



MOAA®

PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

**MOAA Pittsburgh - A Five Star Chapter
Chartered on Veterans Day - 11 November 1965**

AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER

**Our Mission:
"Never Stop Serving"**

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MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
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LTC Charles Chasler
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Chapter Dues were due...

As a reminder, Chapter dues were due no later than our first meeting which was held on April 14, 2024. Chapter dues are currently \$12 and may be paid on-line at MOAA National's direct link by clicking [Chapter Dues](#).

Note: Dues will be increased to \$20 starting January 1, 2025.

If unable to pay on-line, please bring cash or a check to the September Luncheon and give to Treasurer, Marcel Minutolo, or Events Coordinator, Pat Seda-Rivera, upon arrival. Checks should be made payable to MOAA Pittsburgh Chapter.

IMPORTANT: Please note that in order to vote at the September 8, 2024, meeting (Chapter Meeting called and voting items outlined in

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VACANT

VACANT

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**MOAA State Veterans
Home Advisory Council
Members**

Southwestern Veteran's Center

CW4 Thomas E. Tallon
thomastallon@verizon.net

Erie Soldiers & Sailors Home

the August 15, 2024, e-mail), your 2024 Chapter dues must be paid in full prior to the start of the meeting.

Open Positions - Secretary, Membership Chair, and Newsletter Editor.

The Chapter is still in need of volunteers to fill the positions of Secretary, Membership Chair, and Newsletter Editor. The Secretary position is currently being handled by Dan Kysela (Vice-President) and the Membership Chair position is listed as Marcel Minutolo (Treasurer) on the National Website. Joan Bellisario, Newsletter Editor, is transitioning out of this role and Jon Comis (President) is currently handling.

Please reach out to Dan or Jon if you have any questions about the open positions and/or if you wish to step up and volunteer for one of these roles. Your assistance would be much appreciated!

Note: You must be a member of MOAA National, and your Pittsburgh Chapter dues must be paid in full in order to hold a position.

Surviving Spouse Liaison

Our Surviving Spouse Liaison, **Oralia Ferretti**, is always ready to answer any questions. Her phone number and email address are located in the Chapter Leader Section.

[Click to view
MOAA's Surviving Spouse Resources
Website](#)

Open Positions - Directors

The Chapter is still in need of volunteers to fill three (3) open Director positions.

As copied from Section 6 of the by-laws, the Directors shall:

- a) attend board meetings and serve as a voting member of the board of directors;
- b) provide input to the president on issues of chapter management, finances, programs, and special matters;
- c) establish and review chapter bylaws, policies, procedures, and other guiding documents annually and make recommendations for revision as needed;
- d) serve as a greeter at chapter functions; and
- e) perform other duties the president might assign.

We hope that you will consider volunteering to hold one of the open Director positions. **Note: all meetings will be held online (Google Meet).**

Note: You must be a member of MOAA National, and your Pittsburgh Chapter dues must be paid in full in order to hold a position.

MOAA Pittsburgh's Facebook Page and Website Page

MOAA Pittsburgh has a Facebook Page! To access the page, **CLICK HERE**. This is a great link to share with prospective Chapter members and to keep up-to-date on news in between meetings, luncheons, and newsletters.

The MOAA Pittsburgh **Website Page** is scheduled to be completed soon! All members will be notified by e-mail when it is up and running.



September Luncheon Guest Speaker

LT Eyobe Mills from the United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit ("USCG MSU") Pittsburgh will be our September speaker.

<https://www.gocoastguard.com>

LT Mills will present an informational power point brief and answer any

questions concerning the mission and operations of the USCG MSU Pittsburgh.

September 2024 Luncheon

The next Luncheon for the MOAA Pittsburgh Chapter will be held on Sunday, 8 September 2024, at Chartiers Country Club, 601 Baldwin Road, Pittsburgh, 15205. Please see the menu selection and reservation form below and plan to join us! Social Hour begins at 1 PM (1300 hours) with a cash bar and lunch will start to be served promptly at 2 PM (1400 hours). Valet parking is available.

Menu for the 8 September 2024 Luncheon

**Chicken Francese sauteed with Parmesan and Egg Batter with
Lemon Sauce and Capers**

or

Broiled Spots English Style

or

Vegetarian

(Note: Coordination with chef TBD)

**Fresh Tomato Salad with Balsamic Dressing
Roasted Potatoes Sauteed Buttered Fresh Corn**

Dessert

Peach Pie with Vanilla Ice Cream

Dinner Rolls with Butter

Water - Iced Tea - Coffee

Reservation Form - MOAA Luncheon on 8 September 2024

Chartiers Country Club, 601 Baldwin Rd, Pittsburgh 15205

Cash bar opens at 1 PM. Lunch is served promptly at 2 PM followed by the program. Adjournment by 4 PM when the club closes.

