



Tennessee Council of Chapters
Military Officers Association of America



Minutes of the Meeting 16 July 2025

Tennessee Council of Chapters, MOAA met 16 July 2025 in person and via zoom, 11:00 AM CST.
Those in Attendance were

Guest: Jay Garbus NC CoC Pres

CC Chattanooga (TN01)

Ray Mitchell Pres
BJ Keepers

ETC East Tennessee (TN02)

NO REP

MC Memphis (TN03)

Kathy Desjarlais Pres – via zoom

MTC Middle Tennessee (TN04)

Larry Cotton Pres
Dale Kiser VP
Patricia Bergquist, CoC SSL – via zoom
Karon Uzzell-Baggett NB/Past Pres

MEC Mountain Empire (TN05)

Don Thompson Pres – via zoom

UCC Upper Cumberland (TN06)

Scott Jacobson Pres
Robert Martin VP

FCC Ft Campbell (TN07)

Brian Lynch Pres
Ivan Adames CoC Past Pres
Monroe Gildersleeve CoC Trea
Bill Summers CoC LL

SRC Stones River (TN10)

Doug Gilbert VP
Pete Warner CoC Pres
Sandy Warner CoC Sec

SCC Sumner County (TN11)

NO REP

Gen Andrew Jackson (TN12)

NO REP

Tennessee Council of Chapters MOAA had no guest speaker.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: 2025/26 MEETING INFORMATION IN THE MINUTES!

Council President Pete Warner began the meeting at 11:08 AM and led the pledge to the flag. Following the pledge of allegiance to the flag Monroe Gildersleeve said a prayer of opening for the meeting

Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes of the 16 April 2025 meeting had been sent out on 24 April 2025 to all the chapter presidents and Council members Don Thompson moved that the minutes be accepted. The motion was seconded by Larry Cotton and approved unanimously.

Financial Report

The financial report for the period of April 1, 2025, to June 30, 2025.

The council had two disbursements during the quarter, to Pete Warner for travel expense to speak at TN12 General Andrew Jackson Chapter reimbursement of \$138.60 and travel expense to speak at TN02 East Tennessee Chapter aka SMC \$229.60.

The council had no deposit from MOAA National.

Total funds on hand at the end of the quarter were \$4,995.13, which included restricted travel funds of \$226.13.

Bill Summers moved that the Financial Report be accepted. The motion was seconded by Ivan Adames and approved unanimously. The council accepted the Treasurer's report.

Surviving Spouse Report – Patricia Bergquist written update provided as follows:

All Tennessee MOAA Chapters have provided their Surviving Spouse Liaison (SSL) information, except the East Tennessee Chapter. Please update Patricia of any Surviving Spouse Liaison changes. If a Chapter Surviving Spouse Liaison needs assistance helping a surviving spouse, please contact Patricia at p_bergq@hotmail.com or (615-948-4960).

MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter June 2025 Newsletter reported the following Office of Survivor Assistance changes taking place at the VA:

- VA Office of Survivor Assistance (OSA) moved in June from Veterans Benefits Administration to the Office of the VA Secretary. This reverses a Biden era decision that buried OSA under layers of bureaucracy.
- VA will create a “white glove” survivor outreach team to guide and assist eligible survivors throughout their DIC process.
- VA will begin to work immediately to identify areas where automation can be used to make the DIC claims process easier for survivors to navigate.

VA Secretary Doug Collins said, “The last thing survivors need in their time of grief is frustrating red tape and bureaucracy. That is why we are creating a better system to more quickly and effectively provide survivors the services, support, and compassion they have earned.”

VA Office of Survivor Assistance phone number is: 202-461-9383 the email: officeofsurvivors@va.gov.

ADVOCACY/LEGISLATION

Please refer to the April 16, 2025, TN Council of Chapters Minutes for sponsors and more details about the legislation below:

- 1) **H.R.2055 and S.611- “Caring for Survivors Act of 2025”** are to expand Title 38, United States Code, to improve and expand eligibility for the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) paid by the VA to surviving spouses and others whose veteran died on active duty

or from a service-related injury/illness. This legislation would increase DIC from 43% of a single, 100% disabled veteran's compensation to 55%.

