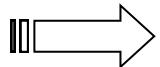


CINCINNATI MILITARY OFFICERS

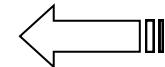
NEWS

VOL 47 No. 4
July 2020

GREATER CINCINNATI CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Renew your dues – please see page 5!



General Membership Meeting ROTC/JROTC Recognition

WHERE: Cloverhook Country Club
2035 Galbraith Rd., Cincinnati, OH

WHEN: Friday, 2 Oct 2020

TIME: 11:30 – Social Time
12:00 – Lunch and Program

It has been a while since we have all been together and we hope to finally have our first General Membership meeting for the year in October. It will be our ROTC/JROTC Recognition Luncheon. Appropriate social distancing and protocol at the time will be followed. The following schools/programs have been invited to attend:

ROTC:

Miami University Navy and Air Force
University of Cincinnati Air Force

JROTC:

Princeton HS Navy
Little Miami HS Air Force
Scarlet Oaks Navy
Live Oaks Army
Diamond Oaks Army

Please come out and support our young men and women and our future military.

Lunch RESERVATION: Friday, 2 October 2020—Cloverhook Country Club—Cincinnati, OH.

Name: _____ Rank & Service: _____ Spouse/Guests: _____

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

(ARE YOU A NEW MEMBER, OR FIRST TIME OUT? _____)

Entrée choices:

Assorted Tea Sandwiches, Fried Cod, Salads, Fruit, Chips,
Brownies/Cookies, Beverages _____ @ \$20.00

Would you like to sponsor a ROTC/JROTC Cadet or Midshipman?
(Circle if you have a preference) _____ @ \$20.00

Total Reservations _____ = **Total \$** _____

Make Checks payable to GREATER CINCINNATI CHAPTER/MOAA and mail to **CAPT Brent Ramsey, 1550 Smarty Jones Ct, Union, KY 41091**, (Phone (828) 734-1146), or email: shrlr@bellsouth.net. Please make reservations NLT than 29 Sept. No cancellations after that date.

2020 CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD

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

Executive Committee

President	CAPT Mike Glaser, USN	280-6256
Immed PP	CAPT Steve Drefahl, USN	752-4097
1st VP	CAPT Bill Heitbrink, USPHS	347-3193
2nd VP	VACANT	
Secretary	CAPT Roger Argalas, USCG	759-6267
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Chaplain	Col Mark Roeder, USAF	859 630-3164
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Natl Bd		
Past Natl Bd	RADM Larry Hereth, USCG	812 537-2968
Spouse/	Diane Lochocki, Surviving Sp.	560-0540
	Surviving Spouse Liaison	

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Delegate	CAPT Mike Glaser, USN	280-6256
Alt Delegate	Immediate PP or 1st or 2nd VP	

Committees

Programs	CAPT Brent Ramsey	828 734-1146
	LTC Bob Knueven, USA	875-2299
Membership	LTC Dan Shea, USA	792-0344
ROTC/JROTC	LTC Al Brauer, USA	677-8320
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Vietnam	LTC Al Brauer, USA	677-8320
Commemoration		
TOPS	LtCol Brad Hamant, USAF	439-3140
CinMoaaNews/	CWO3 Kym Mader, USN	759-0852
Public Affairs		

Service Representatives

Army	COL Robert Greene, USA	859 689-4321
Navy/MC	CAPT Hank Gurry, USN	459-0465
USPHS	CAPT Bill Heitbrink, USPHS	347-3193
Air Force	Lt Col Brad Hamant, USAF	439-3140
CG/NOAA	CAPT Roger Argalas, USCG	759-6267

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 also do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or this affiliate.

TAPS

If you know a member of MOAA who has passed away, please let us know so we may pass it on.

Board Meetings

2nd Friday of each month, 1200 - American Red Cross Building
2111 Dana Ave., Cincinnati, OH

Conference Call in is available. Contact a board member for more details.
Spouses & guests are welcome at all meetings.

