

Greetings Greater Birmingham Chapter MOAA
Members and Friends!

We will be Zooming again for our meeting on April 1st at 3:00 PM. Please join us in hearing about the Lakeshore Foundations' Lima-Foxtrot program for disabled veterans. Susan Robinson, the Program Coordinator for Lima-Foxtrot will be our speaker. With the summer Olympics coming up, this should be a remarkably interesting and timely presentation.

So, it has been over a year now since the COVID started. An exceedingly long year and painful one for a lot of people. I believe that most of us that want the COVID vaccine have either gotten it or soon will. Still the best way out of this mess, so please plan to get the shot if you have not already. With a little bit of luck, we may be having our MOAA meetings live back at the Danberry by the fall. We still plan to have an outdoor activity/chapter picnic in May. Probably at Veterans Park on Valleydale, more to come later. Again, the summer monthly luncheon meetings (June/July/August), be at Llyod's on 280, in their semi-private dining room. We will order individually from the menu and pay for our own lunch.

We appreciate everyone's support and patience over this past year; one like no other. Our MOAA chapter has not thrived, but has survived, which is saying a lot. Many other organizations cannot say the same. In the meantime, stay well, be safe and I hope to see you soon!

Respectfully,

Don

Volume 121 Issue 4 April 2021

Officers' Call

Greater Birmingham Chapter Military Officers Association of America

President Don Lehman, LTC, USMC (Ret)
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2nd VP Michael Walker, LTC, USA (Ret)
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Director Mark Melanson, Col USA (Ret)
Director Bob Barefield, Col USA (Ret)
Director Richard McKinley, CPT USAF (Ret)
Chaplain Mac Chandler, LTC, USA (Ret)
Legislative Affairs Eless Brown, Col USA
Personal Affairs Anne Hartline
Surviving Spouse Liaison Donna Martin
Newsletter Linda DeMarco, LTC, USA (Ret)

Statement of Publication

Officer's Call is the newsletter of the Greater Birmingham Chapter—Military Officers Association of America. It is published once each month to inform the membership of issues and activities of interest to all.

GBC MOAA is a non-profit 501(c)19 entity in the state of Alabama organized to represent the membership and to support the activities of the Alabama Council and MOAA National.

MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are non-partisan.

Advertising contained in the newsletter is not endorsed by MOAA or its affiliate the Greater Birmingham Chapter, and does not represent any recommendation to the membership. Opinions expressed in articles contained herein are not necessarily those of the membership as a whole or the Chapter. Questions should be directed to newsletter@moaabirmingham.org.

Susan Robinson

Program Coordinator for Lima-Foxtrot

LAKESHORE FOUNDATION

Since its program beginnings, Lakeshore proudly served members of our Armed Forces who sustained physical injuries during their time of service. The Lima Foxtrot programs for injured military began as a response to the significant number of men and women acquiring injuries from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Lakeshore has served over 2,800 injured servicemen and women and their families from 46 states, DC and Puerto Rico since 2006. Through Lima Foxtrot, active-duty personnel and veterans use lessons from sport and recreation to learn how to pursue an active, healthy lifestyle.



LAKESHORE

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Greetings everyone! I am writing this on the first day of spring...the sun is out, the wind is gently blowing, the birds are chirping, and March Madness is happening. God is good. I feel like going outside and doing some kind of Irish jig (though truth be told, I am a horrible dancer). Think about where we have come during this past year. I particularly think this April should really be a time where we give thanks. Thanks first to the All Mighty. He has brought us through this mess. Thanks to our Healthcare professionals who have, and still are, working tirelessly to save everyone. Thanks to the teams of scientists who got vaccines out to not just America, but the entire world. Thanks to our Governor. I am so glad we live in a state where common sense has not been tossed out the window. Add a few more names of your own. We all should be thankful! As Psalm 109:30 says, "with my mouth I will give thanks abundantly to the Lord; And I will praise him in the midst of many."

Easter Sunday this year is on the 4th of April. This year my church is having church in person! It is good for us to be gathering and celebrating again with fellow believers. This Easter let's also remember and pray for our men and women who are serving in our armed forces. They are serving in challenging times and need our prayer and support.

