



Northwestern Michigan Chapter

February 2023

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### Next Chapter Event

**Thursday, March 2** – The next Chapter Dinner Meeting will be held at the Cambria Suites Hotel in Traverse City, beginning at 5:30 pm. The hotel is located at 255 Munson Avenue (US-31), Traverse City, MI 49686. Our guest speaker will be Chapter Member Brad Graft, who will speak to us about “Mamluks and Answering the Muse”. See you there!



In case you missed it – News from MOAA (Click on the links to open them):

- **Here’s How Servicemembers and Retirees Can Get Free Tax Help.** Whether you’re seeking in-person assistance or online resources, check these links out before you file. <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/finance/heres-how-servicemembers-and-retirees-can-get-free-tax-help/>
- **Bipartisan Bill Offers Long-Sought Fix to TRICARE Young Adult Coverage Gap.** Here’s how you can join MOAA’s fight to bring TRICARE in line with commercial plans. <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/advocacy/bipartisan-bill-provides-long-sought-fix-to-tricare-young-adult-coverage-gap/>
- **VA Warns Against PACT Act Fraud Targeting Veterans.** This historic expansion of benefits makes a tempting target for scammers. Here’s how to stay safe. <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/health-care-and-earned-benefits/va-warns-against-pact-act-fraud-targeting-veterans/>
- **Push to End Offset for Combat-Injured Veterans off to Strong Start in Senate.** The Major Richard Star Act marks a big step toward concurrent receipt of DoD and VA compensation. Here’s how you can help. <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/advocacy/push-to-end-offset-for-combat-injured-veterans-off-to-strong-start-in-senate/>
- **Fighting Vet Homelessness and Suicide Top State of the Union ‘Unity Agenda’.** President Joe Biden called caring for veterans and their families "our nation's one truly sacred obligation." <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/recommended-reads/fighting-vet-homelessness-and-suicide-top-state-of-the-union-unity-agenda/>



## Northwestern Michigan Chapter MOAA

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

Greetings to everyone as we slowly transition to summer. I want to thank Mark Benjamin for filling in for me at our December meeting. I was disappointed to miss the meeting but I don't think any of you wanted me to share my COVID with you. Thankfully our symptoms were very mild and short lived. Many of you have shared with me how impressive our scholarship winners were. Credit goes out to all of you for our largest scholarship awards ever. We are off to a good start for this year but every little bit helps

We have some exciting events upcoming with the March Quarterly Meeting being held at Cambria Suites. Brad Graft will be our speaker with his topic being Mamluks and Answering the Muse. Brad is one of our published authors in our Chapter and it should be very interesting. Please check out the rest of the meetings and other events later in this Newsletter and get those dates on your calendar. One date you might want to make special note of is September 13<sup>th</sup> when our Chapter will be visited by Frank Michael, CAPT USN (ret). Frank is the Director of Council and Chapter Affairs with MOAA and will be our program that evening.

MOAA will be conducting an in-person Advocacy in Action at the end of April this year and I will be part of the Michigan contingent visiting our Congressional Delegation and advocating for legislation in support of our active duty, reserve, National Guard and retired communities. I will update you on how things went in our May Newsletter.

Your Board approved Vincent Lobisco as Chapter Chaplain, CDR Andy Clayton as Legislative Liaison and CDR Andy Schanno as our Coast Guard Liaison. Thank You to Vincent and the two Andy's for stepping up.

