

October 2023

Website: <http://lincolnlandmoaa.org>

Upcoming Events

- October 13, 2023, Northfield Center, Springfield
- December 8, 2023, Northfield Center, Springfield
- February 9, 2024, location TBD
- April 12, 2024, location TBD
- June 14, 2024, location TBD
- August 9, 2024, location TBD
- October 11, 2024, location TBD
- December 13, 2024, location TBD

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THE SALUTE—Never Stop Serving...



Next Meeting Information

Dinner Meeting - Friday, October 13, 2023

Location: Northfield Center,
3280 Northfield Dr, Springfield, IL 62702
Onyx/Opal Rooms
Social Hour at 6:00PM, Dinner at 7:00PM
COST: \$33.00 Per Person

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE NOT LATER THEN 5PM
on Wednesday, October 11th**

**You can register online by going to our website
or by**

Contacting Dave Knieriem

Phone or Text: 217-899-5526

Email: dknieriem@casscomm.com

Let us know how many will attend the dinner meeting.

Our Program:

**Annual Business Meeting
Election of Officers**

Menu: Picnic Buffet

"End of Summer Picnic Celebration"

Tossed Salad

Potato Salad

Hamburgers

Southern Fried Chicken

Corn on the Cob

Homestyle Baked Beans

Fresh Baked Cornbread

Fresh Cut Seasonal Fruit Bowl

Homemade Cherry and Apple Pie

Ice Tea, Lemonade, and Coffee

President's Corner:

Our Chapter has a Facebook page presence on the web:

<https://www.facebook.com/MOAAlincolnland> Check it out—Also, it may be accessed through our website by clicking the “F” logo near the top of the home page.

Please help us with the following major tasks we have in Lincolnland

Chapter:

1. Help us RECRUIT new members. Members are our best recruiters. Please talk to potential members within your Sphere of Influence about joining us as we NEVER STOP SERVING.
2. Please attend our meetings—We Need Your Support!
3. Please help and support our fund raising efforts within the Chapter.
4. As National MOAA says “Never Stop Serving”



Legislative Liaison Update

At the MOAA regional leaders' workshop in September we were reminded once again of the importance of MOAA members being signed up to using the Legislative Action Center on the MOAA website to "remind" our elected officials that they need to preserve and protect the **earned benefits** of America's uniformed service members.

If you haven't logged into the MOAA Advocacy page and signed into the Legislative Action Center this is your "encouragement" to do so!

As I type this, we are in one of those "one step forward, two steps back" places.

The US Congress is still looking at not having passed the appropriations bills by the end of the fiscal year which portends a government shutdown.

So, the things we thought would be in the NDAA are not yet passed and are still not certain.

Make your concerns known on the Legislative Action Center's link!

On the state level, the bill that provided property tax relief for disabled veterans with a General under Honorable conditions discharge issue was vetoed by the Governor.

We are hopeful that the Veto session will resolve the issue.

So as always, we need to be vigilant in order to be engaged with our elected officials to make sure that our concerns are heard and that they continue to take care of our troops!

That means that we must ***Never Stop Serving!***

Semper Fi – Bob Tyler



From The Chapter Chaplain

Surviving Spouse Corner: Thrift Savings Plan Considerations

Find information and resources to help guide spouse beneficiaries.

By [Capt. Kathy Thorp](#), *USN (Ret)*, *Surviving Spouse Advisory Council and MOAA board of directors member*

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is a tax-deferred retirement savings and investment plan for members of the uniformed services. When your military spouse dies, you — as the surviving spouse — will need to make many decisions about the TSP's future in your financial planning.

For spouse beneficiaries of deceased participants' TSP accounts with a share of the balance of \$200 or more, TSP will establish a beneficiary participant account (BPA) in your name.

Having a good financial planner, who is particularly familiar with the TSP, is the key. He or she can guide you to the best option for your new investment plan, known now to you as a BPA.

According to [TSP.gov](https://www.tsp.gov), as the owner of a TSP BPA, benefits include:

- a diversified choice of investment options, including individual funds; professionally designed Lifecycle (L) Funds, which mix the individual funds with an eye toward specific target dates; and an option for investing in mutual funds
- tax-deferred earnings on traditional money
- tax-free earnings on Roth money if qualified
- low administrative and investment expenses
- the ability to roll your beneficiary participant account over to an existing civilian or uniformed services TSP account if you have one
- a variety of distribution options

Learn all that you can through hosts of various veteran financial planners' podcasts, websites such as [MOAA.org](https://www.moaa.org), and other social platforms. The most vital of all these is the [TSP webpage](#), where you will find a plethora of resources for your perusal.

