

# CINCINNATI MILITARY OFFICERS NEWS

VOL 54 No. 1, February 2026

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

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## REPORT ON DECEMBER 2025 CHRISTMAS PARTY AND GENERAL MEETING

On December 12, 2025, dozens of the MOAA faithful gathered at Clovernook Country Club for our annual Christmas party and election of officers. Following a welcome, an invocation, the Pledge of Allegiance and the POW/MIA Tribute, President Rick Bevington introduced special guests, (including Stephanie Byrd, retiring Regional Director from the Red Cross. The members and guests consumed a delicious lunch. Past Presidents were recognized, followed by the election of officers. Elected for 2026: President Rick Bevington, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Dale Stalf, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Urulee Watson, Co-Secretaries Alan Echt and Hank Gurry, and Treasurer Mike Glaser. All officers were sworn in by BG Tom O'Brien. Then came the traditional visit by Santa and Mrs Claus, a presentation of close to \$2000 to Major Patrick Gallagher for Marines Toys for Toys. Finally, the MOAA Troubadours led the assembled multitudes in "I'll be home for Christmas" and "God Bless America," and everyone headed home. Don't Miss the upcoming General Meeting on March 13, 2026 (see page 3).

Below: Santa, MAJ Pat Gallagher, USMC and President Rick Bevington.



At Lectern: Santa, Stephanie Byrd, and Sid Taylor



At Right: BG Tom O'Brien Swears in the Officers for 2026:

Left to Right: Treasurer Mike Glaser; 1<sup>st</sup> VP Dale Stalf; 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Urulee Watson; Co-Secretary Hank Gurry; President Rick Bevington

(Not Pictured Co-Secretary Alan Echt)



## 2026 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 CPT Dale Stalf, USA 374-6127  
2nd VP Capt Lee Watson USMC 238-3820  
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: CPT Dale Stalf, USA 374-6127

### Committees

Programs CAPT Hank Gurry, USN 459-0465  
Membership LTC Dan Shea, USA 792-0344  
ROTC/JROTC LtCol Brad Hamant, USAF 439-3140  
Historian CPT Dale Stalf, USA, 374-6127  
Sympathy/ ILT Ken Bowman, USA 600-4094  
Personal Affairs  
Public Affairs Bill Heitbrink, USPHS 319-331-2466  
TOPS LtCol Brad Hamant, USAF 439-3140  
CinMoaaNews LTC Rob Croskery, USA 8132445580  
Webmaster Lt Col Matt Wenzel, USAF (805) 450-4571  
2027 Conference: LTC Rob Croskery 813-244-5580

### Service Representatives

Army BG Tom O'Brien, USA 421-0118  
Navy 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 Drefahl, USN 752-4097

### MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS 2026

Please mark your calendars. All events this year are held at Clovernook Country Club,  
Monitor [www.cincymoaa.org](http://www.cincymoaa.org) for updates.

- **March 13, 2026 11:30 a.m.**
- **June 13, 2026 11:30 a.m.**
- **October 23, 2026 Dining Out: 5:30 p.m.**
- **December 11, 2016 11:30 a.m.**

## 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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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.

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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 2nd 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** by COL Rick Bevington (USA, Ret.)

The year 2025 was a good one for the chapter. Some events and accomplishments include: three 5-star awards from the National HQs for the website, the newsletter and an overall level of excellence; ex- congressman and chapter member COL Brad Wenstrup gave an inspiring talk at the formal Dining Out; the chapter participated in the Hamilton Country Veterans Appreciation Day; and the chapter approved the development of a Charitable Fund to enhance contributions to veterans' charities.

As the new year opens, I want to provide some priorities for the chapter:

1. Organize and plan for the state-wide MOAA conference in 2027 in Cincinnati. The chairman LTC Robert Croskery, USA Ret, has begun organizing this major event and needs everyone's help.
2. Implement the Greater Cincinnati Chapter MOAA Charitable Fund. CAPT Steve Drefahl, USN Ret, developed the flexible and useful fund agreement approved by the chapter Board.
3. Increase Member Activity. This goal has two facets. First, increase the turn out for chapter events, such as lunches, meetings and preparations for the 2027 conference. Second, increase members' use of the Legislative Action Center at [www.MOAA.org](http://www.MOAA.org) and through [www.cincymoaa.org](http://www.cincymoaa.org), to inform our state and federal representatives to place their support on issues effecting veterans and members of the active service.

Please participate in chapter events and activities, as the more you put in, the more you will get out of your participation.

