



**Middle Tennessee Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P. O. Box 50252
Nashville, TN 37205-0252**

25 February 2016

MOAA
Awards Department
201 North Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Middle Tennessee Chapter it gives me great pleasure to submit the attached "Level of Excellence Award" application for 2016.

Respectfully,

//Signed//
Scott E. Cantlon
LTC, U. S. Army Retired
President
Middle TN Chapter, MOAA

Middle TN Chapter MOAA (TN-04)
2016 Levels of Excellence Award Submission

Objective Portion Responses:

1. All elected officers of the Middle TN Chapter (MTC) are members of the National organization.
2. Our Chapter records indicate that approximately 96 % of our members are also members of the National MOAA organization.
3. The Middle TN Chapter Membership Roster was submitted to MOAA Council & Chapter Affairs on January 11, 2016 and confirmed two days later. We have continued submitting new members using the online Chapter Membership form.
4. There were no revisions for our Chapter officers this year, so the roster was updated and submitted using the MOAA website on January 7, 2016. Confirmation of receipt was received the same date.
5. COL (Ret) Kent Crossley, USA has energetically continued his performance of duties as the Legislative Liaison for our Chapter. His email address was submitted with those of the other officers mentioned above.
6. COL (Ret) Doug Minton, USA continues as our designated Membership Chair.
7. Mrs. Patricia Bergquist continued her responsibilities as our Surviving Spouse Liaison. Her information is contained in the MOAA Data Base for both Chapter Officers and in her role as Surviving Spouse Liaison.
8. The Middle TN Chapter has an established EFT account with MOAA National and has received funds from MOAA National via this means.
9. The Chapter convened for ten luncheon meetings in 2015 (February meeting was cancelled due to weather, and we do not meet in December), and the Board met on a regularly scheduled basis twelve times that year.

Our programs for LOE year 2015 are shown below:

27 January 2015; 11:30 AM
MTC Annual Organizational Meeting
**"Combined MTC Organizational Meeting and
USO Nashville Presentation"**

LTC (Ret) Wanda Bruce Graham, USA
Mrs. Kari Moore, Mgr. USO Ft. Campbell
Ms. Tammy Bass, Mgr. USO Nashville

(We continued our process of splitting our organizational meeting between the presentation of the annual report for our Chapter and a "To Date" report by our local USO organization. Our Chapter continues to be an active source of volunteers at USO Nashville. We also transitioned to a new Chapter President this month.)

24 February 2015; 11:30 AM
MTC Monthly Personal Affairs Meeting

“Personal Affairs Update followed by a Long Term Care Discussion”

LTC (Ret) Wanda Bruce Graham

Chapter Personal Affairs Officer

Mr. Eric Jackson

Long Term Care Specialist

(Unfortunately this meeting/program was cancelled due to our long standing policy of cancelling our meeting if Metro Davidson County Schools closed due to inclement weather, and an ice storm was the particular culprit this time. This meeting was rescheduled for August 2015.)

24 March, 2015; 11:30 AM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“Nashville Rescue Mission”

Mr. Glen Cranfield

President and CEO of Nashville Rescue Mission

(Our speaker’s wife was hospitalized for a medical emergency, and our speaker wisely opted to be with her rather us, with no advance notice. We forged ahead and took the opportunity to learn more about our newest members and their recent assignments. It turned out to be a very entertaining meeting. The original speaker was rescheduled for July, 2015.)

28 April 2015; 11:30 AM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“Tennessee State Veterans Homes”

Mr. Ed Harries, Executive Director TSVH

Mr. Warren Jasper

Clarksville TSVH Administrator

(A very informative program about the existing State-run veteran’s homes; and the plans in the works to significantly expand the number of homes/beds available. Given that most of members were not aware of the existence or availability of these homes, it was a very well received message. In addition our own Past President LTC Wanda Bruce Graham sits on the TSVH Board.)

26 May 2015; 11:30 AM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Post Traumatic Stress Disorder"

LTG Hugh Smith, USA Retired

Vice Chairman, Centerstone Military Services

(LTG Smith is a decorated Infantry officer who is now affiliated with Centerstone Military Services (Courage Beyond), a national level organization that provides free and confidential treatment for PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury for our veterans, service members and their families. His passion for the subject and what needs to be done made the meeting. He is also a member of the Ft. Campbell Chapter, MOAA.)

