



ECAC

ECAC Newsletter

ecacmoaa.com

DECEMBER 2024



Military Officers Association of America Christmas Party

December 14, 2024 Saturday 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Saugahatchee Country Club in Dogwood Room

3800 Bent Creek Pkwy Opelika, AL 36804



Playing Holiday Games

Meals are \$50 per person.

Raffle cost \$5 for 3 tickets.



Dress is festive Christmas attire.



Please RSVP yes or no to

334-826-1107 or bohler1107@charter.net

by Monday afternoon,

for the Christmas Party.

Let us know if you need a ride.

**Yes reservations are paying commitment
as Saugahatchee will charge by the num-
ber called in on Tuesday morning.**

Buffet Menu:

Salad

Sirloin with Beurre Blanc

Lemon Caper Salmon

Au Gratin Potatoes/ Vegetable Medley

Glazed Baby Carrots/ Green Beans

Roll

Chef's Assorted Desserts

- ✦ **December 13:** National Guard Birthday, which commemorates the founding of the National Guard in 1636.
- ✦ **December 20:** Space Force Birthday, which celebrates the founding of the Space Force, the newest branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, in 2019.

Help Our Chapter Meet Its Goal of 50 Wreaths



Now is the time to buy wreaths for the Wreaths Across America campaign. If you or a friend would like to donate to Wreaths Across America, you can click on this website to go directly to the **chapter's page** for donations helping the Ft. Mitchell Cemetery receive wreaths for the Wreath Laying Ceremony on Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 12 PM EST. You can even donate (purchase wreaths) in memory of someone. You can volunteer to lay wreaths as well.

Fort Mitchell Cemetery has 5,084 wreaths for the 12,500 gravesites, so far.

Our chapter goal is 50 and we have 22.

The website is <https://wreathsassamerica.org/pages/159330/Overview>

Page should show AL0046P East-Central Alabama Chapter-MOAA with a red sponsor button to click.

#1 The given amounts are 1-\$17, 5-\$85, 12-\$204, or custom amount.

#2 Sponsorship Group to Support should show our chapter.

#3 Location should have Ft. Mitchell National Cemetery already there. If you wish to sponsor wreaths for a different location, then look for the cemetery you wish to designate.

#4 Choose Customize (Optional) if you want to donate in memory of someone.

Then confirm and add to cart to use a credit card to pay. Thank you for supporting the Wreaths Across America campaign.

REMEMBER the Fallen. . . HONOR those who Serve. . . TEACH our children the value of Freedom.

Minutes from November General Meeting



Secretary
BJ
DeBardeleben

- The general meeting was held at the Auburn University Club and was called to order by Mike Horsefield at 6:30 p.m. There were sixteen members and guests present.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Danny Sample.
- The prayer was offered by Gordon Bugg.
- BJ DeBardeleben gave a presentation on Lee County Veterans Outreach. He works for Alabama Extension and connects Veterans with resources throughout the community. Sadly, only half of Veterans use the benefits they earned by serving in the military, so spread the word that BJ is available to help.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Board Meeting on Monday, Dec. 2, 2024 was cancelled.

As of November 30, 2024, the chapter has:

2025 Dues

72 Regular Members	\$50	Per regular member.
11 Surviving Spouse Members	\$40	Per dual member.
2 Associate Members	\$25	Per Surviving Spouse
85 Total Chapter Members		

Per Chapter By-laws, you must become a member of National MOAA to belong to the chapter.

January's Board of Directors meeting will be Monday, Jan, 6th, at 1145 at Chappy's. Any member wishing to attend should contact a Board member for an invitation.



Treasurer Report by Gordon Bugg

\$2096.40 11-30-24 Bank Balance

No outstanding items or deposits

Dues Update:

At the Sept & Oct Board Meetings the board discussed what the new dues should be after doing some research. Many clubs in the area are around \$75-\$95 per year. Our chapter dues have been \$20 for over 30 years and **haven't been enough the last few years to meet our chapter's needs or goals due to inflation.**

For a regular member, \$50 was suggested by the board and the chapter members voted at the October general meeting to raise it to this amount starting in the 2025 year. Dues will be collected in January and February at the meetings or by mail. Payment is due by March 1st, so a new roster can be prepared. Look for the mailing address in the January newsletter.

TRICARE and FEDVIP

Open Season is the time when families can enroll and/or make changes to their TRICARE and FEDVIP health care coverage for the next year.

Prime to Select or vice versa? Page 34 in the Military Officer Magazine

Open Season started Nov 11 and ends Dec 9, 2024.



[Www.benefeds.com](http://www.benefeds.com)

[Www.Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov)

Medicare Annual Enrollment Period started on Oct 15 and closes on Dec 7, 2024.

Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period starts on Jan 1, 2025 and closes March 31, 2025.

ECAC-MOAA's 2025 Meeting Dates

Jan 16th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
<i>Feb 20th</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>6PM</i>	<i>Saugahatchee</i>
Mar 20th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
<i>Apr 17th</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>6PM</i>	<i>Saugahatchee</i>
May 15th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
Jun & July	No Meetings		

Wanting to Travel in 2025-2026
Check out the MOAA Cruises & Tours
And the Webinars about them.



Phone: 1-800-211-5107

Email: mail@moaavac.com



Present

<https://www.auburnalabama.org/veterans/bricks/>

Idea

Buy a brick at the Veteran's Memorial on Ross/Glenn corner.



