



**GREATER CINCINNATI CHAPTER
2019
YEAR IN REVIEW**



THE 2019 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
- Secretary, Sympathy/Personal Affairs, USCG Service Representative – CAPT Roger Argalas, USCG
- Legislative Affairs – BG Tom O'Brien, USA
- Spouses/Surviving Spouses – Diane Lochocki
- Programs - CAPT Brent Ramsey, USN and LTC Bob Knueven
- TOPS (Transition Services), Air Force Service Representative – LtCol Brad Hamant, USAF
- CinMOAA News Letter/Public Affairs, State Council Newsletter, Website, Social Media – CWO3 Kym Mader, USN
- Army Service Representative – COL Bob Greene, USA
- United States Public Health Services Representative – CAPT Bill Heitbrink, USPHS

FINANCIAL REPORT YEAR 2019

STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENDITURES

REVENUE

Dues	\$ 559.75
Meals	3,694.00
CD Turnover	4,155.96
USAA Contribution	300.00
Other Contributions	488.00
Other	24.21
Christmas Raffle	380.00
State Convention	<u>13,249.50</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	\$22,851.42

EXPENDITURES

Meals	\$ 3,910.63
Newsletter	5.66
Postage	333.41
Awards	197.17
Contributions	2,600.00
CD Turnover	5,000.00
Other	251.92
State Convention	<u>9,083.96</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$21,382.75

INCOME OVER/ (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	\$ 1,468.67
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BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Checking balance	\$ 6,107.63
CD	<u>5,006.32</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$11,113.95

RESERVES

Prepaid Dues	\$ 722.84
Life Reserves	5,029.65
Prepaid Cadet Meals	122.00
Cadet Activities	213.76
Christmas Raffle	<u>380.00</u>
TOTAL RESERVES	\$ 6,468.25

WORKING CAPITAL	\$ 4,645.70
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MEMBERSHIP

Our Chapter membership at the end of 2019 sits at 212 members with 179 of those being Life/Premium members, 16 Basic members, 1 Honorary member and 16 Surviving Spouse members. This is a slight decrease from the 218 members at the end of 2018. 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. 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 LTC 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 American Legion Post 484 (Mt. Washington) program on May 18, 2019 where over 40 pins were presented and the Cincinnati Submarine Veterans October 26, 2019, where 25 pins were presented. We concluded the year by participating in the Xavier University Homecoming Weekend on November 9, 2019 by presenting 45 pins. Our reach even extended overseas with COL Paul Fellingner, Jr. and LTC Paul Fellingner, Sr. presenting pins to veterans on a MOAA sponsored D-Day cruise in Europe. As a "Commemorative Partner" of the commemoration, all materials to conduct ceremonies are provided at no charge. In total, one hundred and forty pins were presented to qualified veterans in 2019.



Presenters at the American Legion Post 484 (Mt. Washington) Vietnam Commemoration Event, May 18, 2019, L to R Bill Harris, CAPT Bill Heitbrink, CAPT Steve Drefahl Post Commander Steve Ervin, BG Tom O'Brien, LTC Paul Fellingner, Sr.



Members of the "Cincinnati Base" of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. received their Vietnam Lapel Pins. LTC Al Brauer and LTC Paul Fellingner, Sr. presented 25 pins to the veterans at VFW Post 4389 (Sharonville) on October 26, 2019. Chapter member CAPT Tim France, USN (Ret) was one of the awardees.