Until next time.... Never Stop Serving

Tom Haase  
President, NWMI Chapter of MOAA

### 2023 Northwestern Michigan Chapter Structure

#### Board of Directors:

Immediate Past President .....	Capt Bob Kutulis, USAF (Ret.).....	<a href="mailto:kutulis@charter.net">kutulis@charter.net</a>
Director (USCG Liaison) .....	CDR Andy Schanno, USCG .....	<a href="mailto:Andrew.G.Schanno@uscg.mil">Andrew.G.Schanno@uscg.mil</a>
Director .....	Col Randy McClure, USAFR (Ret.).....	<a href="mailto:rmac927@yahoo.com">rmac927@yahoo.com</a>
Director (Elected) .....	TBD	

#### Chapter Officers:

President .....	CDR Thomas Haase, USCG (Ret.).....	<a href="mailto:thaase76@gmail.com">thaase76@gmail.com</a>
Vice President.....	CDR Mark Benjamin, USCG (Ret.).....	<a href="mailto:mebmd11@gmail.com">mebmd11@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer .....	MajGen Michael Lehnert, USMC (Ret.) .....	<a href="mailto:wontolla44@gmail.com">wontolla44@gmail.com</a>
Secretary .....	Open	
Membership Chair.....	Col Greg Movsesian, ANG (Ret.).....	<a href="mailto:gmo50@outlook.com">gmo50@outlook.com</a>
Legislative Liaison .....	CDR Andy Clayton, USCG.....	<a href="mailto:gaclayton@gmail.com">gaclayton@gmail.com</a>
Programs Officer .....	CDR Mark Benjamin, USCG (Ret.).....	<a href="mailto:mebmd11@gmail.com">mebmd11@gmail.com</a>
Communications/Newsletter .....	CWO4 Curtis Erickson, USCG (Ret.) .....	<a href="mailto:curtis_erickson@outlook.com">curtis_erickson@outlook.com</a>
Scholarship Chair .....	Brig Gen Scott Dennis, USAF (Ret.).....	<a href="mailto:sldennisf16@gmail.com">sldennisf16@gmail.com</a>
Personal Affairs Officer.....	Open	
Surviving Spouse Liaison.....	Karen Movsesian .....	<a href="mailto:themovsesians@gmail.com">themovsesians@gmail.com</a>
Chaplain .....	LT Vince Lobisco, USN (Ret.).....	<a href="mailto:lobisco1@sbcglobal.net">lobisco1@sbcglobal.net</a>

## Upcoming Events and Quarterly Dinner Meetings

CDR Mark Benjamin, USCG, Ret.  
Programs Chair

### Chapter Events

**Thursday, March 2** – Quarterly dinner meeting at the Cambria Suites Hotel beginning at 5:30 pm. The guest speaker will be Brad Graft, owner of the Pirates Cove Adventure Parks, who will speak about “Mamluks and Answering the Muse”.

**Friday, May 26** – Mini Golf fundraiser at Pirates Cove in Traverse City. Dinner at the Smoke and Porter restaurant will follow.

**Monday, June 12** – Quarterly Dinner Meeting and Silent Auction at the Traverse City Golf and Country Club. The guest speaker will be Tom Petzold.

**Thursday, August 17** – Annual picnic at the Peninsula Township Park at Bowers Harbor.

**Wednesday, September 13** – Quarterly Dinner Meeting. The guest speaker will be CAPT Frank Michael, USN, Ret. CAPT Michael is the MOAA Program Director, Council of Chapters and Chapter Affairs.

**Friday, December 15** – Christmas Gala and Scholarship Dinner at the Traverse City Country Club. The guest speaker will be Dr. Nick Nissley, President of Northwestern Michigan College.

## NWM Chapter Supports ROTC and JROTC Programs

Bob Kutulis, Immediate Past President NWM Chapter

To “serve the community” is a stated purpose of the Northwestern Michigan Chapter, MOAA. To “give back” has been a goal of our chapter members. And, Never Stop Serving is MOAA’s motto.

With this in mind, our Chapter will begin supporting ROTC/JROTC programs in the northern portion of Michigan. Much of this work is recognizing outstanding cadets in each program, and presenting them with the MOAA ROTC/JROTC Medal.

The programs our Chapter is supporting include:

- Army JROTC Programs at Houghton High School (Houghton, MI), Calumet High School (Calumet, MI), and Luther L. Wright High School (Ironwood, MI).
- Army ROTC Programs at Michigan Technological University (Finlandia University, Houghton, MI) and Northern Michigan University (Marquette, MI).
- Air Force ROTC Programs at Michigan Technological University – Det. 400 (Houghton, MI).

