



Northwestern Michigan Chapter

August 2023

Next Chapter Event

Wednesday, September 13 – Our Quarterly Dinner Meeting will be held at the Traverse City Golf and Country Club, beginning at 5:30 pm. The country club is located at 1725 South Union Street, Traverse City, MI 49684. Our guest speaker will be Frank Michael, CAPT USN (Ret.), MOAA Program Director, Council of Chapters and Chapter Affairs. See you there!



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

- **VA Health Care Workforce Tops 400,000 as More Hiring Looms.** The new employees and strong retention rates have grown the Veterans Health Administration to its highest staffing level ever. <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/health-care-and-earned-benefits/va-health-care-workforce-tops-400,000-as-more-hiring-looms/>
- **This Bipartisan Bill Would Strengthen Earned Support for Survivors of Veterans.** Ask your lawmakers to back the Caring for Survivors Act and bring these benefits on par with other federal programs. <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/advocacy/this-bipartisan-bill-would-strengthen-earned-support-for-survivors-of-veterans/>
- **What Current VA Beneficiaries Should Know About the PACT Act.** Whether you are a veteran receiving disability pay or a survivor with a pension or other compensation, the law may affect you. <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/health-care-and-earned-benefits/what-current-v-a-beneficiaries-should-know-about-the-pact-act/>
- **New Rules Could Change Payment Method for Some VA Beneficiaries.** If you or a loved one receives a paper check for a VA pension, caregiver support, or other benefit, here is what you should know. <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/finance/new-rules-could-change-payment-method-for-some-v-a-beneficiaries/>
- **Senate Committee Orders Report on Military Medical Staffing Challenges.** MOAA continues its work to ensure planned changes will not affect access to quality care. <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/advocacy/senate-committee-orders-report-on-military-staffing-challenges/>
- **Senate Committee Orders Report on Military Medical Staffing Challenges.** "The laws are very archaic, very 1950s. ... They treat surviving spouses as if they are property." <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/health-care-and-earned-benefits/my-life-has-been-on-pause-surviving-spouses-of-service-members-fight-to-retain-benefits-after-they-remarry/>
- **How to Recognize (and Report) 5 Common Text Scams.** The uniformed services community is a preferred target for fraud. Here's how you can fight back. [https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/finance/how-to-recognize-\(and-report\)-5-common-text-scams/](https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/finance/how-to-recognize-(and-report)-5-common-text-scams/)



Northwestern Michigan Chapter MOAA

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

As summer winds down we get back into a more active season for our Chapter of MOAA. This is not to say that our members have not been busy with many other activities during the summer. Many more of our members have been actively serving our community than I can list but hear are a couple of examples: Joy Dean put her Navy service to good use as the Liaison to the F-18 Tactical Demo Team that performed in this year’s Cherry Festival Air Show, Mark Benjamin and Curt Erickson assisted with the hosting of all the Air Show performers. Mike Lehnert continues to be the driving force for the International Affairs Forum. I know this just scratches the surface of all our membership does to live up to our motto: “Never Stop Serving”.

I hope to see many of you at our September 13th dinner at the Traverse City Golf and Country Club. We will be hosting Captain Frank Michael, USN (ret). Frank is in charge of Chapter and Council affairs for MOAA in Washington. A large part of his role is to visit Chapters and Councils around the country.

Please take the time to look over the Slate of Officers for the upcoming year. We will vote on this Slate at our December meeting. If any of you are interested in being more active in the Chapter, please reach out to myself or any of the members of the board for more information.

