



**Middle Tennessee Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P. O. Box 50252
Nashville, TN 37205-0252**

25 February 2017

MOAA
Awards Department
201 North Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Middle Tennessee Chapter it gives me great pleasure to submit our attached "Level of Excellence Award" application for the 2016 calendar year.

Respectfully,

//Signed//
Larry Cotton
Captain (Ret.) USN
President, Middle TN Chapter, MOAA

Middle TN Chapter MOAA (TN-04)
2016 Levels of Excellence Award Submission

Objective Portion Responses:

1. All elected officers of the Middle TN Chapter (MTC) are members of the National MOAA organization.
2. Our Chapter records indicate that 97 % of our members are also members of the National MOAA organization. This number is based on the National MOAA member number provided on the confirmation roster we receive from MOAA Council & Chapter Affairs each year.
3. The Middle TN Chapter Membership Roster was submitted to MOAA Council & Chapter Affairs on January 11, 2017 and confirmed two days later. We continue to submit new members using the online Chapter Membership form.
4. The Middle TN Chapter Officer roster was updated and submitted using the MOAA website on January 11, 2017. Confirmation of receipt was received the same date.
5. COL (Ret) Kent Crossley, USA has energetically continued his performance of duties as the Legislative Liaison for our Chapter. He also functions as a member of the Tennessee Council of Chapters Legislative Affairs Team. His email address was submitted with those of the other officers mentioned above on our Chapter Officer roster.
6. COL (Ret) Doug Minton, USA continues as our designated Membership Chair and Chapter Secretary. He also serves as the Tennessee Council of Chapters 1st Vice President.
7. Mrs. Patricia Bergquist has diligently continued her duties as Surviving Spouse Liaison. Her information is contained in the MOAA Data Base for both Chapter Officers and in her role as Surviving Spouse Liaison. She also serves as the Tennessee Council of Chapters Surviving Spouse Liaison and as well as Secretary.
8. The Middle TN Chapter has an established EFT account with MOAA National and has received funds from MOAA National via this means.
9. The Chapter convened for eleven luncheon meetings in 2016 (we do not meet in December of any given year due to the low turnout caused by the holiday season) and the Board met on a regularly scheduled basis twelve times during the year, and on one special event when we met with COL (Ret.) Barry Wright for breakfast prior to our June meeting.

Our programs for LOE year 2016 are as follows:

26 January 2016; 11:30 AM
MTC Annual Legislative Meeting

“Tennessee Speaker of the House, Representative Beth Harwell”

(State Representative Beth Harwell represents the 56th Tennessee House District, a position she has held since being elected in 1988. She currently serves as the first ever female Speaker of the House in Tennessee history, a position to which she was elected by her House colleagues in 2011. Speaker Harwell provided the Chapter with a State of the State address, and briefly address the activities and upcoming legislation that Tennessee has undertaken to make the state very military friendly. Fortunately our Chapter members have visited with her before, so she was very comfortable with us.)

23 February 2016; 11:30 AM
MTC Annual Personal Affairs Meeting

“Personal Affairs Update followed by a Long Term Care Discussion”

LTC (Ret.) Wanda Bruce Graham, USA and MTC Member

"Aging in Place: What you should consider now!"

Cindy Natsch & Denise Becker

(LTC Bruce Graham provided the chapter with a personal affairs update, highlighting the need to stay current with your records, and the many valuable Guides that MOAA can provide to make this a much more organized process. Ms. Natsch and Becker then provided their take, as home livability consultants (“A Better Nest Nashville”) on the topic of aging in place. It was a thought provoking topic and a lively conversation that was obviously of interest to many of our members.)

22 March, 2016; 11:30 AM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“Changing Roles of Women in the Military”

Colonel (Ret.) Julia Meade, USMC and MTC Member

(Colonel Meade is a relatively new retiree and new member of the chapter who had the good fortune in her last assignment to play a role in the Marine Corps’ ongoing process to revise its roles for women, and accordingly influence how the overall military was accomplishing this task as well. Her assignments in a very wide range of theaters over her career made her uniquely qualified to discuss change as she has seen it occur from being commissioned in 1989 to retirement in 2014. Her comments on successes as well as setbacks were made in a typical Marine manner, very forthright and to the point. She represents a growing demographic in our Chapter, and it was a very timely presentation.)

