



**AIKEN CHAPTER**  
**THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**  
**COURIER**

**FEBRUARY 2023**

- PRESIDENT**  
 Lt Col Dick Dewar  
 (803) 649-4589
- 1st VICE PRESIDENT**  
 Capt Barbara McKnight  
 (315) 723-6185
- 2nd VICE PRESIDENT**  
 CWO2 Jerry George  
 (803) 643-9826
- SECRETARY**  
 Capt Brent Caldwell  
 (803) 226-0546
- TREASURER**  
 Sharon Smoot  
 (803) 642-1292
- MEETING COORDINATOR**  
 CPT Jeanne Townes  
 (803) 439-3303
- CHAPLAIN**  
 COL Jerry Eubank  
 (864) 888-7979
- COURIER EDITOR**  
 CAPT Kay Stepler  
 (678) 951-4554

**WEDNESDAY, 01 FEBRUARY 2023**  
 Newberry Hall  
 117 Newberry St SW  
 Happy Half Hour at 1800 hours  
 Dinner at 1830 hours

**Speaker: Steven Kuhl, Numismatist**  
**Topic: “The Confederate Raid on St Albans, Vermont”**  
 Steven is a nationally recognized authority in the field of Numismatics (the study of currency and medals)

**MENU**  
 Three Cheese Red Lasagna w/ Italian Sausage  
 Full Cash Bar

**Dress: Business Casual Attire**

**RESERVATION DEADLINE: 27 JAN 2023**  
 Cost \$25.00 per person - Checks requested  
 RSVP to CPT Jeanne Townes (803) 439-3303  
 jeannetownes@gmail.com

(Alternative meal available upon reservation.)

**Mailing Address**  
 262 Eastgate Dr #239  
 Aiken, SC 29803



# MOAA AIKEN CHAPTER AFFAIRS

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I continue to be pleased with the increasing attendance at our monthly meetings. It is a sign of a vibrant organization. This month's Courier contains important information regarding future meetings as well as additional information of importance to our military community.

At the beginning of our February meeting, we will place the medallion reflection our Five-Star Award for Levels of Excellence for 2022. Thanks for Allen Budnick who prepared the submission and the Board and Chapter Members who made the award possible.

When you prepare your State of South Carolina income taxes, please remember and give credit to MOAA for its support and leadership of the military coalition to eliminate military income from state taxation. We have had success in new members on a continual basis this year; possibly as a result of South Carolina being a more attractive place to live for military retirees.

On a sad note, I must remember Colonel Jim Clapp who died recently. Jim served us as our Treasurer for many years. Please keep Brigitte in your prayers.

January is the time for dues payment. The \$25 helps with chapter activities. At our last Board Meeting we vote to give \$500 each to the Fisher House of Augusta, K-9 Solutions and the Columbia USO. We are planning on a major fundraiser later this year which will enable us to provide more help to military affiliated agencies. See you at the February meeting.

Dick Dewar, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)  
Aiken Chapter MOAA President

# MOAA AIKEN CHAPTER AFFAIRS

## SITREP



Jim Lorraine, President and CEO of America's Warrior Partnership, gave an informative (and alarming) presentation regarding suicide amongst former military service members at the 11 January 2023 Aiken MOAA Chapter dinner meeting.

Jim is a former Lt Col USAF Flight Nurse with nine combat deployments. He retired as the Deputy Command Surgeon for the United States Special Operations Command. He became the founding director of the United States Special Operations Command Care Coalition and served as Special Assistant for Warrior and Family Support to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. Jim lives in Aiken and is a member of our chapter. Please see their website for in depth information:

<https://www.americaswarriorpartnership.org/>

# MOAA AIKEN CHAPTER AFFAIRS

## **Charity Committee Volunteers:**

Volunteers are still needed to serve on a Charity Committee. The current committee is comprised of David Lobb and Sharon Smoot. The committee is tasked with evaluating and planning potential fund raising events as well as vetting potential military related recipients. Please contact Dick Dewar for more information.