H.R. 2055 has 83 co-sponsors (1 TN: S. Cohen (TN-09))
S.611 as 2 co-sponsors (NONE from TN)

- 2) **H.R. 1004 and S.410 - "Love Lives on Act 2025"** would allow retention of Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) through the Department of Defense and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) through the VA upon remarriage at any age; and allows remarried surviving spouses to regain their TRICARE benefits if their subsequent marriage ends due to annulment, divorce, or death.

Currently, surviving military spouses are not allowed to remarry before the arbitrary age of 55 without losing ALL their benefits.

H.R.1004 has 72 co-sponsors (NONE from TN)
S.410 has 42 co-sponsors (NONE from TN)

Please encourage all MOAA chapter members, spouses, and surviving spouses to contact their Congressmen and Senators to advocate for legislation impacting our surviving spouses as follows:

MOAA's Legislative Action Center at <https://www.moaa.org/takeaction> or <https://moaa.quorum.us> to send a MOAA prewritten message which you can personalize (recommended) to your Congressman and Senators.

Contact your Congressman and Senators, using the MOAA Capitol Switchboard (1-866-272-6622), ask to be connected to your Congressman or Senator's office, once connected ask to speak with the Military Legislative Assistant (MLA). Follow up your phone call with an e-mail to the MLA. *Please use the updated (3/20/25) TN Congressmen and Senators Contact List provided with the April TN Council of Chapters Minutes for the MLA name and e-mail.*

You may also e-mail your Congressman or Senators directly via their website.

You may request to visit your Congressman or Senators at their District Office during their August recess.

Please do not use USPS to contact congressional leaders. USPS mail is screened off site before delivery and prolongs delivery time!

The *most active* surviving spouses Facebook groups following these bills are:

- "DIC Surviving Spouses/DIC Increase Advocacy"
- "Love Lives on Act of 2025 Advocacy"

ALERT: All MEDICARE/TRICARE FOR LIFE beneficiaries are reminded to check their Explanation of Benefits (EOB) "carefully" upon receipt.

Patricia had 6 items of durable medical equipment on a recent EOB which she neither needed or received, nor did she recognize the provider. Fortunately, TRICARE FOR LIFE did not pay the claim, but MEDICARE did.

Upon calling **TRICARE FOR LIFE**, she was told there had been a rash of these fraudulent claims submitted recently. **They have flags in their system, but MEDCARE does not and must be notified!**

If anyone finds claims on their TRICARE EOB for services they did not receive from an unrecognized provider, call TRICARE to report it. Then, TRICARE will connect you to MEDICARE to report it so that they can send to their Fraudulent Claims and Abuse Department.

Legislative Liaison Update: Bill Summers provided updates from last Saturday’s meeting 12 July 2025. Two bills they are trying to push. Veterans Lottery (like the state of Texas) and the Property Reimbursement

See TNVET website for updates: tnvet.org

NEXT STEPS:

Stay Informed. Be sure to subscribe to the weekly *MOAA Newsletter* for the latest AIA news and updates. Keep up with all the latest advocacy news at [MOAA’s Advocacy News page](#). Visit the MOAA website and navigate to the Advocacy in Action page to find out about virtual conferences and legislative visits to make your voice heard. Remember that its numbers as well as the message that counts.

Frequently check the TN council website: tncoc-moa.org

NC Council President Jay Garbus

Thank you for inviting us to your meeting. NC Council has 20 chapters with over 1000 members. Want to share with you we are going on a cruise to Bermuda in Oct going out of Norfolk VA and we would like to invite you or anyone they do not have to be a MOAA member to go on this cruise.

Council Secretary Report

The archiving I have been doing for the Council is slowly coming together and I need help from you with a few items.

