



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

Our Mission: "Never Stop Serving!"

FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Pittsburgh Chapter Leaders

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President and
Acting Membership Chair
412-251-3547
moaapitt@gmail.com

CPT Daniel Kysela Vice-President and Acting Secretary 412-616-1641 kysela.daniel@gmail.com

SECRETARY

New MOAA National CHEDDAR PLATFORM for Dues Payment.

MOAA NATIONAL is working with a new platform CHEDDAR to make online dues payment a breeze. The link to payment -

View Items | Cheddar Up

If you would like to pay by check, please make checks payable to **MOAA Pittsburgh Chapter** and mail to our

Treasurer-

Marcel Minutolo

VACANT

CPT Marcel Minutolo Treasurer 412-513-9728 minutolom@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
VACANT

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We are asking ALL members who receive this Newsletter to please pay the MOAA Pittsburgh Chapter 2025 dues of \$20.00 by our April 27, 2025 Luncheon.

To become a National MOAA Member, link into the link below and sign up. National Basic Membership is FREE! Then pay your Chapter dues accordingly. MOAA Membership

If you have any questions regarding the Chapter's finances, please reach out to Marcel Minutolo, Treasurer, at minutolom@gmail.com.

Surviving Spouse Liaison

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

Surviving Spouse Corner: Join Our Virtual Chapter

Click to view
MOAA's Surviving Spouse Resources
Website

Chapter Liability Insurance and 501(c) 3 Status

As noted previously, the Chapter acquired Liability Insurance from USAA in June 2024. Once the Chapter's 501(c) 3 status is approved completely by the IRS, the Chapter will have in place the requirements to apply for Community Outreach Grants from MOAA National and acquire tax-free purchases (ex. Luncheon meals etc.) Having the ability to apply for these grants will assist our Chapter to do more for our veterans in the

Directors

COL (RET) Carmen DiGiacomo tippfado@verizon.net

LTJG USNR Chad Rittle rittle99@yahoo.com

CW4 (RET) Thomas Tallon thomastallon@verizon.net

VACANT VACANT

MOAA State Veterans
Home Advisory Council
Members and MOAA
Pittsburgh Chapter
Members

Southwestern Veteran's Center

CW4 (RET) Thomas E. Tallon thomastallon@verizon.net

Erie Soldiers & Sailors Home

MAJ Richard J. DiGiacomo rjdigiacomo@zoominternet.net

community and hopefully help to grow our Chapter's community outreach efforts which corresponds with our motto of "NEVER STOP SERVING".

See more details on the Community Outreach Program Link below.

2024 Community Outreach Grant Program - MOAA Charities(smapply.us)

"NEW" LEGISLATIVE LIAISON on board!

Much thanks to our past Liaison CAPT (RET) Rich Boehm for his service during the past four years for our chapter. Our new Legislative Liaison is currently an acting attorney.

LTC (RET) WILLIAM B. PENTECOST Jr.

Legislative Liaison

412-254-9293

wpentecost@c-wlaw.com



2024 Advocacy in Action (AiA) Council President's Seminar

The below schedule of the MOAA spring 2025 advocacy event, Advocacy in Action, will be a critical opportunity for members to engage directly with lawmakers and push for progress on key issues. Protecting benefits is not just MOAA's mission — it's a shared responsibility with its members.

Our state of Pennsylvania will be represented by the PACOC President Nick Taylor, Past Council President Keith Beebe, and MOAA National Board Member Chuck Anderson (PA).

MOAA - How MOAA Plans to Build Momentum in the 119th Congress



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 2024 Advocacy in Action Council Presidents' Seminar

Schedule of Events April 14- 18, 2024 Hyatt Regency Crystal City

Monday, April 15 Attire: Casual				
TIME	EVENT	LOCATION		
	Travel/Arrival Day for AiA Participants	Hyatt Regency Crystal City		
12 - 5 p.m.	Registration	Regency Foyer (B Level)		
12 – 5 p.m. Partners & Exhibitors		Regency Foyer (B Level)		
5 - 8 p.m.	Council Presidents Icebreaker and Buffet Dinner	fet Regency EF Ballroom (B Level)		

Tuesday, April 16 Attire: Business					
ГІМЕ	EVENT	LOCATION			
7 -9:30 a.m.	Buffet Breakfast	Washington Room & Regency Pre-Function (B Level)			
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Partner Presentations for Council Presidents	Washington Room (B Level)			
11:45 - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch Buffet	Washington Room & Regency Pre-Function (B Level)			
1:30 -3:30 p.m.	Advocacy in Action Preparation Training	Regency EF (B Level)			
4 - 4:15 p.m. 4:40 - 5: 15 p.m.	Load Buses Enroute to Capitol Hill	Hotel Lobby/Main Entrance Washington, DC			
5: 15 - 7:15 p.m.	MOAA Award Ceremony Attire: Business	TBD			
7:30 - 8:15 p.m.	Enroute to Hyatt Regency Crystal City				
8:30 - 10:00 p.m.	Refreshments	Chesapeake Room (Rooftop) Press "R" on Elevator			
	Wednesday, April 17 Attire: Business				
6 - 7:30 a.m.	Buffet Breakfast	Washington Room (B Level)			
7:30 a.m.	Load Buses and Depart for Capitol Hill	Garfield Circle Area			

V5B Feb 27, 2024

MOAAA ADVOCACY - A Top Priority for Change!