26 April 2016; 11:30 AM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
“Resetting US and Cuban Relations”
Dr. Frank Robinson, VU

(This was an update from our November 2015 presentation by Dr. Robinson. He had just returned from several weeks in Cuba as part of a cultural exchange so he was able to provide us with a first-hand account of the impact of the changes made by the US and Cuban governments as they were playing out in the lives of the Cuban people. His presentation was so well received that we have already discussed scheduling him for another update in the not too distant future, given that this process is going to take some time to reach a conclusion.)

24 May 2016; 11:30 AM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
“Challenges for an Eight Member Supreme Court, and the Role of the Attorney General in FBI Recommendations”
Former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales

(Attorney General Gonzales’ experiences cover an extremely wide spectrum of activities, so our Program Chair had the foresight to provide him with a set of topics that we desired for him to address specifically. Given the political circumstances at that point in time he did an excellent job of ensuring that his comments were did not show any political bias toward a particular candidate or party. His presentation was articulate, extremely relevant, and something that he had obviously put a lot of thought into.)

28 June 2016; 11:30 AM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
“MOAA Council and Chapters Update”
Colonel (Ret.) Barry Wright, USA
MOAA Council and Chapters Director

(Barry Wright has been a friend of this chapter for some time, and his presentation was obviously a comfortable endeavor for him. His “telling it like it is” style and his reputation for being a very strong proponent on issues that matter at the Chapter level made for a very interesting presentation. He was able to put a face and a tone to the “bottom up review” underway at MOAA which was much appreciated by all. In addition to our chapter members in attendance that day, we were joined by twelve prospective chapter members as a result of the mailing from MOAA that preceded his presentation.)

26 July 2016; 11:30 AM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
“Nashville Serving Veterans Community Board”

Lieutenant General (Ret.) Keith Huber, USA
Co-Chair of the Board, and MTC Member

(On 15 June 2016, Tennessee Department of Veterans Services Commissioner Many-Bears Grinder and Nashville Mayor Megan Barry announced the formation of the *Nashville Serving Veterans Community Board* with the mission of engaging the community on identifying ways to support our veterans. The board was created under the My VA Communities model implemented by Secretary of United States Department of Veterans Affairs Bob McDonald. General Huber is well known and respected by the Chapter membership. His presentation served as an introduction to what the Board had achieved, and hoped to achieve in its first year. A report card if you will.)

23 August 2016; 11:30 AM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
“The Military Diplomat – Life at a U.S. Embassy”

Colonel (Ret.) John McDevitt, USAF and MTC Member

(In 2008, Colonel McDevitt was selected as the Senior Defense Official and Defense Attaché to Pristina, Kosovo. In 2013 he assumed the duties of the United States Air Attaché to the Netherlands. In 2016 he retired from the Air Force and joined our chapter. His correspondence with us before he retired had our Program Coordinator salivating at the prospect of his being a speaker, and he did not disappoint! It was a presentation that he had obviously been constructing for quite a while, and it was both articulate and highly entertaining.)

27 September 2016; 11:30 AM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
“Operation Stand Down Tennessee”

Colonel (Ret.) John Krenson, USA
OSDTN CEO

(“Operation Stand Down Tennessee” is one of the organizations that our Chapter has actively supported since its inception as “Operation Stand Down Nashville” in 1993, into its expanded current statewide role. John Krenson retired from the TN ARNG in 2015 and joined OSDTN as CEO in May of 2015, providing the continuity necessary for the preeminent veterans’ service center in Nashville to grow into the surrounding area. The program on this date served as an update on the current expansion of OSDTN services and their plans for the future, as well as an opportunity for John to express his appreciation for the Chapter’s long time support for the organization.)

25 October 2016; 11:30 AM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
“The Craving Brain – Science, Spirituality, and the Road to Recovery”
Doctor Anderson Spickard Jr.
Emeritus Professor of Medicine and Psychiatry at Vanderbilt University Medical Center

(Dr. Spickard is a nationally recognized expert in the area of substance abuse and addiction and the author of **“The Craving Brain – Science, Spirituality, and the Road to Recovery”**. His presentation focused on what he has learned over 36 years in the field of substance abuse and his thoughts on how he feels we should proceed in addressing the alcohol and drug abuse issues confronting our local area, state and nation. He offered no easy answers to the epidemic, just recognition that it will take a great deal of community effort moving forward.)

