



Next Chapter Event

June 16 – The next Chapter Dinner Meeting will be held at the Traverse City Country Club in Traverse City beginning at 5:30 p.m. The country club is located at 1725 South Union Street in Traverse City. Dinner information will be contained in a forthcoming email.



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

- Senate Deal Would Make Comprehensive Toxic Exposure a Reality – Here’s what the bipartisan agreement would mean, and why MOAA members should contact their senators today: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2022-news-articles/advocacy/senate-deal-would-make-comprehensive-toxic-exposure-reform-a-reality/>
- Consider These 3 Things Before Your Next Overseas Trip – From insurance to COVID concerns and more, plan to avoid last-second surprises: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2022-news-articles/consider-these-3-things-before-your-next-overseas-trip/>
- Researchers Think They’ve Found the Cause of Gulf War Illness – Exposure to sarin gas may have sickened about 250,000 veterans. Read more about the decades-long study: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2022-news-articles/researchers-think-theyve-found-the-cause-of-gulf-war-illness/>
- Top Officer Sounds the Alarm Over Proposed Military Medical Cuts – MOAA has fought the plan to axe billets for years. It remains a threat to you health care and our nation’s military readiness: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2022-news-articles/advocacy/top-officer-sounds-the-alarm-over-proposed-military-medical-cuts/>
- It’s Time to End the Unjust Tax on Combat-Injured Military Retirees – Don’t let Congress lose focus on these veterans. Ask your legislator to support the Major Richard Star Act: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2022-news-articles/advocacy/its-time-to-end-the-unjust-tax-on-combat-injured-military-retirees/>



Northwestern Michigan Chapter MOAA

FROM THE PRESIDENT – CDR Tom Haase, USCG (Ret.)

Happy Spring everyone! I hope you all had a chance to escape to someplace warm for a little while. I want to thank Mark Benjamin for organizing and running the March meeting at Sleder’s Tavern; sounds like it was a good time and informative with Marty Colburn briefing us on things in Traverse City.

As part of our efforts to reach out to our elected officials on issues impacting our Armed Forces, we were able to have telephone meetings with Representative Bergman and with Senator Stabenow’s staff. Both were good meetings and I think we were able to educate them on the issue of substantially higher co-pays for mental health care paid by active and retired Tricare users than the rest of federal employees. While these co-pays may not seem like a huge deal for a single visit, the nature of mental health care is that typically there will be a lot of visits and the cost quickly add up. Concurrent receipt for disability pay and retired pay, as well as cost of living increases, were the other issues we addressed with the Congressman. Senator Stabenow is a co-signer of the bill along with 56 other senators. The bill has cleared committee in the Senate and hopefully it will make it to the floor before the end of the session. We are still working to set up other appointments with Representatives Moolenaar and Huizenga.

Please check out the upcoming events. I hope to see you all soon.

2022 Northwestern Michigan Chapter Structure

Board of Directors:

Immediate Past President.....	Capt Bob Kutulis, USAF (Ret.)	kutulis@charter.net
Director (USCG Liaison).....	CDR Gregory Clayton, USCG	Gregory.A.Clayton@uscg.mil
Director	Col Randy McClure, USAFR (Ret.)	rmac927@yahoo.com
Director (Elected).....	TBD	

Chapter Officers:

President.....	CDR Thomas Haase, USCG (Ret.)	thaase76@gmail.com
Vice President	CDR Mark Benjamin, USCG (Ret.)	mebmd11@gmail.com
Treasurer	MajGen Michael Lehnert, USMC (Ret.)	wontolla44@gmail.com
Secretary.....	Open	
Membership Chair	Col Greg Movsesian, ANG (Ret.)	gmo50@outlook.com
Legislative Liaison	LTC Steve Chowen, USA (Ret.)	shchowen@hotmail.com
Programs Officer.....	CDR Mark Benjamin, USCG (Ret.)	mebmd11@gmail.com
Communications/Newsletter.....	CWO4 Curtis Erickson, USCG (Ret.)	curtis_erickson@outlook.com
Scholarship Chair	Brig Gen Scott Dennis, USAF (Ret.)	sldennisf16@gmail.com
Personal Affairs Officer	Open	
Surviving Spouse Liaison	Karen Movsesian	gmo50@outlook.com
Chaplain	CWO4 Thomas Peterson, USN (Ret.)	thomas.peterson70@yahoo.com

Quarterly Dinner Meetings and Upcoming Events

CDR Mark Benjamin, USCG, Ret.
Programs Chair and Veterans Coalition Representative

Grand Traverse Area Veterans Coalition:

The Veterans Suicide Prevention Group 22 2 None, receives a percentage of sales from Olsen's Grocery store as well as Family Fare Food Markets. Save these receipts and turn them in to any MOAA Board Member. We will forward them on to this worthwhile organization.

