



Upcoming Chapter Event

Thursday, December 12 – Our annual Christmas Gala and Scholarship Awards Dinner meeting will be held at 5:30 pm on Thursday, December 12 at the Traverse City Golf and Country Club. A traditional holiday fare will be served. The guest speaker will be Mr. Bruce Byl, who will speak to the subject “Persistence Makes Dreams Possible.” Please R.S.V.P. to Karen or Greg Movsesian no later than December 2nd. See the flyer for details.



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

Military Services Need More Training, Better Feedback on Officer Evaluations Critical for Promotions, Watchdog Says. “Personnel need to know in a timely manner how they are doing, including both strengths and areas to improve.” <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/transition-and-career/military-services-need-more-training,-better-feedback-on-officer-evaluations-critical-for-promotions,-watchdog-says/>

What to Know About TRICARE Costs and Changes This Open Season. Beneficiaries have less than a month to update their coverage. <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/health-care-and-earned-benefits/what-to-know-about-tricare-costs-and-changes-this-open-season/>

MOAA-Backed Bill Expanding Free Credit Monitoring Services Clears Senate. The bipartisan legislation would create parity across the armed services for this important benefit. <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/finance/moaa-backed-bill-expanding-free-credit-monitoring-services-clears-senate/>

VA Plans to Drop Copays for All Telehealth Services. The agency also will offer grants for rural telehealth clinics. <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/health-care-and-earned-benefits/va-plans-to-drop-copays-for-all-telehealth-services/>

Defense Health Agency Warns of Bogus Website Posing as Its Patient Portal. The "impostor" site poses as an appointment-booking tool. Using it could put your personal data at risk. <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/health-care-and-earned-benefits/defense-health-agency-warns-of-bogus-website-posing-as-its-patient-portal/>

Take Action: Ask Your Lawmakers to Back the Dole Act. The bipartisan bill will provide a lifeline for veterans and caregivers ... but Congress must act quickly. <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/advocacy/send-a-message-this-veterans-day-ask-your-lawmakers-to-back-the-dole-act/>



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

President, NWMI Chapter of MOAA

Summer is gone! First real frost for the season appeared at our house this morning.

Just a gentle reminder: Chapter membership dues of \$20 for one year or \$55 for three years are due in January if your membership expires this year.

We will have an election at the December Annual meeting for two prospective new members to our Board of Directors. Greg Movsesian is moving on from VP and Todd Sanders has stepped up to replace him. Tom Bratton has departed the Secretary position and Chris Buday has agreed to run for Secretary. Assuming member approval, the Chapter Board will be as follows:

- President..... Mark Benjamin, CDR USCG (Ret)..... Term ends Dec 2025
- Vice President Todd Sanders, MAJ USMC (Ret) Term ends Dec 2026
- Treasurer..... Tom Haase, CDR USCG (Ret) Term ends Dec 2025
- Secretary..... Chris Buday, CDR USN (Ret) Term ends Dec 2026

The Board of Directors has approved several new initiatives at our November meeting:

Chapter Website: Angie Morgan has volunteered to create and then maintain the website. The goal, at least initially, is to allow potential new members to go online and submit a membership application directly, via email, to Membership Chair Mike Wildman. He'll handle the rest. In addition, members will be able to sign up for our events and pay, should they choose, with a credit card. Funds would be deposited directly into our account. And finally, our website will have all chapter newsletters on file. All this is just the beginning; stay tuned!!

Annual Budget: Treasurer Tom Haase has proposed, and the board has approved an annual budget for 2025. This will cover various annual items such as GT Area Veterans Coalition dues, donations to entities such as Reigning Liberty Ranch and more. This annual budget will increase financial planning and be a more manageable system.

Andy Clayton has moved on from Legislative Liaison. We welcome new members Chris Johnson and Peggy Joyner-Johnson to our board. They plan to make the legislative job a joint effort. Thanks Chris and Peggy!! We still need a Surviving Spouse Liaison Officer as well as a Personal Services Officer.