Charter dates: I still need to update

Ray CC TN01 yr: 1979 month/day?

Doug SMC aka ETC TN02: original charter date completely < >

waiting for the new Chapter name charter to be sent from National after the amended Bylaws are sent from the chapter to National. Please send me the date on the new charter

Kathy	MC TN03 yr:1970	June 22 nd	Brian	FCC TN07 yr: 1971	Oct 01 st
Larry	MTC TN04 yr:1961	Mar 27 th	Keith	SRC TN10 yr: 1995	Sept 16 th
Don	MEC TN05 yr: 1979	Sept 22 nd	Stu	SC TN11 yr:1999	July 27 th
Scott	UCC TN06 yr: 1990	Dec 10 th	Bobbie	GAJ TN12 yr:2007	Nov 17 th

Speaking of the Bylaws: if you have updated your Chapter Bylaws, please email me a copy, if you are in the process of updating once they have been accepted, please email them to me.

As the never-ending job of archiving the Council’s information I need copies of the Council Minutes from the following years: 11th of July 1978 thru 2011 and if you have access to Jan & Apr 2012 or July 2013, please send me a copy.

Please send your quarterly report to me as soon as you get home the rough draft of the minutes will be sent out a week from today. I no longer send final minutes out as they are posted on the council website once approved by the council. (tncoc-moaa.org) this should help tame email over flow from me.

Council President's Report

Charter 15 April 1978
CoC President: Pete Warner
tncoc-moaa.org

VP CoC: POSITION OPEN
CoC SEC: Sandy Warner
CoC SSL: Patricia Bergquist

CoC MC: Doug Minton
CoC TRS: Monroe Gildersleeve
Coc Chaplain: Eddie Sumbler

If there is any old/new business you will get your chance when you are called for your chapter, keep it for then please.

Sandy just mentioned birthdays for Chapters, she made a list, and we have a few birthdays coming up. Sumner County July 1999 - 26 years old, Mountain Empire September 1979 46 years, Fort Campbell October 1971 54 years, Stones River Chapter September 1999 30 years, and of course the Council April 1978 council 47 years old. Kudos to you all. This speaks to the longevity of the MOAA brand keep up the good work.

Joe Leonard an awesome guy handles our council website, I put together a survey that he put up on the council website "MOAA Affiliate Members Survey" if you send it to your chapter, they need to register with Joe to take the survey he does this to protect the site from spam. Going over the numbers we did pretty good.

You saw the TNVET "Salute to Veterans" flyer I sent out the game between the Titans and Houston Texans. This will help the council earn some funds encourage your members.

Have not heard to many grumbles about the new CM so that seems to be going well. Do encourage everybody to do a cleanup on the new CM. Victoria will be back this month.

May 21, 2025, a nominating committee has been formed to seek out volunteers' candidates for leadership positions on the council. Per the council bylaws.

Each chapter should be recognized as a nonprofit corporation by the state. It's approximately a hundred bucks for the fee, then annually approximately 20 bucks. You need to be incorporated **by the TN Secretary of State** as a nonprofit **before** you can apply for your IRS 501(c)3 or (c)19. If you want your ROTC scholarship program donations to be tax deductible chapter's scholarship program must be designated a 501(c)3.

I want to thank you all for coming in person and on zoom.

A reminder that each chapter can earn money by upgrading basic members to prime or lifetime. Karen added you can get a 10% discount by using the code "referral".

Showing up in person at the Council meetings gives the chapters a chance to share information with each other face to face in discussion.

The Council website tncoc-moaa.org

Next meeting – October 15, 2025, at 11:00 AM CST, at Sammy B’s restaurant in Lebanon, TN.

Nominating Committee Don Thompson via zoom

The nominating committee has been put together and met a couple weeks ago John Rice GAJ, Ted Jewell CC, and I (Don Thompson MEC) have been collecting names and pinging Chapter Presidents and speaking to those who have shown interest in a position on the board for the Council of Chapters. If someone were to volunteer as the 2nd VP and move up every two years, it would be four years before they would be trying to fill Pete’s shoes. Aug 15th will be the deadline for sending in names of those interested in getting involve on the board for the council of chapters. If you have anyone in your chapter wanting to apply, send an email to me. If they are interested in 2028 let’s put them on the list for the future.

