



Middle Tennessee Chapter

A 2022 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



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

April 2024

Editor: Doug Minton

MTC Monthly Meeting:

23 April 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
Annual Personal Affairs Meeting

“Tennessee State Veterans Homes Update”

Ed Harries

Executive Director

**OSDTN, 1125 South 12th Avenue,
Nashville, TN 37203**

Our Speaker:

Ed Harries has over 30 years’ experience serving on an executive level in rehabilitation, long term care and acute healthcare management. His areas of expertise include operational improvement, strategic planning, market analysis and consensus building, organizational assessment and re-design, practical application of statistical data, and quality improvement and assurance.

His background includes extensive experience in long term care facility, outpatient rehabilitation center and tertiary care hospital management operations. He has served as Vice President of a post-acute care consulting firm. Currently he is the Executive Director (CEO) of the Tennessee State Veterans Home Board, a position he has held for 15 years.

As a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator, he is an alumnus of Youngstown State University, has completed the post-acute care “Core of Knowledge” program at The Ohio State’s Max M. Fisher College of Business and has attended St. Joseph’s College of Windham, Maine pursuing a Masters in Health Services Administration.

TN State Veterans Homes (TSVH):

TSVH works closely with the U.S. Department of Veterans’ Affairs (VA) to assist eligible veterans with accessing federal funding for their care, but are completely independent of the VA.

Established in law by the General Assembly in 1988, the first TSVH home opened in Murfreesboro in 1991. Since then, they have established additional locations in Humboldt, Knoxville, and Clarksville, with a new home under construction in Cleveland and another planned for Arlington. Their homes are governed by the Tennessee State Veterans’ Homes Board, with members formally appointed by the Governor. Oversight of the day-to-day management and operations of the State Veterans’ Homes is vested in the Executive Committee of the Board. The Executive Committee exercises its authority for planning, implementation and operation of the State Veterans’ Homes, and administrators at each facility are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the homes.

Officers

President

CAPT Larry Cotton, USN Retired

1st Vice President (Vacant)

2nd Vice President

COL Jacque Tubbs, USA Retired

Secretary and Membership Chair

COL Doug Minton, USA Retired

Treasurer

LCDR Bea Henderson, USN Retired

Directors

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

CDR Ted Edwards, USN Retired

CDR John Ohlinger, USN Retired

LTC Wanda B. Graham, USA Retired

CAPT Dale Lewelling, USN Retired

LTC Mike Patenaude, USA Retired

Lt Col Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF 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

Mailing Address:

Middle TN Chapter, MOAA

P. O. Box 50252

Nashville, TN 37205-0252

Website:

<https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

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

Contact Email: info@mtcmoaa.org

MTC MOAA

If you have attended one of our meetings you will have noticed the charter our Chapter received in 1962 when we affiliated with MOAA (at that time TROA). It is symbolic of our members then until now who have stepped up to make ours one of the top Chapters in the state and nation. Our leaders have built a strong, vibrant organization that offers camaraderie with others who understand the value of service, as well as an opportunity to engage at multiple levels in worthwhile veterans’ initiatives in the community. We have been so successful as a result of our members following the “next man up” philosophy to provide leadership for the Chapter; each with different skill sets, but always with the goal of meeting the needs of the Chapter. We need this process to continue, and hope when you read this, you will consider volunteering to provide that leadership.

President’s Letter

April has been designated the Month of the Military Child since 1986. Some of you grew up in career military families and many of us had children of our own while we were serving, so you know the challenges and rewards military life can have for children. This month we should celebrate the courage, perseverance, and tenacity demonstrated by our children, youth, and teens and what they mean to our communities.

While members of the Tennessee Council of Chapters participate in MOAA’s Advocacy in Action on Washington’s Capitol Hill this month, we can all support critical legislation to the health and welfare of our military, veterans, and their families by taking action through MOAA’s Legislative Action Center. Several very important issues are in serious discussion in this Congress, including reversing cuts to veterans’ TRICARE benefits and concurrent receipt of military retirement from DoD and disability pay from the VA. Please don’t forget to use MOAA’s Legislative Action Center at <https://moaa.quorum.us>.

