



**GREATER CINCINNATI CHAPTER
2018
YEAR IN REVIEW**



THE 2018 BOARD

- President – CAPT Steve Drefahl, USN
- Immediate Past President, ROTC/JROTC Liaison, Vietnam Commemoration Coordinator – LTC Al Brauer, USA
- 1st VP, Membership Chairman, 2019 State Convention Chairman, State Council Delegate – CAPT Mike Glaser, USN
- 2nd VP, Navy/USMC Service Representative – CAPT Rex Settlemoir, USN
- Treasurer – LTC Paul Fellingner, USA
- January – August 2018 - Secretary, State Council Delegate, USPHS Representative – CAPT Alan Echt, USPHS
- Secretary (Starting September 2018), Sympathy/Personal Affairs, USCG Service Representative – CAPT Roger Argalas, USCG
- Legislative Affairs – BG Tom O'Brien, USA
- Spouses/Surviving Spouses – Diane Lochocki
- Chaplain – Rev. (CPT) Joe Boone, USA
- TOPS (Transition Services), Air Force Service Representative – LtCol Brad Hamant, USAF
- Historian – LtCol Dick Probst, USAF
- CinMOAA News Letter/Public Affairs, State Council Newsletter, Website, Social Media – CWO3 Kym Mader, USN
- Army Service Representative – COL Bob Greene, USA

FINANCIAL REPORT JANUARY – DECEMBER 2018

STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENDITURES

REVENUE

Dues	\$ 1,757.75
Meals	5,319.00
CD Turnover	4,142.67
Other	<u>2,461.16</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	\$13,680.58

EXPENDITURES

Meals	\$ 5,542.16
Newsletter	498.34
Postage	733.75
Awards	115.32
CD Turnover	4,142.28
VA Brick (see Note)	3,519.35
Other	<u>1,490.90</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$15,773.52

INCOME OVER/ (UNDER)	\$ (2,092.94)
EXPENDITURES	
WITHOUT VA Brick Close Out	\$ 1,426.41

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Checking balance	\$ 4,638.96
CD	<u>4,150.36</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 8,789.32

RESERVES

Prepaid Dues	1,168.18
Life Reserves	5,545.90
Charitable Reserve	<u>1,720.00</u>
TOTAL RESERVES	\$ 8,434.08

WORKING CAPITAL	\$ 355.24
-----------------	-----------

NOTE: The chapter assisted with the receipt and disbursement of monies for the VA garden brick purchase program. No monies were received for this program in 2018. We closed out the program in 2018 and the balance of \$3,519.35 provided to the VA brick project.

MEMBERSHIP

Our Chapter membership at the end of 2018 sits at 218 members with 194 of those being Life/Premium members and 18 Basic members. The decrease over the course of the year is due primarily to the elimination of ROTC graduates who PCS'd out of the Greater Cincinnati area. We have also had several Life/Premium members who have PCS'd out of the area as well. With our chapter hosting the 2019 MOAA Ohio Council Convention of Chapters, we will emphasize reaching out to national MOAA members in the local area who are not currently members of the local chapter. We believe that this event will be an excellent opportunity to showcase the impact that our local chapter has in our community. Also, 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 340,000 members and have been recognized as one of the top fifty lobbying organizations in the country and the only veteran's organization earning this recognition, so membership matters.

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. Presentation of both veteran and surviving spouse pins are an integral part of each general membership meeting and at outside community events that we attend. The chapter is pleased to extend "A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You" to recipients. Major highlights outside of our membership meetings were the Delhi Township Veteran's Association program on February 13, 2018 where over 25 pins were presented and the Blue Ash American Legion Post NE 630 program on Veterans Day November 11, 2016, where almost 100 pins were presented. As a "Commemorative Partner" of the commemoration, all materials to conduct ceremonies are provided at no charge. In total, one hundred sixty pins were presented to our veterans in 2018.



