



Middle Tennessee Chapter
A 2021 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter
Military Officers Association of America



Web: <https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

January 2023

Editor: Doug Minton

Our Next Monthly Meeting:

24 January 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
“MTC Year in Review (2022)”

Lt. Col. Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF
(Retired)
President

Old Natchez Country Club,
115 Gardengate Dr., Franklin TN 37069

Our January meeting provides an opportunity for Board members to provide a “state of the Chapter” annual report covering the variety of activities and initiatives in which we have invested both time and funds during 2022 calendar year.

This meeting is significant in that it allows our members an opportunity to hear about the amazing impact of the MOAA Community Grants that we partnered on this year, the significant achievements that we have accomplished on our scholarship initiative, and as an opportunity to provide input on programs and leadership for the upcoming year.

We will also conduct a vote on modifications to our Bylaws which the Board deems necessary to keep us compliant with MOAA National and accepted operational practices. This vote is required by our bylaws.

Hopefully we can also hear from you on how we can expand the reach of the chapter, from suggestions to support for organizations that we are not currently touching, to new ideas for reaching the current generation of officers that we hope to have join our ranks.

So please mark your calendars for 24 January and join us for this meeting!

(The complete report will be posted on our website after the meeting, and members who do not have access to the internet can procure a copy by contacting any of your Board members.)

Event Calendar

Please take note that the Event Calendar on our website has turned the year to 2023, meaning that we are open to your input on military related events in our area for consideration for inclusion. Space is always an issue, but we try to recognize as many events as we can. The calendar also provides you with the dates and locations of our upcoming Board meetings and our upcoming Membership meetings.

Officers

President

Lt.Col. Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF
(Retired)

1st Vice President (Vacant)

2nd Vice President (Vacant)

Secretary and Membership Chair

COL Doug Minton, USA Retired

Treasurer

LCDR Bea Henderson, USN (Retired)

Directors

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist
CDR John Ohlinger, USN (Retired)
LTC Wanda Bruce Graham, USA Retired
CAPT Larry Cotton, USN (Retired)
CAPT Dale Lewelling, USN (Retired)
LTC Mike Patenaude, USA Retired
CDR Ted Edwards, USN (Retired)

Surviving Spouse Liaison

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

Chaplain & Legislative Liaison

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (Retired)

Transition Services Coordinator

Lt.Col. Arlie Haddix, USAF (Retired)

Chapter Contact Information

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P. O. Box 50252
Nashville, TN 37205-0252

Website:

<https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

Contact Phone: (615) 415-6816

Contact Email: info@mtcmooa.org

2023 MOAA Community Outreach Grants

The 2023 cycle for the new MOAA Foundation’s Community Outreach Grants is now open for applications until Tuesday, February 28, 2023.

Last year, our chapter garnered three grants exceeding \$8,000 total, and positively impacted the lives of veterans and their families while partnering with three worthy non-profits. Active chapter involvement must occur with the grant (no pass-through of funds allowed).

If you have an idea for a 2023 community outreach grant and want to assist with the proposal writing, please contact Lt. Col. Karon Uzzell- Baggett by the end of January.

President’s Letter

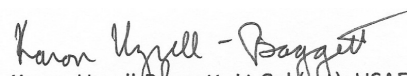
As we begin a new year, I sincerely hope chapter members enjoyed a restful break and cherished time with family. The past year brought wonderful progress for the chapter in terms of advocacy, community outreach and camaraderie. We will build upon this positive momentum in 2023 while continuing to provide steadfast support to the resolutions of MOAA National.

Our chapter luncheon on Tuesday, 24 January 2023, will be devoted to reviewing annual achievements in numerous areas ranging from finances to scholarships to community outreach, among others. There is great news to report!

The start of the year also brings renewed attention to state and national advocacy actions. Substantial gains for active-duty troops, veterans, military dependents and surviving spouses were made because of persistent advocacy during the 112th Tennessee General Assembly and 118th United States Congress. Now, it is time to shift focus to new legislation being introduced at the state and national level. The first major advocacy effort begins on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, when the TN Veterans’ Day on the Hill is held. Veterans’ organizations from across the state will travel to Nashville to meet with their legislators on a designated set of topics. All are welcome to participate, the registration link is on the calendar on page 2.