Tom Haase
President, NWMI Chapter of MOAA

2023 Northwestern Michigan Chapter Structure

Board of Directors:

Immediate Past President.....	Capt Bob Kutulis, USAF (Ret.)	kutulis@charter.net
Director (USCG Liaison).....	CDR Andy Schanno, USCG	andrew.g.schanno@uscg.mil
Director	TBD	
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	Tom Bratton, USAF Veteran	thomas.a.bratton@gmail.com
Membership Chair	Col Greg Movsesian, ANG (Ret.)	gmo50@outlook.com
Legislative Liaison	CDR Andy Clayton, USCG (Ret.)	gaclayton@gmail.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	Karen Movsesian	themovsesians@gmail.com
Surviving Spouse Liaison	Karen Movsesian	themovsesians@gmail.com
Chaplain	LT Vince Lobisco, USN (Ret.)	lobisco1@sbcglobal.net

Upcoming Events and Quarterly Dinner Meetings

CDR Mark Benjamin, USCG, Ret.
NWMI Chapter Vice President and Programs Chair

Chapter Events

Wednesday, September 13 – Quarterly Dinner Meeting at the Traverse City Golf and Country Club. The guest speaker will be Frank Michael, CAPT, USN (Ret.), MOAA Program Director, Council of Chapters and Chapter Affairs.

Friday, December 15 – Annual Christmas Gala and Scholarship Dinner. The guest speaker will be Dr. Nick Nissley, President, Northwestern Michigan College.

Thursday, March 14 – Quarterly Dinner Meeting at the Cambria Suites Hotel, 255 Munson Ave (US-31), Traverse City.



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Veterans Benefit Session to be Held in Traverse City

A veterans benefit session will be held at VFW Post #2780 in Traverse City on Saturday, September 30 from 8:00 am to 10 am. All veterans are invited to attend the event, and learn about the benefits that are available to them. The VFW Post is located at 3400 Veterans Drive in Traverse City.

This event is sponsored by the Grand Traverse County Department of Veterans Affairs. To register, telephone the sponsor at 231-995-6070.

MOAA Program Director to Speak at the September Dinner Meeting

CAPT Frank Michaels, USN (Ret.), will be the guest speaker at our September Dinner Meeting. He is responsible for direct support for MOAA's nationwide network of more than 400 active and engaged affiliates, working to support the vibrancy and effectiveness of the affiliates.

During his Navy career, CAPT Michael commanded Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 47 (HSL 47), and led Navy helicopter relief efforts following the 2004 Indonesian tsunami and Hurricane Katrina. He also commanded USS Boxer (LHD 4) and participated in the 2011 Captain Phillips rescue operation in the Indian Ocean.



CAPT Frank Michaels, USN (Ret.)

Please Update Your Contact Information

Please take a moment to review and update your contact information on your profile at MOAA.org. We especially need you to review and/or add email addresses, as many appear to be missing or inaccurate. Thank you!



"Never Stop Serving"

June Dinner Meeting Highlights

The June dinner meeting and silent auction was held at the Traverse City Golf and Country Club June 12. Chapter member Tom Petzold spoke about his experiences during his service to the country, providing us with great insight into the current goings-on in the Russia-Ukraine war. The silent auction held that night was a great

success, and provided us with generous donations to the chapter's scholarship fund. Our scholarship fund is provided through the generosity of our chapter members.

Thank you to Greg and Karen Movsesian for organizing and executing the silent auction.



Tom Petzold presented an interesting talk to the group.



The presentation captured everyone's attention.

Second Annual Chapter Picnic a Success

The second annual chapter picnic was held on August 18th. The event was moved from the 17th to the 18th due to inclement weather. In all, 18 members and spouses attended the event at the Peninsula Township Park near Bowers Harbor. A good time was had by all. The next picnic will be held in August of 2024.



From L to R: Linda Stovall, Shirley Benjamin, Mary-Jo Draeger, Debbie Haase, Debbie Smith, Karen Movsesian.



From L to R: Mark Benjamin, Greg Movsesian, Bob Stovall, Ray Draeger, Roy Aydelotte, Walter Topp.

Northwestern Michigan Chapter Membership

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

Officer Elections to be Held at December Quarterly Meeting and Scholarship Dinner

Elections for our 2024 officers will be held at the December Quarterly Meeting and Scholarship Dinner at the Traverse City Country Club.

The proposed slate of officers for 2024 includes:

- President – Mark Benjamin
- Vice President – Greg Movsesian
- Secretary – Tom Bratton
- Treasurer – Tom Haase

If you are interested in holding one of these elected positions, please contact Tom Haase or Mark Benjamin prior to November 9.