23 June 2015; 11:30 AM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“Stay Vigilant - Stay Safe”

Lt. Col. “Moose” Moore, USAF Retired

President, the Vigilance Group

(Lt. Col. Moore is a very unique professional who has transitioned his military experiences into educating individuals on vigilance and awareness skills and what it takes to live safely in a potentially very dangerous world. A very interesting presentation on a very pertinent subject; and we also gained a new member for the Chapter.)

28 July 2015; 11:30 AM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“Nashville Rescue Mission”

Mr. Glen Cranfield

President and CEO of Nashville Rescue Mission

(Mr. Cranfield runs the largest public rescue missions in the Southeast, serving approximately 665,500 meals annually. Many of the disadvantaged being served by this faith based organization are military veterans, which was the focus of the presentation. This continued our efforts to familiarize our Chapter members with the services being provided for veterans from a very diverse group of organizations in our area.)

25 August 2015; 11:30 AM
MTC Personal Affairs Meeting

“Personal Affairs Update followed by a Long Term Care Discussion”

LTC Wanda Bruce Graham

Chapter Personal Affairs Officer

Mr. Eric Jackson

Long Term Care Specialist

Mr. Russ Maxey

Survivor Outreach Services

(This program was split between the presentation of the most recent MOAA Personal Affairs Guide (with the reminder that everyone needs to have current written records); long term care insurance from a general viewpoint to include plan features, the need for the insurance and a costing forecast; and a brief on the scope and availability of survivor outreach services in the Middle Tennessee area. A lot to cover, but our presenters did an excellent job of staying pertinent to their audience.)

22 September 2015; 11:30 AM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“My Life in Pro Football”

Mr. Jim Ryan

Former Pro Football Linebacker

(We continued our practice of having at least one sports themed meeting per year. Mr. Ryan provided a unique insight into the business that has become college and professional football. He has coached from high school level up to professional level, and had a wonderful ability to tell some very humorous stories.)

27 October 2015; 11:30 AM
MTC Legislative Affairs Meeting
“Substance Abuse Services for Veterans in Tennessee”
Ms. Ellen Abbott

Director of Criminal Justice Services

Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

(Ms. Abbott’s presentation covered a broad spectrum of services available to veterans in Tennessee that have run afoul of the law, with a large focus on the fact that TN has recently initiated a \$3 million grant to establish Veterans Drug Courts. It is significant in that this program will provide grant money, legislative direction, and prosecutorial discretion for counties in TN that choose to participate in this initiative to benefit veterans.)

17 November 2015; 11:30 AM
MTC Monthly Lunch Meeting

“Restoration of Relations between Cuba and the United States”
Dr. Frank Robinson

Assistant Professor of History and Associate Director of the Vanderbilt University
Center of Latin American Studies

(We had the misfortune to suffer a power outage at our meeting location early in Professor Robinson’s slide presentation; however Professor as he is, he reverted to lecture status and covered every point into the early 1900’s in relations between Cuba and the world. His ability to inject humor and insight into the presentation made it much more enjoyable for us than we can assume it is for his students who would have to be prepared for a test with a huge number details and perspectives. We are planning on scheduling him again in 2016 to complete the story up through current events.)

Our Chapter also sponsors an annual Memorial Day remembrance at the Middle Tennessee Veterans Cemetery which was held on May 23, 2015 and was well attended with nearly 40 ceremony participants to include the Nashville Naval Operations Support Center Ceremony Detail that did a flawless job in presenting the colors and playing Taps. (Pictured at right following the ceremony are members COL (Ret) Dave Holland, USA; Col. (Ret) Duffy White, USMC; COL (Ret) Doug Minton, CWO4 (Ret) J. T. Tenpenny, USMC; CAPT (Ret) Dale Lewelling, USN; LTC (Ret) Scott Cantlon, USA and Chapter President; CAPT (Ret) Larry Cotton, USN; Mrs. Lynn Womack, Surviving Spouse; Capt. Hal Sauer, USAF; Mrs. Maureen Edick, Surviving Spouse; Capt (R) Bryan Finch, USN and Chaplain, and CDR (R) John Ohlinger, USN.)



