



Middle Tennessee Chapter

A 2017 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter



Military Officers Association of America

Web Site: <https://www.mtcmoaa.org> January 2019 Editor: Doug Minton

MOAA Luncheon Meeting
22 January 2019; 11:30 AM
"Middle TN Chapter
Annual Report"
 CAPT (Ret.) Dale Lewelling, USN
 President
Old Natchez Country Club,
115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

Our January meeting serves as an organizational meeting in which our President presents our Annual Report for the preceding year. This meeting is significant in that it allows the membership to participate in a review of how our funds were allocated, how our scholarship initiative is progressing, and as an opportunity to provide input on programs for the upcoming year.

We need your attendance and voice at this meeting in order to ensure that our Chapter is meeting the needs of our community.

Please make plans to attend this important meeting!

State Legislative Report
 Governor-elect Bill Lee will be sworn in on January 19 as the next Governor of the State of Tennessee. Marsha Blackburn has been sworn in in Washington as Senator Blackburn taking the seat formerly occupied by Bob Corker.

The Speaker of the State of Tennessee Senate is the current Speaker—Randy McNally and he will also be the Lieutenant Governor. The New Speaker of the State of Tennessee House of Representatives is Glenn Casada from Williamson County.

Governor-elect Lee has named numerous cabinet appointments, of specific interest for MOAA is Stuart McWhorter, Commissioner of the Department of Finance and Administration and Courtney Rogers, Commissioner of the Department of Veteran Services. Rogers was a formerly a State Representative and is a Retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel.

The State Legislature will convene in an organizational session January 8-10, 2019. They will then recess. Then reconvene on January 18 for one day. The Governor will be sworn in on Saturday January 19, Legislative Plaza at 11 AM. There are multiple inaugural weekend events with many be free. The legislature will then reconvene on January 22, 2019.

Officers

President
 CAPT (R) Dale Lewelling, USN

1st Vice President
 LTC (R) Mike Patenaude, USA

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Surviving Spouse Liaison
 Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

Transition Services Coordinator
 Lt.Col. (Ret.) Arlie Haddix, USAF

Legislative Liaison
 LTC (Ret.) Doug Gilbert, USA

Chapter Contact Information

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<https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

Contact Phone: **(615) 415-6816**

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info@mtcmoaa.org

Member Reminders

If you are a VA benefits recipient, you may want to register and participate in the following **Webinar: VA 2nd Progress and Results Webcast**

You're invited to join Under Secretary for Benefits, Paul R. Lawrence, Ph.D., for his 2nd live webcast on Thursday, January 31st, at 2:00 p.m. (ET). Dr. Lawrence will provide an update about the Veterans Benefits Administration's progress to include its accomplishments and challenges for the first quarter in Fiscal year 2019.

Register Today
<https://www.webcaster4.com/Webcast/Page/89/27730>

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Members please note that if Davidson County Schools experience a weather closure on our meeting date, then our meeting will be cancelled.)

President's Letter

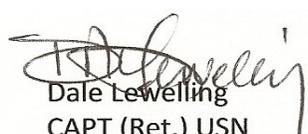
1/15/2019

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and plenty of time to celebrate and spend time with family and friends. Our chapter had a great year in 2018 and 2019 looks to be just as good. Your board has been working hard to get the lineup of speakers and programs in place for the coming year. As we have in the past years, our January meeting will be a business meeting. We will give you a review of the past year and highlights of what is to come in the new year.

Over the past several years our membership has stayed at approximately 265. We have a large majority of members who are MOAA National members, but we have room for improvement. The good news is if you are not presently a MOAA National member now is the time to join for free. MOAA National has changed the rule on Basic membership allowing Former Officers, Active Duty and Retired Officers to join with no dues and with no limitation on time. They have eliminated the three-year limitation on Basic membership. If you are not a member at the national level now is the time to join. Of course, this helps us at the local level since percentage of national membership is one factor in helping us retain our Five Star Chapter recognition. So, this year I would like to have every eligible candidate be a MOAA National member and make us a 100% National member chapter. With the new rules on Basic membership it should be an attainable goal. You will hear more about this in the meetings.

MOAA National has released their goals for 2019 as the new Congress beings. With the numbers of members of congress with uniform experience dropping to 17% it is important that we maintain a strong voice on the hill that actively addresses our military issues. This year you can count on our national organization to provide direct feedback to our Senators and Representatives on such issues as TRICARE services and fees, military pay, VA benefits and services. Additionally, they will be once again working on ending the financial penalties for military survivors regarding the Widows Tax and SBP offset by DIC. There are 10 published goals that MOAA National will be persuading. For more detail go to <http://www.moaa.org/2019Goals>.

I am looking forward to the coming year and seeing all of you again. We have some great programs already scheduled for 2019, so come to the meeting on the 22nd and hear about what is on the schedule.


 Dale Lewelling
 CAPT (Ret.) USN
 President

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

22 January 2019; 11:30 AM—1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"MTC MOAA Annual Report "

CAPT (Ret.) Dale Lewelling, USN

Chapter President

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

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5 February 2019; 7 - 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

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6 February 2019

TVET "Storming the Hill"

TN State Capitol

([Registration Information](#))

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26 February 2019; 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"My Experiences in the FBI "

Matt Dunn

Retired, Supervisory Special Agent, FBI

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5 March 2019; 7 - 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

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26 March 2019; 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Lessons Learned as an Army Chaplain"

LTC Kevin Wainwright, USA

Deputy Garrison Chaplain, Fort Campbell, KY

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2019 Meeting Dates:

23 April 2019

28 May 2019

25 June 2019

23 July 2019

27 August 2019

24 September 2019

22 October 2019

19 November 2019

No Meeting December 2019

MOAA Legislative Update

"In 2019, MOAA Government Relations will engage the 116th Congress early and often on issues which have been identified as having great importance to our members, the men and women in our uniformed services, their families, and their survivors," says Col. Dan Merry, USAF (Ret), vice president of Government Relations. "As military experience among members of Congress has declined over the years, with just over 17 percent having experience in uniform at the onset of 2019, these goals are instrumental to our efforts to inform and influence members of Congress and their staffs".

MOAA Goals:

- Ensure that any TRICARE reform actions will sustain access to top-quality care.
- Prevent disproportional TRICARE fee increases.
- Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector.
- Stop efforts to erode compensation and non-pay quality of life benefits. (BAH, etc.)
- End financial penalties for military survivors (Widows Tax, the SBP offset by DIC).
- End concurrent receipt penalties for military retirees (Full concurrent receipt for all disabled military veterans).
- Achieve equity of benefits for Guard and Reserve members with their Active Duty counterparts.
- Strengthen DOD-VA collaboration and services to support wounded warriors and an expanding population of women veterans.
- Ensure timely access to service-earned VA benefits.
- Protect military and veteran family support programs and policies.

A full discussion of each of these goals can be found at <http://www.moaa.org/2019Goals/>. The MOAA National page on this subject includes several "Take Action" links which will allow you to send your opinion on the particular issue to your elected federal representatives.

It is important that we all begin to alert our legislators to the significance of these issues to members of the military community. This means maintaining contact at the local field office level as well as with their offices in Washington in order to ensure that the issues are seen as being important to their constituents and are not just hot button topics being promoted by a national organization; so I encourage you to make contact at both levels.

(The State Legislative report can be found on the 1st page.)

Doug Gilbert
LTC, US Army Retired
Board Member, Legislative Affairs Liaison