NAME OF
MEMBER: _____ RANK: _____

Choice of: Chicken _____ or Fish _____ or Vegetarian _____

GUEST: _____

Choice of: Chicken Francese _____ or Broiled Spots (English Style)
_____ or Vegetarian _____

PRICE: \$ **35** per person

ENCLOSED: \$ _____ FOR _____ MEALS

RSVP to Pat (**412-704-5070**) or by email to
(**julio.moaa@comcast.net**) by Thursday, September 5, 2024, with
entree selection for each attendee.

If mailing in your check, also please have it to Pat by September 5, 2024.

Make checks payable to **MOAA Pittsburgh Chapter** and return to:

Pat Seda-Rivera
602 Cloverleaf Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15239-2370

You can also let Pat know that you will pay at the door, or it would be greatly appreciated if you would please consider paying for your luncheon(s) on-line at [Donation for MOAA Pittsburgh Chapter](#). You would select the "Donate Only" option from the drop-down menu along with "Pennsylvania" and "MOAA Pittsburgh Chapter." Once you've gone through the prompts and received confirmation, just let our Treasurer, Marcel, or Pat know that you paid on-line when you RSVP with your entree selection.

Holiday Card Collection Program

Carmen DiGiacomo will again take the lead on the Holiday Card collection for the VA Homes this year. He needs at least (200) cards no later than the deadline of December 1, 2024. He will be accepting cards at the September Meeting/Luncheon. Thanks, Carmen! **Please note that our next Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, 8 December 2024, which is after the deadline.** *Please bring your Holiday Cards to the September Luncheon. If unable to, please reach out to Carmen (tippfado@verizon.net) to discuss mailing or dropping-off the cards prior to the deadline!*



Update: Chapter Insurance and 501c(3) Status

During our June 2024 meeting, the membership voted to acquire liability insurance for the Chapter. The Board is in the process of reviewing two quotes, one from USAA and one from AMBA. Once insurance has been purchased and the Chapter has acquired 501c(3) status (which our Treasurer, Marcel, is continuing to work), the Chapter will have in place the requirements to acquire grants from MOAA National. Having the ability to apply for these grants will help our Chapter to do more for the community veterans and possibly start a Chapter Scholarship for students. See more details on the Community Outreach Program Link below.

[2024 Community Outreach Grant Program - MOAA Charities \(smapply.us\)](https://smapply.us)

MOAAA ADVOCACY - A Top Priority for Change!

Key MOAA Advocacy priorities:

- **Junior Enlisted Pay Raise:**

Competitive pay remains critical to the health of the all-volunteer force, and both the House and the Senate seek to address this issue in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The House NDAA calls for servicemembers E-1 to E-4 to receive a 15% pay raise beyond the 4.5% earmarked for all in uniform. While the Senate version calls for an additional 1% increase for servicemembers E-1 to E-3 (beyond the 4.5% raise).

- **Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) Restoration:**

Access to quality housing and promoting financial wellness are important to sustaining the all-volunteer force. Restoring BAH addresses both issues. The House version of the NDAA would restore BAH to 100% for FY 2025 – a move toward MOAA's goal of full repeal of the BAH reduction, but not a permanent fix. Unfortunately, the Senate version does not address the issue.

- **Major Richard Star Act:**

Tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans lose a dollar of earned DoD retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation. For three years in a row, over two-thirds of Congress has supported the Star Act, which would end that unjust financial offset. Despite this vast support, neither version of the NDAA includes the bill. However, it is critical lawmakers continue to hear about this important issue, especially as we approach the start of the 119th Congress.

It is time to **"TAKE ACTION NOW!"**

Follow the Links below to take action to write your Representatives.

[MOAA | Legislative Action Center \(quorum.us\)](#)

[MOAA - Meet MOAA's New Legislative Action Center](#)

Where Will Your Cost-of-Living Adjustment Land in 2025?

The July 2024 Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), released August 14, was 308.501, 2.4% above the FY 2024 baseline of 301.236. August 2024 figures will be announced September 11.

[MOAA - COLA Watch](#)

Veterans Breakfast Club

The [Veterans Breakfast Club](#) works to build a nation that understands and values the experiences of our military veterans. If you'd like to attend one of the monthly breakfasts, please contact:

Betty Karleski, Administrator

200 Magnolia Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Phone: 412-623-9029

Email: betty@veteransbreakfastclub.org

Membership is available for \$36 a year, but you do not have to be a member to attend the breakfasts. Check out the website for a complete list of the events.