10. The Chapter published a newsletter each month of 2015. The newsletter is distributed via USPS for those members without email connectivity, and via email for the remaining members. Each month a copy of the newsletter is also submitted to the MOAA National Council and Chapters Council and Chapter Affairs office for their review and constructive feedback. The Chapter maintains an active website (www.mtcmoaa.org) where we make additional information and resources available to complement the monthly newsletter.

Subjective Portion Responses:

1. **Legislative Affairs**

COL (Ret) Kent Crossley has continued his drive to meet with our elected representatives to ensure that they are aware of MOAA, and the large number of MOAA members as well as other veterans that reside in their districts during 2015. A brief description of our Legislative initiatives follows:

- a) On February 24th COL Crossley met with Tennessee State Representative Glen Casada (63rd District) who represents the eastern and southern borders of Williamson County. He was afforded a rewarding, although short time (in session is a busy time) with the legislator. Following a review of the history and goals of MOAA national and our Middle TN Chapter initiatives, he invited him to our luncheons and discussed how we might best help him support the military. His son is an MI captain with the 101st and is intimately aware of the effects of sequestration and operational tempo. He is very involved in current state health issues and works closely with Representative Jeremy Durham, Senators Green and Jackson with whom we have contact.
- b) In March we published to the Chapter a list of all military related bills that had come before the TN legislature for the current session. This list produced as much discussion for what was being considered as it did for what was not being considered. We will continue to do this in order to highlight items that are of interest to all veterans in the state.
- c) In July our Chapter presented Tennessee Senator Mark Green, MD with the MOAA Certificate of Merit during its monthly Chapter meeting.



(Pictured at left COL Crossley, MTC Legislative Affairs Chair, State Senator Green, and Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Scott Cantlon, MTC President.)

Excerpt from the citation:

“The Middle Tennessee Chapter, of the Military Officers Association of America takes great pride in awarding this Certificate of Merit to Tennessee State Senator Mark Green, MD representing Tennessee District

22 for his outstanding leadership supporting the United States Military, its service

members and their families. During the 2014-2015 state legislature sessions, Senator Green sponsored or cosponsored eight of the ten military related bills proposed for legislative consideration. Senator Green sponsored the Criminal Justice Veterans Compensation Act of 2015, which is the first-ever law creating a funding mechanism to offer court options for service men and women primarily dealing with substance abuse in Tennessee.”

- d) In August COL Crossley met with Congressman Blackburn’s Chief of Staff Mike Platt who works in Washington, DC and Steve Allbrooks, her Senior Advisor working in Franklin on 20 August. Congressman Blackburn was good enough to take time from a Fox News interview to come in, welcome COL Crossley, and reinforce her support of MOAA goals. Time allowed bringing to the two men’s attention 3 major issues MOAA National set as priorities for MOAA Chapters to discuss with their representatives during the August recess. (Pictured above COL Crossley and Mike Platt.)



- e) In October Chapter President LTC (Ret) Scott Cantlon, COL (Ret) Doug Minton, CDR (Ret) John Ohlinger and COL Crossley visited Senator Bob Corker’s Nashville office and spoke to Field Representative Mrs. Carlie Cruse about four key MOAA issues related to keeping our military strong and helping service members and their families; active and retired.

- >Reject Military Pay and Benefits Cuts
- >Retired Pay Restoration Act Bill # S.B. 271
- >Eliminate the SBP-DIC Offset Bill # S.B. 979
- >Sequestration

Mrs. Cruse was very familiar with these issues and explained that the Senator was a strong supporter of the military, however did not go into detail about the Senators position on either S.B. 271 or S.B. 979. She did note that funding for the military either



to increase pay or increase military spending would require a waiver to the sequestration spending limitations. This would require significant legislation because it would invalidate the current agreement all federal agencies are maintaining. The other alternative would be a reallocation of funds from within DOD. Limited time prevented a lengthy discuss, however the Field representative was supportive of future meetings with Chapter representatives

and having Senator Corker as a guest speaker at our monthly meetings. (Pictured above COL (Ret) Crossley, CDR (Ret) Ohlinger, Mrs. Cruse, COL (Ret) Minton, and LTC (Ret) Cantlon.)