Chapter Updates

Chattanooga TN01: written update provided by Ray Mitchell as follows:

Chartered: 17 February 1979
President: Ray Mitchell
moachattanoogachapter.org

VP: Ted Jewell
SEC: Steve Whitley

2nd VP/MC: Brett Hale
TREA: Jack Mullinax

APRIL 2025:

1. April 1st – The chapter members participated in the CAVC Parade Planning Committee Meetings over 7 months before the parade.
2. April 8th - Several Chapter Members attend the Funeral of T-SGT Sanford G. Roy. T-SGT Roy, originally from Chattanooga, was shot down over Germany on April 8th, 1944. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) positively identified his remains in July 2024. He was laid to rest at the Chattanooga National Cemetery 81 years later on April 8th. The National Cemetery did a fantastic job and there were a couple hundred folks for the public that were there.
3. April 15th - The Chapter spouses met for lunch at the Chattanooga Golf and Country Club. This is an informal get to gather that happens monthly.
4. April 22nd - MOAA Chapter Dinner. The speaker was Mr. Mark Wharton, who is the Vice Chancellor and Athletic Director at UTC. Very interesting changes in College Sports with athletes being paid, especially after winning the 2025 NIA. We also presented 4 JROTC \$1,500 Scholarship and 1 University of Tennessee at Chattanooga SROTC \$1,500 Scholarship. Along with the kids and their parents several ROTC instructors attended as well.
5. April 24th - MOAA National Zoom Leaders Roundtable. SUBJECT: Chapters Dues Portal. The Cheddar Up program can do much more than just membership dues, recommend each Tennessee Chapter take a closer look.
6. April 30th - Several members attend the monthly Southeast Coalition Meeting. The Coalition host both military and civilian organizations supporting veterans within our area.

MAY 2025

1. May 2nd - Chattanooga Armed Forces Parade. The longest running parade in America. The Chattanooga Chapter had a vehicle in the parade and over 20 members attending the Armed Forces Luncheon after the parade with guest speaker Gen. Stephen N. Whiting, Commander, U.S. Space Command.

2. May 12th – Chapter Board Meeting.
3. May 20th – Chapter Spouses Lunch at the Chattanooga Golf and Country Club.
4. May 24th – 50 members attend the Chattanooga Lookouts Veterans Appreciation Picnic.
4. May 26th – Chattanooga Memorial Day Ceremony hosted by the Chattanooga Chapter at the Chattanooga National Cemetery. The guest speaker for the ceremony was CAPT Spivy.
5. May 29th – MOAA National Zoom Leaders Roundtable. Chapter Health.

JUNE 2025

1. June 13th – Several chapter members attended the Quartey meeting of the Chattanooga Area Veterans Council.
2. June 17th – The Chapter Spouse’s met for lunch at the Chattanooga Golf and Country Club.
3. June 17th – MOAA Chapter Dinner. Our speaker was Mr. Rich Mozingo, President of the Chattanooga Lookouts Baseball Team. Talked about the new stadium and how the operations is run.
4. June 21st – A couple members participated in a round of Clay Target Shooting near by Benton Tennessee.
5. June 22 - Several chapter members attended the monthly Southeast Coalition Meeting.
6. June 26th – MOAA National Zoom Leaders roundtable. SUBJECT: Douglas D. Sanders, MOAA's General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, discusses insurance and incorporation issues, copyright law, and other topics of interest.
7. June 27th - Appointed our chapter’s Nomination Committee to find our next chapter leadership.

