



Tennessee Council of Chapters
Military Officers Association of America



Minutes of the Meeting 15 October 2025

Tennessee Council of Chapters, MOAA met 15 October 2025 in person and via zoom, 11:00 AM CST.
Those in Attendance were

CC Chattanooga (TN01)

Absent funeral of a prominent chapter member

SMC Smoky Mountains (TN02)

Eric Nicholls Trea
Don Rifkin Sec

MC Memphis (TN03)

Kathy Desjarlais Pres – via zoom

MTC Middle Tennessee (TN04)

Larry Cotton Pres
Dale Kiser VP
Patricia Bergquist, CoC SSL – via zoom
Doug Minton CoC MC

MEC Mountain Empire (TN05)

Don Thompson Pres – via zoom- out of town

UCC Upper Cumberland (TN06)

Scott Jacobson Pres
Robert Martin VP

FCC Ft Campbell (TN07)

Ivan Adames CoC Past Pres
Monroe Gildersleeve CoC Trea
Bill Summers CoC LL
Eddie Sumbler CoC Chaplain
Eunice Sumbler

SRC Stones River (TN10)

Keith Prather Pres
Pete Warner CoC Pres
Sandy Warner CoC Sec

SCC Sumner County (TN11)

Stu Reeve Pres

Gen Andrew Jackson (TN12)

Bobbie Bell Pres
Jeff Rice incoming Pres
John Wade

Tennessee Council of Chapters MOAA had no guest speaker.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: 2025/26 MEETING INFORMATION IN THE MINUTES!

Council President Pete Warner began the meeting at 11:07 AM CST and led the pledge to the flag. Following the pledge of allegiance to the flag Eddie Sumbler said a prayer of opening for the meeting.

Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes of the 16 July 2025 meeting had been sent out on 08 September 2025 to all the chapter presidents and Council members Keith Prather moved that the minutes be accepted. The motion was seconded by Larry Cotton and approved unanimously.

Membership Chair Report – Doug Minton

MOAA started a revamp of the Committee Module a few years ago. They are slowly making headway adding and deleting members. Chapter Membership Chairs should get on it. After carefully reviewing person by person, it is noticeable there are missing email or updated mailing addresses. Lifetime Members are missing out on their MOAA magazine due to their address not being current. Realizing that updating members information without permission from that person would not be able to be done. Each Chapter's Membership Chairs need to get their members to update their profiles individually. The membership chair can continue to look and find who needs to update. We have to just work through it. For now, just send an email to them to update information. If you have any problems just send me an email (mintond@comcast.net)

- A question was asked about the opting in/out policy making it available for us to fix some things if they had not opted out?
- The answer is Yes, but the system will not allow you to make that change right now. We must notify MOAA, and they will fix it.

Now that MOAA has frozen the near and real-time report for two months, while they fix the op in opt our part. I don't think they are ready for the changes to be made.

Financial Report provided by Monroe Gildersleeve written report attached

The financial report for the period of July 1, 2025, to September 30, 2025.

The council had four disbursements during the quarter, to Pete Warner for council flag with fringe reimbursement of \$128.25, and Nonprofit Dynamics, Joe Leonard Website Hosting Services for \$450.00, and Zoom Workplace Pro Annual for \$174.69 and, TN VET annual dues for \$150.00.

The council had no deposit from MOAA National.

Total funds on hand at the end of the quarter were \$4,092.19, which included restricted travel funds of \$226.67.

Bill Summers moved that the Financial Report be accepted. The motion was seconded by Doug Minton and approved unanimously. The council accepted the Treasurer's report.

- A question was asked if the council is at a point where it needs to start accepting dues to replenish the council funds.
- Pete asked to answer and explained that the council will receive stipends from National in January, they pay for our zoom account and travel pay for council president to visit the chapters. I will apply for the grant to promote our Council and chapters, and are still owed \$100.00 from MOAA Vacations because the council runs its banner on the website. So, this creates a fund for the council to work with.
- Chapters can get MOAA vacations to pay them by running the banner on their website.

Surviving Spouse Report – Patricia Bergquist written update provided as follows:

All Tennessee MOAA Chapters have a Surviving Spouse Liaisons (SSL), except the East Tennessee Chapter. Please update Patricia of any Surviving Spouse Liaison changes. Chapter Surviving Spouse Liaisons who need assistance helping a surviving spouse, please contact Patricia at p_bergq@hotmail.com or (615-948-4960).

ADVOCACY/LEGISLATION

Please refer to the April 16, 2025 TN Council of Chapters Minutes for sponsors and more details about the legislation below:

1. H.R.2055 and S.611- "Caring for Survivors Act of 2025" are to expand Title 38, United States Code, to improve and expand eligibility for the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) paid by the VA to surviving spouses and others whose veteran died on active duty or from a service-related injury/illness. This legislation would increase DIC from 43% of a single, 100% disabled veteran's compensation to 55%.