- 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 \$500 were presented to Toys for Tots USMC representatives. This was our third year to support this most worthwhile program.
- Commissioning of USS Cincinnati LCS 20 – Several chapter members were involved with the commissioning of the fifth ship named after our city. The commissioning was October 5, 2019. CDR Vince Scott, USN (Retired) was the Executive Director of the USS Cincinnati Commissioning Foundation and COL Paul Fellingner, Jr. was Chairman of the Events Committee. Congressman, Army Reserve COL, MOAA National and Greater Cincinnati Chapter Life Member Brad Wenstrup was the keynote speaker at the commissioning. Chapter President Steve Drefahl attended the commissioning.
- ROTC/JROTC Program - The chapter was pleased to support five college ROTC and ten high school JROTC programs. The chapter hosted Xavier University Army ROTC cadets, cadets from the Live Oaks Career Campus, Kenton County Military Prep Army JROTC and the Hamilton High School Navy JROTC at the March 22, 2019 appreciation luncheon. Thanks to USAA for providing a sponsorship grant to help defray the costs of medals and the appreciation luncheon. Cadets and midshipmen were an integral part of Ohio Council of Chapters State Convention. Thanks also go out to members that represented the chapter at award ceremonies through the year.



CAPT Frank Mendralski presenting to Cadet Aaren Eling at the Scarlet Oaks awards ceremony



L to R Xavier University Army ROTC Cadet Alex Rigg, CAPT Steve Drefahl, Xavier University Army ROTC Cadet Ian Franzen



CAPT Rex Settlemoir presenting to Rachel Duff at Hamilton High School

SPOUSES/SURVIVING SPOUSES

In 2019 Diane Lochocki continued to contact our Surviving Spouses by mail and personal phone calls encouraging them to become involved in the chapter, attend our membership meetings and to join the Virtual Surviving Spouse Group. She continues to publish articles in the newsletter that are of interest to our surviving spouses and our spouses. Diane and Gerry Koenig ran a very successful basket raffle in support of the Ohio Council of Chapters State Convention. Diane was a member of the convention planning committee and an active participant at the convention. She mailed the Surviving Spouses a Thank You Pin for their service as a military spouse for those who have not attended a membership meeting. At our December Membership Meeting and under the direction of Diane the chapter raffled off three Baskets of Cheer. All proceeds go to support our various veteran related organizations. Diane will continue to reach out and encourage spouses and surviving spouses to attend membership meetings and to become more involved in the Chapter.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS/DINING OUT

We had three membership meetings and a Dining Out in 2019.

- In March we held our annual ROTC/JROTC Recognition/Appreciation lunch event. As mentioned earlier in this report, the chapter hosted Xavier University Army ROTC cadets, cadets from the Live Oaks Career Campus, Kenton County Military Prep Army JROTC and the Hamilton High School Navy 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 Sherry Ems, Executive Director, USO Central and Southern Ohio which covers 65 counties in OH, WV and Northern KY. They continue to expand their services and have served over 165,000 service members and their families in the 65 county area. Also present were CAPT George Stringer, USN (Retired) and LCDR Aubrey Page who gave an overview of the USS Cincinnati LCS20 and it's upcoming commissioning. We had the honor of The Major Samuel Woodfill Chapter of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) led by CSM Michael Boyd, USA (Ret) teaming up with our MOAA Chapter to celebrate the U.S. Army's 244th birthday. We celebrated with a ceremonial cutting of the birthday cake.



L to R CAPT Steve Drefahl, Sherry Ems, LCDR
Aubrey Page, CSM Michael Boyd, CAPT George Stringer

- At our December 13th luncheon we recognized our Past Presidents, held our Toys for Tots campaign, elected and installed our Board Officers, recognized, thanked and presented donations to the USO of Central and Southern Ohio (Sherry Ems, Executive Director), Joseph House (Alicia Patterson, Executive Director), Honor Flight Cincinnati (Scott Kuhr, Ambassador) and American Red Cross, Greater Cincinnati-Dayton Region (Stephanie Byrd, CEO and Andy Guidugli, Director Services to the Armed Forces). The National Five Star Harris Communication Award was presented to CWO3 Kym Mader for the chapter's print newsletter and website. She also received the Five Star Award for the Ohio Council's website. The chapter received the Five Star Level of Excellence award. The Five Star award is the highest award that National MOAA awards. Additionally, we reviewed the Chapters 2019 accomplishments, events and community outreach.
- Our 3rd Annual Dining Out was held in November at the Highland Country Club. We had 48 attendees. Our guest of honor and keynote speaker was Rear Admiral Gene Price, Commander, Naval Information Reserve. This is an annual event and greatly enjoyed by members and guests.