JULY 2025

1. July 2nd – Several members attend a National Park lead Ranger tour of Point Park in Chattanooga.
2. July 11th – Chapter Board Meeting.
3. July 15th - MOAA Spouses Lunch at the Chattanooga Golf and Country Club.
4. July 16th – Several Chapter members will be attending the Remembrance Program for the Fallen Five at 11:00am at the Tennessee Riverpark at the Wreath of Honor. This is the ninth year since July 16, 1015.
5. July 16th – Quartey meeting of the Council of Chapter’s.
6. July 24th – MOAA National Zoom Leaders roundtable. SUBJECT: ?
7. July 30th - Several chapter members will attend the monthly Southeast Coalition Meeting.

Very proud of our chapter’s moto “never stop serving” and I see it every day with our member’s contributions, both financially and talent, to our area veteran’s community. We are making a difference.

In reference to the Bylaws their chapter decided to tweak their Bylaws instead of Amending so there was no need for a quorum, we change a procedure instead of the bylaw which makes it so much easier as each new president comes into office and wants a change. We didn’t change them last year we follow MOAA’s bylaws we pull things out of our bylaws like term limits. We can change a procedure without changing the bylaw

East Tennessee TN02 (Knoxville) – No Rep. Pete was there as guest speaker and gave report.

Chartered: 19 June 1977
President: Doug Goins

VP: Steve Myer
SEC: Don Rifkin

MC: Tom Peck
TRS: Eric Nicholls

Doug Goins appointed a new Secretary for TN02 when the position became vacate. Congratulations Don Rifkin welcome aboard.

The chapter held its first membership meeting 14 June 2025 @ 1:30p EST and invited Pete as their guest speaker.

Steve Myer VP put forth a motion for a name change from East Tennessee Chapter, MOAA to Smoky Mountains Chapter, MOAA and 2nd by Doug Goins President. The motion passed with a majority vote.

An invitation to volunteer for the Patriot Day National Day of Remembrance at the Knoxville National cemetery on September 11th went out to the members of the chapter.

Mission statement ongoing.

If you know of anyone in the Knoxville area interested in joining a MOAA Chapter let the Council President know.

MOAA Memphis TN03: no written update provided:

Chartered: 22 June 1970

President: Kathy Desjarlais

2nd VP/MC: John Dixon

SEC: DeBorah Lockett Day

TREA: Jim Thomasson

Our hi-lighted speaker for the last quarter was Hugh Lamar. Some may recognize him as part of the committee raising money for the west TN Veterans home and he is now Chairman of the board for the State Veterans home. They are looking for a 01 Oct 2025 ribbon cutting for the west Tennessee state home in Arlington. Starting with cash patients then in a few months accept insurance patients.

Those of you who know Jim Thomasson, please keep in our prayers his wife is on Hospice.

Middle Tennessee TN04: written updates provided by Larry Cotton as follows:

Chartered: 30 March 1961

President: Larry Cotton

mtcmooa.org

VP: Dale Kiser

SEC/MC: Doug Minton

TREA: Bea Henderson

I. Luncheon Meetings

- April 2025 – Monthly luncheon meeting held 22 April. Ms. Amy Bryant, Director, Office of Conservatorship, Metro Nashville, “Conservatorship in TN”.
- May 2025 – Monthly luncheon meeting held 27 May. Ms. Patricia Bergquist, MTC MOAA Surviving Spouse Liaison, “Spouse/Surviving Spouse Issues”.
- June 2025 – Monthly luncheon meeting held 24 June. Col. Ted Geasley, TN Air National Guard, “118th Wing Operations”.

II. Advocacy

- CDR Ted Edwards, USN (ret.), our Legislative Officer attended the Advocacy in Action in April and reported on the experience and results.
- Each monthly newsletter included a Legislative Update and the President’s Letter discusses how to use MOAA’s Legislative Action Center for individual advocacy. Legislative Advocacy was also discussed at the end of each monthly luncheon with a summary of timely issues and emphasis on individual participation in the LAC.