In December 2022, chapter members should have received e-mails regarding the update of the chapter bylaws. Two past presidents devoted considerable time to reviewing our current bylaws. Proposals involve updating them to reflect new procedures like electronic voting and compliance with MOAA’s council and chapters policies and procedures guide. Additionally, appendices were added to provide guidance for key director duties. If you have not received the bylaws review e-mails, please contact chapter leadership as soon as possible. In-person voting on the bylaws and new appendices will occur at this month’s luncheon.

Finally, this will be my final year as chapter president in accordance with the two-year term limit. It is imperative that a volunteer step forward to fill the first vice president vacancy, so an orientation period can begin. With all the awesome talent in the chapter, I know the right person is out there!


Karon Uzzell-Baggett, Lt Col (ret), USAF
Chapter President

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

18 January 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
“TN Council of Chapters Meeting”
ZOOM

24 January 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
“MTC Year in Review (2022)”

Lt. Col. Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF (Retired)
President
Old Natchez Country Club,
115 Gardengate Dr., Franklin TN 37069

26 January 2023; 8:00 AM CST
VA DOD Survivor *Online* Forum
“The PACT Act”

(Microsoft Teams Meeting - Please let the Newsletter Editor know if you do not have the meeting link).

1 February 2023
“Tennessee Veterans Day on the Hill”
Registration:
<https://forms.gle/xsX2SnYldG7ZfPc4A>
Cordell Hull Legislative Building, Nashville, TN

2 February 2023; 7- 8:00 AM
“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”
NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

28 February 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
“Tennessee Valley Healthcare System”
Mr. Dan Ducker
Executive Director
Old Natchez Country Club,
115 Gardengate Dr, .Franklin TN 37069

2 March 2023; 7- 8:00 AM
“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”
Zoom
(If interested in participating please let a Board Member know.)

28 March 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

Legislative Update

Happy New Year to all of us in the Middle Tennessee Chapter. We begin another year of good fellowship and support of our uniformed services in their many aspects of our national life.

January 3rd at Noon Eastern Time is the turnover time for our Representatives and Senators. Things in Washington are unsettled as I write, but they will get resolved so that Congress can get working on its many responsibilities. Across the Potomac River in Alexandria, our MOAA Legislative Advocacy people continue their work of serving our membership and families in real time. The January issue of Military Officer magazine always articulates the Mission Advocacy priorities for the year, and please do take time to read it. Reading it will alert your attention to ideas and initiatives that we discuss in the whole of 2023.

In late April 2023, MOAA National will host Advocacy in Action as an in-person event in Washington DC.

Here is an important quote about how we cooperate to align with “strategic enablers” that serve veteran health needs. The source is the new VA Undersecretary for Health, Dr. Shereef Elnahal. “Partnering with VSOs (Veteran Service Organizations), states, and advocates, and interagency cooperation.”, page 15. All such groups have priorities that differ and yet align toward the larger picture of the meeting needs of the greater uniformed services community. The PACT Act recently passed and all manner of legislative support for the VHA reaches us individually as we need them, and they support all who look to organizations like MOAA for leadership. Watch for news on these items all year long in this column.

Our chapter is closely aligned with Operation Stand Down Tennessee. OSD TN is opening a third location on January 9th in Columbia to deliver more services in Middle Tennessee. Their Grand Opening will be January 18. Our close relationship with OSD TN is a shining example of how we continue to serve long after hanging up our uniforms.

Finally, on page 41 of the MOAA magazine there is a wonderful article about our Chapter President, LtCol Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF (Retired). Take care to read it twice. It shows how we never stop serving and how after our uniformed service finishes, we then find new ways to serve. Additionally, pages 64-65 of the same edition feature an outstanding article on the Surviving Spouse Liaison for our chapter and the council, Mrs. Patricia Bergquist. She is a true warrior when it comes to fighting for military members and their families.

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (Retired), Legislative Affairs Liaison