15 November 2016; 11:30 AM
MTC Monthly Lunch Meeting
“The Frontline Generation”
Captain Marjorie Eastman, USA and MTC Member

(Captain Eastman is a former Army Officer and the author of **“The Frontline Generation; How We served Post 9/11”**. It is a powerful and timely call to action for a culture of service that must transcend across our great country - and that the 1% of Americans who served post 9/11 embody the characteristics that we all need to help us reach brighter days. She has a message that is both captivating and inspirational. She served as an Army Intelligence Officer for ten years, including two combat deployments, one in Iraq and the other in Afghanistan, where she was ranked the number one military intelligence company commander in Eastern Afghanistan for the deployment cycle of 2009–2010, awarded the Bronze Star, and received the Combat Action Badge.)

Our Chapter also sponsors an annual Memorial Day remembrance at the Middle Tennessee Veterans Cemetery which was held on May 28, 2016 and was well attended with approximately 25 participants to include the Nashville Naval Operations Support Center Ceremony Detail that performed flawlessly in presenting the colors and playing Taps. (Pictured at right following the ceremony are chapter members:

Col. (Ret) Duffy White, USMC; COL Doug Minton; CAPT (Ret.) Greg Kuhn, USN; LDCR (Ret.) Bea Henderson, USN; COL Kent Crossley; Mrs. Diane Lanier Cotton; CAPT (Ret) Larry Cotton, USN, Chapter President; LTC Wanda Bruce Graham; CDR (Ret.) Larry Brinks, USN; Mrs. Patricia Bergquist, Surviving Spouse; Capt. Hal Sauer, USAF; Mrs. Lynn Womack, Surviving Spouse; Mrs. Linda Sauer; Mrs. Maureen Edick, Surviving Spouse; Capt. Jerry Neal, USAF; Mrs. Camilla Neal and CDR (R) John Ohlinger, USN.)



10. The Chapter published a newsletter each month of 2016. The newsletter is distributed via USPS for those members without email connectivity, and via email for the remaining members. Each month a copy of the newsletter is also submitted to the MOAA National Council and Chapters Affairs office and the MOAA Editor for their review and constructive feedback. The Chapter maintains an active website (www.mtcmoaa.org) where additional information and resources are available to complement the monthly newsletter.

Subjective Portion Responses:

1. Legislative Affairs

a) Our January Chapter meeting featured the Speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives, Beth Harwell as our speaker. It was an excellent opportunity to hear her take on the “state” of the State, and then address our issues and concerns in the following Q & A session. Speaker Harwell was quite aware of the high number of veterans both in her District (56) and in the state; however because there had not been a concentrated veterans push on the Tennessee Hill during her term in office she was not as informed on veteran specific issues as we would have liked. She did acknowledge having met with us the previous year and told us if there were state issues for veterans that we should schedule a follow-up meeting to educate her on the issues.



b) In the Tennessee 2015 Legislative Session, an effort called the “Save the Tax Relief Act,” was passed in an effort to soften property tax hikes that would affect disabled veterans. However, the changes made to the 42-year-old property tax relief program had a strong negative impact on new disabled veterans applying for the program. After witnessing what happens with limited input a loose coalition of veterans groups began working on a “Tennessee Veterans Day on the Hill for 2016”. On February 17, approximately 200



representatives from veterans’ organizations in the state conducted the First Annual Consolidated Day on the Hill. Unfortunately it came together very quickly and our chapter was not able to generate as much support as we hoped for the actual event. However COL Kent Crossley was able to participate and meet with the 10 members of the Davidson County Delegation to the General Assembly during the event. He was joined by COL (Ret) Madonna Higgins, USA, a new Middle TN Chapter member who also attended

this event. The event focused on the veterans' property tax relief and a revision of veterans' higher education requirements:

- a. SB2181 (Green)/HB2380 (Holt): Removes time limit for veterans qualifying for in-state tuition at public institutions of higher education.
- b. SB1465 (Green)/HB1515 (Pitts): Revises provisions concerning property tax exemptions for 100% disabled veterans.

Unfortunately the consolidated push came a bit too late for budget inclusion for 2016; however the team that formed around the effort (lead by Bill Summers of the Ft. Campbell MOAA Chapter and including COL Kent Crossley of our chapter) has recognized what approach to take in 2017, and in fact in September 2016 began advertising the next consolidated event would be held in early February, 2017. It was identified early that the event on the Hill needed serious follow-up by veterans in individual correspondence with their elected representatives, so our Chapter has pushed this point in most of our monthly Newsletter Legislative Affairs reports.