H.R.2055 has 93 co-sponsors (1 TN: S. Cohen (TN-09))
S.611 as 6 co-sponsors (NONE from TN)

2. H.R. 1004 and S.410 - "Love Lives on Act 2025" would allow retention of Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) through the Department of Defense and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) through the VA upon remarriage at any age; and allows remarried surviving spouses to regain their TRICARE benefits if their subsequent marriage ends due to annulment, divorce, or death. Currently, surviving military spouses are not allowed to remarry before the arbitrary age of 55 without losing ALL their benefits.

H.R.1004 has 103 co-sponsors (NONE from TN)
S.410 has 50 co-sponsors (NONE from TN)

Through the Legislative Director of TAPS, who leads advocacy on this bill, we have learned the following: "Half of the Senate are officially co-sponsors (35 Democrats, 12 Republicans, and both Independents).

This is the most co-sponsored bill before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs (by a lot) and second for the House Committee on Veterans Affairs (behind a bill for access to contraception at the VA).

There are 15 states where both Senators are co-sponsors: Arizona, Arkansas Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oregon, Texas, and Vermont".

Please encourage all MOAA chapter members, spouses, and surviving spouses to contact their Congressmen and Senators to advocate for legislation impacting our surviving spouses as follows:

MOAA's Legislative Action Center at <https://www.moaa.org/takeaction> or <https://moaa.quorum.us> to send a MOAA prewritten message which you can personalize (recommended) to your Congressman and Senators.

Contact your Congressman and Senators, using the MOAA Capitol Switchboard (1-866-272-6622), ask to be connected to your Congressman or Senator's office, once connected ask to speak with the Military Legislative Assistant (MLA). Follow up your phone call with an e-mail to the MLA.

Please use the updated (3/20/25) TN Congressmen and Senators Contact List provided with the April TN Council of Chapters Minutes for the MLA name and e-mail.

You may also e-mail your Congressman or Senators directly via their website.

You may also request to visit your Congressman or Senators District Office any time and schedule an appointment with them personally during recess.

Please do not use USPS to contact congressional leaders. USPS mail is screened off site before delivery and prolongs delivery time!

The *most active* surviving spouses FaceBook groups following these bills are:

- "DIC Surviving Spouses/DIC Increase Advocacy"
- "Love Lives on Act of 2025 Advocacy"

Legislative Liaison Report – Bill Summers

We are still fighting for the property tax reimbursement for disabled vets setting up to meet with representative Crawford.

The Veteran Lottery we are gearing up for. Texas has been using this for years and has had great success with the Texas Veterans Lottery.

Veterans Day on the Hill will be in the last Wednesday of January. We have the parking set up and shuttle service for free and catering has been booked. Mark your calendars.

Another thing we are working on is last year we had you come in and sign a piece of paper that showed all the legislators you were going to see and if they were one of our constituents. That went well last year. On the paper it showed if you were a voter with your address. If we can get that letter to you and you can get it back to us, we can drop that to the legislators for you if they are not on your list. Instead of a few hundred we could have several thousands. We actually put it on the website so anyone can print it out and mail it in.

- A question, about the lottery are you proposing an entirely different and separate state administered lottery?
- Yes, and it has to be a constitutional change too. It will be a separate account from my research it looks like in Texas the Commissioner for Veterans Services helps proportion that money and the commissioner here does not do anything with the money. We are going to have a meeting with him to let him know where we are going with this thing.

Any more questions

- Input from the secretary the last Wednesday in January will be the 28th of January

We'll get the word out. We are going to expand two sides rooms on the 8th floor and going to have video pipe it in. We can put 20 or 30 people in those rooms and the set up will be like an internal zoom call so we can bring more people in.

- Input from the president, for those of you who do not know Bill and Steve were like the chairman inherited of TNVET organization in which we pay dues to based on our head count, we are very much a part of the financial aspect of the organization and participate in the TNVET venue.

Council Secretary Report – Sandy Warner

Has everybody signed in?

Bylaws any updates?

Archiving is still going on so anything you want kept with the council just send it to me and it will go into the archives.

The new changes in the officers coming up, I will only be sending to the presidents the minutes so if you have anyone you need to add to this list, please be sure to send me their emails so I can add them to the group.

Please send your quarterly report to me as soon as you are able. I no longer send final minutes out as they are posted on the council website once approved by the council. (tncoc-moaa.org) this should help tame email overflow from me.