Now is time to sign up and email your Legislative Representatives. Currently our chapter has twenty (20) members registered as advocates, and between January 1, 2024, and October 1, 2024, we a total of (158) actions taken by our members. It is a self-explanatory process in signing up and emailing our representatives. We must speak up and make ourselves heard, for those who have served, and for those who are currently serving. If there are any questions on this process, please contact our chapter's Legislative Liaison. 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

MOAA - MOAA's Military State Report Card and Tax Guide

Pennsylvania Senators, Representatives, and Congressional District Maps - GovTrack.us

PENNSYLVANIA STATE SENATORS and REPRESENATIVES



*Solomon, Borowski, Isla Brown, American - *Couplerty , Fallowski, Control - *Solomon, Borowski, Isla Brown, American - *Couplerty , Fallowski, Control - *Solomon, Borowski, Isla Brown, American - *Couplerty , Fallowski, Control - *Solomon, Borowski, Isla Brown, American - *Couplerty , Fallowski, Control - *Solomon, Control

Senate VEAP - Click to expand

House of Representatives VEAP - Click to expand



Senate Appropriations

Committee- Click tp Expand

HOR Appropriations

Committee- Click to Expand



HOR Appropriations
Committee- Click to Expand

JROTC/ROTC AWARDS SECTION

OUR JROTC/ROTC Team needs VOLUNTEERS to present awards! So far, we have three (3) events planned. There will be more requests soon, because most of the events take place in the spring. If anyone is interested, please contact our chapter's ROTC /JROTC Liaison:

LTC (RET) Charles Chasler ROTC Liaison 716-785-4383

chuckchasler@gmail.com

Below is a current ROTC/JROTC Event Schedule, please contact LTC Chuck Chasler for more details -

	ROTC/JROTC	2025	PROJECTED	
DATE	FUNCTION	LOCATION	ATTENDEES/MANAGERS	NOTES/AAR
04-05-2025	Beaver HS JROTC Military Ball	Club at Shadow Lakes, 2000 Beaver Lakes, Aliquippa, PA	LTC (RET) Chasler (Team)	SGM (RET) Oscar Weaver, USA
05-03-2025	JROTC Banquet	Pine Richland High School	LTC (RET) Chasler (Team)	AFJROTC / MSG Leydig, USAF
05-09-2025	JROTC Awards	Albert Gallatin High School	LTC (RET) Chasler (Team)	LTC (RET) Richard Cassem, USA

MOAA NATIONAL GRANTS

- Community Outreach Grants (The MOAA Foundation)- Application for grants of up to \$5,000 is open annually from Dec. 1 to Feb. 28.
 - Now since we have chapter insurance, we are able to apply for this type of grant, but to receive consideration for this type of grant, MOAA requires a specific plan and course of action. During our Google Meet, the Board and Directors came up with a few ideas. Further discussion is pending.
- · Community Sponsorship Grants- Apply for up to \$300 per chapter or \$800 per council to support community service programs and recruiting/branding events.
 - Two (2) Community Sponsorship Grant Applications submitted for 2025. One for Bingo and other possible events, and one for previous purchases of event material such as the Table Drape etc.
- One \$300 Community Sponsorship Grant Received from MOAA
- One request still pending.

NATIONAL MOAA VACATIONS Council and Chapter Advertising Program

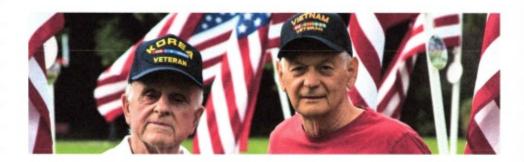
Our Pittsburgh Chapter placed advertisements for MOAA Vacations on our Website and in our recent Newsletters. We will continue to participate in the program. **This qualifies us to receive a \$200 payment from MOAA National.**

See details on the program: ChapterAds - MOAAVACATIONS

PENNSYLVANIA VETERAN'S REGISTRY LINK-

https://www.dmva.pa.gov/veteransaffairs/pages/outreach-and-reintegration/pennsylvaniaveteransregistry.aspx





With more than 700,000 veterans scattered throughout 67 counties in Pennsylvania, it is important for the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) to connect with veterans and their families to inform them about the programs and services available thanks to their service. To help make this important connection, the DMVA created the PA Veterans Registry.