- c) In the Tennessee Elections in November, the Middle Tennessee Chapter's own COL (RET) Sam Whitson won House District 65 (Franklin). He is a prime example of an officer who saw the need and stepped up to "*continue to serve*" and we are very proud of his accomplishment.
- d) We continue to make a concerted effort to get our members to return the printed letters to our Federal legislators each year that are provided in the MOAA Magazine, and we continued to provide up to date Legislative Affairs information in both our newsletter and on our website in order to generate contact from our members with our elected officials.

2. **Recruiting/Retention**

The rating criterion is for a chapter to have conducted an active recruiting/retention program during 2016. We feel that our program is active on a constant basis rather than as a singular event, and that our membership model works well for us in that regard. Our chapter recruiting and retention is a key component of our leadership succession plan, and we are quite aware that that plan can only succeed if our Chapter recruiting is strong, so recruiting and retention remain a key focus at all times.

- a) In 2016 we added a total of 32 new members to the Chapter, 12 as a result of the mailing from National that coincided with Barry Wright's visit. Our membership focus at present is to keep them involved and engaged. Our most effective recruiting continues to come from a combination of person to person recruiting as we identify former and retired officers in the area, and from contacts made as a result of the information available on the MOAA Chapter Locator and our MTC website.
- b) 2016 continued the increase in National MOAA members that have moved into our area and then locate us using the MOAA Website Chapter Locator and our Chapter website. We have had membership queries from as far away as the Netherlands. While we feel that our quality as a chapter accounts for that, we also recognize that there is a growing trend to join a chapter as a means of engaging within the community.
- c) Our continuing success with surviving spouses who value their association with the Chapter is a positive. It is probably a direct result of our Liaison's (Mrs. Patricia Bergquist) effort to reach out to these individuals to let them know that we can assist in their transition, and that we want them to continue their affiliation with MOAA and our Chapter.

- d) 2016 was a year of almost complete turnover of the ROTC Cadre in our area as well as officers assigned to the various Recruiting Commands in the area. Unfortunately we shifted from a group of officers that were already MOAA National members to a group that had limited knowledge of MOAA. Officers who are assigned in these roles that had a prior affiliation with MOAA are an easy sell; however officers who have not had MOAA membership take a much more extensive effort since they are not eligible for Basic membership. While their duties usually preclude them from active participation, we hope that our participation in their programs will result in their willingness to join and support the Chapter. The positive thing is that we have a well-defined target of opportunity before us.
- e) We have added several new Reserve and National Guard members in 2016 and we are attempting to build on their interest with a goal of expanding our inroad into their ranks. The Tennessee Council of Chapters recruiting initiative at the 2015 Tennessee National Guard Annual Conference generated a large number of MOAA Basic memberships, but only one Chapter member. For the most part, we have not been successful in getting through to the Reserve Components because we have trouble competing for their available hours.

3. Chapter Leadership Succession Plan

2016 provided an unforeseen opportunity to view our succession plan at work; our President LTC (Ret.) Scott Cantlon, USA made a decision in the middle of his term to move from our area to St. Louis as a result of family issues. Our 1st VP, CAPT (Ret.) Dale Lewelling, USN had just begun his two year presidency of his local Rotary Club. Fortunately our 2nd VP, CAPT Larry Cotton was prepared to step up and take the lead from Scott. (Pictured at right is our Past President, CAPT (Ret.) Dana McLendon passing the gavel from LTC Scott Cantlon to CAPT Larry Cotton.)



Our current chapter leadership succession plan was formalized in 2010 and has worked well to date (we currently have Board members in line to be President through 2023). Our Board of Directors has become the intentional incubation site for our ongoing Chapter Leadership. Our Board members are charged with identifying potential Chapter leaders as a prerequisite to selection to join the Board. Once on the Board, we assign a specific role (Transition Coordinator, Legislative Liaison, Scholarship Coordinator, ROTC Support Coordinator, Outreach Coordinator, etc.) that lasts a minimum of two years and then we try to transition that person to another set of responsibilities so that by the time they move into a VP role they have developed expertise in one or more areas which are key to the Chapter's success. Roles may vary based on interest and familiarity, but once they become first vice president they are responsible for scheduling speakers for each of monthly meetings. While they receive a lot of Chapter assistance in identifying potential speakers, we have found that the process of vetting a speaker and then coordinating schedules, etc. is the best preparation for the position of Chapter President. We also make a concerted effort to retain several Chapter Past Presidents on our Board in order to continue to have the benefit of their experience.