## VA Home Telehealth Program

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs offers a Home Telehealth Program through the Aleda E. Lutz Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Saginaw, Michigan. Telehealth services are health-related services and information and are provided using modern telecommunication technologies. It allows long-distance patient and clinician contact, care, advice, reminders, intervention, monitoring, and remote enrollments. This makes it easier for Veterans to access care when and where they need it.

The Telehealth Program is offered at no cost to you, and:

- Allows you to let your Health Care Team know how you are doing daily
- Saves trips to the medical center or clinics
- Puts you in control of your healthcare.
- Keeps you on-track with your plan of care with daily reminders and encouragement
- Allows your healthcare team to manage symptoms so you receive early care

If you are interested in Home Telehealth or would like further information, contact your provider or the Home Telehealth Office at 1-989-497-2500, ext. 11132 or ext. 15338.

## **NMC International Affairs Forum Programs**

Since its founding in 1994, the International Affairs Program at Northwestern Michigan College has brought season after season of renowned speakers – diplomats, ambassadors, economists, military leaders, journalists, educators, and other great minds – to Traverse City to challenge us to think critically about issues of local and global significance.

Upcoming spring programs include the following:

March 10 – The Devil’s Element: Phosphorus and a World Out of Balance – Presented by Dan Egan, author and journalist with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. This is a joint in-person and virtual event with the National Writers Series, and will be presented at the City Opera House.

April 20 – Arabian Peninsula: Evolving Dynamics – Presented by Ambassador Greta Holtz, Chancellor, College of International Security Affairs, National Defense University and former U. S. Ambassador to Oman. This is an in-person and virtual event, and will be held at the Dennon Museum Center.

May 10 – World Press Freedom – Presented by Joyce Barnathan, former President, International Center for Journalists, and former Editor, BusinessWeek and Newsweek. This in-person and virtual event will be held at the Dennon Museum Center.

The programs are free for students and educators. You can get more information on the International Affairs Program series as well as ordering tickets by calling (231) 995-1844 or on the International Affairs Forum website at <https://www.tciaf.com>

Editor’s Note: We would like to congratulate our NWMI Chapter Treasurer, MajGen Michael Lehnert, as having been selected as a Co-Chair of the NMC International Affairs Forum.

## **Grand Traverse Area Veterans Coalition**

CWO4 Curtis Erickson, USCG, Ret.  
NWMI Chapter MOAA Representative

The Northwestern Michigan Chapter of MOAA is one of the 40 veterans groups that are members of the Grand Traverse Veterans Coalition (GTAVC) organization. The Veterans Suicide Prevention Group, 22 2 None is a member of GTAVC and works to raise awareness and provide support to end veteran suicide.

Save your Oleson’s Grocery Store and Family Fare Market receipts and turn them in to a MOAA Chapter Board Member. We will forward them on to this worthwhile organization – they will receive donations based upon the receipt amounts.

You can get additional information on this group at their website, [www.222none.org](http://www.222none.org) .

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## **MOAA Program Director to Speak to the Chapter**

The MOAA Program Director for Council and Chapter Affairs, Capt. Frank J. Michael, USN (Ret) will be the guest speaker at our September Dinner Meeting. He is responsible for direct support of MOAA’s nationwide network of more than 400 active and engaged affiliates as they influence legislation, serve their local communities in impactful ways, grow membership at the local and national levels, and increase MOAA brand awareness nationwide.

During his naval career, Captain Michael commanded Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron 47 (HSL-47) and led Navy helicopter relief efforts following the 2004 Indonesian tsunami and 2005’s Hurricane Katrina.

He also commanded USS Boxer (LHD 4), and participated in Captain Phillips’ rescue operation in the Indian Ocean.

## Why Join MOAA?

Do you know anyone who meets the requirement for membership in MOAA and is *not* a member?

