



Middle Tennessee Chapter

A 2016 5 Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter



Military Officers Association of America

Web Site: mtcmooa.org

August 2018

Editor: Doug Minton

MOAA Luncheon Meeting

28 August 2018; 11:30 AM

"TN Department of Veterans Services and the Chief of Staff of the Army's Retired Soldier Council"

Commissioner Many-Bears Grinder
COL, USA Retired

*Old Natchez Country Club,
115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069*

In January 2011, Governor Bill Haslam appointed Many-Bears Grinder as the Commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Veterans Services. She is the first woman to serve the State of Tennessee in this capacity.

In order to accept the appointment, Grinder retired from the Tennessee Army National Guard as a Colonel with more than 35 years of service. The Operation Enduring Freedom combat veteran served in Afghanistan as the Head of Secretariat for the International Police Coordination Board.

Grinder holds a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College and a Master's Degree in Human Resource Development from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She was awarded an honorary Doctorate in Public Service from Maryville College in 2016 and was inducted into the Fort Benning Hall of Fame in 2004. Her military awards include the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star Medal.

As Commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Veterans Services, Grinder is responsible for the operation of TDVS Field offices, Appeals Division and four (4) State Veteran Cemeteries. She is also an ex-officio voting member of the Tennessee State Veterans Home Board (TSVHB). TSVHB oversees the operations of the four (4) existing Homes.

In November 2013, Governor Bill Haslam formed the Governor's Veterans Education Task Force and appointed Commissioner Grinder as Chair of the group charged with finding ways to improve recruiting, retaining and supporting student veterans through to graduation. She also serves on the Governor's Subcabinet for Workforce Development, on the Tennessee State Museum Foundation Board, on the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology Nashville General Advisory Committee, and on the Nashville Serving Veterans Community Board.

COL (Ret.) Grinder was selected in early 2018 to become a member of the Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA) Retired Soldier Council.

A native of Salt Lake City, Utah, Grinder moved to Tennessee in 1989 where she met and married her husband, COL (Ret.) Ernie Grinder, USA, a Vietnam Veteran.

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Legislative Liaison

LTC (Ret.) Doug Gilbert, USA

Chapter Contact Information

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MOAA Tennessee Council of Chapters

The MOAA Tennessee Council of Chapters is comprised of representatives from each of the ten MOAA Chapters in TN (Chattanooga Chapter, East TN Chapter (Knoxville), Ft. Campbell Chapter (Dual KY—TN status), General Andrew Jackson Chapter (Hermitage), Memphis Chapter, Mountain Empire Chapter (Johnson City), Stones River Chapter (Murfreesboro), Sumner County Chapter (Hendersonville), Upper Cumberland Chapter (Crossville), and of course the Middle TN Chapter. The Council represents 1159 MOAA members in the state that have elected to continue to serve through Chapter affiliation.

The Council reached a milestone on 11 July 2018, commemorating its 40th year in existence as an affiliate of MOAA National.

2018-2019 Council Officers are President—Doug Minton, 1st VP—Jim Thomasson (Memphis), 2nd VP—Ivan Adames (Ft. Campbell), Secretary—Patricia Bergquist, and Treasurer—Bob Bussey.

President's Letter

Congratulations to the entire chapter on our selection for a Five-Star Level of Excellence Award for the year 2017. This is the fifth consecutive year we have been selected for this honor. As your President I want to thank all of you for your participation and support during the last year. It is a team effort and we have a great team providing great service. Great job by all hands.

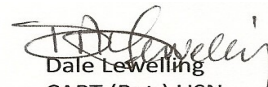
Another excellent turn out last month at our regular meeting. Chief Anderson was very informative about the Metro Police department and provided some excellent insight on how the department operates. We are fortunate to live in a greater metropolitan area that has such outstanding servants as we have in Metro Nashville and the surrounding communities.

Scholarship letters went out the first of the month. Included was self-addressed envelope for your convenience if you plan to mail in your contribution. Of course, if you would prefer you can drop off your check at the welcome table at the next meeting. Thank you in advance for your support and contribution.