From The Survivor Outreach Coordinator

It was a pleasure meeting so many Officers and spouses who continue to preserve the Corps and work toward the future of our military. I plan to provide information useful for survivors.

Eligibility for a Survivor Access Card.

1. You may receive either a Digital Automated Installation Entry card or the Survivor Access Card DA Form 1602. The type of card issued is determined by the installation entry procedures at the installation you are applying.
2. If you are planning to use your Survivor Access Card at a new installation for the first time you will need to register the card at the new location's visitor control center. You are encouraged to contact the installation you are visiting in advance to verify local procedures.
3. Eligible surviving Family members who meet the criteria to receive the Gold Star Lapel Button or Next of Kin (NOK) Lapel Button including widow or widower, parent, child, stepchild, child through adoption, brother, half-brother, sister and half-sister and stepsiblings are eligible to receive the Survivor Access Card. Additionally, the custodial parent or guardian of a surviving child is eligible to apply.
4. Surviving Family members who already have a military identification card granting installation access, such as a DD Form 1173 or Common Access Card (CAC)(Usually Retirees) are not eligible to receive the Survivor Access Card.

Any questions feel free to email me at michelle.r.rutherford3.ctr.@army.mil.

Best to all,

Michelle Rutherford

Survivor Outreach Coordinator

Illinois National Guard

Community Involvement

MOAA chapter members are making an impact at the local level by starting and running community service projects. Community service projects increase participation within a chapter, give potential members a reason to join, and help spread the word about the good work being done by MOAA and MOAA chapter members.

If your chapter is looking for a rallying point-and a way to make an impact at the local level-consider starting a community service project. The following describes 10 innovative community service projects your chapter can start.

(More ideas are below: Click the links to learn about [MOAA scholarship options](#), the [Honor Flight program](#), and [cemetery support committees](#).)

1. **Hold a flag retirement ceremony.** Members of the Clearwater (Fla.) Chapter host an annual flag retirement ceremony. The event performs a valuable service, is easy-to-do, and promotes patriotism in the local community.
2. **Start a scholarship program.** The New Hampshire Chapter hosts an annual clambake to raise money for their chapter-sponsored scholarship fund. Other chapters, such as the Heart of Texas Chapter, have hosted golf tournaments and raised the money needed to establish a perpetual scholarship through national MOAA's scholarship fund. Both scholarship programs help local students and give potential members a reason to join, since many members' children or grandchildren are named as scholarship recipients.
3. **Stuff the Bus.** The Kingdom of the Sun Chapter in Ocala, Fla., works with the county school district to help disadvantaged children get school supplies and clothing before the start of the new school year. Each weekend during July and August, chapter members park a school bus in front of Wal-mart. Members then distribute flyers that list needed items, and shoppers are asked to "stuff the bus" with their purchases, which later are distributed to needy schoolchildren.
4. **Adopt-a-Kid/Adopt-a-Vet.** Members of the Lancaster (Pa.) chapter are teaching area schoolchildren about the military and what it means to be a veteran through their Adopt-a-Kid/Adopt-a-Vet program. Chapter members share their experiences with students by showing them pictures, medals, and other memorabilia. The program helps kids better understand and appreciate the sacrifices made by our nation's veterans.
5. **Start a program that assists servicemembers and their families.** Members of the Tampa (Fla.) Chapter founded Operation Helping Hand in May 2004 to help the families of wounded active duty patients who are being treated at the James A. Haley VA Medical Center in Tampa. Operation Helping Hand provides families with emotional support, monetary assistance, and in-kind donations for things such as free rental cars and groceries. Special requests from active duty patients or their families also are

considered and granted in most cases. The program enjoys a broad base of community support and has received much publicity. The Tampa Chapter received a Newman's Own Award for Operation Helping Hand in 2005 and again in 2006.

6. Adopt a unit or a ship. In New Jersey, the 134-members of the Jersey Cape Chapter have adopted the crew of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Monomoy. The chapter decided to adopt the Monomoy after its commanding officer, chapter member Lt. Adam Chamie, USCG, deployed to the Persian Gulf. Chapter members contribute to the Monomoy fund, and the money is used to buy movies, magazine subscriptions, candy, snacks, board games, homemade cookies, and holiday decorations and supplies, which are shipped to the crew every month.

7. Start a Paint-and-Hammer Gang. Members of the Pikes Peak (Colo.) Chapter started a Paint and Hammer Gang, which builds wheelchair ramps and does repair work for needy seniors and low-income homeowners in the area.