II. Community Outreach

- The chapter received approval for a Community Outreach grant for 2025 to support the annual Holiday Market sponsored by Operation Stand Down Tennessee to alleviate food insecurity among veterans in Middle Tennessee. The chapter will distribute \$50 Publix gift cards during the Holiday Market. These cards can only be used for food purchases at Publix.
- The chapter held its annual Memorial Day Commemoration at the Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery on Saturday, 24 May. A wreath laying for veterans from each service who lost their lives in service of the nation was conducted and brief remarks were delivered. We also remembered chapter members who had died since last year's service.

In reference to the Bylaws, we updated our Bylaws right after covid using Nationals structure. We made some changes to accommodate our chapter the way we handled some of the procedures was to add an appendix at the end for each one of the official positions. We added a summary of their responsibilities and things like that and an appendix does not have to be approved by the membership.

Mountain Empire TN05: written update provided by Don Thompson as follows.

Chartered: 22 September 1979
President: Don Thompson
mecmoaa.org

VP:
SEC: Mary Shaw Van

MC: Mark Tipton
TREA: Bret Monette

1. We had a great speaker at our May 18, 2025, meeting. AF General (Ret) Arnold Bunch, the Hamblen County School Superintendent, gave a great talk encouraging us as veterans to continue to talk to young people about the benefits of military service. He mentioned that the Knox County School System had just hired a Director of Military Enlistment to complement their existing Directors of Employment and Enrollment. We explored this for northeast Tennessee, but determined that we did not have the need, as all of our JROTC and ROTC programs are meeting their goals, as are the service enlisted recruitment goals.
2. Our Joe Leonard website went live in late April, and we are working through the inevitable hiccups. Joe just mentioned that he is seeing more phishing attempts against MOAA chapter websites and is adding additional security features.
3. We will be having a presentation at our member meeting this Sunday about scams and phishing, including VA benefit sharks. This issue was discussed extensively at last night's MOAA Defense State Liaison Office quarterly Zoom call.
4. We just added a member to our Board as the JAG; and have invited a new CWO member who runs a JROTC program in our region to attend Board meetings.

Upper Cumberland TN06: written update provided by Scott Jacobsen as follows:

Chartered 10 December 1990
President: Scott Jacobsen
ucc-moaa.org

VP/MC: Robert Martin
SEC: Jon Reiver

2nd VP: Dale Kiser
TREA: Doug Rauch

Scheduling: Board Meetings first Monday of each month at 10:00, at Coffee Shop: "Common Grounds".

Membership Meetings: 11:00-13:00 June 2nd at ST George with the VSO as the guest speaker and Tansi Catering. Young Marines will be present.

Christmas Party December 7th at 15:00-18:00. Charity is Deer Run Ranch.

May: UCC MOAA received a \$300 Grant from MOAA National.

JROTC/NJROTC/ROTC: provided \$250 from MOAA Helps to Stand Up Cumberland High School Honor Guard.

Nick Marotta presented to board plans for the website the domain: "UCC-MOAA.ORG".
research a new location for Officer's Call.

June: 4 new members. The colors were presented by 2 Young Marines. Awarded Cumberland High School JROTC \$250 to stand up their color guard.

Presentation to membership on new UC MOAA website. Our website address is: UCC-MOAA.org

Guest Speaker VSO James Dignan. He spoke on Long Term Health Care. PACT Act and the economic impact of Veterans on Cumberland County. He distributed handouts on these subjects. Tansi Catering

Proposed Deer Run Ranch, which caters to veterans be our Christmas Party Charity.
Conducting a Food Drive for students at TCAT.

The TN Council of Chapters request one volunteer for the nominating committee.

Officers Call was cancelled due to the Lantern closing. A new venue is being sort.

July: UC MOAA has 4 new members.

December Christmas party: Deer Run Ranch the charity. Willow Catering

TCAT Food pantry Non-perishables accepted.

Mike Del Laurentis has volunteered to be added to the slate as Vice-President. The Slate will include Robert Martin for President, Scott Jacobsen as Past President, Mike Del Laurentis as Vice President, Cal Bagby will run again. Members will vote on the slate at the September Membership meeting and installation will be at the Christmas party.