2020 MEETINGS - Mark your Calendars NOW! Watch www.cincymoaa.org for updates.

2020 Membership Meetings / 5th Annual Dining Out

- **Membership Meeting** - Friday, Oct 2, 1200, Clovernook Country Club (Tentative)
- **Dining Out** - Saturday, November 7, 1800, Highland Country Club, Ft. Thomas KY
- **Membership Meeting** - Friday, Dec 11, 1200, Clovernook Country Club (Tentative)

**Now and Always
We'll be There.**



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For MOAA National information, Click on the links below:

[General Information](#)
[Legislative Updates](#)

From the President

Happy 4th of July to everyone! I hope that this newsletter finds everyone and their families healthy and enjoying the warmer weather. I know that the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the news make it seem that life will never be completely “normal” again, I am sure that all of us can think back to some part of our career in uniform when things felt that they could never get better and that you felt that someone had tattooed “kick me” on your back. We turned the corner then and we will do it again. Put your faith in yourself and your shipmates (forgive the naval lingo) and press on.

The COVID-19 pandemic is not only a health issue but it has also had a big impact on our economy. In the Greater Cincinnati area, numerous businesses have been forced to close or lay off workers, including a number that employ vets. To help those and others, MOAA established the MOAA COVID-19 Relief Fund. We ran an article about this fund in the last newsletter and our local board of directors voted a \$200 donation on behalf of the chapter to this fund. If you or someone you know needs help, here is the link to the website: (<https://www.moaa.org/content/campaigns/emergency-covid--19-military-family-support/>). If you would like to make a donation to the fund in order to help others, please feel free to use the same link.

In addition to this fund, national MOAA is actively pursuing other measures to help the active duty uniformed services, veterans and retirees to include reducing copays and waiving fees for medical care. If you are not a member of national MOAA, now is a great time to join and a Basic membership is free. Just go to <https://www.moaa.org> and sign up. The larger the organization becomes, the larger voice we will have before Congress.

In this issue of the newsletter you will see that we are accepting reservations for the next membership meeting in October. This meeting will feature our local ROTC and JROTC units and is always one of our more popular functions. After not being able to have a meeting for a while, we are looking forward to a good turnout for this one.

The board is also looking at holding a virtual meeting in September. We are trying to keep it as low tech as possible to accommodate everyone and we will have more information about this in the next newsletter.

Finally, as we are in a presidential election year and the campaign rhetoric is heating up, I would like to remind everyone that MOAA is a non-partisan organization. Many of us have strong feelings about the issues and individuals which is something that we all served to ensure that everyone in our country could enjoy those freedoms as well. Just as when we served that means as a group we do not endorse any party or candidates.

Until our next meeting, please accept my best wishes for all of you and your families to stay healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Mike Glaser
CAPT USN (ret)
michael.h.glaser@gmail.com

Big Changes to Military Health System Will Be Delayed, Top Health Official Says

(This article by Patricia Kime first appeared on Military.com)

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a significant impact on reforms of the Pentagon’s health system, delaying [plans to reduce services at 48 hospitals and clinics](#) by months and forcing additional reviews of civilian care in locations affected by the changes.

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Thomas McCaffery told reporters June 11 that efforts to alter operations at some military treatment facilities was scheduled to begin in September, but now may start “more toward the end of the year” or later.

The changes, designed to focus the facilities on providing medical care to active-duty personnel only as well as training military medical personnel, thereby shedding non-uniformed beneficiaries to the [Tricare](#) network, will result in outsourcing health care for at least 200,000 patients.

Click [here](#) for full article.

VA Plans Expansion of Women's Health Transition Training

(Amanda Dolaskinski, National MOAA)

A program designed to help women veterans navigate the VA’s system and make them aware of available services will expand by the end of next year to reach every woman preparing to leave service.

The [Women's Health Transition Training program](#) - a collaboration between the VA and DoD - is offered during service-specific Transition Assistance Programs.

“I’m pleased to hear VBA/VHA is working with the Department of Defense to assist women servicemembers’ transitioning out of service,” said Cmdr. Rene Campos, USN (Ret), MOAA’s senior director of government relations for veterans-wounded care.

Women veterans are the fastest growing population of VA patients, according to the department. The number of women veteran patients has increased from just under 160,000 in 2000 to about 510,200 in 2018.