Presenters at the Blue Ash Vietnam Commemoration Event Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2018. L to R - LTCOL Paul Fellingner, COL Paul Fellingner, Jr., BG Tom O'Brien, James Meyers, Commander American Legion Post NE 63, LTCOL Al Brauer, CAPT Steve Drefahl



Presenters at the Delhi Township Veterans Association Program, February 13, 2018. L to R – Patti Fellingner, Anne Marie O'Brien, BG Tom O'Brien, CAPT Rex Settlemoir, LTCOL Paul Fellingner

- Military Sabbath – The Chapter participates in the Military Sabbath held annually in November at the Immaculata Church, Mt. Adams. MOAA Member, Chapter Past President, current Chapter Board member and Legislative Affairs Chairman, BG O'Brien served as the Commander of Troops and several Chapter members actively participated.

- Toys for Tots – At our December meeting members are encouraged to bring new toys to the meeting. Guests attending the meeting are also invited to participate. Numerous toys and a check for \$100 were presented to Toys for Tots USMC representatives. This was our second year to support this most worthwhile program.
- ROTC/JROTC Program- The chapter was pleased to support five ROTC and nine JROTC programs. The Little Miami Air Force JROTC is a welcome new addition. The Presidential Review at Miami University is always a highlight. The chapter hosted the Miami University Naval ROTC midshipmen and cadets from the Western Brown Army JROTC and Little Miami Air Force JROTC at the March 9, 2018 appreciation luncheon. Thanks to USAA for providing a sponsorship grant to help defray the costs of medals and the appreciation luncheon.



LTCOL Al Brauer presenting at
The Little Miami High School
JROTC program



Miami Univ. NROTC L to R. Midn Meredith
Engel, Midn Brett Haynes, CAPT Drefahl,
Midn Chris Taylor

SPOUSES/SURVIVING SPOUSES

In 2018 Diane Lochocki continued to reach out to Surviving Spouses and Spouses to encourage them to become more involved in the chapter. She found that sending out a short note and a stamped return Post Card indicating their wishes has been a very successful line of communication. Diane made a personal phone call to each Surviving Spouse that had a phone number listed this past year to let them know someone cares. She has continued to publish articles in the newsletter that are of interest to our Surviving Spouses and our Spouses. Diane has joined the new Virtual Surviving Spouse Group of MOAA and has encouraged, through a mailing, other Surviving Spouses to join as it is free and only takes a phone call. The Surviving Spouses and Spouses put together two “Baskets of Holiday Cheer” for the December Member Meeting with all proceeds to go directly to the Veterans at the VA Hospital in the form of Gift Cards. Diane will continue to reach out and encourage Spouses and Surviving Spouses to attend member meetings and become more involved in the Chapter.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS/DINING OUT

We had four membership meetings and a Dining Out in 2018.

- In March we held our annual ROTC/JROTC Recognition/Appreciation lunch event. As mentioned earlier in this report, the chapter hosted the Miami University Naval ROTC midshipmen and cadets from the Western Brown Army JROTC and Little Miami Air Force JROTC. Representatives from each unit gave excellent presentations on what the JROTC and ROTC programs meant to them.
- At our June lunch our speaker was Rusty Mardis, Maj. USAF (Retired), Director of In-Processing Center & Operations, Tristate Veterans Community Alliance (TVCA). TVCA is an independent, veteran-led nonprofit organization dedicated to serving veterans and their families within the sixteen county, Greater Cincinnati region as they transition from military to civilian life. Rusty spoke about his experiences while serving in Afghanistan, the difficulties veterans face when returning home and how TVCA assists them. Also, at our June meeting Judge Rudy Jansen was made an honorary member of our Chapter.

- In September we had an evening event. Our speaker was Major General John C. Harris, Jr., Assistant Adjutant General – Army, Ohio National Guard and Commander, Ohio Army National Guard. MG Harris spoke on the many changes that are occurring at the National Guard and its role in defending our country. In attendance was Col Dick Calta, USAF (Retired), President, Ohio Council, MOAA



