



Middle Tennessee Chapter
A 2018 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter



Military Officers Association of America

Web: <https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

July 2020

Editor: Doug Minton

MOAA Luncheon Meeting

28 July 2020; 11:30 AM–1:00 PM

"Meeting Cancelled"

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

Updates of Note:

- ◆ Our Chapter Monthly Luncheon Meeting has been cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns. (see President's Letter).
- ◆ The Annual OSDTN "Heroes Breakfast" fundraiser has been rescheduled to Thursday, 12 November. The Chapter has sponsored a table at the event for the past four years so if you are interested in attending please send an email to let us know to info@mtcmooa.org so that we can provide more specific information when it becomes available.
- ◆ The MOAA National Annual Meeting scheduled to be held in Kansas City, MO on 22 - 23 October will now be a virtual meeting in conjunction with the MOAA Board of Directors meeting. This is significant for the Chapter because this affects the Chapter LOE Awards Banquet that was scheduled for 23 October. Details on how the award presentations will be accomplished have yet to be announced.
- ◆ The Annual "Retiree Appreciation Day" at Fort Campbell, KY was cancelled in April with the intent of rescheduling for later this year. Fort Campbell has now announced that the event will not be held this year due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns.
- ◆ Independence and Page High Schools managed to get their JROTC Award programs accomplished in February of this year with actual presentations by Chapter members CAPT (Ret.) Larry Cotton, USN and LTC (Ret.) Doug Gilbert, USA. All remaining MOAA JROTC and all ROTC Awards have or are being sent to the schools for presentation by the Senior Instructors of those programs. Chapter members are reminded that we support (3) ROTC programs (Tennessee State Univ. Air Force, Vanderbilt Army, and Vanderbilt Navy) and (14) JROTC programs comprised of (1) Air Force, (1) Navy and (12) Army programs in the Middle TN area.

Officers

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CAPT (R) Dale Lewelling, USN

LTC (R) Doug Gilbert, USA

Surviving Spouse Liaison

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

Transition Services Coordinator

Lt.Col. (R) Arlie Haddix, USAF

Legislative Liaison

LTC (R) Doug Gilbert, USA

Chapter Contact Information

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TN Council of Chapters, MOAA

The quarterly meeting was held via ZOOM on 15 July by Lt. Col. (Ret.) Jim Thomasson, USAF President of the Council. Nine of the ten Chapters in TN were in attendance. In addition, CAPT (Ret.) Erin Stone, USN participated from MOAA National. CAPT Stone is Program Director for Council and Chapter Affairs.

The Middle TN Chapter was represented by LTC Mike Patenaude, and Mrs. Patricia Bergquist and COL Doug Minton were also present fulfilling their Council responsibilities.

CAPT Stone was scheduled to visit the meeting in person, however MOAA National has cancelled all travel plans due to COVID-19.

This is the first meeting in at least seven years to have this many Chapters participate, so ZOOM may be the optimal tool for the meetings in the future.

A copy of the minutes of the meeting can be found in the TN Council of Chapters Section of our website (www.mtcmoaa.org).

(NOTE - Surviving Spouses should read the minutes in order to see Patricia's update on the SBP-DIC Offset.)

President's Letter

I hope you were able to enjoy our celebration of Independence Day this month. In addition to Independence Day, this month has several military anniversaries. On 1 July, the Women's Army Corp & Cadet Nurses Corp was established in 1943 and the Air Force Nurses Corps was established in 1949. On 27 July, the Korean War Armistice was signed in 1953 and on 30 July the Navy Women's Reserves (WAVES) were established in 1942.

We regrettably have elected to cancel our July monthly membership luncheon due to current COVID-19 circumstances. Since the circumstances tend to change weekly, we will make the decision on the August luncheon as the date draws closer.

Our Chapter was able to hold our Memorial Day remembrance ceremony in June on the weekend of Flag Day. We had to postpone it in May because pandemic assembly restrictions were still in effect. On Saturday, 13 June, members of our chapter conducted the ceremony at the flagpole of the Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery. As in past years, we were again supported by the honor guard from the US Navy Reserve Operational Support Center in Nashville. They presented the colors, and at the conclusion of our ceremony, played Taps. It is always a moving ceremony for me as I'm sure it is for any who attended. The weather was warm but otherwise cooperative and we had a surprisingly good turnout despite the pandemic challenges that we are facing.