## **Approved Charity Fund Distributions:**

The Charity Committee recommended distribution of some of the chapter charity funds at the 18 January 2023 Aiken Chapter MOAA Board meeting. The Board approved giving \$500 to each of the following organizations:

- USO at the Columbia, SC airport
- K-9 Solutions
- Fisher House of Augusta, GA

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***HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY***

# MOAA AIKEN CHAPTER AFFAIRS

## DOWN RANGE

### ANNUAL CHAPTER DUES:

Annual chapter dues cover the calendar year and are due in January. You may pay up to two years at a time if you desire to pay for more than one year. **Dues are \$25.00 per year.**

### Annual Multi-organizational BINGO Night:

Aiken MOAA Chapter plans to again join forces with Aiken American Legion Post 26 and the Aiken Denizens of the Deep Association for a night of BINGO fun and prizes. The event will be a fund raiser for each of the organizations. As in the past, please be thinking of prizes you could donate for the BINGO winners. More details will be announced later. In the meantime, please mark your calendar for April 12.

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### MONTHLY MEETINGS

01 MAR 2023 - Speaker, Amy Hane, social worker and case manager. Amy owns a company focused on helping individuals age in their homes. She will discuss costs of home care and planning for future needs.

12 APR 2023 - BINGO night. Details to follow.

03 MAY 2023 - Annual ROTC Award Dinner

07 JUN 2023 - Monthly dinner meeting. Speaker TBD.

# MOAA AIKEN CHAPTER AFFAIRS

## VETERAN ASSISTANCE

### MOAA \$500 Crisis Relief Program:

**Who is Eligible?** The Crisis Relief Fund offers financial assistance to those falling under one or more of the following categories: Currently serving (including National Guard and Reserve), spouses of currently serving, veterans (with an honorable discharge), surviving spouses (whose spouse held an honorable discharge), and caregivers of the same who are experiencing financial setback due to an unexpected current crisis. Open to all ranks and U.S. uniformed services.

### **What Type of Help is Available?**

Applicants experiencing a crisis by natural disaster deemed a national emergency by their local City or State and are experiencing extreme financial hardship as a result of this crisis. We welcome those experiencing any unique crisis situations so long as specific information is provided when applying. The crisis in which an applicant is submitting an application for must have occurred no more than six months prior to the date of the application submission.

- Housing (rent, mortgage, housing assistance, repairs, etc.)
- Auto loan/lease/car repair
- Utilities (electric, water, heat, internet/cable, cell phone)
- Credit card bills
- Medical bills
- Insurance bills
- Groceries
- Miscellaneous (must specify on application)

\* Assistance with legal fees or child support payments is not available.

**For information,** go to [MOAA - Crisis Relief Grant Program](https://www.moaa.org/crisisreliefgrant)  
(<https://www.moaa.org/crisisreliefgrant>) or email, [relief@moaa.org](mailto:relief@moaa.org)

This is a program administered by national MOAA, not the local chapter.



# MOAA AIKEN CHAPTER AFFAIRS

## VETERAN ASSISTANCE (Continued)

**Aiken County Veterans Affairs:** Major Dwight Bradham is the Aiken County Veterans Affairs Officer. He and his team can be reached at (803) 642-1545 or [dbradham@aikencountysc.gov](mailto:dbradham@aikencountysc.gov) by email. If you have any veteran issues, please contact the office.

**US Congressman Joe Wilson - Veteran Assistance:** The local number to Congressman Wilson's Aiken County office is (803) 642-6416. His State Senate office also regularly assists veterans with many issues. The number is (803) 212-6000.

**Veterans Legal Clinic:** The USC School of Law operates the Veterans Legal Clinic. Veterans can inquire about help with a legal problem by calling (803) 777-2278 .