Christmas Party December 7th at 15:00-18:00. Charity is Deer Run Ranch.

Ft Campbell TN07/KY03: written update provided by Brian Lynch as follows:

Chartered TROA 01 October 1971 (off grid 1963)

President/MC: Brian Lynch

VP: Tim Powers

2nd VP: Nancy Mullens

SEC: Todd Hannah

TREA: Chuck Webster

- April – Monthly luncheon at the Fort Campbell USO. Randall Johnson, the Executive Director of Operation Standdown Tennessee gave a presentation.
- On Saturday, April 05, 2025, in Clarksville, Tennessee, the family of **Sargeant First Class Angel Adames-Arce** came together to recognize his military service with the U.S. Army 65th Infantry Regiment, to posthumously receive his Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award given by Congress.
- May – Our monthly luncheon was held at Pablo's Restaurant in Clarksville. Jeff Burkhart, the Tennessee State Representative for District 75, gave a talk on the, state of affairs, in the State House.
- June – Our monthly luncheon was held at the Clarksville Public Library. Debbie Fields, the Operations Executive of YAIPAK (www.yaipak.org), gave a presentation on the organization and their goals.

- July – Our monthly luncheon will be held at the Clarksville Public Library. Our guest speaker is Judge Ken Goble who runs the Montgomery County Veterans Treatment Court. Additionally, Dammian Huizar, the recipient of our annual scholarship, will be in attendance.

Our focus now shifts to preparation for our September Golf Scramble, which is scheduled for September 12, 2025, at the Fort Campbell golf course.

Stones River TN10 – No Written update provided: Doug Gilbert VP

Chartered 16 September 1995

President: Keith Prather

VP: Doug Gilbert
SEC: Diana Neely

MC: Larry Ellis
TREA: Jim Heuberger

Speaking for Stones River Chapter is their VP. Let's start off with the ROTC program we have nine schools we visit and finding a lack of communication between the schools and the chapter we've decided to try a new approach and will implement that soon. We are updating the Bylaws as we speak and will get them to you Sandy as soon as we are done.

We had a speaker in June Bob Mullins from "Healing Waters" which is all about Fly Fishing, we had a great turn out for that.

Sumner County TN11 – Stewart Reeve: written update provided as follows:

Chartered TROA 27 July 1999

President: Stu Reeve

VP: Frank Edwards
SEC: David Moomy

MC:
TREA: Stephen McLain

Sumner County finished a busy spring, presenting \$500 JROTC scholarships to seniors at three area high schools and MOAA medals to cadets at four schools. Now with 2025 (and summer) half over our chapter is hitting the "Pause" button at least as far as meetings go.

We won't have meetings in July and August, but we will reconvene on September 25. Our October 23 meeting will be the annual business meeting with election of officers and reports to the chapter. Officer installation is set for January 22. We will not have a November meeting and our December 7 gathering will be our holiday party and meal.

Meanwhile, having approved new bylaws we are pursuing status as a 501 (c) (19) organization. Treasurer Stephen McLain has done a masterful job wading thought the IRS filing process. And, as we wait for IRS approval, we are researching options for insurance for general liability, etc.

MOAA Board member verbal updates provided by: Karen Uzzell-Baggett

Thank you very much for the opportunity. Thank you for your excellent leadership. MOAA National is going to be piloting a new type of conference that is going to stress the military person. This first year will currently be targeted at currently serving and they will get in free, but all are welcome. There will be a fee but if you're in the area on vacation or just want to see what the first conference is like, the registration is now open. Total Force Conference.

Be sure to get your members to go into their account and clean it up.

National websites are updated and being tweaked friendlier to use. www.moaa.org

Liability Insurance is available for chapters and is there to be used. You may want to look at.