I recently received my August issue of the Military Officer magazine. Included was the 2018 Election Ballot for new board of directors, Bylaws Changes and four Resolutions for consideration. It is important that we keep our opinions known to the national headquarters and this is one way to do that. The vote on the resolutions helps our national staff and lobbyists know how strong the rank and file support is for their initiatives and strengthens their positions when they are dealing with the elected officials and staffers. **Voting is available until 31 August.**

As most of you are probably aware the FY 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) made it through both the House and Senate in record time. This is the earliest it has made it to the President for signing since 1996. That is the great news. The next question is when will the funding be appropriated? With Congress leaving on the August recess, many votes for appropriation of funds need to happen before the military can get the money needed to carry out its' mission and affect the changes included in the NDAA. The House will be out until the end of August, but the Senate is on a mini break and will be back in session after a couple of weeks off. So, if you want to let your elected officials know how important this issue is to you please take this opportunity to let them know via letters, emails or telephone calls.

During our meeting this month we will welcome back Commissioner Many Bears Grinder. She gives an update on Tennessee Veterans Services and other topics. Mark your calendar for the 28th and bring a potential member or friend.


Dale Lewelling
CAPT (Ret.) USN
President

MIDDLE TENNESSEE CHAPTER
Military Officers Association of America
P. O. Box 50252
Nashville, TN 37205-0252



Happy 228th Birthday, United States
Coast Guard, formed 4 August 1790

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

28 August 2018; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
**"TN Dept. of Veterans Services &
CSA Retired Soldier Council"**

Commissioner Many-Bears Grinder
COL, USA Retired

Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive,
Franklin, TN 37069

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4 September 2018; 7 - 8:00 AM
"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

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14 September 2018; 7:30– 9:30 AM
"OSDTN Heroes Breakfast"

Music City Center, Nashville, TN

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22 September 2018
"Retiree Appreciation Day"

Ft. Campbell, KY

-

25 September 2018; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
" Puerto Rico Recovery Operations"

Ms. Patricia Coffee
Deputy District Engineer
Nashville District USACE

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2 October 2018; 7-8:00 AM
"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

-

23 October 2018: 11:30 AM—1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
"USO Ft. Campbell—Nashville"

Mrs. Kari Moore
Center Director

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Remaining MTC Meeting Dates (Not listed above)

27 November 2018 (Week after Thanksgiving)
No Meeting December 2018

Legislative Action Center Update

Tennessee Veterans (TVET)

TVET is an affiliation of Veteran's Organizations which was initially conceived in 2015 as a response to a number of perceived inequities being proposed and passed by the Tennessee Legislature that affected Tennessee Veterans. The organizing members of this movement were Steve Singleton (National Sojourners), Bill Summers (MOAA), Sherry Pickering (Montgomery County Veterans Council (MCVC)) and Nancy Mullen (Gold Star Families). Building on the efforts that had gone before, this group organized the successful Veterans Day on the Hill 2015, 2016, and 2017. As momentum grew TVET became a reality; however, it was recognized that previous initiatives had been built around veterans reacting to legislation that had already been proposed, and that instead we should be working with the legislature to identify and propose legislation that was needed (proactive, not reactive).

TVET's sole function is to create and/or support veteran state/federal legislation by ensuring awareness of our positions by direct contact with our elected officials. It has no political affiliation. The organization does not over-rule or negate the positions or actions of any individual group, but rather selects legislation which allows all of our individual groups to speak with one voice. Full membership (voting, ability to hold office) is limited to veteran groups as required by IRS 501 (c) 19 requirements.

The following organizations have signed as TVET Members:

- Women Veterans of America (WVA), Clarksville Chapter
- Buffalo Soldiers
- Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
- TN Council of Chapters (MOAA)
- The Retired Enlisted Assoc. (TREA)
- Marine Corps League
- National Sojourners
- American Veterans (AMVETS)
- Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)

The sequence shown above represents the rotational order for leadership of the organization. As additional organizations come on board they will be placed at the bottom of the rotation. Terms of leadership are for two years. Dues will be on an annual basis assessed at state organization level. The largest amount would be for larger veteran organizations (i.e., membership over 2000 - \$125). TVET has been blessed so far with generous donations of transportation (Operations Stand Down) and meals (Mission BBQ) for projects/programs such as "Veteran's Day On The Hill" and the TVET organizational meetings, but at some point we may have to pay for some of these items. Additional operating guidelines are still being developed, but everyone agreed TVET will NOT be a fund-raising organization.

(Stay tuned, more information on 2018 issues and dates soon.)