- f) COL Crossley has also represented the Chapter and the TN Council of Chapters at the quarterly meetings of the United Tennessee Veterans Association (UTVA) in 2015. This is an organization formed by the Tennessee Department of Veterans Services Commissioner. Although neither organization is currently a member we hope that in the near future the TN CoC will join and COL Crossley will be designated by that organization as its official representative. It is anticipated that this will become an additional resource in TN for veteran's initiatives.
- g) On the national interest level, we continued to provide up to date Legislative Affairs information in both our newsletter and on our website in order to generate contact from our members with our elected officials. We also make a concerted effort to get our members to return the printed letters to our Federal legislators each year that are provided in the MOAA Magazine.

2. Recruiting/Retention

- a) In 2015 we added a total of 26 new members to the Chapter, and our membership focus at present is to keep them involved and engaged. Our most effective recruiting has come from person to person recruiting as we identify former and retired officers in the area, and from contacts made as a result of the information available on the MOAA Chapter Locator and our MTC website.
- b) MOAA National members that are reported in our area by MOAA have been a marginally productive source of members although it is often difficult to work the list of potentials that is sent to our Chapter. However, we continue to attempt to contact those truly in our area and upon occasion we do find those that want to participate at the local Chapter level. We are also seeing a large upturn in National MOAA members that move into our area and locate us using the MOAA Website Chapter Locator and our Chapter website.
- c) Former and retired officers brought to meetings by current members continue to be one of our best sources of members. These officers tend to be interested, and we have the benefit of having a recruiter that is also their friend. This tends to produce local members who stay active, but for most it takes quite a while to also see them initiate national membership.
- d) Our success with surviving spouses wanting to continue their association with the Chapter is a positive. It is probably a direct result of our Liaison's effort to reach out to these individuals to let them know that we can assist in their transition, and that we want them to continue their affiliation with MOAA and our Chapter.
- e) We have had moderate success working the ROTC/JROTC Cadre as well as officers assigned to the various Recruiting Commands for Chapter membership. While their duties usually preclude them from active participation, we have found that our participation in their programs often results in their willingness to join and support the Chapter.

- f) We continue active promotion of the Gold Bar Program at three schools that we support (Vanderbilt Army ROTC, Vanderbilt Naval ROTC and Tennessee State AFROTC) however we have seen declining participation by the graduating cadets despite the fact that it is free to them. This program has been a good source of potential members for the National organization, but there is going to have to be more of a “hook” available for it to be deemed as successful as one would think it should be.
- g) We have not been successful in getting through to the Reserve Components because quite frankly we have trouble competing for their available hours. We have added several new Reserve and National Guard members in 2015 and we are attempting to build on their interest with a goal of expanding our inroad into their ranks.

3. **Chapter Leadership Succession Plan**

Our Board of Directors has become the intentional incubation site for our ongoing Chapter Leadership. Our Board members are charged with identifying potential Chapter leaders as a prerequisite to selection to join the Board. Once on the Board, we assign a specific role (Transition Liaison Coordinator, Legislative Liaison, Scholarship Coordinator, etc.) that lasts a minimum of two years and then we transition that person to another set of responsibilities so that by the time they move into a VP role they have developed expertise in one or more areas which are key to the Chapter’s success. Roles may vary based on interest and familiarity, but once they become first vice president they are responsible for scheduling speakers for each of monthly meetings. While they receive a lot of Chapter assistance in identifying potential speakers, we have found that the process of vetting a speaker and then coordinating schedules, etc. is the best preparation for the position of Chapter President. This process was initiated 2010 and has worked well to date (we currently have Board members in line to be President through 2020). We are aware that this practice can only succeed if our Chapter recruiting is strong, so that remains a key focus at all times.

4. **Personal Affairs**

LTC (Ret) Wanda Bruce Graham continues in the role of designated Personal Affairs Officer for the Chapter. Our Personal Affairs Program for this year was conducted in August of 2015 with a combined subject matter of “Updating Your Personal Affairs Checklist, an Update on Survivor Benefit Services, and a presentation on Long Term Care Insurance”. We have found that for this type of meeting a combination of subjects being presented is our best way to ensure that we are reaching every age demographic attending the meeting.

In addition to the annual program, LTC Graham continues to be very proactive in sending cards and maintaining contact on behalf of the Chapter with those members that we know are undergoing medical or other issues, as well as those that are no longer in a condition to attend meetings on an active basis. We receive a great deal of positive comment on her actions in this area.