- Input from the president, as you all know the secretary has been trying to archive all the council and chapters histories so we have a better idea of what is going on going forward and when we pass it on to the next folks, they will have a better idea of things and it does help. Speaking of which we are going to vote here in a minute for our new president, 1st vice, and 2nd vice, and I have not asked the appointed if they will be staying on, I will make the assumption they are, it has yet to be seen. Now with these new changes in the council and chapters that are going on every year some two years. This will need to be sent to national so it can be added to the committee module. Help keep this current and up to date. With that I will be asking Don Thompson to speak.

Nominating Committee Report: Don Thompson via zoom

Does everyone have the ballot, (secretary stated it was handed out) For the last two years we have not had a 1st or 2nd vice presidents, so there was no succession in the works. We had to create a nominating committee. You have the bios, and we didn't put one out for Pete because we already know what he can do. There were no other people that offered to volunteer, and Pete could not run fast enough to get away. So, Pete do you want to take it from here.

- Pete asked if there were any questions.
- Only one asked how does (Pete) feels about the report. Pete replied he would never let the Council down. As he himself climbed the ranks from 2nd VP to 1st and onto President he had not been put in this position before where a nominating committee had been needed. Let's put the vote to the floor. I'll just run down the list All those who want to keep me in the position as President say Aye, unanimous. BJ Keepers could not be here but you have read his bio, as 1st VP all those in favor unanimous and Keith as 2nd VP all those in favor unanimous. They will be installed at the January meeting.

Nominating Committee Members

- Don Thompson, Mountain Empire Chapter, MOAA
- Ted Jewell, Chattanooga Chapter, MOAA
- Jeff Rice, Andrew Jackson Chapter, MOAA

The Board Nominating Committee (BNC), appointed by Tennessee Council of Chapters President Pete Warner, met virtually on June 30, 2025, and several times since. After contacting each Tennessee MOAA Chapter President and asking for potential nominees who would be willing to serve on the Tennessee Council of Chapters Board of Directors for the period of 2026 to 2028, the BNC nominates the following candidates for consideration for the 2026-2028 time-period. Of note, there were no other candidates interested in being considered in 2026, though several expressed interest in serving in 2028 and beyond.

Recommendations for Nomination for Tennessee Council of Chapters Board of Directors

President - Current President, Pete Warner

First Vice President

BJ Keepers, Captain, SEAL, United States Navy (retired)

- 32 years Commissioned Service
 - Commander, Deputy, Commanding Officer, Executive Officer, Plans, Operations, Training, Platoon Leader, Shooter
 - Qualified: Parachute, Demolition, Weapons, Diving, Ropes Master, Range Safety, Dive Master, O2 Chamber Operator, and a few others

- Twice made an honorary Chief (Senior NCO)
- 10 years USCENTCOM Government Civilian: Director Operations Security and Manager Operations Readiness
- Life Member of MOAA
 - Member of Chattanooga MOAA Chapter for two years, serves as Legislative Liaison
 - Works TNVETs on the Hill in Nashville
 - Coordinates with Federal, State, and Local elected officials
- Member of Navy League as Director of Executive Board
- Staff Volunteer for Tampa Frogman Swim - 5-K open-water swim providing charity for Navy SEAL Gold Star Families
- Volunteer with Chattanooga Police SWAT
- Volunteer with Chattanooga National Medal of Honor Heritage Center
- Volunteer with Chattanooga National Cemetery
- Volunteer with Sea Cadets in for Naval Special Warfare Orientation Course
- Member of Chattanooga Navy League Council as Board of Directors

Second Vice President

- Keith Prather, CWO4, United States Army (retired)
 - Served 41 years, in Public Affairs, then JAG, managed sexual assault programs; worked with National Guard Bureau.
 - President of MOAA Stones River Chapter after serving as 1st VP and 2nd VP.
 - Chairman, Tri-Star Veterans Resource Center, educating veterans and spouses on how to increase their Tricare For Life benefits.
 - Sexual Assault Prevention Program Manager.

Chapter Updates

Chattanooga Chapter attended the funeral of Benny Ray Adkins on this day
Ray Mitchell sent his written report prior to the meeting. Thank you, Ray.

Chattanooga TN01: written update provided by Ray Mitchell as follows:

Chartered: 17 February 1979
President: Ray Mitchell
moachattanoogachapter.org

VP: Ted Jewell
SEC: Steve Whitley

2nd VP/MC: Brett Hale
TREA: Jack Mullinax

MAY 2025

1. On May 2nd the chapter participated in the Chattanooga Armed Forces Parade. The longest running parade in America. We had a vehicle in the parade and over 20 members attending the Armed Forces Luncheon after the parade with guest speaker Gen. Stephen N. Whiting, Commander, U.S. Space Command.
2. We conducted our bi-monthly Chapter Board Meeting on May 12th.
3. Our Chapter Spouses met for Lunch at the Chattanooga Golf and Country Club on May 20th.
4. Over 50 members and several other veterans attend the Chattanooga Lookouts Veterans Appreciation Picnic the evening of May 24th.
4. A large number of our members attended the Chattanooga Memorial Day Ceremony hosted by the Chattanooga Area Veterans Council at the Chattanooga National Cemetery on May the 26th. The guest speaker for the ceremony was retired CAPT Spivy.
5. May 29th – MOAA National Zoom Leaders Roundtable. Subject: Chapter Health.