4. **Personal Affairs**

LTC Wanda Bruce Graham continues in the role of designated Personal Affairs Officer for the Chapter. Our Personal Affairs Program concept is to conduct a meeting focused on this subject area each year, and then try to stay current on the personal condition of our members as the year progresses. We have found that in the Personal Affairs arena it is always of value to keep up with changes in the area that may present opportunities to our members. In that regard several of our officers were present at the Tennessee State Veterans Home Grand Opening in Clarksville, TN in January 2016. (Pictured at right: CAPT Dana McClendon, USN and Past President and LTC Wanda Bruce Graham and also a Past President.)



Our Personal Affairs Program for this year was conducted in February 2016 with a combined subject matter of “Updating Your Personal Affairs Checklist, and a presentation on the cost and practicality aspects of Aging in Place”. We continue to feel that for this type of meeting a combination of subjects being presented is our best way to ensure that we are reaching every age demographic attending the meeting.

In addition to the annual program, LTC Wanda Graham continues to be very proactive in sending cards and maintaining contact on behalf of the Chapter with those members that we know are undergoing medical or other issues, as well as those members of long standing who for reasons not of their choosing no longer have the option of being active. Our Board some time ago decided that membership would be continued for these individuals and that we would not leave any members behind just because they were no longer physically able to participate.

5. **Programs/Projects that enhance the image of the Chapter**

Our Chapter continues to undertake programs/projects that are designed to benefit our members and other Veterans in our community, and which as a byproduct enhance our image amongst the local military community.

- a) TN Council of Chapters - We have several members that actively participated in the quarterly State Council of Chapters meetings; with two members now holding positions on the Council (Mrs. Patricia Bergquist as Secretary and Surviving Spouse Liaison, and COL Doug Minton as 1st Vice President). COL Kent Crossley was also very involved in the Council Legislative affairs efforts during the year. The Chapter has had at least two members at each Council meeting, and we did not miss a meeting in 2016.
- b) ROTC Support - Lt. Col (Ret.) Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF is our designated ROTC Program Coordinator. We actively support three ROTC programs (Vanderbilt University Army ROTC and Navy ROTC, and Tennessee State University Air Force ROTC) by maintaining a close relationship with the Program leadership, and active involvement in programs/activities when available. Each of these programs involves students from these Universities as well as students at other area colleges/universities.

MOAA ROTC Leadership Awards were presented to a cadet from each program in April, 2016 at the three separate Awards Ceremonies:



(Pictured above: CW3 Gunter Lugg, USA presenting the Vanderbilt University Army ROTC Award in April 2016)

(Pictured at right: Lt. Col. (Ret.) Tricia Hannigan, USMC presenting the Vanderbilt University Navy ROTC Award in April 2016)



(Pictured at left: Lt. Col. Karon Uzzell-Baggett presenting the Tennessee State University Air Force ROTC Award in April 2016)

JROTC Support – CAPT Larry Cotton is our designated JROTC Support Coordinator. The Chapter supports the JROTC programs by coordinating availability of the MOAA Awards package and providing presenters at the various Awards Banquets and Ceremonies. In 2016 we actively supported 13 JROTC programs; presenting awards at 12 of the schools.

MTC (JROTC) Program Support:

Antioch High School, Army JROTC, Nashville, TN

Centennial High School, Army JROTC, Franklin, TN

Columbia Central High School, Navy JROTC, Columbia, TN



Creek Wood High School, Army JROTC, Dickson, TN (Pictured at right CAPT Larry Cotton making the MOAA Leadership Award presentation at Creek Wood H. S. in April 2016.)

Fairview High School, Army JROTC, Fairview, TN

Franklin High School, Army JROTC, Franklin, TN

Independence High School, Army JROTC, Thompson Station, TN

Page High School, Army JROTC, Franklin, TN (Pictured at right CAPT Larry Cotton making the MOAA Leadership Award presentation at Page H. S. in April 2016)



Ravenwood High School, Army JROTC, Brentwood, TN

Springfield High School, Air Force JROTC, Springfield, TN



Spring Hill High School, Army JROTC, Columbia, TN (Pictured at left COL Doug Minton making the MOAA Leadership Award presentation at Spring Hill High School in April 2016).