And finally, the really, really, boring stuff: I have appointed Mike Wildman and Tom Haase to review and make proposed revisions to our by-laws, as needed. The Goal here is to have a draft for approval at the 13 February Board meeting and chapter membership approval at the 20 March meeting.

I hope to see you all at the Christmas Gala and Scholarship Dinner on Thursday the 12th of December at the Country Club.

Mark Benjamin

2024 Northwestern Michigan Chapter Structure

Board of Directors:

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

Chapter Officers:

PresidentCDR Mark Benjamin, USCG (Ret.)..... mebmd11@gmail.com
 Vice President.....Col Greg Movsesian, USAF (Ret.) gmo50@outlook.com
 TreasurerCDR Thomas Haase, USCG (Ret.)..... thaase76@gmail.com
 Secretary (Acting).....CDR Chris Buday, USN (Ret.) cbuday@earthlink.net
 ROTC/JROTC Liaison OfficerMaj Bob Stovall, USA (Ret.) lrstovall@comcast.net
 Membership Chair.....LCDR Mike Wildman, USN (Ret.) wildmike50@gmail.com
 Legislative Liaison (Acting)LTC Christopher Johnson, USA (Ret.) cljpaj87@gmail.com
 Programs OfficerCol Greg Movsesian, USAF (Ret.) gmo50@outlook.com
 Communications/NewsletterCWO4 Curtis Erickson, USCG (Ret.)..... curtis_erickson@outlook.com
 Scholarship Chair.....CAPT Dan Warren, USCG (Ret.)..... warrendr@earthlink.net
 Personal Affairs OfficerOpen
 Surviving Spouse LiaisonOpen
 Chaplain.....LTC John Brian, USA (Ret.)..... airborneranger840@yahoo.com

2025 Chapter Events

Board Meetings

- February 13
- May 15
- August 14
- November 13

Quarterly Dinner Meetings

- March 20 at the Cambria Suites in Traverse City. The guest speaker will be Kate Melcher, Executive Director of the Fisher House.
- June 13 at the Traverse City Elks Lodge 323 in Traverse City. The *silent auction* to help finance our Scholarship Fund will be held that evening. The guest speaker will be Michelle Gallagher, Executive Director, Northern Michigan Chapter of the Red Cross.
- September 11th or 18th – The guest speaker will be Chapter member and author John Wemlinger.
- December 12 the Chapter Christmas Gala will be held at the Traverse City Golf and Country Club; Guest speaker: TBD.

Other Events

- Friday, May 16: Mini Golf Tournament at Pirates Cove in Traverse City.
- August (Date TBD): Golf tournament and picnic at the Elk Rapids Golf Course.

| 2025 | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| January S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | February S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 | March S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | April S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 |
| May S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | June S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | July S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | August S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 |
| September S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | October S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | November S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | December S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 |

Once Again, It's Time to Talk About Dues

LCDR Mike Wildman, USN (Ret.)

Membership Chair

Chapter members should already be aware that 2025 Chapter dues are to be paid by January 1st. This is the perfect time to consider upgrading your underlying MOAA Basic level membership to Premium or (paid up for) Life.

Nearly every new Chapter member opted for the Basic level of MOAA membership in 2024. There is no cost, and members are eligible for Chapter membership, vetted insurance plans, and discounts.

Premium Membership includes the Basic level benefits PLUS Military Officer magazine (monthly), career transition resources, expert consultation regarding pay and benefits, and scholarships, interest-free loans and grants for dependents. Dues for one year is \$62, \$106 for 2 years, and \$140 for 3 years.

Life Membership ADDS unlimited access to career resources; access to MOAA staff experts; reduced initiation fee at the Army and Navy Club in D.C., its affiliates and reciprocity with the Detroit Athletic Club, the University Club at Michigan State University, and many others. Best of all, Life members never need to worry about dues. Officers under 50 years old currently pay \$921, but dues drop according to age for new members or those transitioning from Basic or Premium. Life dues can be paid in 10 interest-free monthly installments, and credit is applied for all unused Premium dues.

