



Upcoming Chapter Event

Tuesday, September 10 – Our next Chapter dinner meeting will be held at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, September 10th at the Traverse City Elks Lodge, 625 Bay Street in Traverse City. Our guest speaker will be CAPT Greg Matayas, USCG (Ret). He will speak on the Coast Guard's Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON). Please R.S.V.P. to Karen or Greg Movsesian no later than August 28.



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

New VA Website, Call Center to Protect Veterans from Increased Fraud Risk. The department has asked Congress to reinstate criminal penalties against companies that file illegal claims.

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/finance/new-va-website,-call-center-to-protect-veterans-from-increased-fraud-risk/>

Veterans' PACT Act Claims Continue to Rise, 2 Years After Law's Passage. The MOAA-supported law expanded VA health care eligibility alongside generational reform for toxic exposure-related benefits.

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/health-care-and-earned-benefits/veterans-pact-act-claims-continue-to-rise,-2-years-after-laws-passage/>

How DoD Must Protect Patients During the TRICARE Contract Changeover. These four areas top MOAA's priority list for ensuring your access to care in the coming months.

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/health-care-and-earned-benefits/how-dod-must-protect-patients-during-the-tricare-contract-changeover/>

Retirees, Veterans May See Only a Small Cost-of-Living Benefit Boost Next Year. One recent estimate puts the figure "substantially lower" than the 2024 adjustment.

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/finance/retirees,-veterans-may-see-only-a-small-cost-of-living-benefits-boost-next-year/>

74 Senators Back a Plan to Help Combat-Injured Vets. Why Won't They Vote on It? Reach out to your lawmakers today and ask them to include the Major Richard Star Act in the must-pass NDAA.

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/advocacy/74-senators-back-a-plan-to-help-combat-injured-vets.-why-wont-they-vote-on-it/>

What the 2026 Military Pay Raise May Look Like ... and Why It Might Not Be Enough. MOAA supports plans for generational reform to the pay table. Here's what the math could mean to those who serve.

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/finance/what-the-26-military-pay-raise-may-look-like-...-and-why-it-might-not-be-enough/>

MOAA-Supported Policy Change Will Help More Homeless Veterans. New rules will allow more vets to access a key support program. Learn what's next on MOAA's priority list for VA beneficiaries.

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/health-care-and-earned-benefits/moaa-supported-policy-change-will-help-more-homeless-veterans/>



FROM THE PRESIDENT – CDR Mark Benjamin, USCG (Ret.)

President, NWMI Chapter of MOAA

By the time you read this, our summer will be nearly gone. Sorry to see it go; but, with any luck, fall and winter activities will fill the void.

Our June event at the VFW included the annual Silent Auction Scholarship Fund raiser. Karen Movsesian headed up the auction efforts which netted \$1800+. Thank you, Karen and a hearty thanks to all you successful bidders.

This was followed in early August by a “real golf” outing along with our annual picnic. A huge thanks to Scott Dennis for putting this wonderful event together. Also, a huge thanks to Roberto: The food was wonderful!!

HELP WANTED: As mentioned in my last column, Karen Movsesian has stepped aside from her duties as Surviving Spouse Liaison and Personal Services Officer. In addition, Greg Movsesian has decided to move on from Chapter Vice President. He will stay on to complete duties as VP and Events Chairman until the end of this year. All three of these positions must be filled and soon. Also, my term as President, unless impeached sooner, will end in December of 2025. YET ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR SOMEONE TO EXCEL!! My Phone number is 231-642-1201.

Our next Quarterly Dinner Meeting will be on Tuesday the 10th of September at the Elks Lodge. Our Guest Speaker will be Captain Greg Matyas, USCG (Ret). Greg was Commanding Officer of the Air Station here in Traverse City and will be talking about his subsequent Command assignment as CO of something the USCG calls: HITRON. NO—it’s not a computer system. Don’t miss this one!

Earlier this month, I forwarded an email to all of you from Maj Gen April Vogel, USAF (Ret), regarding MOAA’s **Summer Action Campaign**. If you haven’t already done so, please look at that email, path over to the MOAA system and, with an already provided letter, contact your congressional delegation. This easy process allows us to support MOAA’s efforts to push Congress and pass the Junior Enlisted Pay raise, restore the Basic Allowance for Housing and, finally, pass the Richard Star Act. If anyone needs this email again, contact me.

Mark Benjamin

2024 Northwestern Michigan Chapter Structure

Board of Directors:

Immediate Past President	CDR Thomas Haase, USCG (Ret.).....	thaase76@gmail.com
Director (USCG Liaison)	CDR Ryan Hawn, USCG	ryan.d.hawn@uscg.mil
Director.....	MajGen Michael Lehnert, USMC (Ret.)	wontolla44@gmail.com
Director.....	Brig Gen Scott Dennis, USAF (Ret.)	sldennisf16@gmail.com

Chapter Officers:

President	CDR Mark Benjamin, USCG (Ret.).....	mebmd11@gmail.com
Vice President.....	Col Greg Movsesian, USAF (Ret.).....	gmo50@outlook.com
Treasurer	CDR Thomas Haase, USCG (Ret.).....	thaase76@gmail.com
Secretary.....	CDR Chris Buday, USN (Ret.)	cbuday@earthlink.net
ROTC/JROTC Liaison Officer	Maj Bob Stovall, USA (Ret.)	lrstovall@comcast.net
Membership Chair.....	LCDR Mike Wildman, USN (Ret.)	wildmike50@gmail.com
Legislative Liaison.....	CDR Andy Clayton, USCG (Ret.).....	gaclayton@gmail.com
Programs Officer	Col Greg Movsesian, USAF (Ret.).....	gmo50@outlook.com
Communications/Newsletter ...	CWO4 Curtis Erickson, USCG (Ret.)	curtis_erickson@outlook.com
Scholarship Chair.....	CAPT Dan Warren, USCG (Ret.)	warrendr@earthlink.net
Personal Affairs Officer.....	Open	
Surviving Spouse Liaison.....	Open	
Chaplain.....	LTC John Brian, USA (Ret.).....	airborneranger840@yahoo.com

Upcoming Chapter Events

Col Greg Movsesian, USAF (Ret.)
NWMJ Chapter Vice President and Programs
Chair

Tuesday, September 10: Quarterly Chapter
Dinner Meeting, Elks Lodge, Traverse City. See
page 1 for more information.

Thursday, December 12: Quarterly Chapter
Dinner Meeting, Traverse City Golf and Country
Club, Traverse City.

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!

Find Resources About Fraud Targeting Veterans

The phone number 1-833-38V-SAFE (8-7233)
and website VSAFE.gov get you information and
support for fraud attempts that target Veterans,
service members, and their families.

This source of information from across federal
agencies provides one place for education,
reporting and response on these targeted
attacks.

Grand Traverse Area Veterans Coalition News

We are collecting Olsen's Grocery receipts on
behalf of the Veterans Suicide Prevention group
22 2 None. These are turned in, with a
percentage of the receipt amounts being donated
to 22 2 None. Please give your receipts to Mark
Benjamin or Curt Erickson.



Past President Tom Haase and Chapter member Randy
McClure stand next to the tee banner sponsored by our
Chapter at the Reigning Liberty Ranch Golf Tournament
this past June.

June Dinner Meeting and Silent Auction

The June 2024 Chapter Dinner Meeting and Silent Auction was held at VFW Post 2780 in Traverse City.

The business meeting was held following the dinner presided over by Chapter president Mark Benjamin.

The silent auction raised more than \$1,800 for the Chapter's Scholarship Fund.

Chapter member John Van Ettan spoke to the group about the rescue operation that became the subject of the movie "BAT-21".

Quilts of Valor were also presented to Chapter members xxx and xxx by Jean Perkins, Quilts of Valor representative.



Chapter Member John Van Ettan was our guest speaker at the June Dinner Meeting and Silent Auction.



Quilts of Valor were awarded to Chapter Members John Lindsay and John Van Ettan by Quilts of Valor Representative, Jean Perkins.

Golf Outing and Picnic a Success

Four four-person groups of golfers set out on the pleasant afternoon to battle things out on the Elk Rapids Golf Club course on the afternoon of August 8th. One team came out ahead on the 4-person scramble event.

A tasty barbeque chicken dinner followed the event. We look forward to doing this again!



The winning team of the Golf Tournament on August 8 at the Elk Rapids Golf Club: (L to R) Roy Aydelotte, Membership Chairman Mike Wildman, Steve Chown, and Dave St. Aubin.



Mary Johnson, President of the Michigan Council of Chapters presented a MOAA Five-Star Level of Excellence award to Chapter President Mark Benjamin and Past President Tom Haase.

This award recognizes our Chapter as having been evaluated and scored in several different categories. These categories include advocacy, community engagement and outreach, recruiting and retention, leadership succession, and training.

THE LARGER OUR NUMBERS, THE GREATER YOUR VOICE.

Why MOAA chapter membership matters.



MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM FOR MOAA AND NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Name _____
Rank _____ Branch of Service _____
 Active Retired Former Reserve National Guard Surviving Spouse
Spouse name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Date of Birth _____ Telephone _____
Email _____

(To ensure delivery of MOAA communications, please provide a personal email address)

Are you a member of MOAA? Yes No Unknown

MOAA Member Number (if known) _____

Not a MOAA national member yet? Check here to receive a BASIC Membership at no cost to you.



Upgrading to **PREMIUM** membership gives you immediate access to a full spectrum of career and financial resources, exclusive publications, college scholarships for dependents, and countless discounts on products and travel.

Visit moaa.org/join to learn more.

How did you hear about MOAA Chapter involvement? _____

Are you a member of any other MOAA Chapter(s)? Yes No

If yes, which one(s)? _____

To complete enrollment:

- Fill in this form and email it to wildmike50@gmail.com. Do not include credit card information. Or,
- Mail it with a check made out to NWMI Chapter MOAA, and mail it to:

Mike Wildman, 702 Ahgosa Trl, Traverse City, MI 49686.

You will be opted in to receive e-communications from MOAA and your local chapter. You will be able to opt out of any further e-communications at any time. MOAA will not sell or share your personal information.

Chapter Membership and dues information

Get to know and enjoy the company of fellow officers in northern Michigan.

As members, we engage socially; award scholarships to deserving students; maintain a strong civic presence; and support legislation to preserve and enhance the benefits for active, veteran, and retired members of the armed forces of the United States of America.

Chapter eligibility is limited to MOAA members who have paid their chapter dues.

Chapter dues are \$20 per year, or \$55 for three years, and are payable on January 1 of the year after your membership has expired.

"Never Stop Serving"

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