The Auburn Planesmen R/C Flying Club,

<https://auburnplanesmen.org/>

is located on a private full-scale (700 feet long by 100 feet wide) grass runway, flying radio-controlled electric, glow, gas, and turbine-powered aircraft. There is a solar-powered battery charging station for 12V and 120V battery chargers. You can expect 5-7 of the flying club members out every weekend, most likely on Sunday afternoons.

Check out the website for more information.

FYI: Distaff Club

If you are somewhat new to ECAC MOAA, you may not be aware that there is a local organization called Distaff Club for military spouses. They restaurant hop on the second Wednesday of the month in the Auburn/Opelika area. Traditionally, the February meeting includes a bring a spouse/friend/Valentine to lunch and the December meeting has an ornament exchange. They enjoy getting together to socialize and getting to know one another. Dues are only \$5.00 a year and collected at the restaurant in the summer. If interested, please contact Judy Bohler, President, (334) 826-1107 or Cathy Golden, Treasurer, (334) 246-7142. Come join us!

After BJ DeBardeleben's presentation in November, he had a brochure about the Lee County Veterans Outreach for our chapter members. Here is the inside page with two of our members (BJ DeBardeleben and Paul Esposito) phone numbers. On the back was the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs web-site <https://va.alabama.gov> and the two Opelika officers (Sean Gathers, VSO and Chris Williams, AVSO) at 100 S. 6th Street, Opelika, AL 36801. Office Phone 334-737-3626



Thank you for your service.

More than 12,000 veterans live in Lee County, and the majority are not receiving all of the benefits available. The goal of the Lee County Veterans Outreach is to meet the veterans in Lee County and make sure that they are aware of their eligible benefits.

- Federal Veterans Affairs Disability Compensation
- Post 9/11 GI Bill
- Veterans Home Loan Program
- Mentor Program for Veterans Treatment Court
- And many more

As a community team, we will accomplish this through a veterans network. The goal of Alabama Extension's Lee County office is to facilitate this network.

Only 49 percent of the 18 million veterans in the United States have received their benefits. Help us find more than 6,000 veterans in Lee County who have not received their benefits.

You are not alone.

Alabama Extension is the primary outreach organization for the land grant mission of Alabama A&M University and Auburn University. Alabama Extension works with individuals, groups, and agencies, initiating and facilitating partnerships and helping people help themselves to a better life and livelihood. Alabama Extension is here to help you connect with the resources you need.

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B.J. DeBardeleben

Lee County Veterans Outreach
 Programs Administrator
 bzd0026@aces.edu
 Office: (334) 749-3353

Director, Auburn University Veterans Resource Center & Lead Veteran Mentor for Lee County Veterans Treatment Court

Paul Esposito

pme0004@auburn.edu
 (334) 844-8168



Who Can Join MOAA Chapter?

Membership in the East-Central Alabama Chapter is open to any National MOAA member who is on active duty, reserve, retired, or a former commissioned officer or warrant officer in any component of the Seven Uniformed Services of the United States (U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Space Force, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Service, or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). The Surviving Spouse of these individuals are also eligible to join and participate as regular members. Additionally, we offer Associate memberships to 4th year ROTC cadets at Auburn University and Tuskegee University as well as to the living spouse of a regular Chapter member.

ECAC Mission Statement

The East-Central Alabama Chapter is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and was chartered in 1970. It serves the cities of Auburn and Opelika, Alabama, as well as the surrounding areas of Lee, Chambers, Russell, Tallapoosa, and Macon counties in Alabama. The mission of the East-Central Alabama Chapter is to benefit the members of the uniformed services, their families and survivors, and to advocate for a strong national defense, while providing needed support to the community and its members.

Join ECAC Online!
<https://ecacmoaa.com/join-ecac>

Executive Officers, Board of Directors, Chair Positions for Oct 2023-Oct 2025.

President:	Mike Horsefield	Chair Positions	
Vice President:	Chris Richie	Surviving Spouses Liaison:	Kathy Barto
Secretary:	BJ DeBardeleben	Tops:	Mike Horsefield
Treasurer:	Gordon Bugg	Membership:	Judy Bohler
Director Chapter Affairs:	Ron Carson	Personal Affairs:	Ron Carson
Director Communication:	Jeff Bohler	Newsletter Editor:	Judy Bohler
Director Banquet:	Judy Bohler	Web Site:	Jeff Bohler
Director Legislative:	Ron Barto	Digital Communications:	Jeff Bohler
Past President:	Mike Golden	News Release:	Ron Carson
		ROTC Awards:	Jim Matthews
		Monthly Meeting:	Judy Bohler
		Guest Speakers:	Chris Richie
		By-Laws:	BJ DeBardeleben
		State Council:	Ron Barto
		Legislative Updates:	Ron Barto
		MOAA News:	Ron Barto
		Chaplain:	Mike Golden



Find
ECAC-MOAA
on Facebook
and Linked In



If you are interested in joining our *Facebook* group, you can use the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/300482473982236/>

If you are interested in joining our *LinkedIn* group, you can use the following link:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12227504/>



Some of the articles on these pages are gathered online from various MOAA websites and newsletters. They are attributable to their reporters and personnel. Contact the club secretary with any questions.

ECAC-MOAA
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Editorial Policy. The East-Central Alabama Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and national MOAA provide their advocacy in a nonpartisan manner. Any conveyance of partisanship is unintended.