Warren County High School, Army JROTC, McMinnville, TN

- c) Scholarship Initiatives – The Middle Tennessee Chapter completed funding our third designated scholarships within the MOAA National Scholarship program in 2016. We also contributed an additional \$2285.00 to the MOAA General Scholarship Fund that year. On a local level, we funded a \$1000 grant each at Belmont and Lipscomb Universities for students that fall into one of the categories of permanently wounded/disabled Veteran, combat wounded Veteran (Purple Heart), or a deserving veteran. The Belmont and Lipscomb grants are designed to provide needed immediate financial assistance for the recipients at these universities.

Our scholarship giving continues to be funded solely through donations from members and interested individuals, allowing each of our members to actively be involved in this process.

- d) Transition Assistance – CAPT Dale Lewelling continues as our designated Transition Liaison. Our transition assistance efforts are grass roots; when contacted by an officer moving into the area we attempt to link them with the appropriate person or group that can network, provide resume assistance, and hopefully help them find a nice fit to their skill set. The TN Council of Chapters does not have a State Transition Network in place so our program links back to the National program for guidance and direction. We maintain a Career Assistance page on our Website but all of the assistance provided is actually via the networking that we can accomplish on a one-on-one basis once the individual seeking assistance makes contact.
- e) Community Involvement - Our Chapter actively supports, through Chapter gifts and member participation an expanding number of worthwhile community initiatives and civic activities in support of both our active military and veterans.
Specific support initiatives:

- a. *USO Nashville.* Our Chapter continues to support USO Nashville by both having members actively volunteering at the centers at the Nashville International Airport and Nashville Military Processing Station, and via in-kind donations to the center. Our current member volunteers are Capt. Art Jacobs, USA (MEPS); COL Kent Crossley (Airport); LTC Wanda Bruce Graham and husband Bill (Airport); COL Doug Minton and wife Janice (Airport); COL (Ret.) John Phillips, USA (Airport); and LTC (Ret) Mike McDaniel, USA and wife Betty Sue (Airport). In July of 2016 our chapter contributed \$217.00 in in-kind donations of items for the Nashville Center.
- b. *Matthew 25 Foundation.* Our support for this organization, which is a nonprofit agency providing transitional housing for homeless veterans referred by the VA, continued on an individual basis with a number of members (Capt. Hal Sauer, Lt.Col. Karon Uzzell-Baggett, COL Doug Minton, CPT Frank Thomas, USA, and Capt. Jerry Neal) participating in the Matthew 25 Founders Breakfast in September of this year. The agency serves approximately 200 homeless men each year in the Middle TN area, with 50% of them being veterans. In October 2016 the Chapter made a cash donation to Matthew 25 in the amount of \$250.00. Middle TN Chapter Member Capt. Hal Sauer currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of the Matthew 25 organization, and member Lt. Col. Karon Uzzell Baggett serves as a Director on the Board of Matthew 25.

- c. *Operation Stand-Down Tennessee (OSDTN)*. This organization has now expanded to provide all types of support for Homeless Veterans in the State of Tennessee. We were instrumental in providing sponsorship in its early years and now provide both a voice and member support for its many activities. MTC Member Capt. Bob Tuke, USMC serves as the President of the Board of Directors, and members 1LT Em Ghianni, USA and LTC (Ret) Jeff Collins, USA and LTC Wanda Bruce Graham currently serve on the OSDTN Board, and COL (Ret.) John Furgess, USA serves on the Board Advisory Panel. As one of their services, OSDTN holds two stand down events providing specific services to homeless veterans each year; and in support of these events Mrs. Patricia Bergquist provided coffee, sugar, and creamer (1200 cups) for their Spring event, and Mrs. Lynn Womack joined her to do the same for the Fall event.

COL (Ret.) John Krenson, CEO of OSDTN spoke to the Chapter in September 2016 and at that time MTC made a cash contribution to OSDTN of \$250.00. After consideration of all that OSDTN is attempting to accomplish, the Board elected to make an additional contribution of \$250.00 in November 2016. (Pictured at right: John Krenson accepting a contribution from the chapter from CAPT Larry Cotton, Chapter President.)