From Hank Gurry, Program Chair: Our next membership meeting will be on Friday, March 13, 2026, at 11:30 at Clovernook Country Club. We are very pleased to have as our speakers Col Judy Pearson USAF (ret) and Lt Col Bob Pearson, USAF (ret). Both are Cincinnati Chapter MOAA members. Col Pearson is a former Air Force flight nurse with several thousand flight hours, and is the Ohio Ambassador for the Military Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, the only major national memorial dedicated to honoring and preserving the stories of women who have defended our freedom. Lt Col Pearson is a retired Air Force pilot who flew the KC-135 in Vietnam and later the EC-135. Col Pearson will tell the story of the Women's Memorial with a brief "tour" of the facility and its special relationship with the Honor Guards of the Tomb of the Unknown. We are pleased this year to hold the cost the same at \$27/person.

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP RESERVATION: Friday, March 13th, Clovernook Country Club, 2035 W Galbraith 1130 hrs Social

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Buffet lunch Cost: \$27.00 per person, Total Reservations: \_\_\_\_\_ times \$27 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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 than March 4, 2026**. No cancellations with refund after that date.

## 2026 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- 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 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>

Below: Revisiting the assembled guests of the 2025 Dining Out. A great event such as that one needs a lot of help. Please start thinking about your involvement in the 2027 Ohio State Convention here in Cincinnati from October 21 to October 24. See Page 7.



## CAPT ALAN ECHT, USN (Legislative Affairs) MOAA 5 top priorities for 2026:

**1. Shutdown Fairness Act (S. 3168)**, which allows the Pentagon and the Department of Homeland Security to continue paying servicemembers during any future funding lapse. **Who it supports:** Currently serving, including National Guard and Reserve members. **MOAA's take:** The best solution remains a timely appropriations process. The bills does NOT include members of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps or the NOAA Commissioned Corps; MOAA continues to advocate for their inclusion. **How you can help:** [Click here](#) and send a letter to your lawmakers now.

**2. Improve and Enhance the Work Opportunity Tax Credit Act (H.R. 6231 | S. 3265)**  
**What it does:** Modernizes the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), a nonrefundable tax credit employers can take for hiring target group members during the employee's first year on the job, by increasing the amount of the credit and adding military spouses as a target group. The program is intended to reduce the unemployment rate of "job seekers who have consistently faced barriers to employment" by incentivizing employers with a tax credit, according to the Labor Department.

**Who it supports:** Unemployed veterans and military spouses. **MOAA's take:** MOAA has long championed this program, and the addition of military spouses. Continuing to offer this tax credit to employers while enhancing the program will ensure the veteran unemployment rate remains low. Expanding this benefit to military spouses improves financial stability for the currently serving military family, increasing military readiness and retention rates. **How you can help:** [Click here](#) and send a letter to your lawmakers now.

**3. Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act (H.R. 1732)** **What it does:** Reinstates criminal penalties for unaccredited claim representatives who charge unauthorized fees while assisting veterans with filing a claim for VA disability compensation benefits. **Who it supports:** Veterans and retirees.

**MOAA's take:** Veterans deserve trusted, ethical, and accountable support when filing disability claims – support that protects their privacy, respects their service, and preserves their earned compensation. The goal is not to limit veterans' ability to seek help, but to guarantee that when they do, the assistance comes from accredited professionals bound by high ethical and professional standards ... and that our veterans will not be forced to surrender a portion of the benefits they earned in service to the nation. **How you can help:** Keep following [MOAA advocacy news](#). A call to action is coming soon.

**4. Military CARE Act (H.R. 6796)** **What it does:** Requires the Pentagon to establish a digital system designed to improve access to care at military treatment facilities (MTFs) by providing beneficiaries with a standardized platform to report barriers to MTF care and creating a data record that does not exist today to give Defense Health Agency leadership and Congress the insights needed to address systemic access challenges. **Who it supports:** All TRICARE beneficiaries, but especially military families. **MOAA's take:** We advocated aggressively for this priority in 2025 as part of our spring Advocacy in Action campaign. Military families must have a more effective option for reporting access problems — an option that also increases transparency to beneficiary challenges and leads to greater accountability and oversight of the MHS. **How you can help:** [Click here](#) and send a letter to your lawmakers now.

**5. Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act (H.R. 2148 | S. 879)**  
**What it does:** Expands health care coverage and career transition support for caregivers, and would require a study designed to provide caregivers with a path toward financial security in retirement. **Who it supports:** Millions of caregivers. **MOAA's take:** "Just as our veterans answered the call to serve our nation, their caregivers also answered the call to step up and serve them," said Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), MOAA's president and CEO. "These dedicated individuals put their own futures on hold — sacrificing financial security, career advancement, and personal well-being — to fulfill the nation's promise to take care of our veterans and provide the care veterans deserve. **How you can help:** [Click here](#) and send a letter to your lawmakers now.

**!!!!!!!Stay Alert: Protect Yourself from Membership Scams!!!!!!!**

**Advice from the National MOAA:** The MOAA often uses email and online channels to communicate with its members about their membership status. It may sometimes be difficult to discriminate between legitimate messaging and scams. If you receive an email or online message about your membership that seems suspicious, do not respond. (There may be misspellings, extra characters or slightly different characters in the from line or website, or you just might feel the request doesn't feel right). In such a case, contact MOAA's Member Service Center immediately at 800-234-6622 to verify its legitimacy.