The VA offers women veterans a full continuum of care, including routine gynecological care, mental health, infertility care and maternity care. Among its latest efforts, the VA signed a five-year contract the University of South Florida’s Center for Advanced Medical Learning and Simulation (CAMLS) for [a mini-residency program](#) that helps VA medical staff refresh their skills while also demonstrating new techniques.

Under the transition program expansion, women will learn about women-centric culture and infrastructure at their VA center, available women’s health services, the process and eligibility of enrollment, how to connect with other women veterans, and how to find support at their local VA facility.

The program is currently offered at select sites in 17 states, Germany, Japan, and Korea. There are also virtual training programs available.

Surviving Spouse/Spouse Corner

I pray that all are staying safe and healthy. I have received so much information for Surviving Spouses lately, I will be doing a mailing to you and e-mail for those that I have an e-mail address for. I will touch on a few things here.

I urge you to join the Surviving Spouse Virtual Group. They hold meetings four times a year and you join the meeting by phone. For information contact Gail, Pat or Micki at mssvc02@gmail.com.

MOAA is addressing the issue on the Military Healthcare Reforms that will downsize or eliminate nearly 40 medical treatment facilities across the nation. It is important that you write/call elected representatives and let them know how this will impact your life or someone you know. This most certainly impacts the active duty military and many retirees.

TOPIC OF INTEREST Bill S. 3979; COVID-19 TRICARE Prescription Relief Act, Ask your Representatives to support S. 3979 as it gives DOD flexibility to provide relief from retail and/or mail-order prescription copays for beneficiaries unable to visit a military treatment facility pharmacy for zero copay medications.

PANDEMIC 2020 What a year. If you are feeling ill or think you may have Covid-19 you can call the Military Health System Nurse Advice Line (1-800-874-2273, or 1-800-TRICARE) they can provide medical information without risks of going to the hospital.

Be Safe, Remember to Social Distance, Prays to all, Please contact me if you have any questions or need help. 513-560-0540.

Diane Lochocki, Liaison
Surviving Spouse/Spouse

Legislation Moving to Support Reserve Component Credit for COVID-19 Response

(by Cory Titus, National MOAA)

A bipartisan bill is gaining support to address the orders for the National Guard members activated to mitigate the impacts of the coronavirus.

The National Guard COVID-19 Earned Benefits Guarantee Act, [H.R. 6957](#), introduced by Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-Calif.), directs DoD to treat any time served as part of the COVID-19 response by activated members of the National Guard as no less than 90 days.

The 90-day marker is significant because it allows those who responded to the virus to receive credit for early retirement and Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits.

Notably, the bill specifies the National Guard, not the reserve component. The lack of coverage for the reserves is something MOAA addressed directly with Panetta's office, and The Military Coalition conveyed in a letter calling on the bill to be included in their letter of support to the House Armed Services and Veteran's Affairs Committees.

To learn more, [read the article](#)

VA Cemeteries—an Update to the Pre-Need Eligibility Program

(by CAPT Roger Argalas, Sympathy/Personal Affairs Committee)

Several issues ago I wrote about VA cemeteries and the new Pre-Need Eligibility Program and I promised to update you on my efforts to enroll

First the basics: effective December 8, 2016 it is now possible to complete most of the required application paperwork ahead of time as well as to indicate your desired VA National Cemetery. The program is applicable to any national cemetery. It is designed to relieve grieving family members of some of the administrative burden at a stressful time. Service members, veterans, their spouses, dependent children and adult disabled dependent children are eligible.

To participate in the Pre-Need Eligibility Program, complete VA Form 40-10007, available at the VA web site (va.gov). The VA will store the information and send you a folder with documents to confirm your eligibility. Both military member and spouse should complete separate forms.

And now an update. My wife and I sent in the required VA forms and required supporting documents for each of us, as well as for our adult disabled dependent daughter. The VA approved benefits for all three of us.

In case you are not aware, you have some decisions to make regarding headstones and markers. The VA states that the headstone must include your name, branch of service, and years of birth and death. But you may choose other optional information such as "an emblem of belief [75 to choose from] and, space permitting, additional text including military rank; war service such as World War II; complete dates of birth and death; military awards; military organizations; civilian or veteran affiliations; and personalized Terms of Endearment...".