The officer-selected chapter positions for 2024 include the following:

- ROTC/JROTC Chair – Bob Kutulis
- Membership Chair – Mike Wildman
- Legislative Chair – Andy Clayton
- Scholarship Chair – Deb Haase
- Surviving Spouse Liaison – Karen Movsesian
- Newsletter – Curt Erickson
- Director – Mike Lehnert
- Director – Scott Dennis

Proposed Chapter Board Meetings for 2023 and 2024

The dates for upcoming chapter board meetings have been tentatively set for the remainder of this year as well as next year. Board meetings are normally held at the Traverse City Elks Lodge at noon. The lodge is located at 625 Bay Street in Traverse City (Bay Street and US-31/Division Street).

All current chapter members are invited to attend the board meetings. The meeting dates are as follows:

- November 9, 2023
- February 15, 2024
- May 9, 2024
- August 8, 2024
- November 7, 2024

Thank you for stepping up to support our chapter and our goal to provide academic scholarships to deserving local students. If you know a deserving local student whose parents or grandparents served honorably in any branch of Service, please encourage them to apply!

Fall NMC International Affairs Forum Programs

The Northwestern Michigan College International Affairs Forum is sponsoring three events this fall that may be of interest to you. These events bring topics of international importance to the Dennis Museum Center Milliken Auditorium in Traverse City. For ticket information on these programs, please visit the website: <https://www.tciaf.com> or telephone the International Affairs Forum office at (231) 995-1844.

- Friday, September 22, 2023 – Alexander Evans, PhD, OBE, will speak on the subject of “Can Democracy Win the Cyberwars?”. Dr. Evans is a former advisor to the British Prime Minister, Strategy Director – Cabinet Office & Cyber Director – Foreign Office, former British Deputy and Acting High Commissioner to India & Pakistan, and former senior advisor to Ambassador Richard Holbrooke in the U.S. Department of State. He is a Senior Fellow at Yale University.
- Thursday, October 5, 2023 – Ambassador (Ret.) Susan D. Page will speak on the subject of “Africa: Permanent Crisis?”. Ambassador Page is Director, Weiser Diplomacy Center & Professor of Practice, International Diplomacy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan. She is a former U.S. Ambassador to South Sudan and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs.
- Thursday, November 9, 2023 – Kaveh Madani, PhD, will speak on the subject “Mideast Water: When the Well Runs Dry”. Dr. Madani is a Visiting Professor, Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London, Henry Hart Rice Senior Fellow at the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, Yale University. He is a former Vice President of the United Nations Environment Assembly Bureau, and former Deputy Head of Iran’s Department of Environment.



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: Northwester 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



**Northwestern Michigan Chapter
September Dinner Meeting**

**Wednesday, 13 September, 2023
Traverse City Country Club
1725 South Union Street, Traverse City, MI
5:30 PM**

**Guest speaker: Captain Frank Michael, USN (Ret)
MOAA Program Director, Council and Chapter Affairs**

Price \$55.00 per person Our buffet dinner includes:

- Grand Traverse Bay Salad
- Oven Baked Parmesan crusted Whitefish
- Grilled sliced Beef w/ Local Mushroom Sauce
- Rice Pilaf
- Green Beans
- Rolls and Butter

Name(s):

Member - _____ Guest(s) - _____

Total Number in Your Group Attending (Please indicate # of dinners):

<u>Member and Guest(s)</u>	<u>Amount Due</u>
Buffet Dinner: _____ @ \$55.00.....	\$ _____
Scholarship Donation:	\$ _____
Chapter Membership Dues (\$20).....	\$ _____
Total Amount Due	\$ _____

Reservations to: Karen Movsesian, 8079 Aarwood Trail NW, Rapid City, MI 49676

or email themovsesians@gmail.com

or text/call 313-318-4703 – Negative replies requested.

Advance payment is preferred, but you can pay at the door.

Check payable to NW MI Chap MOAA.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NLT Wednesday, September 6, 2023