OHIO COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS STATE CONVENTION

The Greater Cincinnati Chapter hosted the state's biennial conference September 20-22. The conference was held at the Quality Hotel, Blue Ash. It was highly successful with 118 participants attending either part or all of the conference. The conference started with a Friday night (September 20) Meet and Greet. Saturday was the official opening of the conference. Proclamations were presented by the City of Cincinnati and the City

of Blue Ash. The morning was packed full of interesting and relevant presentations and included sessions on MOAA Legislative Plans/Chapter Management; Ohio County Veterans Programs; University Veterans Programs and PTSD Treatments. Also, Saturday morning spouses had the opportunity to take a tour of Cincinnati led by Patti Fellingner and Cindy Drefahl. The keynote lunch speaker was Congressman, Army Reserve Colonel and life member of both National and the Greater Cincinnati Chapter MOAA, Brad Wenstrup. Afternoon was free time or an optional tour to the Air National Guard 123d Air Control Squadron. Saturday evening was a sit-down dinner with keynote speaker President and CEO of National MOAA, LtGen Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret). The convention wrapped up Sunday morning at the conclusion of the Ohio Council of Chapters quarterly meeting. It was an excellent convention with great sponsorship and support from the community and the Ohio MOAA Chapters.



Spouses tour stop at the Cincinnati Museum Center



LtGen Atkins with Cadets from Live Oaks JROTC



Diane Lochocki running the gift basket raffle and silent auction



Congressman & Army Reserve Colonel Brad Wenstrup with cadets and Army JROTC Instructor from Diamond Oaks Army JROTC



LtGen Atkins presents the Chapter's Five Star Award to Chapter President CAPT Steve Drefahl

DONATIONS

The chapter had a very good year financially and the Board of Directors decided to donate the excess funds to local organizations that support veterans. Donations were provided to USO Southern and Central Ohio, Joseph House, Honor Flight Tri-State, American Red Cross Greater Cincinnati-Dayton Region and Toys for Tots.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

We have an active Legislative Chairman, BG Tom O'Brien, in our Chapter and our members are very supportive of our state and national legislative efforts. Chapter members were encouraged to contact their US representatives on matters of concern to MOAA and kept advised of pending legislation on both the national and state levels. One key victory - after more than 40 years, Congress finally approved elimination of a financial penalty more than 65,000 military survivors face, known as the "widow's tax." Eliminating the widow's tax has been a top legislative priority for MOAA for decades. Our chapter members contacted their

Congressmen and Senators encouraging them to end this unjust financial penalty. This now goes to the Senate as part of the National Defense Authorization Act. It is our hope that they will pass it.

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 and at local food banks, 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.

THE 2018 SURVEY – GOING FORWARD

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%. The survey results have been used and will continue to be used in planning our chapter's activities and events. It also resulted in adding additional members to our board who expressed an interest in serving on the board.

2020 IMPORTANT DATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- Membership Meetings, Events and Dining Out
 - February 7, 2020 – Military Appreciation Day at the Cincinnati Cyclones. Puck drops at 1930. This event is tentative pending enough membership interest.
 - April 3, 2020 – Social Hour Noon, Membership Meeting 1230, Topic – ROTC Recognition
 - June 19, 2020 – Social Hour 1800, Membership Meeting 1830, Speaker TBD
 - September 18, 2020 – Social Hour Noon, Membership Meeting 1230, Speaker TBD
 - November 7, 2020 – Dining Out, 1800 No Host Social, Mess Call 1850. Speaker TBD
 - December 11, 2019 – Social Hour Noon, Membership Meeting 1230, Past President's Recognition, Election and Installation of Chapter Officers for 2021, Toys for Tots Campaign, 2020 in Review
- Look for other events and activities throughout the year.

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