



**Middle Tennessee Chapter**  
**A 2022 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter**  
**Military Officers Association of America**



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

January 2024

Editor: Doug Minton

**MTC Monthly Meeting:**

**23 January 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting  
**"MTC Year in Review (2023)"**

**Lt. Col. Karon Uzzell-Baggett,  
 USAF (Retired)**

President

Old Natchez Country Club,  
 115 Gardengate Dr., Franklin TN 37069

Our January meeting provides an opportunity for Board members to provide a "state of the Chapter" annual report on the activities and initiatives in which we invested both time and funds during 2023 calendar year.

This meeting is significant in that it allows our members an opportunity to hear about the amazing impact of the MOAA Community Grants on which we partnered this year, the significant achievements that we have accomplished on our scholarship initiatives, as well as an opportunity to provide input on programs and leadership for the upcoming year.

2024 is also the year in which we have the opportunity to applaud the leadership team that has served us over the last two years, and install the leadership team for the upcoming year.

Hopefully we can also hear from you on how we can expand the reach of the chapter, from suggestions to support for organizations that we are not currently touching, to new ideas for reaching the current generation of officers that we hope to have join our ranks.

So please mark your calendars for 23 January and join us for this meeting!

( Note: The complete report will be posted on our website after the meeting, and members who do not have access to the internet can procure a copy by contacting any of your Board members.)

**MOAA Assistance Available for Vets or their Caregivers Who Need It!**

The MOAA Foundation provides small grants to servicemembers and veterans as well as their families who are financially affected by natural disasters or crisis situations. Applicants do not have to belong to MOAA National or to a local MOAA Chapter.

Anyone in our local military or veteran community who might need financial assistance as a result of the recent tornados or calamities like fire, flood, etc. can apply for financial assistance of up to \$500 by filling out The MOAA Foundation's Crisis Relief Grant application [here](#).

**Officers**

**President**

Lt Col Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF Retired.

**1st Vice President**

CAPT Larry Cotton, USN Retired

**2nd Vice President**

COL Jacque Tubbs, USA Retired

**Secretary and Membership Chair**

COL Doug Minton, USA Retired

**Treasurer**

LCDR Bea Henderson, USN Retired

**Directors**

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist  
 CDR John Ohlinger, USN Retired  
 LTC Wanda B. Graham, USA Retired  
 CAPT Dale Lewelling, USN Retired  
 LTC Mike Patenaude, USA Retired  
 CDR Ted Edwards, USN Retired

**Surviving Spouse Liaison**

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

**Chaplain & Legislative Liaison**

CDR Ted Edwards, USN Retired

**Transition Services Coordinator**

Lt Col Arlie Haddix, USAF Retired

**Chapter Contact Information**

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 Nashville, TN 37205-0252**

Website:

<https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

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

Contact Email: [info@mtcmoaa.org](mailto:info@mtcmoaa.org)

**Invest in Future Officers!**

The Spring JROTC and ROTC semesters have begun at the thirteen area high schools and the three ROTC programs that our chapter supports. We present distinguished cadets, selected by their cadre leadership, with medals and certificates recognizing them as MOAA JROTC or ROTC Cadets of the Year. JROTC presentations are made throughout the Spring semester and ROTC presentations are typically made in April. If you are interested in presenting an award, please contact a Board Member.

Regarding the JROTC Support Coordinator, this is a wonderful opportunity for a chapter member who wants to get involved and keep actively serving the community. This is a stand-alone commitment and not part of the leadership pipeline that first and second vice-presidents commit to. Please contact CAPT Larry Cotton, USN, Retired, if you are interested.

**President's Letter**

Happy New Year, everyone! I hope your 2024 is off to a great start. May this year be full of good health and prosperity for you and your family.

Before 2023 concluded, the chapter partnered with Operation Stand Down Tennessee (OSDTN) to complete one of its two 2023 Community Outreach Grants. We participated in a new holiday market concept for veterans and helped spread some Christmas cheer. Forty veterans received Publix grocery store gift cards to purchase food for the Holiday time frame. Recipients were extremely grateful, and they were also able to select a stocking stuffer and gift from items donated by area OSDTN supporters. It was a fantastic event, and we are tremendously appreciative of the continued support from the MOAA Foundation.