MOAA QUICK LINKS CORNER

Why join MOAA-

[MOAA - Why Join MOAA](#)

Policy and Procedure Guidelines-

[MOAA - Council and Chapters Policy and Procedure Guide Details](#)

Ask the EXPERTS! (new)-
[MOAA - AskTheExperts](#)

Surviving Spouses-
[MOAA - I Am a Surviving Spouse](#)

MOAA Legislative Action Center
[MOAA | Legislative Action Center \(quorum.us\)](#)

MOAA Council and Chapter Dates to Know-
[MOAA - Council and Chapter Dates to Know](#)

The MOAA Newsletter-
[MOAA - The MOAA Newsletter](#)

Events Calendar-
[MOAA - MOAA Events](#)

MOAA Council and Chapter Awards-
[MOAA - Council and Chapter Awards](#)

MOAA Scholarship Fund-
[MOAA - Scholarship Fund](#)

MOAA Publications
[MOAA - MOAA Publications](#)

PA Council of Chapters-
[Who We Are - PA Council of Chapters \(pa-coc.org\)](#)

Southwestern Veteran's Center-
[Southwestern Veterans' Center \(pa.gov\)](#)

Soldiers and Sailors-
[Soldiers' and Sailors' \(pa.gov\)](#)

[MOAA PITTSBURGH EVENTS TRACKER](#)

As you can see below, we did a good job this year with the ROTC Programs, which we will continue in the Fall. Thanks to Chuck and his crew for taking care of business! Thanks also to Pat Seda-Rivera for coordinating the Luncheons and Community Event with the Southwest VA Center, to Joan Bellisario for keeping the Newsletter rolling, and to Oralia Ferretti and Richard Boehm for continuing to lead as the Surviving Spouse Liaison and Legislative Liaison.

We have some upcoming events shown in light blue in the Table below. **[Volunteers are needed for the VETCON \(September 4-7, 2024\) and USAR Retirement Appreciation Day \(April 25-26, 2025\).](#)** If you are able to volunteer, please let me know.

We are also planning to partner again with the Southwest VA Center and

volunteer at a Bingo event in 2025, but dates are yet to be determined.

DATE	FUNCTION	LOCATION	ATTENDEES/LANE	NOTES/AAR
04-14-2024	CHAPTER LUNCHEON	CHARTIERS COUNTRY CLUB	ALL /Pat Seda-Rivera	
04-19-2024	AFROTC	Pittsburgh University	Chad Rittle/Chuck Chasler	
04-25-2024	AROTC	Slippery Rock University	Chuck Chasler/Richard DiGiacomo	Complete / Cadet Sager and others
04-26-2024	JUNIOR ROTC/Military Ball	Butler HS (Tornado Bn)	Chuck Chasler/LTC Warren Hull	Complete-TY from MAJ Coleman
05-03-2024	JUNIOR AFROTC	North Allegheny HS	Dan Kysela/ Chuck Chasler	Complete /Cadet Sethia an others
05-04-2024	JUNIOR ROTC	Connellsville HS	Chuck Chasler/CW2 Joseph Cordier	Completed/JROTC Military Ball
06-02-2024	CHAPTER LUNCHEON	CHARTIERS COUNTRY CLUB	ALL /Pat Seda-Rivera	SPEAKER- Dave Defide, DLC Agenda passed vote 100%
06-29-2024	VA BINGO	VA Facility University Drive	Pat Seda-Rivera	
09-4/7-2024	VETCON	Wyndam Pittsburgh, PA	Chapter Volunteers (TBD)	Table- Representing MOAA National and Pennsylvania
09-08-2024	CHAPTER LUNCHEON	CHARTIERS COUNTRY CLUB	ALL /Pat Seda-Rivera	SPEAKER- LT Eyobe Mills, CGMSU Pittsburgh
12-08-2024	CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY	CHARTIERS COUNTRY CLUB	ALL /Pat Seda-Rivera	
04-25/26-2025	USAR RET. APPRE. DAY	316th RSC, Coraopolis, PA	Chapter Volunteers (TBD)	Table- Recruiting and Providing Information

I hope to see you all at the September meeting/luncheon. A more detailed agenda will be sent by e-mail to members with copies provided at each table.

Jon P. Comis
 President
 MOAA Pittsburgh Chapter
"NEVER STOP SERVING"



Future 2024 Planned Luncheons at Chartiers Country Club

8 September 2024

**Holiday Party 8 December 2024, the first Sunday after
Thanksgiving Weekend**

**Additional Social and Community Service Activities will be
added as they are planned. Ideas/suggestions welcome.
Volunteers welcome.**

MOAA Pittsburgh | 601 Baldwin Road | Pittsburgh, PA 15205 US

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