5. Programs/Projects that enhance the image of the Chapter

Our Chapter continues to undertake programs/projects that are designed to benefit our members and other Veterans in our community, and which as a byproduct enhance our image amongst the local military community.

- a) TN Council of Chapters - We have several members that actively participated in the quarterly State Council of Chapters meetings; with two members now holding positions on the Council (Mrs. Patricia Bergquist as Secretary and Surviving Spouse Liaison, and COL Doug Minton as 1st Vice President). The Chapter has 2-4 members at each Council meeting, and we did not miss a meeting in 2015.

Members of our Chapter are in the initial stages of developing a state training initiative designed to target a broader range of leaders and prospective leaders within the other Chapters that make up the State Council. The intent of the TN CoC is to accomplish this training event in 2016. The TN CoC did not have an Annual Meeting in 2015.

- b) ROTC Support - Lt. Col (Ret) Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF is our designated ROTC Program Coordinator. We actively support three ROTC programs by maintaining a close relationship with the Program leadership, and active solicitation for the Gold Bar Program. Each of these programs involves students from these Universities as well as students at other area colleges/universities. MOAA ROTC Leadership Awards were presented to a cadet from each program in May, 2015 at the three separate Awards Ceremonies. (Pictured at right LTC (Ret) Wanda Bruce Graham, our Immediate Past President, making the VU AROTC presentation.)



MTC (ROTC) Program Support:

Vanderbilt University Army ROTC

Vanderbilt University Naval ROTC

Tennessee State University Air Force ROTC

We also support the annual VU NROTC *National Security Symposium*, held on 23 October this year. The speaker was General John E. Hyten, USAF and he spoke on "Space and Cyberspace: Vital to National Defense and Security." Our Chapter was represented by CAPT (Ret) Jamie Hopkins, USN; Col. (Ret.) Paul Ridge, USMC; Capt. Ed Zeagler, USMC; and COL (Ret) Doug Minton.

JROTC Support – CAPT (Ret) Larry Cotton is our designated JROTC Support Coordinator. The Chapter supports the JROTC programs by coordinating availability of the MOAA Awards package and providing presenters at the various Awards Banquets and Ceremonies. In 2015 we actively supported 13 JROTC programs; presenting awards at 12 of the schools.

MTC (JROTC) Program Support:

Antioch High School, Army JROTC, Nashville, TN

Coffee County Central High School, Air Force JROTC, Manchester, TN

Centennial High School, Army JROTC Franklin, TN

Columbia Central High School, Navy JROTC, Columbia, TN (Pictured at right CAPT (Ret) Larry Cotton making the MOAA Leadership Award presentation at Columbia Central H. S. in April 2015.)



Dickson County High School, Army JROTC, Dickson, TN (Pictured at left COL (Ret) Doug Minton making the MOAA Leadership Award presentation at Dickson County High School in May 2015).

Fairview High School, Army JROTC, Fairview, TN

Franklin High School, Army JROTC, Franklin, TN

Independence High School, Army JROTC, Thompson Station, TN (Pictured at right CAPT (Ret) Larry Cotton making the MOAA Leadership Award presentation at Independence H. S. in February 2015.)



Page High School, Army JROTC, Franklin, TN

Ravenswood High School, Army JROTC, Brentwood, TN

Springfield High School, Air Force JROTC, Springfield, TN

Spring Hill High School, Army JROTC, Columbia, TN



Warren County High School, Army JROTC, McMinnville, TN (Pictured at left COL (Ret) Doug Minton making the MOAA Leadership Award presentation at Warren County H. S. in April 2015.)

- c) Scholarship Initiatives - The Middle TN Chapter has funded two scholarships and is in the process of paying off a third scholarship within the MOAA National Scholarship program; as well as providing a \$1000 grant each at Belmont and Lipscomb Universities for students that fall into one of the categories of permanently wounded/disabled Veteran, combat wounded Veteran (Purple Heart), or a deserving veteran. Our scholarship responsibilities continue to be met solely through donations from members and interested individuals, allowing each of our members to actively be involved in this process. The Belmont and Lipscomb initiatives continue to provide needed immediate financial assistance for the recipients at these universities. In May Capt. Hal Sauer had the pleasure of attending a veteran's event at Belmont University with this year's recipient of our grant (pictured at right).