One final thought. Let us all commit to visiting our neighbors this April. Let us try to get things back to normal, and soon we will be meeting together again.

Mac Chandler
LTC, IN, US Army (Ret)



GBC MOAA key dates 2021

Date	Event
Jan 7	Chapter Annual Business Meeting
Feb 4	Chapter meeting/Zoom
Feb 10	Board Meeting
Mar 4	Chapter meeting/Zoom
Apr 1	Chapter meeting/Zoom
May 6	Chapter meeting/picnic Veteran's Park
May 12	Board Meeting
May TBD	AVMP Memorial Day Ceremony
Jun 3	Chapter meeting/Luncheon
Jul 1	Chapter meeting/Luncheon
Aug 5	Chapter meeting/Luncheon
Aug TBD	Ladies Luncheon
Aug 11	Board Meeting
Sep 2	Chapter meeting
Oct 7	Chapter meeting
Nov 4	Chapter meeting
Nov 10	Board Meeting
Nov TBD	Birmingham Veterans Day Parade and Awards Dinner
Nov TBD	AVMP Veterans Day Ceremony
Dec 2	Chapter meeting

Application for Membership/Renewal – Greater Birmingham Chapter MOAA (Please print or type)

First Name MI Last Name Grade Rank Preferred Name Name of Spouse
 Branch of Service: ☐ Army ☐ Air Force ☐ Navy ☐ Marines ☐ Coast Guard ☐ Other: _____
 Status: ☐ Active Duty ☐ Retired ☐ National Guard ☐ Reserve ☐ Former Member ☐ Surviving Spouse

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Telephone #: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Email Address: _____
 National MOAA Membership Number: _____ National Membership Type: ☐ Basic ☐ Premium ☐ Life
 Signature: _____ Date: _____

☐ Renewal or ☐ New Membership (membership runs by calendar year)
☐ Regular Membership or ☐ Surviving Spouse: ☐ \$20/year ☐ \$35/2 years ☐ \$50/3 years
☐ Supporting Membership (\$50) or ☐ Sustaining Membership (\$100)
☐ ROTC Affiliation (electronic communications only – no cost)



Mail this form to Greater Birmingham Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 530153, Birmingham, AL 35253



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

(visit Legislative Action at <http://www.moaa.org>)

DOD Retirees and Dependents Now Getting Redesigned ID Cards By Patricia Kime

Starting in the summer of 2021, ID card offices will start issuing permanent, indefinite ID cards to eligible retirees and dependents at age 65. According to Pentagon data, 97% of the DoD's ID renewal offices, known as Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification Card System, or RAPIDS, sites worldwide are issuing the new cards, which more closely resemble Common Access Cards used by troops and DoD civilians. More than 200,000 new cards have been issued as of Feb. 28, according to data provided by the Pentagon. The new cards are more durable than the laminated cards since they are hard plastic and feature advanced security measures that make them less susceptible to counterfeiting and being used for fraud, according to defense officials. The cards are being issued to new retirees and family members, as well as beneficiaries whose cards have expired. The transition to the new cards is expected to be completed by January 2026.

Army Reviewing Thousands of Discharges as Part of Lawsuit Settlement By Kevin Lilley

Thousands of soldiers who received less-than-honorable discharges in the past decade could have their discharge status reviewed under a recent lawsuit settlement. The settlement covers members of the active duty Army, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard who were discharged between April 17, 2011 and Nov. 17, 2020, under general or other-than-honorable conditions and were diagnosed with post-traumatic stress (PTS) or PTS-related conditions related to service at the time of the discharge. The settlement will lead to an automatic review of more than 3,500 so-called "bad paper" discharges, per a Military.com report.

COVID-19 Relief Bill Includes Long-Sought Change Helping Military-Connected Students By Kevin Lilley

A MOAA-supported passage in the \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package will close a loophole in federal education regulations that had made military-connected students the target of predatory practices by bad actors in for-profit education.

The so-called "90-10 Rule" requires for-profit schools to secure at least 10% of their funding from non-federal sources. However, a loophole in the rule allows these schools to count DoD and VA education benefits, most notably GI Bill benefits, as non-federal income. This made student-veterans (and their benefits) tempting targets for schools attempting to skirt the rule.