Locally, TNVET has been informed by legislators that, absent some last-minute change, disabled veterans that qualified for the property tax exemption program will lose it after 2025. Of course, this is an important financial issue for disabled veterans and should be supported. A lesser issue is restoration of a second 100% disabled veteran license plate, which should also be supported. Please use your networks to assist our fellow veterans in retaining these earned benefits.

We are continuing our membership renewal effort this month—Thanks to everyone who has already submitted your dues! We keep dues separate from our annual scholarship campaign so we can donate funds to military-related charities like Operation Stand Down Tennessee, Matthew 25, USO, MOAA Military Families, and Fisher House Tennessee. *Unfortunately, at the moment you cannot pay your chapter dues through MOAA on-line,* so please pay by sending a check to MTC MOAA at P.O. Box 50252, Nashville, TN, 37205-0252. You can also bring a check or cash to our next lunch meeting on 23 April.

Finally, we had a great presentation from Ms. Lisa O’Dell at SCORE about how they support military entrepreneurs locally at our last luncheon.

Our next luncheon will be at Operation Stand Down Tennessee on 23 April, where we will hear an update on Tennessee State Veterans Homes. The event will also be catered by Martin’s BBQ, so you know it will be a great meeting! Please join us!

Larry Cotton
CAPT, US Navy (ret.)
President

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



April is the Month of the Military Child

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

23 April 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
Annual Personal Affairs Meeting

“Tennessee State Veterans Homes Update”

Ed Harries

Executive Director

OSDTN, 1125 South 12th Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203

-

2 May 2024; 7-8:00 AM

“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

-

25 May 2024; 10:30 AM

“MTC Memorial Day Ceremony”

Middle TN State Veterans Cemetery
7931 McCrory Lane, Nashville, TN 37221

-

28 May 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“My Life: From Nazi Occupation to Democracy”

Mrs. Dietlinde Spears

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN 37069

-

6 June 2024; 7-8:00 AM

“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

-

25 June 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“77 Letters”

Mrs. Susan Hunter

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN 37069

-

11 July 2024; 7-8:00 AM

“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

-

20 September 2024; 12:00 - 3:00 PM

“OSDTN Hunger Action Project”

MTC Service Project - Packing Food Bags

OSDTN, 1125 South 12th Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203

-

Legislative Update

TRICARE matters to all of us and here is something you should become aware of as it looms on the horizon for us. DoD plans are working to improve health care for active duty and retiree households by drawing TriCare beneficiaries back from the private sector toward Military Treatment Facilities (MTC). Nothing in that planning requires us to get care at MTFs, it is intended to improve accessibility toward making the MTF our preferred choice for ease and simplicity of care. There is no advocacy action for us to act on now, but we should expect it to come around. Just something to be considering over time, and MOAA is not advocating it right yet.

One can easily imagine that bringing patients back to the MTFs is an expensive proposition. At the same time, TriCare benefits come under dangerous and annual scrutiny. The Congressional Budget Office looks at TriCare as a cost-saving measure, and MOAA comes to the defense of TriCare as a recurring matter of advocacy. Calling it “TriCare for life” does not entirely protect it for us. On 17 April, MOAA will meet for an advocacy day on the Hill with congressional leaders. If there is ever a time for letters to be sent to representatives and senators, right now is an opportune time for you to write.

Within that topic is the concern about staffing at MTF locations. Would the rising numbers of patient’s stress MTF staffing and facilities such that existing access to care is jeopardized? Would additional billets at MTFs need to be created and/or contracting of civilian providers become necessary? A second concern is that returning patients might quickly overwhelm the capacity of MTFs to provide care. It is a delicate topic, and MOAA will watch the planning carefully before advocating it. Just to ease concerns, the vision is for voluntary return of retirees to MTF care unlike past initiatives to recapture the market that had drifted away.

It has been a very LONG time since most of our chapter members were so very junior in their service with the financial struggles that were part of family separation through deployment – but we remember, don’t we? Service members’ families still struggle with the financial costs that accompany extended deployment. Congress created a Family Separation Allowance (FSA) program in the past, and the current Congress has passed a bill to raise it from \$250 to \$400. DoD has not put the raise into effect yet, but with MOAA advocacy support it is coming. It is good to be able to applaud MOAA’s advocacy for this important progress.

And finally, there is still no federal budget for the year even though we now do have the NDAA in place.

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (ret.)
MTC Legislative Liaison