JUNE 2025

1. Several chapter members attended the Quartey meeting of the Chattanooga Area Veterans Council on June 13th.
2. The Chapter Spouse's met for lunch at the Chattanooga Golf and Country Club on June 17th.
3. MOAA Chapter Dinner June 17th. Our speaker was Mr. Rich Mozingo, President of the Chattanooga Lookouts Baseball Team. Talked about the new stadium and how the operations and construction of the new stadium is progressing.
4. A couple members participated in a round of Clay Target Shooting near by Benton Tennessee on June 21st.
5. Several chapter members attended the monthly Southeast Coalition Meeting in Chattanooga on June 22nd.
6. MOAA National Zoom Leaders roundtable on June 26th covered by Douglas D. Sanders, MOAA's General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, discusses insurance and incorporation issues, copyright law, and other topics of interest.
7. Appointed our chapter's Nomination Committee on June 27th to find our next chapter leadership.

JULY 2025

1. Several members attend a National Park lead Ranger tour of Point Park in Chattanooga on July 2nd.
2. July Chapter Board Meeting was on the 14th.
3. MOAA Spouses Lunch at the Chattanooga Golf and Country Club on July 15th.
4. Several Chapter members attended the Remembrance Program for the Fallen Five at 11:00am at the Tennessee Riverpark on July 16th at the Wreath of Honor. This is the 10th year since July 16, 1015.
5. Quartey meeting of the Council of Chapter's on July 16th in Lebanon, TN.
6. The July 24th MOAA National Zoom Leaders roundtable focused on Recruiting and Retention.
7. Several chapter members attended the monthly Southeast Coalition Meeting on July 30th.

AUGUST 2025

1. MOAA Spouses Lunch at the Chattanooga Golf and Country Club was held on August 19th.
2. MOAA Chapter Dinner August 26th at the Walden Club included many special guests and our speaker, Congressman Chuck Flieshmann. A special ceremony was conducted where GEN BB Bell presented the Korean Peace Medal to one of our members CPT Jack Martin.
3. Several chapter members attended the August 27th monthly Southeast Coalition Meeting.
4. MOAA National Zoom Leaders roundtable on August 28th discussed Virtual Chapters.

A LOOK AHEAD FOR SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER

1. BG Carl Levi's Funeral at the National Cemetery on September 12th.
2. Medal of Honor Convention is September 29th – October 4th.
3. MOAA National's Total Force Conference in Maryland starts October 30th.

Pictures from the different events.



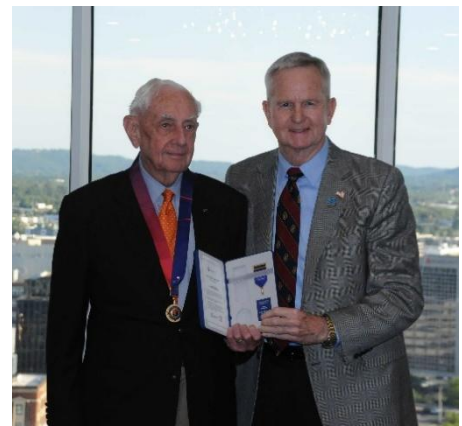
Armed Forces Parade



MOAA Dinner



MOAA Dinner



Very proud of our chapter's moto "never stop serving" and I see it every day with our member's contributions, both financially and talent, to our area veteran's community. We are making a difference.

Pete introduced Don and Eric since Chattanooga is at the funeral, we will start with Smoky Mountain chapter and if you are not familiar with who they are the formally known chapter known as East Tennessee chapter please introduce yourselves.

Smoky Mountains aka ETC TN02 (Knoxville) – no written update provided update by Eric Nicholls and Don Rifkin

Chartered: 19 June 1977
President: Steve Myer

VP: position open
SEC: Don Rifkin

MC: Tom Peck
TRS: Eric Nicholls

I am Don Rifkin the secretary of the Smoky Mountain revitalized chapter, 27 years CGIS with Coast Guard reserves.

First Thank Pete for inviting us here and the Smoky Mountain chapter owes him a great deal of gratitude for the effort he put forth in getting us going.