MOAA and other advocacy groups teamed with legislators to seek a fix, protecting student-veterans from falling victim to aggressive recruitment efforts followed by schools collapsing and benefits spent toward unfinished or less-than-useful degrees.

Closing the loophole "is even more imperative now as COVID has increased predatory colleges' targeting of military-connected students," the letter states. "Closing the loophole removes the recruiting target from the backs of military-connected students and protects taxpayer funds from propping up failing colleges."

The change would not apply to schools until "institutional fiscal years beginning on or after January 1, 2023," according to the legislation.

Dues renewal season is underway.

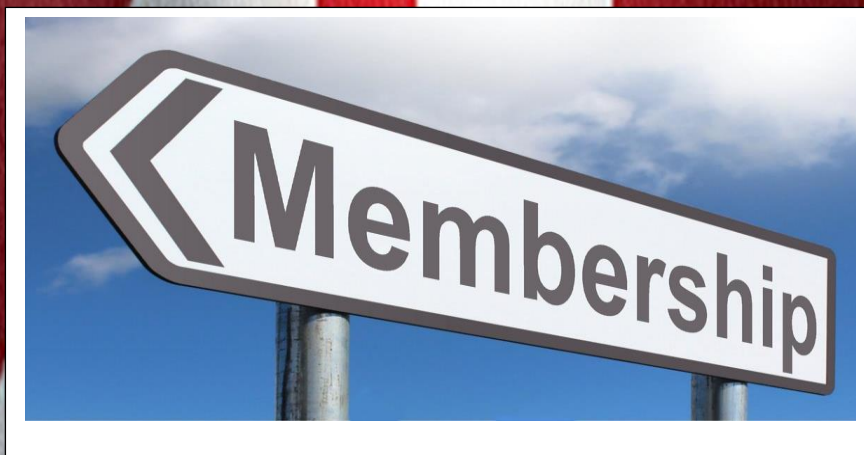
Final chapter membership retention

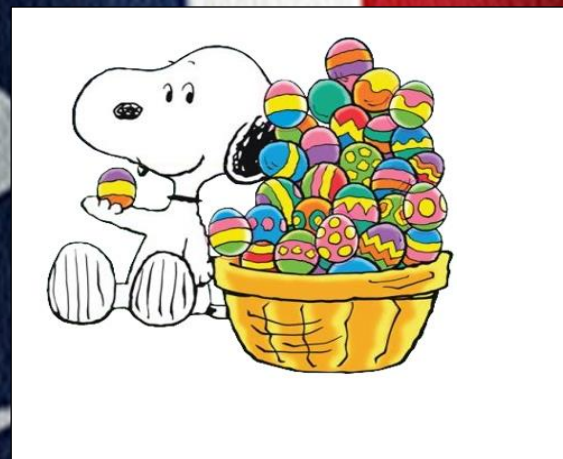
Final chapter renewals are in and we maintained 87% of our members from last year. Thank you to those who showed their support in these challenging times. Also, thank you to our chapter leadership and our members who directly assisted in the GBC renewal outreach that began late last year.

Final notices were sent out, but it is still not too late to take action to reinstate before the end of March. Those still in arrears are:

Bradley, Bill
Burt, Jonathan
Courtland, James
Cragon, Mary
Day, Janeth
Dyar, Kyle
Hicks, Earl
Horsley, Robert
Kozlik, Mike
Lindley, Rickey
Llivina, Elena
Morgan, Rudolph
Morse, Wayne
Przybyzewski, Joseph
Rowe, Dorsey
Sample, Danny
Shelton, Sabon
Smith, Chandler
Stricklin, Chris
Sullivan, Leland
Vaughn, Larry
Vazquez, Angel
Waudby, Robert
Wolff, Roula

If any of the above listed persons have already paid, please disregard. Let's continue to build the GBC chapter.





**MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter
And
MOAA Surviving Spouses and Friends Facebook Page**

The purposes of the chapter:

- *Provide information and exchange ideas
- *Find solutions to problems or issues affecting surviving spouses
- *Be a resource for surviving spouses
- *Reach out to younger surviving spouses and to those living where MOAA chapters are not available
- *Be an enhancement to regular chapters—the virtual chapter does not take the place of a regular MOAA chapter.

The meetings are held every other month (odd numbered months) on the 3rd Tuesday. Zoom is the format of the meeting. The meeting last about an hour. Since the meetings are recorded, it allows people to “listen” to the meeting if they were unable to attend.

Last month, the speaker was Lt Col Shane Ostrom, MOAA Program Director, Finance and Benefits Information. He gave a presentation on scams and fraud. It was interesting and informative.

If you are interested in joining the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter email mssvc02@gmail.com or me at donnamaemartin@aol.com

Another source of information is the MOAA Surviving Spouses and Friends Facebook page. It is a good source for those who need information about pre-planning, survivor benefits, surviving spouse issues, and MOAA issues that impact survivors. Membership is encouraged not only to surviving spouses, but also to family members, spouses, caregivers, Council and Chapter Surviving Spouse Liaisons and to the broader MOAA, The Military Officer's Association of America, membership. The group's purpose is to provide support and focus on issues and topics of interest to MOAA's surviving spouses.

GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Peter Hendricks	3
Barbara Bess	5
Warren Todd	9
Wayne Morse	18
Frank Smith	19
Ed Clark	20
BJ Niedermeier	22
Kyle Sample	22
Mike Kozlik	23
Terry Richmond	24
Billy Joe Camp	27
Chuck Bailey	28

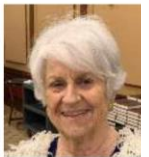
MOAA on-line photo directory

Below is a sample of our chapter on-line photo directory, available via a private link to our members only on our website. It can be found at: <http://moaabirmingham.org/#>. You will need to request a log-in/join if you gave not already in order to access the "Members Only" page. If you and or your spouse do not have and would like to have your photo(s) in the directory, please send a selfie or photo to Donna Martin at: donnamaemartin@aol.com.



Killian, III, Sam P.
4545 Magnolia Drive
Birmingham, AL 35242
Email: spkiii@bellsouth.net
Spouse: Martha T. Killian
marthak36@gmail.com

USN Ret CDR Life
205-408-7721 (h)
205-903-6638 (c)
BD: 8/28
BD: 11/10



Lehman, Donald D. (Don)
1204 Greystone Parc Drive
Birmingham, AL 35242
Email: don.lehman1@gmail.com
Spouse: Patricia A. Lehman
islandmomma1@gmail.com

USMC Ret LTCOL Life
404-441-3882 (c)
BD: 7/10
BD: 11/20
404-725-7152 (c)



Click on these to
access website
and/or Facebook



Website



Find us on:
facebook®

Greater Birmingham MOAA Coins

The new Greater Birmingham Chapter MOAA Challenge Coins are now available to order for only \$10 per coin! This coin will make a wonderful gift and must-have for any challenge coin collection. You can also order coins by contacting:
LTC (ret) Don Lehman at don.lehman1@gmail.com.
Display cases are available for \$1 each, and orders to be mailed should add \$1 per coin.



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government-issued marker, presidential certificate and much more. We are also able to offer a FREE Veterans Planning Guide that includes worksheets and valuable information.

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We invite you to call us for more information.



RIDOUT'S VALLEY CHAPEL

HOMEWOOD

Lt. Col. (Ret) Mac Chandler, Family Service Counselor

205-879-3401 RidoutsValleyChapel.com

Donald Lehman

LtCol USMCR (retired)

Consulting Petroleum Geologist

AAPG CPG #4560

Lifetime memberships:

MOAABirmingham.org

AlabamaMarine.org

VVA.org - DAV.org

Cell: (404) 441-3882
don.lehman1@gmail.com

Still serving veterans – Once a Marine always a Marine



145 1st Avenue West, Alabaster, Alabama



Hours

Thursday 4–10PM

Friday 4–11PM

Saturday 3–11PM

Sunday Closed

Monday Closed

Tuesday 4–10PM

Wednesday 4–10PM

Veteran Owned and Operated



ZOOM MEETING IN APRIL