Now is the time for submission of proposals for the 2024 MOAA Community Outreach Grant period. Grants of up to \$5,000 must support any of the 10 critical areas of MOAA ranging from food insecurity to community reintegration to health, among others. Details about the program can be found at [2024 Community Outreach Grant Program - MOAA Charities \(smapply.us\)](https://www.mtcmoaa.org/2024-Community-Outreach-Grant-Program-MOAA-Charities-smapply.us). If you have an idea you would like to propose, please contact me at the monthly luncheon or through the chapter e-mail by Monday, January 29, 2024, so we can begin work on the proposal.

The start of the year also signals a renewal in our recruiting efforts. In 2023, we experienced the normal transitions that occur with any non-profit in the post-COVID era. Members moved out of the area, some experienced declining health which prevented their participation, members passed away and some chose to direct their interests or money elsewhere. For those chapter members who have stayed the course and contributed to our chapter's success over the past 2 years, I am extremely grateful! I sincerely hope that you will respond positively when the membership and dues renewal letter is released next month and each of you will commit to bringing one new person to a monthly MOAA luncheon. Our chapter utilizes the MOAA Common Application for new members and no dues are charged for the first year. By joining the chapter, new members become part of a 360,000-strong cadre committed to advocating for the benefits of all military personnel, dedicated to improving their communities and enriched by the camaraderie of fellow servicemembers and their supporters.

Finally, this is my last newsletter as Chapter President. It has been an honor to serve such a vibrant, devoted organization! I look forward to seeing what is next for our Chapter!

*Karon Uzzell-Baggett*  
 Karon Uzzell-Baggett, Lt Col (Ret), USAF  
 Chapter President

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Upcoming Programs & Events

**17 January 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**  
**"TN Council of MOAA Chapters Meeting"**  
Sammy B's Restaurant, Lebanon, TN

**23 January 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**  
MTC Monthly Luncheon  
**"2023 Year in Review"**  
**Lt Col. Karon Uzzell-Baggett**  
ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN 37069

**31 January 2024; Time TBA**  
**"Tennessee Veterans Day on the Hill"**  
TNVET  
Registration: <https://tnvet.org/veteran-day-on-the-hill/information-on-attending/>  
Cordell Hull Building, Nashville, TN

**1 February 2024; 7-8:00 AM**  
**"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"**  
NGATN Offices, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN

**27 February 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**  
MTC Monthly Luncheon  
**"From Camouflage to Country"**  
**Brei Carter**  
Veteran and Vocalist  
ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN 37069

**7 March 2024; 7-8:00 AM**  
**"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"**  
*Zoom or Teams*

**16 - 17 March 2024 (Time TBD)**  
MOAA -TAAMAC Grant Event  
**"Operation Wind Down"**  
(Details for this MOAA Grant Event are still in the Development Stage)

**26 March 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**  
MTC Monthly Luncheon  
**"SCORE Nashville"**  
**Lisa O-Dell**  
ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN 37069

### Legislative Update

Happy New Year to everyone! To my great surprise – and pleasure – the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for this fiscal year in December. I had almost given up hope on that. Now comes the big need for the whole federal budget to be passed as the continuing resolution – the second one – comes to an end in January.

This is an election year, and the monthly legislative advocacy columns to be written are dizzying; however this seems to be an appropriate time to remind all Chapter members that as a MOAA Affiliate we are prohibited from advocating for issues that may represent one political agenda over another or supporting a candidate for elected office. To this end, we limit our chapter advocacy to MOAA supported national issues and veteran and military issues at the state level that do not represent one political platform. As further adherence to this policy your Board has elected to not schedule any political speakers for our meetings leading up to and during election years.

Can we benefit from some local focus? The annual Legislative Day on the Hill comes on 31 January, and this is an important and quite interesting day too. It is an opportunity to meet our state legislators in person and get briefed on matters important to us as veterans. Many other veterans' organizations in Tennessee are represented as TNVET members, so the event brings opportunities to engage other veterans and find common ground with them. A number of our members have attended in the past, but adding to that number can be an important outing for our chapter as we get better informed on lots of issues and initiatives.

Some details: You register online. Free parking is at Nissan Stadium with shuttle transportation to the Statehouse and back. There is no cost to attend. Please put it on your calendar and come out this year. I have registered and am going, and I will watch for you there.

Here is the website link to register:  
<https://tnvet.org/veteran-day-on-the-hill/information-on-attending/>

CDR Ted Edwards, USN Retired, MTC Legislative Liaison