I am Eric Nicholls treasurer of the Smoky Mountain Chapter and Pete did damage my arm a little bit when he twisted my arm to become treasurer, but I have recovered. I am ex Air Force and with a part of

the Department of Defense that does not exist anymore, so I am not sure exactly where I belong but as long as the paychecks keep coming, I'll be ok.

Anyway, some of this may be old news to those that were involved with starting up this chapter, but it was new for all of us. Give credit to Steve for stepping up and taking over as President, some of the things we had to learn our way through we successfully got a Charter from MOAA and heard rumors we may have a long wait for our charter, but we got ours within months and are officially as of Sep 27th known as the Smoky Mountains Chapter and no longer East Tennessee even though that is our region.

We have successfully adopted our Bylaws and mission statement.

We filed and received our EIN number which you cannot seem to do anything before getting.

We've rented a PO Box so have that and applied for 501 (c)(3) and we established a bank account a big part of that was with funds from MOAA and USAA's \$300.00 community grant and we were pretty close to the expiration date on that. We are with Regions Bank, and this is a no fee account and we got two checkbooks and don't think we will go through all those. If any chapters are paying for a bank account we would recommend a Regions bank in their area, as the no fees and free checks was a big help getting started.

Initial meeting was in March. Since then, we have had three-chapter meetings and we have had about 10 people and with 10 people that are dedicated willing to work we are growing.

Tom Peck (our membership chair) has been doing a great job we have about 37 people signed up to attend the chapter dinner meetings and look forward to bringing their wives, so they get a day off from cooking.

Our first dinner meeting was in September and another coming up and that seems to be a big hit. We are still looking for vice presidents and board members to fill slots but are getting it done.

The previous chapter was very involved with ROTC and JROTC giving certificates and all that and we are gradually considering getting back into that. We are still in the startup getting some momentum going we only have four people as board members and are still looking for vice presidents and board members.

- *Eric a phenomenal job I think every chapter here can understand what you have gone through.*
- Sandy: this is a prime example of the need for the archives to hold chapter information. I wish with all my heart I could have handed over their chapter charter and bylaws and anything that would have helped them get started. This chapter was dormant for so long there were no records to be found. But they did this all on their own digging up anything they could get their hands on and literally starting from scratch.

MOAA Memphis TN03: no written update provided update via zoom by Kathy Desjarlais

Chartered: 22 June 1970

President: Kathy Desjarlais

1st VP: open

SEC: DeBorah Lockett Day

2nd VP/MC: John Dixon

TREA: Jim Thomasson

We've had a couple of really interesting sets of speakers recently. We had a couple of young officers come and talk to us about The Coast Guard in this area and explained how their mission has changed dramatically over the last few years.

One of our members Mike Ellicott has given a couple of PowerPoint briefings, the last one was on the end of WWII and has one coming up in December on Pearl Harbor.

This month we have the retired Captain Pharmacist from Public Health Services coming to talk about Vaccines not only the need for it but what they can and cannot do for you.

We are involved with Toys for Tots this year collecting both money and toys for the local drive.

Also collecting money for the VA Soup Basket this year. That is the abbreviated version.

- *Pete asked if Kathy has any changes to her position or 1st and 2nd Vice from the Memphis chapter and she stated not at this point. And John Dixon is he doing well, Kathy says he has graduated up and is able to drive himself to his dialysis by himself. Good deal he was a fixture here as well.*

Middle Tennessee TN04: written update provided by Larry Cotton as follows:

Chartered: 30 March 1961

President: Larry Cotton

mtcmooa.org

VP: Dale Kiser

SEC/MC: Doug Minton

TREA: Bea Henderson

I. Luncheon Meetings

- July 2025 – Monthly luncheon meeting held 22 July. CAPT Dana McClendon, USN (ret.), “The Brown Water Navy in Vietnam.”
- August 2025 – Monthly luncheon meeting held 26 August. MAJ John Page, USA (Ret.), “VA Services Overview.” (Note: We passed contact info on the speaker and his notes to all TN CoC Chapters for their consideration as a speaker. He was that good!)
- September 2025 – Monthly luncheon meeting held 23 August. LCDR Pat Ryan, USN (ret.), “Emerging Foreign Policy Doctrine in a Brutally Challenging World.” (Pat is a Past Chairman of the TN World Affairs Council, and provided a high level look at the current state of US policy in international affairs.)

II. Advocacy

- Each monthly newsletter included a Legislative Update and the President’s Letter discussing how to use MOAA’s Legislative Action Center for individual advocacy. Legislative Advocacy was also discussed at the end of each monthly luncheon with a summary of timely issues and emphasis on individual participation in the LAC.