8. Support an ROTC or Junior ROTC unit. Many of MOAA's 415 chapters support a college ROTC unit or a high school Junior ROTC unit. Chapter members present MOAA medals to outstanding cadets each year. (These medals are provided free to chapters that request them. For more information, call MOAA's Member Service Center at 1-800-234-6622.) Other chapters award college scholarships to cadets or contribute money for equipment and competitions.

9. Help homeless veterans. The San Diego Chapter and the Sunflower (Kans.) Chapter both participate in Stand Downs that help homeless veterans by providing them with food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, and VA and Social Security benefits counseling. Homeless veterans also receive referrals for housing, employment, and substance abuse treatment.

10. Support Guard and Reserve members. Members of the Savannah (Ga.) Area Military Officers Association help the local Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) office by briefing employers and Guard and Reserve members about their legal rights and responsibilities under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), which prohibits discrimination against persons because of their service in the armed forces. Chapter members also encourage employers to sign an ESGR Statement of Support to demonstrate their commitment to support employees who serve in the Guard or Reserve.

THE SALUTE—Never Stop Serving....



PROVIDING CRISIS RELIEF TO OUR NATION'S HEROES

Together, we can offer support and stability to the uniformed services and veteran communities during a crisis.



OUR GOAL

Our goal is to raise \$1 million to endow The MOAA Foundation's Crisis Relief Fund and continue our great work.



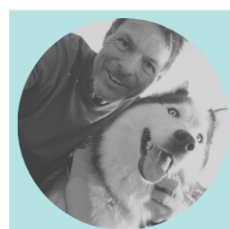
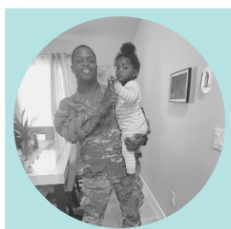
WHY CRISIS RELIEF?

More than 12 million veterans without a VA disability rating have virtually no support when disaster strikes.



CAN YOU HELP?

Our hope is your generous contribution will help us reach our goal to fund this program in perpetuity.



READY TO ASSIST

In April 2020, The MOAA Foundation launched an emergency COVID-19 Relief Fund to support uniformed services families impacted by the pandemic.

As the pandemic has ebbed, we know crisis-related needs of uniformed services families and veterans still exist.

To answer the call for help, we established The MOAA Foundation Crisis Relief Fund — an enduring emergency relief fund to assist uniformed services personnel, veterans, and their families (including caregivers and survivors) in the midst of crisis.

WHAT SETS US APART



Our streamlined application takes less than 20 minutes to complete, saving applicants the time they need to address other urgent priorities.



Funds reach an approved applicant's bank account within days of approval — timely relief when it can have the most impact.



Financial grants are awarded to qualifying applicants to help with housing costs, utilities, medical and insurance bills, groceries, and more.



100% of our Crisis Relief applicants would recommend our program to others in need.



(800) 234-6622



moaa_foundation@moaa.org



charities.moaa.org/crisisrelief

Lincoln Land Chapter MOAA

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[http://
lincolnlandmoaa.org](http://lincolnlandmoaa.org)



Our Purpose—Serving the entire Military Community locally & nationally

Our Motivation—Supporting our most reliable asset—the US military member

Our Means—Informing legislators, supporting local events & organizations

Our Membership—Commissioned Officers of the Eight Uniformed Services (USA, USMC, USN, USAF, US Space Force, USCG, NOAA, USPHS) who strongly believe in supporting a volunteer force for the safety and security of our country

MISSION OF THE LINCOLN LAND CHAPTER

Military Officers Association of America

The Lincoln Land Chapter's mission is to foster fraternal relations among the retired, active and former uniformed services and their National Guard or reserve components;

to protect the rights and interest of same to include dependents and survivors;

to further promote useful services for members of the former and current members of the Armed Forces and their dependents and survivors;

and to serve the community to the fullest extent possible.

MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.

While MOAA is permitted by law to lobby—and does so actively—its status as a tax-exempt veterans organization precludes it from participating in political activities, which are defined as intervening directly or indirectly in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Stated briefly: the association may advocate issues, but it may not advocate the election or defeat of particular candidates or political parties. This newsletter follows the policies of MOAA National.

**Now and Always
We'll be There.**



90228

1-800-247-2192 • www.moaainsurance.com



MOAA Legislative Action Center

You can help MOAA by visiting their legislative action center and contacting your elected officials regarding pending legislation MOAA is working. You can reach the Legislative Action Center at the following email address: [take action.moaa.org](mailto:takeaction.moaa.org)

Reasons to Join a MOAA Chapter

You know the value of belonging to MOAA and your chapter. But when you're talking to a potential new chapter member, it's important to remember that many officers might have only limited knowledge of MOAA's chapter system.