General Andrew Jackson TN12: written update provided by Bobbie A. Bell as follows:

Chartered 17 Nov 2007
President: Bobbie Bell

VP/MC: Dan Sullenger
Ponder
SEC: Jim Perkinson

2nd VP: Mickey

TREA: Allen Snyder

Luncheon Meetings

- a. May 2025– our speaker was Mr. Tony Guzzi of the Andrew Jackson Foundation.
- b. June 2025 – our speakers were Saralee & Terry Woods who spoke on historical local political shenanigans, taken from the book “Secrets of the Hopewell Box”.
- c. July 2025– we took a road trip to the Tennessee State Museum & had a private tour that featured war artifacts from the state’s collection.

Additionally, the chapter publishes a newsletter each month & has continued spotlighting a member each month. We are still in the planning stage for a website &/or Facebook page.

Membership

We are now averaging about 26 members per meeting. We added a new member, CAPT (ret) Olen (Charlie) Akins on his first visit to our chapter. He moved from Texas where he was a member of a local chapter. We have a potential new member who is moving & would like to move his membership to our chapter, & we have several folks who have expressed interest in becoming a member but have not made the move yet & remain on our radar. Our membership chair continues to post a notice of our meetings each month in several local newspapers. I’d like to give a shout out to MAJ (ret) Dan Sullenger who serves in many capacities, membership chair being one. He has dogged Big MOAA & has finally been able to get our chapter records corrected!

Awards & JROTC

At our May meeting, we were privileged to have our scholarship winner, Cadet 1st LT Carson Way from Mt. Juliet High’s Marine Corps JROTC program. He plans on attending MTSU with a degree in aviation. Additionally, we had Cadet Captain Rachael Blumhardt, also from the Mt. Juliet High program. Cadet Blumhardt is only the 2nd cadet in the 28-year history of MJHS JROTC program to be awarded the Legion of Valor for the 2024-25 school year, the highest award a cadet can earn. She is one of only 4 cadets out of the 256 schools nationwide to earn this high honor. Their instructor, MAJ A.B. Intilli, who retired after this school year, & the parents of these two students attended our meeting, as well.

Advocacy

Members have been reminded of the national issues & encouraged to contact their congressional representative. Our liaison sends out upcoming meetings/zoom meetings, & information to our membership throughout the month.

Leadership

We still have a vacancy at Chaplain but continue to have a prayer at meetings & a Chaplain’s Corner in our monthly newsletter.

Community Involvement

We are planning on having membership bring in 2 non-perishable food items at the August meeting which will be donated to a local food bank.

Conclusion of Meeting

Monroe Gildersleeve gave the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM CST.

Next Meetings and Future Events

Important Dates 2025

July 24: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern:
Recruiting and Retention. (Meeting ID: 962 0410 4083)

Aug. 13: Virtual Leader Training Workshop (Experienced Leaders)

Aug. 28: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern:
MOAA Virtual Chapters. (Meeting ID: 937 6468 7886)

Sept. 25: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern:
Council and Chapter Mentorship. (Meeting ID: 922 2737 5813)

Oct. 23: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern:
MOAA Foundation. (Meeting ID: 914 4733 5409)

- Oct. 27-29: Total Force+ Conference, Gaylord National Harbor, MD
- Nov. 14-15:** Leader Training: East Workshop (Hershey, Pa.)

Nov. 20: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern:
MOAA Annual Awards. (Meeting ID: 995 5369 6751)

Dec. 18: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern:
Year in Review/2026 Outlook. (Meeting ID: 929 1511 3996)

Proposed 2025 future TN Council of Chapters Meetings:

Our next meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2025, at 11:00 AM CST. The meeting will be in person at Sammy B's in Lebanon, TN. 705 Cadet Ct, Lebanon, TN 37087-2648 615.547.4550

Future Meetings – at Sammy B's or on Zoom!

TN CoC Meeting	21 January 2026
TN CoC Meeting	15 April 2026
TN CoC Meeting	15 July 2026
TN CoC Meeting	21 October 2026

Minutes prepared and submitted by Sandy Warner, Secretary, TN Council of Chapters
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