III. Community Outreach

- The chapter participated in Operation Standdown Tennessee’s Operation Commissary by packing over 100 food bags on September 19, 2025.
- The chapter is planning for its participation in OSDTN’s Holiday Market by distributing \$2,000 of gift cards to Publix from MOAA’s Community Outreach Grant program.
- Our 2025 Scholarship drive is well underway. We will give one time grants to a veteran-student at TN State, Belmont and Lipscomb Universities as well as a donation to the MOOA National Scholarship program.

IV. Special Recognition

- LTC Wanda Bruce Graham, USA (ret.) has been recognized as the African American Veteran of the Year for Williamson County. Wanda is a MTC MOAA Past President and serves as our Personal Affairs Director on our Executive Board. She is extremely active in the community as an

elections volunteer, county political party chairman, and Brentwood Library Board Member. Congratulations to Wanda!

Any questions?

- *Pete, do you mind your scholarships ROTC grads or just general?*
- We give a scholarship to a Veteran, on a priority basis combat, injured whatever. One scholarship at Lipscomb University, one at Belmont University and one at TN State. We also have an endowed scholarship that a church had not yet finished and we were able to take that over the scholarship of \$25,000.00 and finish that up. In all actuality we have four local scholarships. Plus, we give the remaining amount of money that we have of that scholarship we were able to give to MOAA National and at MOAA National we have four endowed scholarships there complete. We do not go raising funds we send out a letter and ask people to give for the scholarships and most people will give \$25 - \$50 dollars.
- *I think a lot of chapters can learn from this good information you've shared thank you.*

Mountain Empire TN05: no written update provided update via zoom by Don Thompson

Chartered: 22 September 1979
President: Don Thompson
mecmoaa.org

VP:
SEC: Mary Shaw Van

MC: Mark Tipton
TREA: Bret Monette

We have acquired three new members in the last three months or so, we recruited two from our ROTC program, one in which we have already put on the board that we recruited from one of our High Schools JROTC/ROTC programs a Navy Chief Warrant Officer who is the Senior ROTC Coordinator will fill both Chaplain and JROTC coordinator positions. JROTC will be one of the big recruiting vehicles.

We snagged another board member who will work as an assistant Treasurer to help our Treasurer adjust through some changes in his life at this time.

Presented three scholarships and added another JROTC award to our scholarship program so we are up to four.

Presentation last month from the TN Veterans Homes Group has six or eight assisted living facilities around the state and they feel that the Tri Cities area would be a wonderful place to have one. People in the area need to come up with 35% to get this going.

Our annual business meeting is next month in November

Any questions?

- Pete asked if there were any changes in their positions? Mountain Empire is in the middle of their cycle so they will stay the same for a while. We were voted in last January.

Upper Cumberland TN06: no written update provided update by Scott Jacobsen as follows:

Chartered 10 December 1990
President: Scott Jacobsen
ucc-moaa.org

VP/MC: Robert Martin
SEC: Jon Reiver

2nd VP: Dale Kiser
TREA: Doug Rauch

I am the outgoing President of the chapter; incoming president will be Robert Martin my vice. We've got a very full slate this year and all our positions will be filled; we are pretty happy about that, and we will install all those officers in our December meeting.

Coming up we have our December Christmas party usually it's a pretty good deal, we do a dirty Santa. We always pick something every year that we pass the hat on for funding to support we rotate between: Toys for Tots, Honor Plates, Smoky Mountain dogs. Hooligan was the dog they brought and what a dog. Usually, we raise between \$1000.00 and 1500.00 right there in the form of a check for the group that comes out.

This year we are doing Deer Run Ranch, horses. They do more than just Veterans, they do children, they do homeless, they do support for anything you can think of they are a very, very, good group. They are going to come out and talk to us at our Christmas party.

Our JROTC Scholarship is out now he will be going to school here soon. We have eight schools that we support we have liaison members that go out to the schools and spends time getting to know the students. It gives a chance to see who is going to make a military career out of it.

So, we are going forward.

Ft Campbell TN07/KY03: no written update provided update by Ivan Adames as follows:

Chartered TROA 01 October 1971 (off grid 1963)
President/MC: Brian Lynch

VP: Tim Powers
SEC: Todd Hannah

2nd VP: Nancy Mullens
TREA: Chuck Webster

- Pete - We have a table full of members, does anybody want to speak for Fort Campbell?

Ivan Adames pass president, we are up and down, down there, up in Clarksville because a lot of stuff is moving between Kentucky and Tennessee, so we are flapping back and forth.

July, our speaker was the veteran court.

August, it was a hot month, and we had a representative from forget about August it was too hot.

September, we went to the Casey Jones Distillery it was a nice place to walk into good atmosphere got us in the spirit of things. We had a representative from Kentucky speak to us there. He really wasn't a military man, but he talked to us about legislation that is going on because he needed to get people to live on the Kentucky side. A lot of the people who work in Kentucky live on the Tennessee side because of the state taxes. He let us know they are reducing their tax to bring in Veterans to get people to move to Kentucky side because most veterans live in Clarksville TN because they don't have to pay the taxes they would in Kentucky, and he wants to make sure they won't have to on the Kentucky side of it.