Creating a dialogue and asking open-ended questions is the best way to find out if and how a chapter membership could help a prospective member.

Find out as much as you can about their priorities in order to tailor a response that is more likely to resonate with them personally.

Here are some aspects of membership that may appeal to them.

- 1. Make yourself heard.** MOAA's chapters provide critical grassroots support for MOAA's national legislative agenda. Chapter members let their legislators know what's on their minds and open doors for MOAA's legislative team in Washington, D.C.
- 2. Give back to the community.** Chapter members are MOAA's ambassadors in their communities, supporting countless programs that make a difference in the lives of others. These members continue to serve and are giving back in the truest sense.
- 3. Value added to chapter members' lives.** MOAA chapters sponsor interesting programs and opportunities to interact with civic, political, military, and business leaders on issues important to members.
- 4. Networking with fellow officers.** Chapters include second-career members in the work force and retired service members who have contacts in their communities that can be valuable to transitioning officers.
- 5. Stay informed.** Chapter newsletters, websites, and meetings provide you with the latest information on local, state, and national issues and changes to military benefits.
- 6. Influencing state legislation.** Most states have a council of chapters that unites chapters in the state. These councils, and independent chapters in states without a council, often lobby for and pass state-level legislation that affects military members and their families, such as exempting military retired pay from state income tax or increasing funding for state veterans' programs.
- 7. Camaraderie with a purpose.** MOAA chapters unite active duty, former, and retired officers from every branch of service, including National Guard and Reserve, as well as surviving spouses, offering the opportunity to connect with others with similar backgrounds and interest and develop close and lasting friendships.

LINCOLN Land Chapter Leadership 2022-2023**IL-03 Lincoln Land Chapter**

***President, BOD:** David Miller, LTC USA, Ret, david.b.miller32.nfg@army.mil, or miller42@aol.com.

***1st Vice President, Webmaster, Dinner/contracts, BOD:** David Knieriem, Maj USAF, Ret, dknieriem@casscomm.com.

***2nd Vice President, Programs, Personal affairs, BOD:** Nathan Clemmer, LtCol USAF, Ret, Nathan.Clemmer@gmail.com

***Treasurer, BOD:** Eugene (Gene) Bian, COL USAR, Ret, gb2416@comcast.net

***Secretary, Communications & Publicity, BOD:** Maj Kory Harms, Kory.l.Harms.mil@army.mil

Legislative Liaison: Dr. Robert Tyler, Col USMC, Ret, Colphdbob@gmail.com

Membership Chair: David Knieriem, Maj USAF, Ret, dknieriem@casscomm.com.

Immediate Past President: Darrell L. Roll, COL USA Ret, darrell.roll@sbcglobal.net

Scholarships: Dr. Mark DePue, LTC USA, Ret, DePuemr@outlook.com

Surviving Spouse Representative: Michelle Rutherford

Honorary Chapter Chaplain: Justin Everson, je3453@gmail.com

*BOD = Board of Directors



2023 Lincoln Land ChapterMOAA Meeting Dates

February 10, 2023—Northfield Center, Springfield

April 14, 2023—(indoors) Island Bay Yacht Club, Springfield

June 9, 2023—The Beach House, Decatur

Fifth Annual Golf Outing— August 26, 2023—Shamboleer Golf Course, Petersburg, Illinois

August 11, 2023—(Outdoors) Island Bay Yacht Club, Springfield

October 13, 2023—Northfield Center, Springfield

December 8, 2023—Northfield Center, Springfield~Annual Christmas Meeting/Member Auction



All about MOAA

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. 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. MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization. With more than 350,000 members from every branch of service - including active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retired, former officers, and their families - we are a powerful force speaking for a strong national defense and representing the interests of military officers at every stage of their careers. MOAA's highest priority is providing first-class service to our members. We are the leading voice on compensation and benefit matters for all members of the military community. We provide expert advice and guidance to our members. While the association does advocate a strong national defense, it does not, as an association, become involved in matters pertaining to military strategy or individual weapons systems of the various services. The association's board of directors has long believed that such decisions can be made only by those who have all of the facts available to them: today's actively serving military leadership. The association plays an active role in military personnel matters and especially proposed legislation affecting the career force, the retired community, and veterans of the uniformed services. MOAA's overarching goals are captured in its resolutions, which reflect the views of the entire membership. The membership provides input and votes on resolutions every two years (on even years). While MOAA is permitted by law to lobby - and does so actively - its status as a tax-exempt veterans organization precludes it from participating in political activities, which are defined as intervening directly or indirectly in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Stated briefly, the association may advocate issues, but it may not advocate the election or defeat of particular candidates or political parties.