### Who We Are

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military service members 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.

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.

### Who Can Join

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.

There are three levels of membership:

#### Basic Membership

As a MOAA BASIC Member, you'll have free electronic access to MOAA e-communications about news and support of critical advocacy efforts to protect your military benefits. The Basic Membership is FREE.

#### Premium Membership

MOAA PREMIUM Membership gives you total access to everything MOAA has to offer, including our full spectrum of career and financial resources, MOAA-exclusive publications, college scholarships for dependents, and countless discounts on products and travel.

#### Life Membership

MOAA LIFE Membership is the most elite membership category. As a MOAA LIFE Member, you'll receive all of MOAA's PREMIUM benefits - plus more - for life. Additional benefits include spouse protection and direct access to MOAA staff experts on the dedicated MOAA LIFE Member Hotline.

Additional information on MOAA memberships and benefits can be found on the MOAA website:

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

#### **Northwestern Michigan Chapter Membership**

***If you know someone is already a member of MOAA, is not a member of our Chapter, and they live in the Northern Michigan area, please give them a copy of our Chapter membership application. A copy of the form is attached to this newsletter.***

## Scholarship Awards Presented at December Dinner Meeting

The Chapter's Annual Christmas Gala and Scholarship Awards Dinner was held at the Traverse City Country Club December 16<sup>th</sup>. Chapter Vice President Mark Benjamin hosted the evening's festivities. Mr. Dan Zassick, Great Lakes Maritime Academy Simulation Manager and instructor spoke to the audience.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of scholarships to Northern Michigan students. This was the Chapter's seventh year of awarding scholarships. Candidates from across Northern Michigan are considered, whether they are a child or grandchild of an active duty or retired military member of the uniformed services, National Guard or Reserves, or a MOAA Member. To date, our Chapter has given over 343 scholarships totaling \$27,000 to Northern Michigan students. Scholarships awarded this year totaled \$7,000. *It is through the generous support of our Chapter members that we can proudly assist these students in pursuit of their education beyond high school.*

Evan Renn was selected for the \$750 Returning MOAA Scholar Award. Evan attends the University of Michigan and is pursuing a degree in psychology. He was unable to attend the dinner meeting.

Abigail Cartwright was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship, attends Bellaire High School, and is currently dual-enrolled at Kirtland Community College. She intends to attend Ferris State University in pursuit of a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing.

Mackenzie St. John was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. McKenzie attends Kingsley High School and is pursuing her Pharmacology Tech Certificate in her spare time. She is dual-enrolled at Northwestern Michigan College and has attended the Career Tech Center in Health Sciences. She intends to attend either Northern Michigan University or Michigan State University for a degree in Pathology.

Naomi Barnett received a \$750 scholarship award. She attends Grayling High School. She plans to pursue a career in dentistry, and intends to attend the University of Michigan.

Adeline Lacross received a \$1,000 scholarship award. She attends Leland High School and is president of the student council. She plans to pursue a career in Equine Chiropractic or Animal Sciences.

Ava Schultz was selected for a \$1,000 scholarship, but was unable to attend the evening's award dinner. Ava attends St. Mary Cathedral School in Gaylord. She plans to pursue a career in sports medicine or physical therapy. She is considering Saginaw Valley State University, Michigan State University and the University of Michigan for college.

Audrey Lee was presented the \$1,500 Bob Kutulis Scholarship. Audrey attends Traverse City St. Francis High School and is her class Vice President and the Environmental Club Vice President. She wants to pursue neuroscience at a four-year college.

