



Middle Tennessee Chapter

A 2025 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



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

June 2026

Editor: Doug Minton

Next MTC Monthly Meeting:

**23 June 2026; 11:30AM - 1:00PM**  
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting  
**“Personal Affairs Review & Veterans Healthcare ”**  
**LTC Wanda Graham, USA (Ret)**  
MTC Personal Affairs Officer  
**Austin Peltzer**  
Veterans Healthcare Representative  
ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

Our Personal Affairs Officer will cover a broad range of subjects that are relevant to members, to include:

- ♦ The MOAA Personal Affairs Guide , MOAA has created this workbook to assist you and your family in gathering crucial information — from investments to legal documents, insurance policies, and more; with the intent of your personal affairs records up to date and all in one place.
- ♦ The TN Yellow Dot Program, a tool that TN law enforcement and first responders look for on vehicles when they encounter individuals in need of medical assistance.
- ♦ Reminders about Elder Care actions.

Austin Peltzer is with Veterans Healthcare (a MOAA affinity partner), where he focuses on educational outreach for veterans, military retirees, and their families. He works with Medicare beneficiaries who have Medicare Part A and Part B and may also have TRICARE For Life, VA benefits, CHAMPVA, or a combination of these coverages. His presentation will focus on education and awareness, helping beneficiaries better understand how Medicare Advantage plans may work alongside their existing coverage and what additional benefits may be available, including dental, vision, hearing, and Part B premium givebacks, at no additional cost depending on eligibility and plan availability.

**MTC Membership Update**  
As of our May meeting we have added eight new members for 2026. All of our recruiting this year has been a result of existing member referrals.  
We offer the first meal at our expense and we do not charge dues for the year of joining. But even more importantly we offer camaraderie with fellow officers with many shared experiences and assignments.  
If you know an Officer and have not suggested they attend one of our meetings, please do so now!

- Officers**
- President**  
Col Dale Kiser, USAF (Ret)
- 1st Vice President**  
LCDR Majella Stevenson, USN (Ret)
- 2nd Vice President**  
MAJ Gary Ward, USA (Ret)
- Secretary and Membership Chair**  
COL Doug Minton, USA (Ret)
- Treasurer**  
LCDR Bea Henderson, USN (Ret)
- Directors**  
Mrs. Patricia Bergquist  
CDR Ted Edwards, USN (Ret)  
CDR John Ohlinger, USN (Ret)  
LTC Wanda B. Graham, USA (Ret)  
CAPT Dale Lewelling, USN (Ret.)  
LTC Mike Patenaude, USA (Ret)  
Lt Col Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF (Ret)  
CAPT Larry Cotton, USN (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**

Mailing Address:  
**Middle TN Chapter, MOAA**  
**P. O. Box 50252**  
**Nashville, TN 37205-0252**

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

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

**Our Chapter still needs your Assistance**  
Last year MOAA undertook a very daunting task to update the database that held all member records. As you can imagine, the process has not always been smooth, but the Member Service Center and the Affiliated Council & Chapters Team have worked very diligently to complete the task.  
MTC has been reviewing our member records and have identified various items that are missing or out of date on many of our members. **We can see the data or where the data should be but due to privacy restrictions only the actual member can revise his/her profile.** We need our members to log into their MOAA accounts and review/update their profiles. Once you have updated your account, you should be able to make corrections or additions. If you are unable to accomplish the modification, please let us know!.

**President’s Letter**

Some ‘Thank Yous’ are in order. Members: Greg Mays, Larry Cotton, Ric Conover, Coplin Curtis, Mike Patenaude, Bea Henderson, Ted Edwards, and Mike Walsh presented MOAA Leadership Certificates to JROTC Cadets; the most MTC member participation in many years. ROTC programs were supported by Ted Edwards and Thad Vann. These members participated in the Memorial Remembrance Ceremony: Ted Edwards, Mike Walsh, Larry Cotton, Majella Stevenson, Hal Sauer, Doug Minton, and John Ohlinger. Community involvement is one of the core tenets of MOAA, please look for ways to participate in MTC MOAA activities.

Here are two community opportunities for your calendar: On 25 September, MTC MOAA will conduct ‘Operation Commissary’ at OSDTN. You and your family’s participation is needed to help assemble food baskets for local veterans and active-duty families. The more participants, the better. In December (date TBD) MTC MOAA will be handing out Publix gift cards at OSDTN to needy veterans and active-duty families, using a \$2K grant.