All veterans are encouraged to sign up for the free, electronic Registry. Family members of veterans and people who work with veterans are also encouraged to connect with the DMVA by signing up through the Registry. You do not need to be a veteran to register.

https://www.dmva.pa.gov/veteransaffairs/pages/outreachand-reintegration/pennsylvaniaveteransregistry.aspx

Leadership Update for Pittsburgh-area VSOs



VA Pittsburgh Health Systems Monthly Townhall

If any member is interested, a request in an email to Ms. Heather Steele will

establish you on her mailing list. You will be sent an email monthly to inform you when and where the meetings are located. You can also attend through a Zoom Link from your home computer.

The latest from Ms. Heather Steele is as follows:

VAPHS leadership and representatives from the Veterans Benefits Administration Pittsburgh Regional Office and the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies will provide updates on current initiatives and answer your questions. Your valued input helps us ensure we meet the needs of Veterans who visit us for care at our two main campuses, six outpatient clinics and three Vet Centers.

You are invited...

to VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System's VSO roundtable discussion on *Thursday*, *Feb. 27, at 1 p.m.*

VAPHS leadership and representatives from the Veterans Benefits Administration Pittsburgh Regional Office and the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies will provide updates on current initiatives and answer your questions. Your valued input helps us ensure we meet the needs of Veterans who visit us for care at our two main campuses and six outpatient clinics.

Please RSVP and plan to join in person, by video or on the phone:

- At the **H.J. Heinz III campus**, in the building 71 Learning Exchange.
- Via Webex video.
- By phone at 1-404-397-1596 (toll-free), access code: 2820 550 7356.

Heather.Steele@va.gov

FY25Q1 VAPHS Veterans Town Hall

Veterans Health Administration

Applying for Benefits - Veterans Benefits Administration

Find A VA Accredited Representative Or VSO | Veterans Affairs

VSAFE

VA Decision Reviews And Appeals | Veterans Affairs

About the Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM) - National Cemetery Administration

National Cemetery of the Alleghenies - National Cemetery Administration

<u>Veterans Burial Allowance And Transportation Benefits | Veterans Affairs</u>

Pittsburgh Regional Office Home



Pennsylvania Council of Chapters Military Officers Association of America



The Pennsylvania Council of Chapter's NEXT MEETING WILL BE PA Council of Chapters- Saturday, 8 March 2025 at Biddle Hall, FIG

Who We Are - PA Council of Chapters (pa-coc.org)

MOAA Pittsburgh 2025 Chapter Goals

- 1. Become 501 C 3: Awaiting long form (1023) to be reviewed and a decision made by the IRS. (Still Awaiting IRS)
- 2. Continue and Increase Community Events.
- 3. Continue to recruit new members.
- 4. Continue to increase community activities.
- 5. Fill chapter's open positions- a. Secretary b. Membership Chair c. (3) Directors d. Newspaper Editor.
- 6. Continue to work closely with MOAA Councils and Chapters.
- 7. Sync in with Cheddar Up, MOAA's new online chapter dues payment system.
- 8. Continue to apply for needed MOAA National Grants.
- 9. Continue to apply for MOAA National Awards.
- 10. Continue to work with MOAA Travel Agency by providing advertisements in our Newsletters and on our website.
- 11. Continue to engage with MOAA's Legislative Action Center and track reports.
- 12. Continue to attend MOAA National Virtual Roundtables, Webinars and Exchange Forums.

