



Middle Tennessee Chapter
A 2023 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter
Military Officers Association of America



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

January 2025

Editor: Doug Minton

Next MTC Monthly Meeting:

28 January 2025; 11:30 AM-1:00 PM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“MTC 2024 Year in Review”

CAPT Larry Cotton USN (Ret.)
President
ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN
37069

Our January meeting allows members of our Board to provide an annual “state of the Chapter” report on the activities and initiatives in which we invested both time and funds during the 2024 calendar year.

This meeting is significant in that it allows our members an opportunity to hear about our involvement in the community, from our outreach enabled by MOAA Community Grants to our scholarship initiatives. It also provides our members an opportunity to provide input on 2024 speakers and provide input on speakers for the upcoming year.

At the meeting, we will fortunately be able to announce that our current President has agreed to lead us for one more year, and we will be able to introduce several new Board members who will provide future leadership for our Chapter. Positive steps for sure, but we still need other members to step forward to commit to becoming future leaders of the Chapter.

Our request for input from the members is not limited to our speakers/programs. We also need to hear your thoughts on how we can expand the reach of the chapter, from suggestions to support 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 28 January and join us for this meeting! (The RSVP link will be provided with our monthly newsletter.)

MTC Board of Directors

(Please note the complete report will be posted on our website following the January meeting. Members who do not have access to the internet can procure a copy by contacting any of your Board members.

And speaking of our website, we hope that you will visit it soon! Good information, but in need of a technology update. So if anyone is interested in that project, please let a Board Member know!)

Officers

President

CAPT Larry Cotton, USN (ret)

1st Vice President (Vacant)

2nd Vice President (Vacant)

Secretary and Membership Chair

COL Doug Minton, USA Retired

Treasurer

LCDR Bea Henderson, USN Retired

Directors

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (ret)

CDR John Ohlinger, USN (ret)

LTC Wanda B. Graham, USA Retired

CAPT Dale Lewelling, USN (ret)

LTC Mike Patenaude, USA Retired

Lt Col Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF (Ret)

Surviving Spouse Liaison

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

Chaplain & Legislative Liaison

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (ret)

Transition Services Coordinator

Lt Col Arlie Haddix, USAF (Ret)

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

JROTC & ROTC

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 position, this is a wonderful opportunity for a chapter member who wants to get involved and keep actively serving the community. Please contact CAPT Larry Cotton, USN, Retired, if you are interested.

President’s Letter

Well, 2025 is starting out with a Bang! January usually sees new beginnings for organizations and families, but this year, January includes a Presidential Inaugural, a new Congress, and natural disasters. Stay safe and warm—and keep your eyes on the local news and weather.

MOAA’s website continues to improve and now includes a rotating news banner that provides links to important information about changes in pay and benefits, as well as helpful publications. I expect there will soon be updated information about what veterans, retirees, and their families affected by the California wildfires will need to know how MOAA can provide assistance, but for now you can visit <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2019-news-articles/what-veterans,-retirees-in-areas-affected-by-california-wildfires-need-to-know>

Legislatively on the national and state fronts, there has been lots of activity. The NDAA was finally passed and signed. The Dole Act was also passed and signed. The continuing resolution providing appropriations funding until March 14, 2025, was passed and signed. MOAA’s legislative advocacy program remains the easiest way to make your support known through participation in **MOAA’s Legislative Action Center (LAC)** at <https://moaa.quorum.us>. If you need any assistance, just ask any member of the MTC Board of Directors!! We plan to demonstrate how easy it is at our next meeting!

In TN, the Tennessee Veterans (TNVET) organization is hosting its annual “Veterans Day on the Hill” on Wednesday January 29th and our chapter will be well represented. The intent is to brief state legislators on veteran’s issues and proposed legislation to address them. Unfortunately, our proposals last year did not get approved and funded, so TNVET is taking another tack on some issues.

Our 2024 Scholarship Campaign was very successful and raised \$7,849.20! We were able to increase our annual scholarships at Belmont, Lipscomb, and Tennessee State as well as the MOAA Family Scholarship Fund. Mike Patenaude will provide more detail at the January meeting, but I wanted to thank you for your generosity now!

Finally, please make plans to attend the January 28th meeting at Old Natchez Country Club where the Board of Directors will present its Annual Report for 2024 activities. It’s also an important meeting, because we will install the President and 1st Vice President for 2025 upon your approval. See you at our next meeting!

Larry Cotton, CAPT, US Navy (ret.)
President

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

28 January 2025; 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
"MTC 2024 Year in Review"

CAPT Larry Cotton USN (Ret.)
President

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN 37069

29 January 2025; Times TBD

TNVET

"Veterans Day on the Hill"

MOAA Member registration:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SQPhkUQQtZSgH3TTq1rLRWo_AB55L93SpmNHCUPk6W8/edit?pli=1

Cordell Hull Building, Nashville, TN

5 February 2025; 7-8 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN , 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

25 February 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
"Speaker Pending"

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

6 March 2025; 7- 8 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN , 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

25 March 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
"TN Department of Veterans Services"

MG Tommy Baker, USA Retired
Commissioner

3 April 2025; 7-8 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN , 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

22 April 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Annual Personal Affairs Meeting
"Conservatorship in Tennessee"

Ms. Amy Bryant

OSDTN, 12th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37203

Legislative Update

There is a magic moment every two years – right now is the time – when an altogether new Congress gets sworn in and goes to work.

Anything left over from the previous Congress has died on the table, so to continue, such bills need to be introduced all over again. That is a magic moment, because those bills can be fine-tuned and get new sponsorship and co-sponsors can join in.

Our national legislators from our chapter's region have all returned to Washington, so we do not have any "freshmen" trying to find their way. It's Transition Time in Washington, but those who represent us in Middle Tennessee are experienced and know their way around the Halls of Congress already.

With rewritten bills and changed sponsorship comes an opportunity for us to speak out with early advocacy while bills are new and going through the committee process. That opportunity is best exercised with the MOAA Advocacy in Action program which is reached online as this website: <https://moaa.quorum.us>. Even if you have nothing to add right now, visiting the Legislative Action Center website will give you important education of what is coming around soon.

Our Tennessee legislature is also beginning the new session. Veterans Day on the Hill comes at the end of January – have you registered for it? There is a limited number of registrations available, so it is time to get on it. TNVET has a new list of important veteran issues – no bills on these yet, but they will be coming soon. Here is information on the four initiatives:

- 1. Disabled veteran property tax exemption:** Changes to state law to stop penalizing qualified 100% disabled veterans for property tax relief based on market fluctuations.
- 2. Establishing a state system to raise money for veterans benefit programs:** This is being developed to create a fund to support veterans initiatives beyond existing Tennessee Veteran Benefits. One possibility is to create a fund through the state lottery system.
- 3. Changing eligibility criteria for the Helping Heroes Grant:** This involves increasing the veterans pool of possible students for the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology by changes to existing law.
- 4. Exploring benefits for PTSD and brain injured veterans through Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy.**

More will come on those state matters. They are different from past years. Who among us has expertise on these and can share knowledge with our chapter?

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (ret.)