Some good news regarding helping others. As I announced last month, MOAA National is providing relief grants to veterans, active military and caregivers of veterans who are in need because of COVID19. Through the efforts of Matthew 25, we were able to award one of these grants, so my thanks to the Matthew 25 team for identifying a candidate in need and helping with the application process.

For those of you who in past years attended the Operation Stand Down Heroes Breakfast usually held in August, it has been rescheduled to 12 November. At this point, it will be a combination in-person and virtual event. It would be great to continue our strong support as the Middle TN Chapter of MOAA, so I will keep you posted as more information becomes available.

We still have 51 members who have yet to pay their 2020 chapter dues, so if you're unsure whether you paid, or if you'd like to coordinate payment, please email to info@mtcmooa.org.

A former pastor of mine often reminded us to "keep on keeping on". Just yesterday I was reminded of another wonderful quote by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope."

Michael Patenaude
 LTC, USA Retired
 President

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



Happy Birthday to the Commissioned
Corps of the Public Health Service
14 July 1889

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

28 July 2020; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"MEETING CANCELLED"

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4 August 2020; 7- 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

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7 August 2020 6-8:00 PM

"A Life Worth Celebrating"

A Soldiers Child 11th Annual Dinner/Fundraiser

Tickets <https://asoldierschild.org/events>

Embassy Suites, Murfreesboro, TN

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25 August 2020; 11:30AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Lipscomb University Lifelong Learning Program"

Ms. Amy Hamar and Ms. Laura Tywater

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

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1 September 2020; 7- 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

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22 September 2020; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Tennessee Veterans Services Update"

Commissioner Courtney Rogers

Lt.Col. (Ret.) USAF

Tennessee Department of Veterans Services

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

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6 October 2020; 7- 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

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27 October 2020; 11:30 AM - 1 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Tennessee Valley Healthcare System"

Ms. Jennifer Vedral-Baron

Director, Tennessee Valley Healthcare System,

CAPT (Ret.) USN

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

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No Meeting in December.

Legislative Update

State

The State Legislature re-convened 1 June to finish the state budget. On 19 June the 111th Tennessee General Assembly adjourned having passed a budget that included restricting abortion access and eliminating the state's tax on investment interest.

Tennessee Veterans (TVET)

TVET conducted a planning meeting on 27 June at OSDTN. The meeting was a combination in-person and virtual meeting using the new OSDTN facilities. Eight of the twelve organizations were represented in the meeting (although to be fair the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) State Conference was being held the same day so they had an excuse). TVET's primary mission is to advocate veteran legislation with the TN state legislature and support other veteran initiatives and organizations across the state. TN Council of MOAA Chapters belongs to TVET as the umbrella organization for all of the MOAA Chapters in TN.

Of interest from the meeting:

- TVET is beginning its third organizational year, and this year experienced its first leadership transition. The President for the last two years was provided by the Women Veterans of America (WVA) and Monica Weeks and team did a great job. The President for the next two years is Eddie Sumbler of the Buffalo Soldiers (and also of the MOAA Ft. Campbell Chapter). The VP will be Mike Cowger of the WVA. Robin Beaman, the current Treasurer from the WVA has agreed to stay on in her position; but there is no replacement yet for the Secretary. *Any volunteers?*
- The "TVET Day on the Hill" 2021 will see some changes that include the probability of participants having to pay a small charge for the noon meal; increased tasking for participants to call on ALL legislators rather than just their own as we have done in the past; and increased tasking on member organizations for administrative issues such as being the POC for parking arrangements, security clearance at the State Capital, and securing meeting space at the James K Polk bldg., etc.
- If you have suggestions for legislative initiatives for 2021 please contact Doug Minton or Doug Gilbert at info@mtcmooa.org.

MOAA National

If you receive the MOAA monthly magazine, PLEASE take a few minutes to remove, sign and stamp the letters to legislators that are in the magazine. These have a surprisingly significant impact and represent another way that you can *Continue to Serve!*