



It is an exciting time to be a member of MOAA, and with our upcoming State convention in August here in Birmingham, it will be a busy time too. I hope that everyone came through the severe weather front that struck Birmingham the weekend of 15 March safely, with no more inconvenience than a power failure. But that is Alabama Spring weather for you, where we can see anything from freezing temperatures, to 80 degrees and Tornadoes.

During our April meeting, we will hear a presentation about the very first Antarctic Expedition to “winter-over”, or the spending of the terribly cold and dark winter down in the Antarctic, back in 1897-1899. This was the Belgian scientific expedition of Captain de Guerlache, who commanded the ship called the Belgica. The second engineer aboard was my maternal great-grandfather, and I will try to educate and entertain our group with some very interesting facts and pictures (or “daguerreotypes” as they were called back then).

Thanks to everyone in our chapter for helping make the Birmingham MOAA Chapter a place where all our fellow Officers and spouses feel welcome and can share comradeship and fellowship.

With your invaluable help, I hope to continue growing our chapter, and making us proud to be part of something bigger than each of us as individuals, an organization such as the Military Officers Association of America, which strives to support and defend our hard-earned benefits, such as Tricare for Life (TFL) and Veteran’s benefits. Feel free to reach out with any ideas and suggested Speakers, topics of interest, or simply things that matter to you.

Thanks for being a member of our Birmingham MOAA Chapter! Stay safe out there!

Harold A. Coghlan

CW4, U.S. Army (Ret)

Volume 127 Issue 4 April 2025

Officers’ Call

President: Harold Coghlan, CW4 USA (Ret)

1st VP: vacant

2nd VP: vacant

Secretary: Margie Argo, LTC, USAR (Ret)

Treasurer: Donna Martin

Membership/

Past Pres: Don Lehman, LTC, USMC (Ret)

Director: Mark Melanson, Col USA (Ret)

Director: Jeff Newton, BG, ANG (Ret)

Director: Doug Markham, CPT, USN (Ret)

Director: James Oliver LTC, USA (Ret)

Chaplain: Dan Phifer, LTC, USA (Ret)

Legislative

Affairs: vacant

Personal

Affairs: Anne Hartline

Surviving

Spouse Lynn Phifer

Liaison

Newsletter: Jimmy Langley, 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.



Website

April 3rd, 2025 MEETING

Danberry at Inverness
235 Inverness Center Drive
Birmingham, Al 35242
205-443-9500
Social 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm

MENU

Meat Lasagna
Mixed Grill Vegetables
Tossed Salad
Rolls
Peach Cobbler

Dinner cost will be \$25 per person.
Reservations must be made by noon Monday, March 31, 2025.

Preferred method:
RSVP and pay by credit/debit card at:
(No CREDIT CARD FEES!)

<https://april-3-2025-reservation-and-payment.cheddarup.com>

or alternate method:
Email / call Donna Martin at contact@moaabirmingham.org or 205-876-6274.

Speaker: Harold A. Coghlan



Belgica stuck on Antarctic icepack

RECRUITER'S CORNER

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Eligibility: Honorably serving, former, or retired Warrants, Chief Warrants, or commissioned officers of the armed forces (Regular, Reserve, National Guard) as well as current, former, or retired USCG, NOAA, USPHS commissioned officers and surviving spouses from all branches are eligible to join MOAA. If you know of anyone who may qualify to belong to the chapter, have them contact us or better yet, invite them to an upcoming meeting.

Dues: Until it changes, 1-Year dues are still only \$20 (2 Years = \$35). The 3-Year chapter renewal option is the best bargain at \$50.

To join or renew, please complete the application below or join/renew online at:

<https://www.moaabirmingham.org/membership/>

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Here it is April 2025! What do most people think about in April? Is it April Showers? Maybe it could be Spring and warm weather coming soon. How about planning that vacation for this summer?

Well, I seem to be focusing on something else this time of year. TAX DAY - April 15th. Maybe you also "remember" that our "Uncle Sam" wants to hear from each of us with a possible "refund" from our government which might pay for that little vacation I mentioned earlier. But more likely it will be an opportunity to send a check to the "Uncle".

Each year lately I have had a "professional" Tax person prepare my return. (That cost me some bucks.) This year I made a bold decision to do all that work of calculating the ups and downs of my 2024 income and deductions . I even paid money for a Tax software guide to help calculate all the "stuff" my uncle wants to know. Great stuff to help prepare the return. So I started gathering and organizing the information needed to complete the task.

