



# Middle Tennessee Chapter

*Proudly celebrating our 50th Year!*



## Military Officers Association of America

One Powerful Voice.®

Web Site: [mtcmooa.org](http://mtcmooa.org)

January 2012

Editor: Doug Minton

### MOAA Monthly Luncheon

**Organizational Meeting  
January 24, 2012  
11:30 AM**

**Old Natchez Country Club  
115 Gardengate Drive  
Franklin TN 37069**

This is the meeting that sets the tone for the year, so your participation now will help shape our activities for the rest of 2012.

In addition to electing two new Board members we will also present a new officer for confirmation.

We will have the always exciting Treasurer's report (and yes we do still have money in the bank!) and confirmation of our 2012 dues at \$20.00 per member, as well as a wrap-up report on our "Cell Phones for Soldiers" collection initiative.

Over the last several years we have been building a pretty extensive list of potential speakers and activities that have interest to the members of the chapter. We will again solicit your input at this meeting, and then begin to finalize our speakers for the year.

2012 will be no exception in regard to the available service initiatives available for us as a Chapter and as individuals. From university and high school ROTC programs; our officer placement/networking initiative (TOPS); the Wounded Warrior program, our May Memorial Day program, to the local Wreathes across America activity there is an abundance of opportunity to continue to serve, and we will have sign-up sheets available at our meeting.

And finally, a reminder that our monthly scheduled meetings will be postponed if the Davidson or Williamson County schools are closed due to adverse weather on the date of the meeting. If the school openings are delayed by only a couple of hours we will make every effort to meet. See you on the 24th!

### Officers

**President**

CAPT (R) Dana McLendon

**1st Vice President**

LTC (R) Wanda Bruce-Graham

**2nd Vice President**

(Vacant)

**Secretary**

COL (R) Doug Minton

**Treasurer**

CAPT (R) Dale Lewelling

**Directors**

LCDR (R) Gus Gustafson

CDR (R) John Ohlinger

COL (R) Bill Bacon

LTC (R) Scott Cantlon

**Auxiliary Liaison**

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

### President's Letter

Each year in the month of January the Middle Tennessee Chapter, MOAA holds our "organizational meeting". It is the time to review our accomplishments during the past year; plan for the coming year; thank those whose term of service is completed, and put in place additional leaders who, along with those who continue to serve, will provide for our chapter's leadership succession into the future. It is a notable strength of our chapter, and unfortunately a characteristic missing from many chapters, that we have members who willingly step forward to accept positions of leadership in the affairs of the chapter.

At the January meeting, our nominating committee will propose two outstanding and active members as candidates to fill vacant board seats plus an existing board member to fill the vacant 2<sup>nd</sup> VP role. One of the board candidates has agreed to serve as chairman of the Community Outreach Committee. We plan to canvas our membership to identify an Assistant Treasurer to assist with member registration at chapter meetings. Every committee is seeking members. (More about that at the January meeting.)

Our accomplishments each year continue to build upon our legacy, and include ongoing support of area ROTC / JROTC units and the annual Memorial Day ceremony at the Tennessee Veterans Cemetery. In the category of "first time" successes, I would mention that with one month to go, our chapter leads all MOAA chapters nationwide in the "Cell Phones for Soldiers" campaign. (Special thanks to Patricia Bergquist and Alan Biddle for their tireless efforts.) We have also now seen the first recipient of the MTC MOAA Veterans Scholarship at Lipscomb University graduate.

Your chapter is fiscally fit, and thanks to you benefits from an increasingly active and involved membership. I look forward to seeing you at our Jan. meeting and to another successful year in 2012. Press on!  
Dana McLendon

### Chapter Contact Information

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Website:

**<http://www.mtcmoaa.org>**

Phone: **(615) 415-6816**

Email: **info@mtcmooa.org**

### New Member

Please take a moment at the January 2012 meeting to welcome the following new members:

**Capt. Ted Bleymaier , USAF**

**COL Tom Bowden, USA**

### Luncheon Cost in 2012

Old Natchez Country Club has successfully held our cost down for the luncheon meal over the past year, but have notified us that the cost will be increased in 2012.

Beginning with our January 24 meeting, the luncheon cost will be increased to \$18.00 per meal per person.

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE CHAPTER**  
**Military Officers Association of America**  
**P. O. Box 50252**  
**Nashville, TN 37205-0252**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

***Upcoming Programs & Events***

January 18, 2012 11:00 AM

**TN Council of Chapters Meeting**

(Veterans Building, James E. Ward Agricultural Center, Lebanon, TN)

January 24, 2012 11:30 AM

**Middle TN Chapter  
Annual Organizational Meeting**

February 18, 2012 7:15 PM

**Middle TN Chapter Outing  
Belmont Univ. vs. East TN State Univ.**

Belmont University Men's Basketball  
Curb Event Center, Nashville, TN.  
(see below)

April 28, 2012 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

**TN Department of Veteran's Affairs  
First Annual TN Women Veterans Summit**

**More details on the February 18 basketball game.**

As an extension of our scholarship activity with Belmont University our Chapter has been offered tickets to the upcoming Belmont Men's Basketball Game on February 18th. Belmont will be playing East TN State University (ETSU) of the Ohio Valley Conference.

At present we are limited to four tickets per member. We will submit a roster to the University by February 6th, and then they will hold our tickets at Will Call at the Curb Center the night of the game. To make this happen we need anyone interested in tickets to contact Doug Minton by email at [info@mtcmooa.com](mailto:info@mtcmooa.com) or by phone (615-415-6816) so that your name can be added to the roster.

We will in all likelihood be recognized as a group at the game, so if you ask for tickets it is important to show up for the event!

***Legislative Update***

**Troops-Pay-Healthcare Cuts Coming**

**On January 5th, President Obama and Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta presented an outline** that shifts greater attention to the Pacific theater while reshaping the uniformed services to become smaller, more agile, and cheaper in the years ahead.

The eight page report, [Sustaining U.S. Global Leadership: Priorities for the 21st Century](#), was short on specifics of just how the defense department would carry out the \$450 billion in cuts over the next 10 years (and potentially another half trillion dollars under sequestration) and neither the President nor the Secretary were willing to provide any real details.

Panetta outlined that the cuts would be made in a way that would follow four overarching principles:

- Maintain the world's finest military;
- Avoid hollowing out the force;
- Generate savings in a balanced manner with everything on the table, including politically sensitive areas; and,
- Preserve a high quality All-Volunteer Force and not breaking faith with our men and women in uniform or their families.

Panetta went on, stating the "country is at a strategic turning point after a decade of war and, therefore we are shaping a joint force for the future that will be smaller and leaner, but will be agile, flexible, ready, and technologically advanced."

The specifics of their proposal likely won't be known until the President submits his budget request in mid-February.

But it was abundantly clear that there would be major changes to nearly all facets of defense programs and forces – including end strength and personnel costs.

Panetta acknowledged in his opening statement that "savings...will likely provoke opposition from parts of Congress, industry, and advocacy groups." © MOAA2012