Events

Quarterly Dinner Meeting: Friday, 17 June at 6pm, Traverse City Country Club. The Guest speaker is our own Chapter member and award-winning author, John Wemlinger. There will also be a silent auction.

Annual Summer Picnic: 11 August at the Silver Lake Recreation area. This will be a family event with kids' games. Lunch will be at Bill's Pavilion at noon.

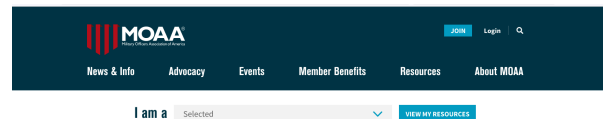
Quarterly Dinner Meeting: Thursday 8 September at 5:30 p.m. at the Reflect Bistro, Cambria Suites, 255 Munson Ave, Traverse City. The guest speaker is Surviving Spouse Rep. Karen Movsesian.

Annual Scholarship Dinner and Christmas Gala: Friday, 16 December at the Traverse City Country Club. Scholarships awarded. Guest Speaker, Dr. Nick Nissley, President, Northwestern Michigan College.

NWM Newsletter- Membership Corner

Col Greg Movsesian, ANG, Ret.
Membership Chair

The NWM Chapter has gained five new members since January 2022. That represents a seven percent increase in membership! There are many recruiting tools we can use, but our most important recruiting tool is ourselves. If you know a Veteran Officer of any Service Branch, including the Reserve and Guard, talk to them about our Chapter. Our Chapter has outstanding social gatherings and events, but most importantly MOAA is here to help protect our Veteran status and benefits and will be here for our Spouses when needed. Please contact me with names and contact information for prospective members.



If you have not done so, please establish a member account on the MOAA website, MOAA.org. There is useful information for all members that is updated regularly. In addition, it is important to the Chapter that your profile is current. After logging in, go to "my account". Verify your contact information, including your email address and phone. Then click on the name and contact preferences and make your personal choices. Under Promotion Contact Information, check the appropriate boxes to your personal needs. Finally, under Personal Communication Information, select your "Preferred Communication Method". Then click Save. Taking the time to do this will make the Chapter Roster more accurate. Contact me with questions.

March Dinner Meeting

The spring Chapter dinner meeting was held at Sleder's Family Tavern in Traverse City on March 3, 2022.

Those members who attended the meeting enjoyed a good meal, good beverages, and the comradery of others.

The guest speaker, Marty Colburn, City Manager for Traverse City, spoke of how his military experiences prepared him for his career in public service.



Traverse City Manager Marty Colburn.

Daniel Smith, who is attending St. Mary School in Gaylord, received a \$1,000 scholarship from the NWM Chapter of MOAA.

He has been class president for four years at St. Mary and has been captain for both the football and basketball teams. He is looking to attend either Saginaw Valley College or Michigan State University and plans to pursue a double degree in Finance and Accounting.



Scholarship Chair Scott Dennis presented the scholarship to Daniel Smith.

2022 Veterans Lunch and Learn

The Grand Traverse County Department of Veterans Affairs is presenting three lunch seminars for veterans this year. The seminars are presented at no cost to veterans and will be held at the NMC Hagerty Center, 715 E. Front Street, Traverse City.

The seminars will be presented from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm on the following dates:

- Friday, July 22 – VA Spouse / Widow Benefits (open to veterans and their spouses)
- Friday September 16 – Veteran's Benefits

Veterans will be served a lunch buffet while learning about benefits that are available to them. Every attendee will get entered to win a "Bug out bag".

Call the Grand Traverse Department of Veterans Affairs at 231-995-6070 to register for a seminar. You can also show up at the door the day of the event.

These seminars are funded in part through a Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency Grant.