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Pittsburgh - A Five Star Chapter
Chartered on Veterans Day, 11 November 1965
Our Mission: Never Stop Serving

31 December 2021

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Chapter Updates from the President

Greetings MOAA Pittsburgh!

There is much news to put out that can't wait. News from the state council, the State Veterans Commission, state and federal VA. Please take time to look at everything. We'll see you in person at our regular luncheons at Chartiers Country Club starting in April. Dates are set forth below.

As you know, MOAA exists to promote matters of interest to members of the uniformed services and veterans. We are extraordinarily effective. As the lead organization in the Military Coalition, MOAA is regularly

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honored as a top lobbying organization. That the "COLA-minus 1% feature" was defeated several years ago, ensuring that the value of our military pensions are not quickly eroded over time, is just one example of what MOAA does to preserve the commitment made to the people who served this country in uniform. That one achievement is among many. MOAA makes a difference in Congress and in our state legislatures every day.

We can do what we do because we are **nonpartisan**. MOAA National is nonpartisan, the Pennsylvania state Council of Chapters and this chapter are non-partisan. We don't support people or parties; we lobby for legislative issues and positions. I encourage you to go to the **MOAA** website and review its contents thoroughly, and pay particular attention to the **Take Action** part of the website, Read the monthly The Officer magazine cover to cover.

Another effective way to help this chapter and to help MOAA is by **recruiting new members**. We have been blessed to have people reach out to us through our presence in the **chapter locator** on the MOAA website. We have added several new people to the chapter this way and that is the main way this chapter will grow in the future. Here is a **link** for an online membership application. After sampling what MOAA has to offer, they can upgrade to a paid membership with more benefits.

As we have been doing, we will publicize dinners sponsored by our sister chapter, General Greene, when their 2022 calendar is promulgated. They take the winter off like we do.

Stay safe and I look forward to greeting you in person at our next scheduled luncheon on Palm Sunday, 10 April, at the Chartiers Country Club, 601 Baldwin Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15205.

A few reminders and things to share about appeals.

1. An appeal is not usually

VA » Board of Veterans' Appeals

Board of Veterans' Appeals

The Board of Veterans' Appeals has learned that a limited number of Veterans may have had their Board Appeal forms (VA Form 10182, Decision Review Request: Board Appeal (Notice of Disagreement)) mistakenly rejected for being untimely. Out of an abundance of caution, the Board is sending out a wide notice to help ensure no other Veterans were impacted by this. If you filed a VA Form 10182 with the Board between February 19, 2019, and March 23, 2021, and believe it may have been improperly rejected as untimely, please send a letter to the "Clerk of the Board" at P.O. Box 27063, Washington, DC 20038 or via fax to 1-844-678-8979 no later than March 1, 2022. In your letter, state you are asking the Board to "RECALCULATE TIMELINESS" and be careful to include the Veteran's full name, claim number or SSN, the date of the rating decision you appealed to the Board, and the date of your original VA Form 10182 appeal form that the Board told you was untimely.

more questions, need another eye or a second opinion, feel free to ask.

Most importantly, do not be afraid of filing an appeal if that is the best or only solution left. The VA recognizes that there may be delays caused by COVID. [Here](#) is a statement setting forth their policy regarding delays in printing and mailing notification letters to Veterans and claimants. The disruption may impact the ability of some claimants to meet required deadlines via written correspondence with VA. They are [extending](#) their response period by 90 calendar days for claimants with letters dated between July 13, 2021 and December 31, 2021.

reflective of a VSO's failure in an initial claim.

2. The VA makes mistakes. The appeals process is in place to correct those mistakes when a VSO notices them.
3. Has the VA overlooked important facts or misapplied their own rules? Support your appeal with facts and law.
4. When you take an appeal make sure you have a VSO committed to representing the claimant in the hearing. If it is not you, then who is it?
5. DMVA's VSO Policy gives some guidance on how to handle appeals. If you have

Veterans in Crisis

Veterans suicides, veterans poverty, and veterans homelessness are the true tragedies of our society today. [Here is a link to a document about how to talk to a veteran in crisis, including warning signs if there is imminent risk of suicide.](#)

2022 Female Veterans Day Celebration in March

The [Pennsylvania Commission for Women](#) is seeking statewide nominations for its sixth Female Veterans Day Ceremony as part of Women's History Month in March 2022. **Nominations are due January 14, 2022.** More information is available [here](#)

December 2021 PA Council of Chapters "The Eagle" Newsletter

Editor Bob Gray, LTC USA (r), spends considerable time on legislative matters and everything you need to know about MOAA legislatively is contained here. The Eagle is

not a substitute for the other MOAA resources, but it is another way for you to get a fuller picture of legislative actions at the state and federal level that affect you. Technical issues with our newsletter vendor, Constant Contact, are preventing us from attaching the newsletter as a link. Until we get this problem resolved, ***if you email chapter president Bob Heister at heysailor53@mac.com, putting MOAA The Eagle in the subject line, he'll forward a copy to you.***

Veterans Breakfast Club

The VBC is still operating even in the midst of the current Delta/Omicron COVID epidemic. You can find a list of their events [here](#)

2022 Planned Meetings

10 April - 05 June - 14 August - 09 October - 11 December 2022

Other activities, social, and public service events to be announced later