Our Chapter leadership views all dues-paying Chapter members as equals, regardless of any member's MOAA membership level.

Visit www.moaa.org/join for more info.

If you have any questions regarding MOAA or Chapter membership, please contact me.

Mike Wildman

231-866-0979

Email: wildmike50@gmail.com

New Member Profiles

LTC Christopher Johnson, USA, (Ret.)

LTC Peggy Joyner, USA, (Ret.)

Chris and Peggy have been married 38 years, having met while assigned to the 1st Infantry Division Forward, Boeblingen, Germany in the 80's. Chris and Peggy both accessed through ROTC. Chris from Washington State University, Pullman, WA, and Peggy from Ohio University, Athens, OH. They both hold Master's Degrees in Logistics Management from Florida Tech.

Chris and Peggy also served together at Fort Bragg, NC, where they both deployed in support of Desert Shield/Storm, and Fort Lee, Virginia. Chris additionally served with the US Marines at Quantico, and at Camp Humphries, Korea. Peggy was also assigned to the US Joint Forces Command, Norfolk, VA, and taught ROTC at Longwood University/ Hampden-Sydney College, Farmville, VA. Following military retirement, they were both in Army Civil Service. Peggy culminated her career as an Officer Career Developer for the Army Ordnance Corps. Chris served in operations and culminated his career supporting exercises throughout the European theater.

They have three adult children and are joyfully awaiting their first grandchild next summer. Their son is currently serving as an Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal Officer (EOD) at Fort Gregg-Adams, Virginia. They reside on Duck Lake near Interlochen, having retired three years hence.

The Johnsons are also active in their church, VFW, Elks Lodge, and YMCA. Chris and Peggy enjoy being outside in every season hiking, skiing, and boating. They love long walks through the woods with their rescued Standard Poodle, Porter, entertaining their friends and family, and performing community service.

Peggy is the chapter's next representative to the Grand Traverse Area Veterans Coalition, and Chris has taken over as our Legislative Liaison.

Welcome New Chapter Members!

We would like to welcome the following new members to the Northwestern Michigan Chapter. Each new member's spouse (whose name is shown in parentheses) is also an auxiliary chapter member if they haven't also joined as a regular member:

- Dan Warren (Sarah)
- Steve Chapman (Jeannine)
- Todd Brown (Juliana)
- Juliana Brown (Todd)
- Harold LaLonde (Kelly)
- Joel Dorgan (Kim)
- Dave St. Aubin (Teresa)
- Chris Adams (Ann)
- Gary Perkins (Jean)
- John Baker (Carrie)
- Bradley Villeneuve (Kaitlyn)
- Shannon Riley (Melissa Freedman)
- Mary Jo Draeger (Walter – Current Member)
- Richard Grout
- Norman Bauman (Mary)
- John Van Etten (Lynn)
- Christopher Johnson (Peggy Joyner)
- Peggy Joyner (Christopher Johnson)
- Philip Rosi II (Jayme)
- Harvey Hanna III (Marcelle)
- Todd Sanders (Maura)
- Maura Sanders (Todd)
- Ryan Hahn (Christiana)
- Christiana Hahn (Ryan)
- George Spencer (Marlise Botelho)
- David Summers (Karin)

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!

Mid-Michigan Honor Flight

The Honor Flight network is a national organization that is behind the massive effort to see that all veterans have an opportunity to see all their memorials in Washington, D.C., free of charge. The Mid-Michigan Honor Flight group is part of the national organization, and is based out of Mecosta, Michigan. They sponsor flights that depart from Grand Rapids, Flint, and Traverse City. Each flight allows 75 veterans and their guardians to travel to Washington. Each veteran travels with a guardian who accompanies him or her throughout the trip.