MOAA PITTSBURGH 2025 PROJECTED EVENTS

	2025 PROJECTED			
DATE	FUNCTION	LOCATION	ATTENDEES/MANAGERS	NOTES/AAR
JAN-DEC 2025-				
2nd Monday				
of all months	Google Meet Meeting	Home Computer or Phone	Chapter Leadership Staff	Short/Long Term Planning
JAN-DEC 2025				The VA Pittsburgh Health Systems
(TBD)	VAPHS Roundtable	In Person or Home Computer	President Comis/ Anyone	provide new info.
	JROTC (ROTC)	·		
JAN-DEC 2025	Ceremonies, Awards,			
(TBD)	Banquets	Western PA Region	LTC (RET) Chasler and Team	ROTC/JROTC Presenter Team
			LTC (RET) Comis/All PA	PACOC Pres. Nick Taylor meets
l	PACOC Meetings: MAR		Chapter Presidents/CPT (Ret.)	with PA Chap. Pres. who report
JAN-DEC 2025	8th /JUN 14th/ SEP 13th	Biddle Hall, FIG (1100 hr.)/	Bob Heister PACOC Past	chapter's operations and future
(Saturdays)	/ DEC 13th	December meeting via ZOOM	President	planning/projections
JAN-DEC 2025	OLD GUARD LUNCH			
(TBD)	(Brainstorming Ideas)	BRAVO's Waterfront (TBD)	ALCON Roundtable	Short/Long Term Planning
JAN-DEC 2025	Chapter Events (field			
(TBD)	trips, sporting events)	Western PA Region	ALL	Planning
				The donations will be issued to
ALL 2025				hospitalized veterans for the
Luncheons	VA DONATION BOX	Chartiers Country Club	ALL /Pat Seda-Rivera	holidays
04-25/ 26-				Table- Recruiting and Providing
2025	USARC Ret.App.Day	316th ESC, Coraopolis, PA	Chapter Volunteers (TBD)	Information
4-27-2025	LUNCH/MEETING	Chartiers Country Club	ALL /Pat Seda-Rivera	Meeting to prelude Lunch
27- April/ Dec				Collect clothing and grooming
2024	VA Donation Box	All Luncheons	ALL /Pat Seda-Rivera	items for hospitalized Vets
TBD	VA Bingo	SWVA Facility	Pat Seda-Rivera	Assist SWVA with Bingo
1 June- 8 Dec	VA Home Holiday Card			Members signed and issued cards
2024	Collection	Western PA	COL (RET) Carmen DiGiacomo	to the veterans in our Regional VA
7-13-2025	LUNCHEON	Chartiers Country Club	ALL /Pat Seda-Rivera	Speaker TBD
9-7-2025	LUNCHEON	Chartiers Country Club	ALL /Pat Seda-Rivera	Speaker TBD
10-12-2025	LUNCH/ELECTIONS	Chartiers Country Club	ALL /Pat Seda-Rivera	Annual Meeting/Elections
12-7-2025	HOLIDAY/ PARTY	Chartiers Country Club	ALL /Pat Seda-Rivera	Holiday Party



Join us for an afternoon of fun in support of our Troops & Veterans!

Enjoy an afternoon of fun in our newly renovated Operations & Events Center!

Don't miss out on your chance to win Designer purses, cash prizes and partake in multiple cash and prize raffles throughout the day! Your ticket gives you 4 numbers for every timed purse drawing, food and beverages.

Sunday, June 8, 2025

Doors Open at Noon 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Tickets \$30

Operation Troop Appreciation Operations & Events Center 2017 Pennsylvania Avenue West Mifflin PA 15122

Tables can be reserved for parties of 8 or more For Tickets Contact. Monica@ OperationTroopAppreciation.org Text or Call: 412-759-0696

Tickets going fast! Purchase yours Today!

MOAA PITTSBURGH HISTORIC CORNER

Our organization's (MOAA Pittsburgh) 60th Anniversary will be November 11, 2025. We were originally named the Steel City Retired Officers Club (Steel City ROC). We were then affiliated with TROA (The Retired Officers Association) which was renamed MOAA (Military Officers Association of America) on January 1, 2003. Below is a Certificate that MOAA National presented us with for our 50th Anniversary. Most unlikely that MOAA National will present us with a 60 Year Anniversary Certificate, but we will celebrate with a cake at the October Luncheon.





The Old Guard Quarterly Brainstorm Lunch took place at the Waterfront Bravo's on February 6, 2025. Many ideas were discussed. It was a very productive meeting.













Different field trip events were discussed for 2025. Including the ones listed above.

TAPS time only" or "only 7 remaining!"

Let's work together to keep this good thing going!

Jon P. Comis
President
MOAA Pittsburgh Chapter
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Book with Confidence: MOAA Vacations always guarantees the lowest price and is the only travel agency in the country that provides travel on a Satisfaction Guaranteed basis. Should you have any issue or problem before or during your trip, we guarantee to resolve the issue to your satisfaction.

Group Travel: We offer the opportunity to travel with your fellow MOAA members from your local chapter and across the country, thereby increasing the fun for your next vacation.

MOAA Support: MOAA Vacations supports MOAA National and Local Chapters. By booking through us you are also supporting MOAA's mission and initiatives, as a portion of the proceeds helps fund advocacy and support programs for the military community and their families.

If you're considering booking a trip, it's worth exploring what MOAA Vacations has to offer!



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 Pre-Paid Gratuities
- Transfers

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<u>ChapterAds - MOAAVACATIONS</u>



* MOAA and all of its affiliates are nonpartisan organizations.

The 2025 Luncheons are currently scheduled as follows:

27 APRIL 2025 / Initial Meeting
13 JULY 2025
07 SEPTEMBER 2025/Office Nominations
12 OCTOBER 2025 / Elections
07 DECEMBER 2025 / Holiday Party

All Luncheons are on a Sunday from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Chartiers Country Club, 601 Baldwin Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15205

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

Interested in joining and/or attending and not yet a member. Please contact President Jon Comis or acting Membership Chair Minutolo by email or phone. Their contact information can be found in the Pittsburgh Chapter's Leadership Box.

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

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