those officer corps weren't guaranteed to receive their monthly checks as of the end of October. As I wrote this column, compromise bills were in the works to ensure that those servicemembers and veterans would be paid while the shutdown continued. Respectfully, Alan Echt, USPHS.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST: THE MILITARY SABBATH ON NOVEMBER 9 AT HOLY CROSS IMMACULATA IN MT. ADAMS**

Please make every effort to attend the Military Sabbath on November 9 2025. While it is a Catholic service, all are welcome. You may wear your military uniform or civilian office wear. The service is at 1100, but arrival by 1000 is recommended because of limited parking in Mt. Adams. Holy Cross Immaculata is a beautiful church. There will be a bagpiper, the Elder Glee club, and all are invited to join the military procession, whether in military uniform or civilian office wear.

Also, please remember the general election. Membership meeting, and Toys for Tots Support on December 12, 2025 at Clovernook Country Club. Details in Page 1.



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

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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*