## Reminders from national MOAA to remain non-partisan in everything concerning MOAA:

### Partisan Political Activities

As organizations exempt from federal taxation under Sec. 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code, MOAA and its affiliates must take care to avoid engaging in partisan political activities. Under IRS rules, we are prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.

### Divisive Social Issues

We are all aware of the divisive nature of the debate over today's leading social issues – protesting during the national anthem at sporting events, racial justice, public protests, and the conduct of law enforcement officers. These are issues over which many Americans have deeply held, but differing, personal beliefs. This is also true within the military community among the ranks of active duty and retired officers and within MOAA itself.

MOAA leaders have an obligation to keep this in mind when communicating on behalf of MOAA or its affiliates. Suggesting that MOAA only supports one side of a deeply divisive issue sends a message to those with a different belief that MOAA is not for them.

### See the complete statements from MOAA at:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/about-MOAA/MOAA-guidance-on-partisan-political-activities/>





# MOAA ADVOCACY



## **National MOAA's 2022 Legislative Priorities**

(Copied from the MOAA website. See more detailed descriptions on [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org). Stay tuned for national updates for 2023 priorities.)

- Sustain pay raises and adequate BAH for the troops and COLA raises for retirees.
- Ensure the Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service continue to receive pay during a government shutdown.
- Protect the value of the military health care benefit.
- Protect the Military Health System pharmacy benefit, and achieve flexibility in TRI-CARE pharmacy copays.
- Address barriers to accessing care within the MHS, including TRICARE coverage gaps and mental health care access challenges.
- Protect family support programs, and ensure military-provided services (housing, PCS, child care, youth programs, financial counseling) are readily available and meet standards for quality and costs.
- Achieve equity of benefits, protections, and administrative support for Guard/Reserve members consistent with their active-duty counterparts.
- Sustain Veterans Health Administration (VHA) foundational missions and services.
- Reform the presumptive process to support veterans claiming service-connected disabilities for toxic exposures.
- Achieve concurrent receipt of service-earned retirement pay and VA disability pay.
- Protect full military honors and burial at Arlington National Cemetery for those currently eligible.
- Improve survivors' benefits.
- Support a quality transition experience from active duty to veteran status for all servicemembers.
- Recognize the pandemic continues to affect the lives of our servicemembers.



# CONTACTS

## MOAA Aiken Chapter

EMAIL: [dickdewar@gmail.com](mailto:dickdewar@gmail.com)

FACEBOOK: MOAA Aiken Chapter

NEXTDOOR: MOAA Officers Association of America (Aiken Chapter)

## Veteran County Service Officer

Dwight L. Bradham, Jr. Director, Aiken County Veterans Affairs

[DBradham@aikencountysc.gov](mailto:DBradham@aikencountysc.gov) | [803.642.1545](tel:803.642.1545)

Aiken County Government | [www.aikencountysc.gov](http://www.aikencountysc.gov) | [803.642.1500](tel:803.642.1500)

Aiken County Veterans Affairs on FACE-

BOOK: [www.Facebook.com/AikenVA](http://www.Facebook.com/AikenVA)

## Join MOAA National

“As the nation’s strongest and most effective military service organization, the Military Officers Association of America supports military officers and their families at every stage of life and career. MOAA’s greatest mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families. We achieve this largely through our tireless advocacy efforts on issues affecting today’s career force, the retired community, and veterans of the uniformed service” -

See more at: <http://www.moaa.org/join/#sthash.88OXZPi4.dpuf>

MOAA is a NONPARTISAN organization dedicated to serving the Military, Veterans and their families.

**Senator Tim Scott**  
167 Russell Senate Office  
Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-6121  
[www.scott.senate.gov](http://www.scott.senate.gov)

**Congressman Joe Wilson’s  
Aiken office  
Contact Information  
Erin Harrison**

[Erin.Harrison@mail.house.gov](mailto:Erin.Harrison@mail.house.gov)  
(803) 939-0041  
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803-509-1455 (cell)

**Senator Lindsey O. Graham**  
290 Russell Senate Office  
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