For awareness, there’s a local fundraiser to support Women Veterans. A Franklin photographer (Misty Westebbe) is taking portraits of Women Veterans and assembling a coffee table book that will pair a portrait and personal story. The goal is to complete the book for Veterans Day, 2027. A suggested tax-deductible donation per portrait session is \$190. However, no woman veteran will be turned away, the donation request will be waived if the veteran is unable to afford it. Each woman veteran who participates will be presented with a portrait of their choice. The proceeds from the portraits and book sales will support a local horse farm (Hold Your Horses Farm TN) in Christiana that supports Women Veterans through equine-assisted services. For more information, please see the following websites: [https://portraits.mistywestebbephotography.art/honor\\_her\\_portraits](https://portraits.mistywestebbephotography.art/honor_her_portraits) <https://www.holdyourhorsesfarmtn.com/>

Here is an early notice of a meeting date change. **In November we will be meeting at ONCC on 10 November as we work around a MOAA National Regional Training event in Chattanooga and Thanksgiving. Hopefully an early notice will allow you to adjust your calendar and attend on the 10th!**

And speaking of our monthly meetings, attendance has been increasing and we are very appreciative of that fact!

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the 23rd at ONCC.

J. Dale’ Kiser, Col, USAF, Ret, MTC President

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Upcoming Programs & Events**

**23 June 2026; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting  
Annual Personal Affairs Program

***“Personal Affairs Review & Veterans  
Healthcare ”***

**LTC Wanda Graham, USA (Ret)**  
MTC Personal Affairs Officer

**Austin Peltzer**  
Veterans Healthcare Representative

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

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**2 July 2026; 7 - 8:00 AM**

***“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”***

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

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**15 July 2026; 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

***“TN Council of Chapters Meeting”***

Sammy B's Restaurant, 705 Cadet Court, Lebanon, TN.

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**28 July 2026; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

***“ Williamson County Law Enforcement”***

Sheriff Jeff Hughes

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

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**28 July 2026; 5:30 - 7:30 PM**

God's Word for Warriors Fundraiser

***“Rise, Renew, Reconnect”***

Lipscomb University Shinn Center, Nashville, TN  
<https://www.godswordforwarriors.com/gala>

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**6 August 2026; 7 - 8:00 AM**

***“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”***

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

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**25 August 2026; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

***“ Singing Second”***

CPT Dean Wegner, USA

MTC Chapter Member

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

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**3 September 2026; 7 - 8:00 AM**

***“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”***

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

**Legislative Update**

The June issue of *Military Officer* magazine, pages 22-23, shows a photo of the 260 visitors plus the 4 senior leaders of MOAA who traveled from all over the country to visit our Congress members in April for the annual Advocacy-in-Action Week (AiA). Three were from Tennessee. Together we visited over 300 offices to speak about MOAA’s four primary initiatives for 2026. We spoke with senators and representatives and very often with their senior advisors.

Whence cometh these 100 senators and 435 representatives? They are those who prevailed through the process of primary elections and then the general election to follow. It all begins with participating voters.

Middle Tennessee Chapter meets most commonly in Williamson County and occasionally in Davidson County, and our members live in several counties each with their own statistics. Looking at just Williamson, with almost 190,000 registered voters, just under 14% voted in the recent primary. All representatives and 1/3 of senators are up for election this year, and will turnout for those primaries be stronger than 14%? So few are speaking for so many!

Our chapter is very strong with AiA letter writing – apparently the strongest in Tennessee. That is all fine, but it is worth remembering that we can only write to those who got elected. Elections matter. The candidates available to us in November will be those who won the primaries in August. There is no significance in writing to those who did not prevail in the elections, so having future impact through AiA depends on educating those who will later support MOAA initiatives for those serving and veterans.

The upcoming primary election day is August 6<sup>th</sup>, and early voting dates will be available in July. That process is coming up soon, and the realigning of the 9 Tennessee districts will impact many of us. It is worthwhile checking soon which district you reside in and then who the aspiring candidates will be competing for your attention, support, and vote.

The situation is confusing right now, so it is worthwhile to do your homework and prepare. Also, remember that your current congressional district and elected representative will continue to serve you until next January 3<sup>rd</sup> when the new congress is sworn in. For right now, prepare for your primary election.

Our MOAA culture is explicitly non-partisan as our MOAA initiatives are also – worth remembering that. It is thoroughly non-partisan to remind us to be aware of the process, the schedule, and the importance of our participating in it.

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (Ret)  
MTC Legislative Chair