- d. *MOAA Military Family Foundation* - In recognition of the wide range of valuable initiatives that are funded by this Foundation, the MTC Board chose to contribute an additional \$250.00 to this Foundation in August 2016, bringing the total of our donations to \$525 over the past two years and putting us well on our way toward achieving Bronze Founding Member status in the MOAA Heritage Society, subject to approval of our recently submitted application for membership in the MOAA Heritage Society. Our chapter will then also be listed as a Founding Member on the Swords and Sabers display in the MOAA HQ lobby.
- e. In 2016 our Chapter continued to provide a voice for the following organizations by advertising their events on our website and at our meetings, and as a result numerous members have become involved in the missions of these organizations: “*A Soldiers Child*”, “*Joshua Chamberlain Society – Nashville*”, “*The Tennessee Fisher House*”, “*Wreathes Across America*”, “*The Mission Continues*”, “*Courage Beyond*”, and the “*Building Lives Foundation*”. Each of these organizations supports veterans or their families in our local community.
- f. *Middle TN USMC Toys for Tots*. We served as a collection site during our November meeting and collected unwrapped gifts for the Marines of Kilo Company 3/23 for their 2016 Toy Drive. We have provided a collection point for the last seven years and we have seen our Chapter support level for this program increase in each of these years.

Community Involvement by our Members:

- a) Capt Hal Sauer continues to serve as an Admissions Liaison Officer for USAF 420 Middle TN Admissions Liaison Officer Group; representing the Air Force Academy and AFROTC Scholarship programs at several high schools in the Middle TN region. CDR John Ohlinger continues to serve on the Congressional Academy Selection Committee for both the 5th and 7th Congressional Districts. Both officers counsel students interested in applying for scholarships and/or seeking an appointment to the individual service academies. They also conduct interviews for those making it to Candidate status and write evaluations for Selections Boards.
- b) Mrs. Patricia Bergquist continues to receive and distribute Cell Phones for Soldiers. This program is no longer sponsored by MOAA, but at the local Chapter level it is still going forward. For the period January – December 2016 Patricia received 163 phones, all of which were turned over to AT&T who in turn provided a commensurate number of calling cards for deployed service members. This program is a prime example of a program begun by MOAA National that still has ongoing value to our community.
- c) COL (Ret.) Larry McKnight, USA was instrumental in creating the “Marshall County Veterans Outreach Program”, and continues to be a driving force in this effort to better address the needs of veterans residing in Marshall County.
- d) Lt. Col. Tricia Hannigan currently serves as the Leader of the Nashville 1st Service Platoon of the organization “The Mission Continues” which puts military experience and a desire to continue to serve to work in local support and service initiatives designed to keep the community connected and engaged.
- e) LTC Wanda Bruce Graham Secretary, Board of Directors-TN State Veterans Home Board and has served as a member of board since June 2014. She also serves as the Chairperson, Homeownership Committee - Habitat for Humanity for Williamson/Maury Counties.
- f) CAPT Dale Lewelling currently serves as President of the Brentwood Rotary Club.
- g) CW3 Gunter Lugg, USA currently serves as President of the Spring Hill – Thompson Station Rotary Club.
- h) CPT Marjorie Eastman serves on the Nashville Serving Veterans Community Board with LTG Huber, and is responsible for Transition Assistance services.
- i) MAJ (Ret.) Joseph Corino, USA serves as Commander of American Legion Post 88 in Nashville, TN.

This is just a small representation of the individual commitments of our members, but they represent what we feel are significant intrinsic benefits to our community. We firmly believe

that our members bring the values they embraced in their military careers to these organizations, and that our membership is valued as a result of this service.



And of course we would be remiss if we did not mention that we also bring 5 Star Award Banners to the community, as indicated by the picture at left showing CAPT Larry Cotton, MTC President accepting our fourth 5 Star “Levels of Excellence” Banner at the 2016 National Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Extra Credit Consideration:

This year we would like to offer our program of providing Emeritus Membership status for extra credit consideration.

Some time back our Board realized that we were losing track of long standing members who for reasons not of their choosing no longer had the option of being active. Following a Board Member visit to one of our members (COL (Ret.) Hap Macintire, USA and now deceased) who had been placed in an assisted living facility for individuals suffering from Alzheimer’s, we realized that even though he no longer remembered our faces, the MOAA name/logo triggered a memory that still meant something to him.

Our Board subsequently decided that membership would be continued for these individuals and that we would not leave any members behind just because they were no longer physically able to participate.

At the end of 2016, our Chapter had 18 Emeritus members and 16 Emeritus surviving spouse members. Each of these members still receives our monthly printed newsletter in hopes that it will trigger memories of their military careers and their participation as a Middle TN Chapter member.