



Northwestern Michigan Chapter Newsletter

November 2021

Next Chapter Event

December 10 – The Annual Christmas Gala and Scholarship Awards Dinner Meeting will be held in the Boardman Room of the Park Place Hotel in Traverse City beginning at 6:00 p.m. See the attached flyer to make your reservation. **Please RSVP to Mark Benjamin NLT Wednesday, 24 November.**



In Case You Missed It – News from MOAA (Click on the links to open them):

- 2023 Could Bring Largest Military Pay Raise in Decades. But Is It Enough? The increase may prove a target for budget-makers, and even a big boost may not give junior members the help they deserve.
For more information: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2021-news-articles/advocacy/2023-could-bring-largest-military-pay-raise-in-decades.-but-is-it-enough/>
- Still No Budget and No NDAA For FY 2022: Here's Why It Matters. Congress habitually misses its Oct. 1 deadline for funding the government ... and there are consequences.
For more information: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2021-news-articles/advocacy/still-no-budget-and-no-ndaa-for-fy-2022-heres-why-it-matters/>
- TRICARE and Retirement: Steps to Help You Get Ready. MOAA can assist with a complicated transition process. Here's what you need to know.
For more information: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2021-news-articles/tricare-and-retirement-steps-to-help-you-get-ready/>
- MOAA Testifies on Benefits Legislation Before House Subcommittee. From improved survivor compensation to cutting VA red tape, learn about bills designed to help veterans and their families.
For more information: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2021-news-articles/advocacy/moaa-testifies-on-benefits-legislation-before-house-subcommittee/>

FROM THE PRESIDENT – CAPT Robert (Bob) Kutulis, USAF RET

Dear Members,

As I write this note, your Board of Directors is preparing for the transition of a new slate of Chapter Leaders to continue and advance this active/vibrant Chapter for another two years. After six years as your chapter president, I will turn over the presidency to CDR Thomas Haase, USCG Ret. at our December 10th membership meeting. I (and I am sure all of you) wish him well.

The chapter received its Chapter of Affiliation from MOAA on October 13, 2015, presented by LtGen Dana T. Atkins, USAF Ret, President and CEO, MOAA. The chapter began with an initial membership of twenty-two members and has grown to sixty-four today. We have much to be proud of: Increasing membership as we built a strong/vibrant chapter; developed a Scholarship program we all should be proud of and one that is solely funded by our members donations; supporting and developing JROTC sponsorships; involvement in community and veterans' activities. All this takes work and our leaders and members stepped up to the challenge.

In the midst of all this, the pandemic confronted us. Again, our Board met this head-on cancelling and rearranging membership meetings, notifying and coordinating activities with the hotels, speakers, etc. It all takes time and work. As the pandemic eases, we are now moving into a more normal schedule of meetings and activities.

And why do we take on these challenges? It was best said by Col Tony Pimentel, USAF Ret, "Because of our commitment to Never Stop Serving, MOAA is dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring our nation keeps its commitment to currently serving, retired and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors."

You will undoubtedly notice in the flyer for the December meeting an increase in dinner prices. Given the current economic environment, hotels and restaurants have had to raise their prices. And because of the tight margins involved, they are not able to offer any special deals or pricing. When we go to a membership meeting all of us want to enjoy the evening, have nice accommodations, a good meal, and an interesting speaker. So, bear with us as we work through the challenges that face us.

Lastly, as I end my term as your president, I can assure you I leave the chapter in good hands. I want to thank ALL of You who gave their time and labor to make this chapter successful. And, who supported me and gave me good consul through the past years.

Respectfully,

Capt. Robert (Bob) Kutulis
USAF Ret
President, NWM Chapter, MOAA

| Chapter Structure – Effective December 2021 | |
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| <p>Board of Directors: Immediate Past President: CAPT Bob Kutulis, USAF, Ret. Director (USCG Liaison): CDR Gregory Clayton, USCG Director: COL Randy McClure, USAFR, Ret. Director (Elected): TBD</p> | <p>Chapter Officers: President: CDR Tom Haase, USCG, Ret. Vice President: CDR Mark Benjamin, USCG, Ret. Treasurer: MGEN Michael Lehnert, USMC, Ret. Secretary: OPEN Membership Chair: OPEN (Acting: CAPT Kutulis) Legislative Liaison: LTCOL Steve Chowen, USA, Ret. Programs Officer: CDR Mark Benjamin, USCG, Ret. Communications/Newsletter: CWO4 Curtis Erickson, USCG, Ret. Scholarship Chair: BGEN Scott Dennis, USAF, Ret. Personal Affairs Officer: OPEN Surviving Spouse Liaison: OPEN Chaplin: CWO4 Thomas Petersen, USN, Ret.</p> |



**Northwestern Michigan
Chapter MOAA**

Quarterly Dinner Meetings and Upcoming Events

CDR Mark Benjamin, USCG, RET
Programs Chair and Veterans Coalition
Representative

Friday, 10 December 2021, 6:00 p.m.: Annual Christmas Gala and Scholarship Awards Dinner Meeting at the Park Place Hotel (see flyer).

