

CINCINNATI MILITARY OFFICERS NEWS

VOL 51 No. 1 February, 2024

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

December General Membership Meeting Elected Officers and Featured a Visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus, as well as Toys for Tots Donations...

On December 8, over 30 members and guests of the Cincinnati MOAA chapter gathered together at a festively decorated Clovernook Country Club to enjoy the comradery of the Holiday Season, elect new officers, and renew our commitment to the principles of this wonderful organization. Following the invocation, the pledge of allegiance, and honoring of absent companions, the meeting took place, and the Board recommended slate of officers was elected by acclamation. We also had visits from Marines conducting Toys for Tots program, and a surprise visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. See pictures.



Swearing in of New Officers



Santa and Toys for Tots Marines



Mrs Claus, Paul Fellingner, Bob Gallagher and Santa

Our next membership meeting will be on Friday, March 22, 2024, at 11:30 at Clovernook Country Club. **Note the date change and slight price increase.** Our speaker will be David Corlett, a thirty year veteran of the Cincinnati Police Department. Sergeant Corlett is the founder of the Military Liaison Group within the department. He has worked with the VA and the local court system to improve relations between military veterans and law enforcement. Prior to joining the police department, Sergeant Corlett served in the US Army in Iraq during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. We are also inviting Cadets and Midshipmen from the local ROTC units to attend the meeting.

MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING RESERVATION FORM

22 March 2024-Clovernook Country Club—2035 Galbraith Rd—Cincinnati, OH 45239

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

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

(ARE YOU A NEW MEMBER, OR FIRST TIME OUT? (check if yes) (____))

Buffet Lunch with entree(s) @ \$25.00 Total # Reservations _____ = Total \$ _____

Make Checks payable to GREATER CINCINNATI CHAPTER/MOAA and mail to LTC PAUL FELLINGER, 5493 Delhi Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45238-5139, (Phone (513) 451-9881) or email: pwf5493@aol.com. Please make reservations NLT than 8 March 2024. No cancellations after that date. Thank you.

2024 CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD

(phone # prefix is area code 513 unless noted)

Executive Committee

President CAPT Bill Heitbrink, USPHS 319-331-2466
Immed PP CAPT Mike Glaser, USN 280-6256
1st VP COL Richard Bevington, USA/ 741-9727
2nd VP Open
Co-Secretary CAPT Hank Gurry, USN 459-0465
Co-Secretary CAPT Alan Echt, USPHS 573-0315
Treasurer LTC Paul Fellingner, USAR 451-9881
Chaplain/ M.A,L, Skip Fellingner, USA 931-3226
Legislative Ofc CAPT Alan Echt, USPHS 573-0315
Spouse/ Surviving Spouse Liaison
ILT Ken Bowman, USA 600-4094

State Council

Delegate

CAPT Bill Heitbrink, USPHS 319-331-2466
Alt Delegate Immediate PP or 1st or 2nd VP

Committees

Programs Open
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 852-6078
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 (813)244-5580
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 Open

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS 2024

Please mark your calendars.

Monitor www.cincymoaa.org for updates.

- **Membership Meeting**-- Friday, 22 Jun, 1200 hrs (Clovernook Country Club) (1130 social hr)
- **Membership Meeting**-- Informal at Hopping Vines. Details TBD,
- **Dining Out** – TBD

- **Membership Meeting**-- Friday, 13 Dec 1200 hrs (Clovernook Country Club) (1130 social hr)

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 do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or this affiliate.

TAPS

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

Board Meetings

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

CONSIDER JOINING MOAA AS A LIFE MEMBER

Life membership in Cinci MOAA 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.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN by William Heitbrink, CAPT USPHS

This month, I would like to wish all of you a Happy New. Let's talk about the legislative advocacy work of MOAA, an important cause needing your support. Please take a few moments of your valuable time to push MOAA's agenda seeking to help our brothers and sisters in the uniformed services to your senators and congresspersons. Here's how:

1. Go to the MOAA website (MOAA.org) and register for this site. This step is needed to correctly identify your senators and representatives.
2. Now that you are registered, log onto MOAA's website, (MOAA.org).
3. Next, click on the heading "Advocacy". Then click on the heading "Legislative Action Center". You will then be at this website page: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>. This page will give the option of writing to our legislators about a variety of issues.
4. Pick your issue, then click on the button labeled "Write". You will be presented with a draft letter which you can either edit or accept as drafted.
5. Click on the button labeled "Submit Selected Letters". The letter is sent to your senators and representative automatically.

