



MECMOAA CHAPTER NEWS



Never Stop Serving

Current Officers

President: John Rice
1st VP: Jack Woolley
2d VP: Stan Gedelman
Secretary: Mary Shaw Van
Treasurer: Tom Shafer
Legislative: To be filled
Spouse Liaison: Mary Ward
Membership: Mark Tipton

Contact Information

Mailing Address:

PO Box 5024
Johnson City, TN 37602-5024

Email: mecmoaa@gmail.com

Website: www.mecmoaa1.org

Webmaster - Stan Gedelman

Facebook: @mecmoaa

Advocacy in Action

MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. We are an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization. As such, MOAA plays an active role in military personnel matters, especially proposed legislation affecting the career force, the retired community, and veterans. We influence our members and their families' lives at the local, state and federal levels.

In this edition, we'll focus on how we're engaged on these issues and where to find information—from the Chapter, state Council, and national MOAA. We are truly one might force when we work together.

More New Members!

At our last membership brunches, Chapter President John Rice and his wife Janet received our newest members.



Left to right: Mrs. Janet Rice and Chapter President LCDR (Ret.) John Rice; **Mrs. Alisha Monette** and **MAJ (Ret.) Brett Monette**.



New member **CDR (Ret.) Russ Jowers** and his wife Amy are centered between Immediate Past President Maj (Ret.) Mark Tipton and President LCDR (Ret.) John Rice.

Welcome again, Brett & Alisha and Russ & Amy!

MECMOAA receives MOAA Communications Award

For Chapter communications in 2020, we were honored by our selection for the Colonel Marvin J. Harris Communications Award. Each year, national MOAA holds a communications award contest to identify those councils and chapters that do an outstanding job communicating with their members and community.



We received a 4-star award for our communications through this newsletter and the website.



Above: CAPT (Ret.) Gary Rabetoy and LT (Ret.) Stan Gedelman represent our Chapter members as LCDR (Ret.) John Rice presents the MOAA Communications Award.

Special Guest “Fuzzy” Freswick



At our July membership brunch, we were honored to welcome TSgt (Ret.) Ryan “Fuzzy” Freswick. Fuzzy and his wife Sharon are residents of Bristol, Tennessee. Fuzzy shared some stories with us, and what a story he has! He retired from the Air Force after serving as aircrew in multiple airframes, including the skies over Vietnam. Fuzzy wasn’t done flying at the end of his Air Force career—he’s had a very long career as a corporate pilot, all over the globe. Fuzzy still flies private charter jets.

***Fuzzy, thank you for your service to our Nation,
and for sharing your time and experiences with us!***

***So, what's left for the rest of this year?
Plenty!***

***Please mark your calendars now so you don't miss either
of our two remaining meetings:***

19 September
Regular Brunch

21 November
Annual Business Meeting/Brunch

As usual, our social meetings will continue over Sunday brunch at Blackthorn Club. We meet on the third Sunday of every other month, beginning in January. To allow enough transit time after church services, we begin gathering at 1230 with brunch at 1300.

As you see the email notifications prior to each meeting, please RSVP by replying to the email. Note: Club policy is to bill us for each individual reservation, so if you RSVP and don't attend, we are still billed for your meal(s). The cost is \$25 for members in good standing (current on dues payment) and their guest(s), and \$30 for non-current members and their guest(s).

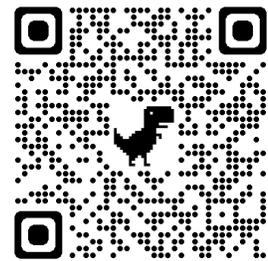
If you know of an interesting and relevant guest speaker who might want to share his or her thoughts with our members and spouses, please contact John Rice.

Now, let's talk non-partisan politics...

Staying “Briefed-up”

For those of you who are national MOAA members, you’re likely familiar with ***Military Officer*** magazine (<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/military-officer-magazine/military-officer-magazine/>). This monthly publication does an outstanding job of keeping readers up to date on a wide range of matters affecting our military and veteran community. While the magazine is an easy, portable, and enjoyable way to staying “briefed-up” on these issues, MOAA’s website has the same information and much more. It’s located at [moaa.org](https://www.moaa.org).

Under the website’s “Advocacy” menu, we suggest you pay particular attention to the “**Take Action**” section. You can access it by clicking the below link, or scanning the QR code with your phone camera:



<https://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/?o>

If you’re not a national MOAA member, we strongly encourage you to join. While a Basic **Membership** gives you access to a wide range of information and benefits, you might consider becoming a Premium or Life Member. Read more about the differences here:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa/>



In future editions of this newsletter, we’ll place these links on the last page.

The Hard Work

Many of you are familiar with MOAA's past "Storming the Hill" campaign, which was traditionally an in-person event that brought hundreds of MOAA representatives to Capitol Hill each May. This herculean effort is now called **Advocacy in Action**. While COVID protocols resulted in the last two efforts being primarily virtual, MOAA has had much success "moving the ball down the field" on many issues.

Take a look:

[https://www.moaa.org/content/take-action/
advocacy-in-action/](https://www.moaa.org/content/take-action/advocacy-in-action/)



So, how does the MOAA staff, including the Board of Directors, get this done? They are supported by hundreds of Chapter and Council members. In our state, the **Tennessee Council of Chapters** is directly engaged in this effort. Here's a link to access the current leadership roster, as well as past meeting minutes (via the Middle Tennessee Chapter's website):

<http://www.mtcmoaa.org/tncouncilofchapters.html>

The Tennessee Council is also directly involved with **Tennessee Veterans**, also known as “TNVET.” Their mission is to unite, under one state legislative umbrella, the leadership and membership of Tennessee’s individual veteran organizations to work on behalf of all state veterans (and active duty members stationed in Tennessee) in advancing services and/or benefits for all members; and, to provide a forum in which to present, discuss, debate and propose procedural and/or legislative solutions to inequities and issues affecting the veteran community and its active duty counterparts within the state of Tennessee.

Read more about TNVET: <https://tnvet.org/>



So, what about MECMOAA?

Each of us has a role to play. Some of you know your local elected officials by name, and we may be familiar with our representatives in Nashville, Richmond, or Washington, DC. Reach out to them on issues important to you and our members, and support the Chapter as we ask for support in advocating for our priorities. You’ll hear more about how we intend to move forward, and we need your input—YOU are MECMOAA.

We’ll see you at our next meeting in September!

We hope you enjoyed this newsletter. Please send any comments or suggestions to mecmoaa@gmail.com.

Never Stop Serving.