In 2025 the Mid-Michigan Honor Flight organization plans to offer four Honor Flights (numbers 21 thru 24):

| <u>Departure City</u> | <u>Departure – Return Date</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Grand Rapids | 4/29 – 4/30 |
| Flint | 7/17 – 7/18 |
| Flint | 9/16 – 9/17 |
| Traverse City | 10/21 – 10/22 |

The veterans and guardians are flown to and spend the first night in Baltimore at a hotel after having toured various historic sites in the Baltimore area, such as Fort Mc Henry. The veterans and guardians travel to Washington D.C. the next morning via busses, and tour the various national memorials and monuments on, and near, the Mall. They also travel to Arlington National Cemetery and observe the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. After viewing the memorials, the veterans travel back to Baltimore and catch their return flight home.

Each Honor Flight costs approximately one-hundred-sixty thousand dollars and is funded through donations.

To find out more about the Mid-Michigan Honor Flights and how you can apply to take part in them either as a veteran or guardian, or how you can donate to support them, you can visit their website at:

www.midmichiganhonorflight.org. You can also email them at info@midmichiganhonorflight.com or telephone them at (231) 803-4255.

September Chapter Dinner Meeting



The September chapter dinner meeting was held on September 10th at the Traverse City Elks Lodge #323. Chapter member Greg Matyas, CAPT, USCG (Ret.) spoke to those in attendance about the Coast Guard's Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON). CAPT Matyas retired as the commanding officer of HITRON in 2023 and spoke to the history of the unit as well as the missions performed there.

Remembering Pearl Harbor

RADM Luke Frost, Director of Reserve Warfare in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations, will be speaking at Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) at 5:30 pm on December 5th. He will be speaking about both the tragic event itself and how the Far East will influence our near geopolitical future.

The presentation will be in Scholar's Hall, Room 109, and is presented by the Great Lakes Maritime Academy Strategic Sealift Midshipman Program. Scholar's Hall is located on the main NMC campus at 1450 College Drive in Traverse City.

For additional information on this event, please contact LT Bradley Villeneuve at telephone (231) 995-1218.

Grand Traverse Area Veterans Coalition

We are collecting Olsen's Grocery receipts on behalf of the Veterans Suicide Prevention group 22 2 None. When these receipts are presented to the Oleson Foundation, a percentage of the total receipt amounts is donated to 22 2 None as a grant. Please give your receipts to Mark Benjamin or Curt Erickson them on to 22 2 to None.

Quilts of Valor Presented at September Dinner Meeting

Chapter president Mark Benjamin hosted the presentation of three Quilts of Valor to Chapter members. The quilts were presented by Quilts of Valor Foundation representative Jean Perkins.



Quilts of Valor were presented to (left to right) Bob Kutulis, chapter founder and Past President, Steve Chapman, Michigan Council of Chapters President, and Quilts of Valor Foundation Representative Jean Perkins.

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. **BASIC**

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"

Revision 20240110



Annual Christmas Gala and Scholarship Awards Dinner Meeting
Scholarships will be presented to deserving area students

Thursday December 12, 2024

5:30 p.m.



Traverse City Golf and Country Club
1725 S Union Street, Traverse City, MI 49684



Guest Speaker: Mr. Bruce Byl, “Persistence Makes Dreams Possible”
A President and CEO of his own company, an Entrepreneur, Philanthropist,
and Investor

Dinner will be Traditional Holiday Fare served buffet style, and includes:

- Machus Salad, and Rolls
- Carved Turkey Breast, Pan Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, and Stuffing
- Roasted Ham with Dijonnaise
- Mashed Potatoes
- Sauteed Green Beans
- Roasted Squash Wedges
- Cash Bar with Drink Tickets
- \$55.00 per person.

Member Name: _____ Guest Name: _____

Number of meals times \$55.00 = Amount: \$ _____

Scholarship Donation: \$ _____

Chapter Dues (\$20.00/year, \$55.00/3 years, due Jan 1 annually). \$ _____

Total Amount Due: \$ _____

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

Email: gmo50@outlook.com or call/text 313-819-2870

Advance payment is preferred, but you can pay at the door.
Make checks payable to: NW MI Chapter MOAA.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NLT 5 pm DECEMBER 3, 2024