- d) Transition Assistance - CAPT Dale Lewelling is our designated Transition Liaison. Our efforts in this arena are grass roots; when contacted by an officer moving into the area we attempt to link them with the appropriate person or group that can network, provide resume assistance, and hopefully help them find a nice fit to their skill set. The TN Council of Chapters does not have a State Transition Network in place so our program links back to the National program for guidance and direction. We maintain a Career Assistance page on our Website but most of the assistance is provided via the networking that we can accomplish on a one-on-one basis once the individual seeking assistance makes contact.
- e) Community Involvement - Our Chapter actively supports, through Chapter gifts and member participation an expanding number of worthwhile community initiatives and civic activities in support of both our active military and veterans.
- a. We have several members who continued active participation in both *Academy Admissions Boards* and *Congressional Academy Selection Committees* in 2015. Capt Hal Sauer serves as an Admissions Liaison Officer for USAF 420 Middle TN Admissions Liaison Officer Group; representing the Air Force Academy and AFROTC Scholarship programs at several high schools in the Middle TN region. CDR (Ret) John Ohlinger continues to serve on the Congressional Academy Selection Committee for both the 5th and 7th Congressional Districts. Both officers counsel students interested in applying for scholarships and/or seeking an appointment to the individual service academies. They also conduct interviews for those making it to Candidate status and write evaluations for Selections Boards. Additionally, both officers have made presentations this year to JROTC classes and interested High Schools on the benefits of military service and seeking scholarships from AFROTC/USAF. CDR Ohlinger has stepped up his involvement in the Naval Academy Science – Technology – Engineering – Mathematics (STEM) program as the program continues to grow in the Middle TN area.

- b. *USO Nashville*. Our Chapter continues to support USO Nashville by actively volunteering at the center at the Nashville International Airport. We currently have (7) members and spouses who currently volunteer at the Center. In December of 2015 we contributed \$195.00 in in-kind donations of items needed at the Nashville Center. (Pictured at right COL Doug Minton, USO Volunteer; and Ms. Tammy Bass, Center Manager USO Nashville with the donated items.)



- c. *Cell Phones for Soldiers*. This program is no longer sponsored by MOAA, but at the local Chapter level it is still going strong. For the period January – December 2015 Mrs. Patricia Bergquist collected 156 phones. All phones were turned over to AT&T who then provided calling cards for deployed service members. This program is a prime example of the ongoing value to our community and to our deployed service members provided by our Chapter.
- d. *A Soldiers Child Foundation*. This program provides birthday gifts and a summer camp experience for children of fallen Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen. Our Chapter continues to provide a voice for this organization by advertising their events on our website and we have numerous members that are active in their support of their Wrapping and Fundraising events.
- e. *Heroes Honoring Heroes, Veterans Appreciation Event*. This was one of several events included in “Nashville Salutes”, the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation Gala held in Nashville during August 6-8, 2015. This event was attended by MTC members: Capt. Hal Sauer; COL (Ret) Kent Crossley; CAPT (Ret) Larry Coton; COL (Ret) Bob Bussey, USA; Col.(Ret) Duffy White; Capt. Coplin Curtis, USAF; 1LT Em Ghianni, USA; MAJ (Ret) Terry Hill, USA; COL (Ret) Doug Minton; and COL (Ret) John Furgess, USA. Other events held during this period were also widely supported by Chapter members.
- f. *Matthew 25 Foundation*. Our support for this organization, which is a nonprofit agency providing transitional housing for homeless veterans referred by the VA, continued on an individual basis with a number of members participating in the Matthew 25 Founders Breakfast in May of this year. The agency serves approximately 200 homeless men each year in the Middle TN area, with approximately 100 of them being veterans.



(Pictured at left are COL (Ret) Doug Minton; LTC (Ret) Wanda Bruce Graham; LTC (Ret) Scott Cantlon; Capt. Hal Sauer, CPT Frank Thomas, USA; Mrs. Patricia Bergquist; Lt. Col. Jeff Hill, USAF; and 1LT Em Ghianni.)

Capt. Hal Sauer has served as the interim Executive Director of the Matthew 25 organization since October 2015, in addition to serving as the President of the

Board of Directors since 2011 and member Lt. Col. (Ret) Karon Uzzell Baggett also serves on the Board of Matthew 25.