Thursday, 10 February 2022, 12:00 p.m.: Chapter Board Meeting at the TC Elks Lodge.

Friday, March 4, 2022, 6:00 p.m.: Social Gathering and Recruitment Meeting (Location TBA). This will be an informal gathering and social hour. The required quarterly meeting will be held during this event.

Thursday, 12 May 2022, 12:00 p.m.: Chapter Board Meeting at the TC Elks Lodge.

Mid-May: Putting for Patriots, Pirates Cove in Traverse City. This will be a fun time and will be a fund raiser for wounded veterans. More on this later.

June Dinner Meeting (Date TBD): The dinner meeting will be held at the Traverse City Golf and Country Club. The guest speaker will be our own member, COL John Wemlinger, USA, RET. John has written several books and is an entertaining speaker.

News From Other Chapters

Chapter President Bob Kutulis, along with Chapter VP Mark Benjamin and Secretary Tom Haase, attended a recent MOAA Capitol Area Chapter dinner meeting in East Lansing. A new slate of Capital Area Chapter officers was nominated, and will be voted on at their next meeting. Northwestern Michigan Chapter member John Wemlinger was the evenings guest speaker.

Save Your Oleson's and Family Fare Receipts

The Grand Traverse Veterans Coalition is collecting receipts from Oleson's and Family Fare Food Markets. A percentage of the collected receipt amounts will be donated to the veterans' suicide prevention group, 22 2 None. Please turn your receipts in to Coalition Representative Mark Benjamin.

For more information on 22 2 None, click on this link to their website:

<https://www.222none.org/>

Thank You Scholarship Fund Donors!

We would like to thank those chapter members who generously made donations in support of our scholarship fund:

- Roy Aydelotte
- Fritz Barratt
- Mark Benjamin
- Doug Bishop
- Scott Dennis
- Tim Goldsmith
- Tom Haase
- Bob Halliday
- Bob Kutulis
- Mike Lehnert
- John Lindsay
- Larry Manthei
- G. Movsesian
- Don Pond
- Jim Stephensen
- John Wemlinger
- Mike Wildman
- Brad Wortman

NW MICHIGAN MOAA

President – CAPT Robert Kutulis, CAPT, Ret.
Vice President – CDR Mark Benjamin, USCG, Ret.
Treasurer – MGEN Michael Lehnert, USMC, Ret.
Secretary – CDR Tom Haase, USCG, Ret.
Membership Chair – COL Randy McClure, USAF, Ret.

Legislative Chair – LTCOL Steve Chowen, USA, Ret.
Scholarship Chair – BGEN Scott Dennis, USAF, Ret.
USCG Liaison – CDR Andrew Clayton, USCG
Chaplin – CWO4 Thomas Peterson, USN, Ret.
Newsletter – CWO4 Curtis Erickson, USCG, Ret.

MOAA Membership

Why Join MOAA?

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military servicemembers and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers. MOAA members proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country: Never Stop Serving.

More About MOAA.

MOAA's greatest mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families, which is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's capital. MOAA's experts in Washington are there to support legislation that benefits the military community and are equally vigilant when fighting to stop legislation that threatens our livelihood. The larger our numbers, the greater our voice.

Membership is open to active duty, former, retired, and National Guard and Reserve commissioned and warrant officers of the uniformed services and their surviving spouses.



It's no surprise MOAA has been named Top Military Advocacy Association for the past 14 years straight.

Annual Christmas Gala and Scholarship Awards Dinner Meeting

Friday, December 10th, 2021

Park Place Hotel

300 East State Street, Traverse City, MI 49684

6:00 PM

- Our guest speaker for the evening is Dr. Nick Nissley, President, Northwest Michigan College
- The annual scholarship awards to deserving local area students will be presented
- The MOAA, Northwest Michigan Chapter Change of Watch will take place: Chapter founder and Current President Bob Kutulis, Captain, USAF (Ret) will be relieved by Tom Haase, Commander, USCG (Ret)

Please indicate your dinner choice(s) below. Dinner choices for the evening include:

Sauteed Chicken Breast, Herbed Salmon with Artichoke Cream Sauce, and Prime Rib of Beef w/Au Jus cooked to Med Temp. If desired, request Well Done below.

All Entrees include Ceasar Salad, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine, Coffee Service and Cake

Price: \$45.00 each

Member: _____ Guest: _____

Chicken Salmon Prime Rib Well Done Chicken Salmon Prime Rib Well Done

Dinner: 1 Member @ \$45.00, _____ Guest(s) @ \$45.00 \$ _____

Prospective New Member (list name) _____ No Charge

Scholarship Donation \$ _____

Chapter Dues: 1 year @ \$20.00, 3 years @ \$55.00 \$ _____

Total Amount Due \$ _____

Reservations to: Mark Benjamin, 3688 Holiday Village Road, Traverse City, MI 49686.
email: mebmd11@gmail.com or text at 231-642-1201

Please pay at the door. Make you check payable to NW MI Chapter MOAA

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NLT WED NOV 24TH, 2021