MOAA provides scam prevention resources at [MOAA.org/scams](http://MOAA.org/scams) that can help you combat all types of fraud. Some MOAA-specific details that may help you spot suspicious messaging:

- Life members whose dues are paid in full will never be asked for additional dues payments.
- Spouses of deceased Life members inherit their membership at no additional cost.
- Spouses are not eligible for membership; MOAA will never solicit a spouse to join. (Surviving spouses, however, are eligible for membership.)
- Basic and Premium members may receive renewal or upgrade communications from MOAA via mail, email, text message, or phone. If you're unsure whether a message is authentic, DO NOT REPLY to the message — contact the Member Service Center at 800-234-6622 for confirmation.

This advice is good for more than just MOAA messaging...scammers get better all the time, may use AI, and are increasingly sophisticated. When in doubt, never click a link...go directly to the actual organization! Stay safe.

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**A WORD ABOUT THE HONOR RIDE SUPPORTING VETERANS ON MAY 30, 2026**

In keeping with our mission supporting veterans, please take note of the following event. While not an MOAA official event, ((and therefore not officially endorsed) as a service to our members, notice is hereby given that the Cincinnati Cycle Club is presenting its 3rd Annual CCC Honor Ride on Sat. May 30, 2026! Early Bird Pricing ends February 28, 2026, with a rider limit capped at 400. In 2025, CCC donated \$13,200 to Honor Flight Tri-State funding 19 veterans' flights to Washington, D.C. Registrations contribute to the donation. The route goes past scenic farms, quaint towns, covered bridges, and low-traffic roads while honoring veterans who have served our country. There are three ride options: a 20-mile Casual loop, 51-mile Scenic Loop, and a 65-mile Metric Century, each with fully stocked rest stops. The first 270 Registrants receive an Honor Ride t-shirt! To register, click the link below:

<https://www.bikereg.com/Services/RedirectEmail.aspx?despa=https%3a%2f%2fna01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com%2f%3furl%3dhttps%253A%252F%252Fwww.bikereg.com%252Fccc-honor-ride%2523Register%26amp%3bdata%3d05%257C02%257C%257Cd174757db70f41e9d50408de584bda5d%257C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%257C1%257C0%257C639045279983987883%257CUnknown%257CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMtMiIsIkFOIjojTWZpbCIslldUIjoyfQ%253D%253D%257C0%257C%257C%257C%26amp%3bsdata%3deodn%252F%252B4keY5jeR7wjLACz3tKPxqPT0IxXV2P3NLaa8%253D%26amp%3breserved%3d0&emid=363043&edid=46193418&secc=45830355>

To learn more, click: [https://www.bikereg.com/Services/RedirectEmail.aspx?despa=https%3a%2f%2fcincinnati.org%2fcontent.aspx%3fpage\\_id%3d4091%26amp%3bclub\\_id%3d772752%26amp%3bitem\\_id%3d2753800&emid=363043&edid=46193418&secc=45830355](https://www.bikereg.com/Services/RedirectEmail.aspx?despa=https%3a%2f%2fcincinnati.org%2fcontent.aspx%3fpage_id%3d4091%26amp%3bclub_id%3d772752%26amp%3bitem_id%3d2753800&emid=363043&edid=46193418&secc=45830355)

# PLEASE START THINKING ABOUT YOUR ROLE IN THE 2027 OHIO REGIONAL CONVENTION SPONSORED BY THE OHIO CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY OFFICER ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Before you know it, your Cincinnati Chapter of the MOAA will be hosting the 2027 State Convention of the MOAA: **STILL SERVING FOR FREEDOM: AN OHIO RIVER ADVENTURE**.

While details are yet to be filled out and are subject to change, the following is planned: 1) A golf outing at Four Bridges Country Club, with a Golf Opening Ceremony at the USS Cincinnati Space near the VOA Museum in Mason. 2) Activities, seminars, and a first class speaker with great entertainment at the renowned, famous Hilton Netherland Hotel with special discounted rates. 3) An organization cruise on the Ohio River.

To make this event truly special, we need your help in one or more of following areas: 1) The Opening Ceremony (Golf) 2) The Golf Outing; 3) Promotion (website) 4) Group Outreach; 5) Event programming; 6) The Printed Program and signage; 7) Registration; 8) Hotel Coordination; 9) The banquet and 10) Closing ceremony. The Logo appears below:



Please start thinking about how you can help make this event truly spectacular: a great learning experience and a memorable social event. Please feel free to reach out to me, Rob Croskery (LTC, Retired, USA), the State Convention Committee Chairman, for more information or to share your expertise. My phone number is 813-244-5580; my email is [rcroskery@croskerylaw.com](mailto:rcroskery@croskerylaw.com).



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*