- g. *Operation Stand-Down Tennessee (OSDTN)*. This organization has now expanded to provide all types of support for Homeless Veterans in the State of Tennessee. We were instrumental in providing sponsorship in its early years and now provide both a voice and member support for its many activities. Our President LTC (Ret) Wanda Bruce Graham and members 1LT Em Ghianni and LTC (Ret) Jeff Collins, USA currently serve on the OSDTN Board, and another of our member Capt. Bob Tuke, USMC has served as the President of the Board. We also have a number of members who actively support the various fundraisers that OSDTN uses to continue their activities. Mrs. Patricia Bergquist and Mrs. Maureen Edick, both Surviving Spouse Members donated supplies (coffee, sugar, and creamer) for over 1,000 cups of coffee for the OSDTN Fall 2015 Stand-Down Event. At the Spring Event travel tooth brush/toothpaste packs, deodorant, and shave cream were donated by the same two very active members.

The following Chapter members were in attendance at the OSDN Breakfast for Heroes fundraiser held on August 21, 2015: Mrs. Patricia Bergquist; LTC (Ret) Jeff Collins; COL (Ret) John Furgess; 1LT Em Ghianni; LTC (Ret) Wanda Bruce Graham; BG (Ret) Pat Harrison, USA; CAPT (Ret) Dana McLendon, USN; COL (Ret) Doug Minton; Capt. Hal Sauer; Capt. Bob Tuke; Lt.Col. (Ret) Karon Uzzell-Baggett, COL (Ret) Doug Gilbert, USA; MAJ Martin Plumlee, USAR, and Lt. Col. (Ret) John Burns, USAF. In addition to the level of individual support, MTC made a cash contribution of \$250.00 to OSDTN following the breakfast event. (Pictured at right LTC Wanda Bruce Graham making the presentation to COL John Krenson, ARNG, the Executive Director of OSDTN.)



- h. *Middle TN USMC Toys for Tots*. We served as a collection site during our November meeting and collected unwrapped gifts for the Marines of Kilo Company 3/23 for their 2015 Toy Drive. We have provided a collection point for the last six years and we have seen our Chapter support level for this program increase in each of these years.
- i. *Nashville Sea Cadets*. Our Chapter provided financial support in the amount of \$250.00



for this organization during 2015, as an interim step while it actively sought a new sponsoring organization in 2015. (Pictured at left COL (Ret) Rick Ames, USA, a Chapter member and Sea Cadet Commanding Officer accepting the check at our August 2015 meeting from CAPT (Ret) Dale Lewelling, MTC 1st Vice President.)

- j. *MOAA Military Family Foundation.* In recognition of the wide range of valuable initiatives that are funded by this Foundation, the MTC Board chose to contribute \$250.00 to this Foundation in November 2015.

Our individual Chapter members belong to and are actively engaged in many additional veterans and civic organizations in the Middle TN area; where we participate in events not directly associated with MOAA but of significant intrinsic value to our community. We firmly believe that we bring the values we embraced in our military careers to these organizations, and that our membership is valued as a result of this service.

We also bring 5 Star Award Banners to the community, as indicated by the picture showing LTC (Ret) Scott Cantlon, MTC President accepting our third 5 Star “Levels of Excellence” Banner at the 2015 National Meeting in Orlando, FL.



6. The Middle TN Chapter currently has a large number of members and interested parties that have joined the MOAA Connect Middle TN Chapter Community. Prior to MOAA National buying and inserting MOAA Connect into their website our Chapter had already initiated a Chapter website and a Chapter email system, so we were already providing connectivity to our members; however, we were missing some functionality, such as the ability to host or participate in a discussion in a chat format. We initially used the MOAA Connect functionality to broadcast information, but encountered issues with broadcasting all reply's to all and our membership asked us to return to just email. Our Board is committed to further investigation of the MOAA Connect functionality, but to date have not found a member sponsor to manage our activity using the application.

Extra Credit Consideration:

We continue to point to our succession plan as the best idea that has emanated from our Chapter. However we are equally as proud of our Military Scholarship/Grants that we created in conjunction with Belmont and Lipscomb Universities and our level of involvement in the local community. Our biggest challenge on the level of involvement is to find a way to catalog all of the individual levels of involvement by our Chapter members.