It didn't take but 3 weeks to get it all together. Then OVERWHELM hit me. Too much for my mind to get straight. So I called my Tax Preparers and delivered the bundle to the "experts" for help. They smiled and promised to get it ready for me to sign. I smiled thinking to myself: "What a relief this is!"

"Do it yourself" is great but sometimes we do need the "experts" in life.

My prayer for each of you is that you find the "experts" for all the challenges you face in your life.

Blessings,

Dan Phifer
Chaplain (LTC-Retired) US Army

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

Legislative Issues

Advocacy in Action 2025

MOAA's annual advocacy in action event will bring members from across the nation to Washington, D.C., in April to meet with lawmakers as part of the ongoing work to advance the legislative agenda.

2025 Issues

1. Incentivize Military Spouse Hiring
2. Continue Unaccompanied Housing Improvements
3. Improve Access to Health Care for Military Families
4. Ending the Wait for Toxic-Exposed Veterans
5. Support Veteran Caregivers

Continue to follow MOAA's Advocacy News page for ongoing updates regarding all of MOAA's legislative priorities, details on this year's key topics and how members and others can engage their lawmakers from home.

Contact MOAA's Member Support Center msc@moaa.org or call (800) 234-6622 if you have questions about MOAA legislative efforts.

Legislative Action



Four ways to get there:

Direct link: MOAA.quorum.us

Text "MOAA" to 1-855-547-6921

Go to: MOAA.org > Advocacy > Legislative Action Center

Or scan the QR code to the left with your phone:

MILITARY SPOUSE'S CORNER



The Birmingham MOAA Ladies held a luncheon on March 19th, at the Hoover Country Club. The luncheon program was given by Susan Hackney who works for the United Way Area Agency on Aging (UWAA). This agency serves seniors as well as people of all ages with disabilities in their search for various assistance programs. Susan is the coordinator of the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP). The services of UWAA also include help in applying for Medicare and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and finding lower-cost prescriptions. This agency streamlines the process so that older adults, disabled and family caregivers can easily obtain information they need. Contact the Aging and Disability Resource Center simply by calling 1-800-AGE-LINE (1-800-243-5463).

Pictures of some of the attendees at the Ladies Luncheon, March 19, 2025



Susan Hackney, UWAA SHIP/SMP Coordinator
Anne Hartline



Patricia Lehman, Nancy Barefield
Julie Steele



Margie Argo, Sheila Morgan



Donna Martin, Esther Merriam

GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER INFORMATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Chuck Bailey	28
Ed Clark	20
Peter Hendricks	3
Terry Richmond	24
Frank Smith	19

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 have 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)



MOAA program & speakers for remainder of 2025:

Also available on our website at <https://www.moaabirmingham.org/meeting-dates/>

- April 3 – Harold A. Coghlan
- May 1 – Annual spouses appreciation meeting. Speaker - Christine Shores
- June 5 – Annual chapter picnic, Veterans Park on Valleydale Rd
- July 10 – Casual lunch, no program, BYO, location TBD
- August 7 – Casual lunch, no program, BYO, location TBD
- August 22-24 – MOAA Alabama Council of Chapters State meeting, Birmingham, hosted by GBC Birmingham
- September 4 – No meeting in September



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

First Name (Preferred name) MI Last Name Rank / Grade Spouse

Member of National MOAA? ☐ Yes ☐ No Mem # (if known) _____

Branch of Service		Status	
<input type="checkbox"/> Army	<input type="checkbox"/> Marines	<input type="checkbox"/> Active Duty	<input type="checkbox"/> National Guard
<input type="checkbox"/> Air Force	<input type="checkbox"/> Navy	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired	<input type="checkbox"/> Former Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Coast Guard	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Reserve	<input type="checkbox"/> Surviving Spouse

Postal Address City State Zip Code Home Phone #:

Date of Birth Cell phone # Email Address

Member: _____

Spouse _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Local Membership (Greater Birmingham Chapter) runs by calendar year.

The remainder of your first calendar membership year is complimentary.

Following yearly membership dues: ☐ \$20/year ☐ \$35/2 years ☐ \$50/3 years)

Mail to:

Greater Birmingham Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 530153, Birmingham, AL 35253

Thank you for your support!



Meeting April 3, 2025