(continued on next page)

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### Notes from Scholarship Winners:

"... It was a huge honor to receive your number 1 overall scholarship and to spend the evening with incredible veterans..." – Audrey Lee

"... I would like to express my continued gratitude for your help along my college journey..." – Evan Renn

"Thank you for awarding me with this generous scholarship..." – Olivia Lowe

"... I was fortunate enough to be a two-time recipient of your college scholarship program... Your scholarship program helped me purchase the books I greatly needed to be successful in the classroom..." – Emma Theisen

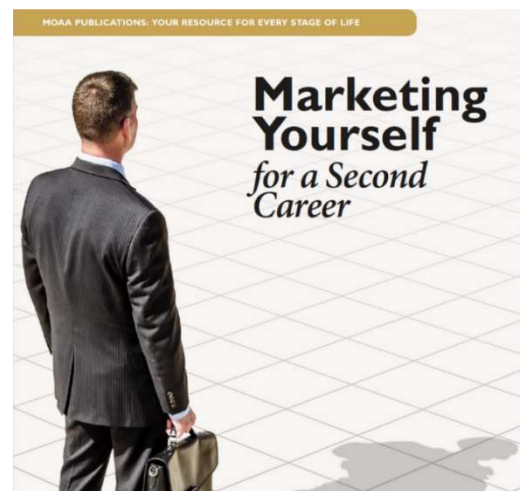
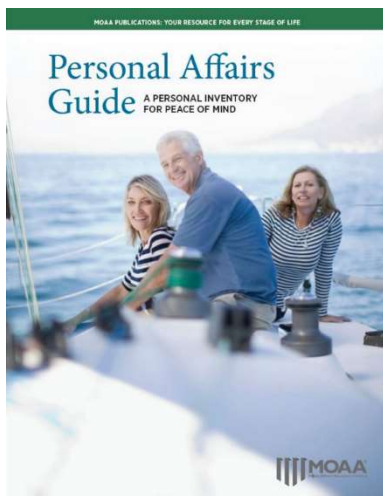


### 2022 NWMI Chapter Scholarship Award Winners

(Left to Right): Mark Benjamin, NWMI Chapter Vice President; Abigail Cartwright; Audrey Lee; Adeline LaCross; Naomi Barnett; Mackenzie St. John; and NWMI Chapter Scholarship Chair, Scott Dennis.

### MOAA Publications are Available to Members

MOAA has number of publications on various subjects available to MOAA members. These publications are available FREE to Lifetime and Premium members, and are available to you on the MOAA website at: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/moaa-publications/moaa-publications/>



### U.S. Global Leadership Council Invite-Only Town Hall Meeting to be Held in Traverse City

An exclusive in-person town hall meeting with Representative Jack Bergman (R-MI-01) and LtGen Robert S. Walsh, USMC (Ret.) will be held on Tuesday, March 14, from 12:00 to 1:30 PM at the Delamar Traverse City. The hotel is located at 615 E. Front Street, Traverse City, MI 49686.

Representative Bergman will speak to America's role in the world, and how our economic and security interests grow by the day. He will also talk about the enduring importance of U.S. global engagement.

A complimentary lunch is included; registration is required to attend. Additional information and registration information is available using this link: <https://www.usglc.org/events/conversation-with-rep-jack-bergman/>



## Application for Membership – Northwestern Michigan Chapter

A membership in good standing with the National MOAA organization is a requirement for Regular Chapter Membership. Auxiliary Membership is for surviving spouses of deceased members and those surviving spouses of any deceased individuals who would, if living, would be eligible for membership. Honorary (Non-Voting/Dues) Membership is by invitation of the Board of Directors of this Chapter.

Type of Membership Requested: Regular  Auxiliary  Honorary

Name (Last, First, MI) \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Status \_\_\_\_\_

National MOAA Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (Include Area Code) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Dues (Submit with Application - \$20 per year or \$55 for three years) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to: Northwestern Michigan Chapter, MOAA

Date Paid (For Chapter Use) \_\_\_\_\_

Date Accepted (For Chapter Use) \_\_\_\_\_

Submit Application to any Chapter Director at a Chapter Meeting, or mail to:

Northwestern Michigan Chapter, MOAA  
Gregory Movsesian, Membership Chairman  
8079 Aarwood Trail NW  
Rapid City, MI 49676