We had a golf tournament and Monroe oversaw that.

We had Appreciation Day the next day and we went they had about 600 people there. We had a few visitors that stopped by. Ray Adkins came from Chattanooga use to come up every year it was a pretty big thing and we saw him every year he came up.

This month we are going to be at the Pablo's and having Mexican. It's great because you get to take home the buffet you can't beat it.

In November we have the parade and at the same time we have the Marine Core Ball and another thing we have going on is the scholarship dinner so we will have two dinners that month.

- Sandy - Pass onto your chapter Happy 54th Birthday – Oct 01, 1971, congratulations.
- Pete – that is what the archives will do for you.

Stones River TN10 – No Written update provided update by Keith Prather as follows

Chartered 16 September 1995

President: Keith Prather

VP: Doug Gilbert
SEC: Diana Neely

MC: Larry Ellis
TREA: Jim Heuberger

Hello everyone, I want to say thank you for voting for me for 2nd VP. Pete has been my mentor ever since I got here back in 2021 and since Pete became 2nd Vice President here, I have been wanting to come onboard. He was a great help to me with our scholarship my personal goal was 25,000.00 and we are up to 18,000.00 now and we will support at least two local JROTC students. We were hoping to hand out some this year, but we did not have any applicants. We will revisit it next spring. So, we have had to re-strategize what we had going on. We have assigned members to certain schools. That seems to be helping.

I am the outgoing president, and my vice will step up. We will be having an election for the 2nd vice president since we have two people willing to do that position. Looking for a new Membership chair since ours will be stepping down. Hopefully, our treasurer will stay on board he's done a great job.

We had our annual picnic out at one of our members places he has a great spread, and it was a nice relaxing get together.

Our membership is now at 129 which passed our goal of 125

During the summer, our attendance goes down, so we are thinking our location and date we are getting older and need to adjust to what works for our crowd.

We will have our Christmas Party in December.

I was going to go to Total Force I signed up to receive the updates but the more I hear about it sounds like it is geared more towards the active duty just getting out.

- Pete said knowing that Keith was going go, he was going to ask him to bring back a report. It's General Kelly's brainchild by the way. He is the CEO of MOAA and he is trying to get this going.
- Doug Minton said Karon Uzzell-Baggett is on the MOAA National board and she could give us a report.

Sumner County TN11 – written update provided by Stewart Reeve as follows:

Chartered TROA 27 July 1999

President: Stu Reeve

VP: Jason Jones
SEC: David Moomy

MC:
TREA: Stephen McLain

The Sumner County Chapter has made significant strides in the recent quarter. We have applied for and received IRS 501(C) 19 status and have been blessed by the state as a non-profit. With such approval we will be more aggressive in seeking donations from organizations and individuals.

We anticipate that these funds will help us expand our three \$500 JROTC scholarships in Sumner County and our support of other veterans' programs. And an anonymous donor has underwritten a \$500 scholarship to the Springfield Air Force JROTC program for 2026, which allows us to add that scholarship to the existing ones.

Next week (Oct. 23) is our annual meeting that will feature our election of officers, reports from the officers and a key vote on raising dues. The current slate of officers has agreed to continue for 2026 and, if elected, will be installed at the January 22 meeting. Although we still have a vacancy for first vice president, we are optimistic that one of our two new members who joined in September will step forward and assume those duties.

We will not meet in November but will finish 2025 with our Christmas Holiday dinner at 3 p.m. on December 7.

General Andrew Jackson TN12: written update provided by Bobbie A. Bell as follows:

Chartered 17 Nov 2007
President: Bobbie Bell

VP/MC: Dan Sullenger
SEC: Jim Perkinson

2nd VP: Mickey Ponder
TREA: Allen Snyder

Luncheon Meetings

- a. August 2025 – our speaker was Mr. Van Hillary who spoke on the current political landscape in the world.
- b. September 2025 – our speakers were LTG (retired) John Pickler & his wife Karen who spoke about their experiences of September 11, 2001. LTG Pickler was at the Pentagon on that day. They are both chapter members.
- c. October 2025– Our speaker is Mr. Kevin Wilkerson with the Vanderbilt University Medical Center Anatomical Donation Program.

Additionally, the chapter publishes a newsletter each month & has continued spotlighting a member each month. We are still in the planning stage for a website &/or Facebook page.