This may be something that you want to discuss with your family members. The VA offers a comprehensive planning guide entitled "VA Survivors and Burial Benefits Kit: Planning Your Legacy". MOAA also has a helpful publication entitled "Your Guide to Military Burials" as well as other publications regarding estate planning and your survivors.

Changes Coming Soon for Some TRICARE Select Retired Beneficiaries

(by Mark Belinsky, National MOAA)

Starting on Jan. 1, 2021, TRICARE Select Group A retired beneficiaries must pay monthly enrollment fees in order to maintain their TRICARE health coverage. This is a change, and the first time this beneficiary group will pay enrollment fees. Here the key points you need to know.

To learn more, [read the article](#)

Never Stop Serving

2020 CHAPTER DUES ARE DUE! Please pay now- IF you haven't done so.

If you receive the newsletter by mail, please check your address sticker on the other side of this form. The year is shown for the latest year for which your dues are paid. If your number is (2019) or lower, please return this form (with your name sticker on reverse) along with a check for your dues to bring you up to current year. Please mark your selection of dues (one year, multi-year or life). If you are moving out of state and don't want to continue your chapter membership or have any other status change, please let us know. Also please indicate on your check the year(s) your dues are for.

NEW - You can now renew your membership online. Go to <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx>. There is no membership dues for Surviving Spouses.

Chapter Membership Renewal

Name: _____ Rank: _____
Your email address please: _____

Member \$28 for three years \$19 for two years \$10.00 for one year
Surviving Spouse (surviving spouse of a deceased officer) No Cost

Please renew as a LIFE member. (Please circle amount in fee schedule.)

MEMBER LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES (Chapter Only)

(Fee is based on your age, nearest birthday)

Age up to 55	\$161.25
Age 56 to 70	\$127.50
Age 71 to 89	\$ 93.75
Age 90 and over	Waive

Make check payable to: Greater Cincinnati Chapter / MOAA

Mail Renewal form and check to:

LTC Dan Shea, 5736 Woodsway Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45236

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

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

CAPT Eric Caldwell, USNR
MAJ Christopher Turner, USAR

LCol Bryan Lee, USAF
LT(jg) Frederick Weckel, USN

LTC Philip Neuscheler, USAR
CAPT Jon Uithol, USCG

Legislative Updates

Gov. Mike DeWine on Tuesday (June 16th) signed two bills aimed at making Ohio a more Military-friendly state.

House Bills 16 and 287 recently passed out of the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives, and have officially become law following DeWine's signature. These two bills will provide benefits to military members and their families and are meant to make Ohio an attractive place for Servicemen and women to locate.

HB16 aims to reduce the cost of education for active duty service members and their eligible members.

HB287 presents Ohio with the opportunity to maintain and enhance its status of a military-friendly state through providing Medicaid waivers for families with special need dependents.

Tax Reminder

FEDERAL & OHIO STATE TAXES DUE 15 JULY 2020

The IRS had extended the filing deadline and federal tax payments to July 15, 2020 without penalties and interest due to the COVID-19 virus.

Ohio also followed the federal government and extended the deadline to file and pay the state income tax. That time is almost here so if you haven't filed your taxes or made tax payments, now is the time to get them in. Ohio taxpayer Assistance will be available until 7:00 p.m. on July 15, 2020.

OhioVets.gov Joins InnovateOhio Platform

ODVS is proud to announce an updated and cleaner version of its website, OhioVets.gov. The renovation of the site was launched at the end of May.

The site now provides easier access to valuable benefits and resources for veterans and military families as well as better alignment with the websites of fellow state departments as part of the InnovateOhio Platform. The home page features a bevy of key links including one to a new [What We Do](#) page that includes background information on pertinent aspects of the department as well as the ODVS mission and vision.

TRICARE FAQ's: COVID-19 and Telemedicine Services

As you begin to schedule a doctor's appointment, you may have questions about your TRICARE benefit. You can find answers to your frequently asked questions (FAQs) and more on the TRICARE Coronavirus FAQs page. The following are some of the most frequently asked questions about telemedicine or telehealth and COVID-19.

To learn more, [read the article](#)

To keep up with TRICARE and COVID-19 updates, [sign up for email alerts](#).



Greater Cincinnati Chapter
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICA
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West Chester, OH 45069-2842

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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