The site also allows nonmembers to register for MOAA.org. Because legislative issues are often short-fuse, I will use email messages to alert you to such needs.

Your chapter has a website and a Facebook page. The website (Cincymoa.org) provides information about upcoming meetings, access to the chapters past and present newsletters, and photographs from past events. In addition, the website has a link to chapter's Facebook page, run by Matt Wetzel, (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1189243865230481/>), with lots of great information, a page which you should visit.

Finally, I encourage you to attend the March membership meeting, now held on March 22nd one week later than normal, to accommodate our speaker, David Corlett. (see page 1), Sergeant Corlett will tell us about his experience as a Cincinnati Police Officer, his experience interacting with the local veteran community and his program's development into a nationwide program. Plus you will see your friends and enjoy a fine lunch in a nice setting. See you then!

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



On December 16, 2023, the annual celebration of Wreaths across America took place: in Cincinnati it was at Spring Grove and at Gate of Heaven Cemeteries. At left is a picture of member Al Brauer paying his respects to fallen comrade 1LT Robert H. Doolan, Chapter Member. All MOAA members are encouraged to participate in this event each time it happens. For more information, visit <https://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org>. There you will read about the mission of the organization: Remember the fallen. Honor those who serve. Teach the next generation the value of freedom. You will also find opportunities for attendance, sponsorship, and participation at ceremonies across the United States.

2024 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>

NOTES FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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PAPER COPIES: Now that we have discontinued mailing paper copies of newsletters to everyone who has the ability to receive them by email or to access them on the website, there may be some who have been missed. If any of you are aware of someone who has slipped through the cracks and needs a paper copy, let me know. As always, I welcome your help, suggestions, and submissions; you can reach me on my cell at 813-244-5580, though my secretary, Sandra, at 513-232- 5297; and through my informal email, rcroskery@gmail.com .

CONDOLENCES go out to our Membership Secretary, Colonel Dan Shea, on the loss of his mother, Annette Shea. She passed away in her sleep on February 3, 2024 at the age of 98. Please remember Dan and the Shea Family in your prayers.

Rob Croskery, LTC, Retired, US Army MOAA Newsletter Editor

Legislative affairs

CAPT (Ret) Alan Echt, USPHS

This is my first column, and I have big shoes to fill. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to BG (Ret) Tom O'Brien for his many years of service to the Chapter as legislative liaison. I'll try to live up to his example.

According to the Associated Press, the first session of the 118th Congress was one of the least productive, "With just 27 bills and resolutions signed into law, not counting a few board appointments, it's among the most do-nothing sessions of Congress in recent times." Our state legislators in Columbus had a similar record. Cleveland.com reported that "2023 was least productive lawmaking year in Ohio since at least 1955." Nevertheless, MOAA persists in advocating for members of the uniformed services, their families, and veterans.

If you haven't already done so, please go to the website, <https://moaa.quorum.us/> and review MOAA's current advocacy campaigns. Clicking on the "write" and "tell" buttons will allow you to easily share your views on MOAA's key issues with your elected federal officials. Take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with MOAA's advocacy by clicking on the photos at the top the <https://moaa.quorum.us/> page (Key Advocacy Issues, etc.). The Action Center Tutorial button will answer most of your questions about using the site. Finally, please log into your account on the MOAA.org website and click on "Email Subscriptions." Enter your email address in the blank, click "search," and make sure that the MOAA Newsletter and Advocacy boxes are checked. This will ensure that you are kept informed of MOAA's latest advocacy news.

Although the FY24 National Defense Authorization Act was only recently passed, Congress will soon begin work on the FY 25 NDAA. MOAA has outlined its goals for that bill (<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/advocacy/tricare,-star-act,-arlington-eligibility-among-moaas-fy-2025-ndaa-priorities>). Among those goals is passing the Richard Star Act. This bill provides that combat-disabled uniformed services retirees with fewer than 20 years of creditable service may concurrently receive, without reduction, veterans' disability compensation and retired pay or combat-related special compensation. Other MOAA goals for the FY 25 NDAA include changes to the BAH to improve housing compensation, increasing job opportunities for military spouses, ending the claw back of the last month of retirement pay following the death of a retiree, expanding Arlington National Cemetery, and eliminating monthly premiums for Tricare Young Adult health insurance.



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*