L to R. CAPT Steve Drefahl,
MG Harris, COL Dick Calta

- At our December 7th luncheon we recognized our Past Presidents, held our Toys for Tots campaign, elected and installed our Board Officers, reviewed the results of the membership survey, had a tribute to President George H.W. Bush, WWII combat Navy veteran and to those at the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. Additionally we reviewed the Chapters 2018 accomplishments, events and community outreach.
- Our 3rd Annual Dining Out was held in November at the Highland Country Club. We had 60 attendees. Our guest of honor and keynote speaker was Major General David Glaser, Army Provost Marshal who made the trip from Washington D.C. Also present were Steve Lee, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for Southern Ohio; COL Jay Johannigman, Director of University of Cincinnati's Medical Center's trauma and critical care center and Director, Institute of Military Medicine; Navy Commander, State Senator and USO Board Member Lou Terhar; Tracy Butts, Chief of Voluntary Services at the VA Medical Center, Cincinnati; and University of Cincinnati Veterans Program Manager, Terrence Harrison. It was a wonderful evening. This is an annual event and has grown substantially in the last three years.



The Glaser Family at the Dining Out. L to R. Tony Glaser, his wife Tracey,
Don Glaser (their Dad), MG David Glaser, Jeanne Glaser (Mike's wife), CAPT Mike Glaser

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.
- State Representatives who had chapter members in their districts were invited to attend the chapter's September 14, 2018 membership meeting to hear Major General John C. Harris, Jr. speak on the Ohio National Guard.
- Legislation to apply the "trailing spouse" provisions to the USPHS and MOAA personnel was tracked and supported. The "trailing spouse" legislation for USPHS and MOAA is stalled in a senate committee despite a strong effort by chapter members.
- 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.

MOAA NATIONAL MEETING/5 STAR CHAPTER

CAPT Drefahl attended the MOAA National Conference, Phoenix, Arizona November 1-2, 2018. Key events included a chapter forum/roundtable and key addresses from General John Sheehan, outgoing National Board Chair and LtGen Dana Atkins, President and CEO, MOAA. Key take-a ways from the National conference include

- MOAA was selected as one of the top 50 lobbying organizations in the country and was the only veteran's organization recognized.
- MOAA was a key player in accomplishing several wins for our military in 2018 including a 2.6% pay raise, no increase in Tricare Fees, an increase in defense spending and an increase in end strength.
- MOAA employs eleven full time lobbyists. Together with State Council and Chapter representatives from around the country all 435 congressman and all senator's offices were visited in 2018.
- Three key areas National is asking chapters to support are
 1. Legislative advocacy
 2. Member recruitment
 3. Community engagement

For the eighth year in a row our chapter received the highest award for chapter excellence, the 5 Star Level of Excellence Award for 2017. The award is based on a range of criteria including recruiting and retention of members, participation in legislative affairs, community outreach, and a strong board with key positions filled and a succession plan. Our chapter scored the highest possible score in all categories.



O-H-I-O MOAA Ohio Five Star Award Winners
Celebrating their wins



CAPT Drefahl (center) receives the Chapter's Five Star Award from GEN Sheehan and LtGen Atkins

NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA

Every year CWO3 Kym Mader publishes six newsletters that are chock-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) and numerous other topics of interest to our members. It was decided that in 2019 we would begin sending the newsletter by email only, unless the member does not have email or specifically requests to have the newsletter mailed to them. 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.

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.

SURVEY

In 2018 we conducted a survey of our Chapter's membership. Two hundred and fifty surveys were mailed and 72 returned for an outstanding return rate of 29%. A big thank you to those members who participated. The survey results will be used by the board and committees for future planning, including activities, events, community outreach and volunteerism.

2019 IMPORTANT DATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- Membership Meetings, State of Ohio Conference and Dining Out
 - March 22, 2019 – Social Hour Noon, Membership Meeting 1230, Topic – ROTC Recognition
 - June 14, 2019 – Social Hour Noon, Membership Meeting 1230, Speaker TBD
 - September 20-22 – 2019 Ohio Council State Convention, Quality Hotel, Cincinnati, OH
 - November 2, 2019 – Dining Out, 1800 No Host Social, Mess Call 1850. Speaker TBD
 - December 13, 2019 – Social Hour Noon, Membership Meeting 1230, Changing of the Guard, Past President's Recognition, 2019 in Review, Toys for Tots Campaign.
- Look for other events and activities throughout the year. We received wonderful feedback and suggestions from our 2018 membership survey on activities and events that would be of interest to our members. Our Board and committees will be working to add the recommendations to our event/activities list.

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