Membership

We are still averaging about 26 members per meeting. We have several prospective new members. Although they have been contacted & sent our newsletters, they have not made a commitment to join our chapter. Our membership chair, retired MAJ Dan Sullenger, continues to post a notice of our meetings each month in several local newspapers. He has also been contacting members who are on our rolls but have not been attending meetings & are behind in their membership dues. There has been some improvement in those behind in their dues, but members have been warned they may be dropped from our rolls. We do expect a RIF at the end of December.

JROTC

Each JROTC program we support has been contacted at the beginning of this new school year. The instructors have been invited to attend/become members of our chapter, but none have taken us up on this as of yet.

Advocacy

Members have been reminded of the national issues & encouraged to contact their congressional representative. Our liaison sends out upcoming meetings/zoom meetings, & information to our membership throughout the month.

Leadership

We have filled our vacancy at Chaplain with retired LTG John Pickler. We are preparing for voting on our leadership roles & board members in November.

Community Involvement

We had a good response from our members in August for our donation to a local food bank.

Council President's Report

Charter 15 April 1978
CoC President: Pete Warner
tncoc-moaa.org

1st VP CoC: POSITION OPEN
CoC MC: Doug Minton
CoC TRS: Monroe Gildersleeve
Coc Chaplain: Eddie Sumbler

2nd VP CoC: POSITION OPEN
CoC SEC: Sandy Warner
CoC SSL: Patricia Bregquist
TNvet: Steve Singleton/Bill Summers

A reminder that each chapter can earn money by upgrading basic members to prime or lifetime.

- Karen added you can get a 10% discount by using the code "[referral](#)".

Showing up in person at the Council meetings gives the chapters a chance to share information with each other face to face in discussion.

First, I want to thank everyone that was able to participate both in-person or via Zoom. We understand that the Chattanooga Chapter could not make it due to paying final respects at the funeral of Benny Ray Adkins.

Here are the key highlights and takeaways from our council meeting:

1. The council voted on new officers for 2026-2027 and they are:
 - a. President - Pete Warner (Stones River Chapter)
 - b. 1VP - BJ Keepers (Chattanooga Chapter)
 - c. 2VP - Keith Prather (Stones River Chapter)
2. The council also voted on sending \$250 to the MOAA Crisis Relief Fund which was matched by \$250 from the council president and secretary on behalf of the TNCOC.
3. The council was pleased to welcome in person the treasurer and secretary of the newly named Smokey Mountain Chapter from Knoxville. Both Eric Nichols and Don Rifkin gave a great briefing on the newly formed chapter, and it was great to welcome them back into the fold!
4. All of our chapter presidents and their officers are doing a great job of recruiting and retention, community engagement, and advocacy at both the state and national level despite the heavy headwinds of our aging demographics.
5. Special thanks to Don Thompson (Chair/Mountain Empire), Edward Jewell (Chattanooga) and Jeff Rice (Gen. Andrew Jackson) for their work on the nominating committee - they ensured we have the requisite council officers in place for future years.

Finally, I want to personally thank our council officers for their service these past two years. Without them, we could not have accomplished our goals and maintained our record as one of MOAA's most rock-solid councils.

Doug Minton - Membership Chair
Monroe Gildersleeve - Treasurer
Patricia Berquist - Surviving Spouse Liaison
Eddie Sumbler - Chaplain
Bill Summers - Legislative Liaison
Steve Singleton - Legislative Liaison
Ivan Adames - Past Council President
Sandy Warner - Secretary

The dedication and commitment shown by our chapter members, along with our chapter and council officers, exemplify the remarkable achievements we can attain together in service to our nation and veterans through MOAA.

Next meeting – January 21, 2026, at 11:00 AM CST, at Sammy B's restaurant in Lebanon, TN.

Conclusion of Meeting

Eddie Sumbler gave the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 PM CST.

Next Meetings and Future Events

Important Dates 2025

- Oct. 23:** Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern:
MOAA Foundation. (Meeting ID: 914 4733 5409)
- **Oct. 27-29:** Total Force+ Conference, Gaylord National Harbor, MD
- Nov. 14-15:** Leader Training: East Workshop (Hershey, Pa.)
- Nov. 20:** Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern:
MOAA Annual Awards. (Meeting ID: 995 5369 6751)
- Dec. 18:** Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern:
Year in Review/2026 Outlook. (Meeting ID: 929 1511 3996)

Proposed 2026 future TN Council of Chapters Meetings:

Our next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2026, at 11:00 AM CST. The meeting will be in person at Sammy B's in Lebanon, TN. 705 Cadet Ct, Lebanon, TN 37087-2648 615.547.4550

Future Meetings – at Sammy B's or on Zoom!

TN CoC Meeting	22 April 2026
TN CoC Meeting	15 July 2026
TN CoC Meeting	21 October 2026

Minutes prepared and submitted by Sandy Warner, Secretary, TN Council of Chapters
tncoc23sec@gmail.com 210.517.2057