

**ECAC**

ECAC Newsletter

ecacmoaa.com**AUGUST 2024**

Our August MOAA meeting will be a luau party, so come dressed in your favorite Hawaiian shirt, grass skirt, coconut bra, leis, or any fun colorful attire.

The party starts at **4:00 pm** with piña coladas, margaritas, macadamia nuts, and tropical fruit as some of the appetizers. And yes, there will be spam!

The Hawaiian dinner will be served at 5:00 pm, and there will be plenty of pineapple and coconut.

After dinner we will have a short business meeting followed by hula dancing, coconut contests, and more piña coladas. Aloha!

Next Dinner Meeting 1600 —Saturday— 17 August 2024

The location for the meeting this month is at the

Grove Hill Club House

Turn into Grove Hill Subdivision off Moores Mill Rd.

Club house is on the left by pool.

Please RSVP at 334-826-1107 or by email to **bohler1107@charter.net** by Wednesday, 14 August 2024 by 2100.

Cost: \$35 per person
(cash or check only)

Raffle: \$5 optional

Time: 1600--Social

1700--Dinner

If you need a ride, or
have questions, please
call 334-826-1107.

This month's meeting is a **membership drive**, so if you know of a retired officer, reservist, or officer on active duty who is not a member of our organization please invite them to attend. Send an email to the RSVP address with their phone # and a newsletter will be sent to them. **We have 84 members at this time.**

Menu

Salad

Chicken Teriyaki w/ Pineapple

Hawaiian Pulled Pork

Rice/ Sweet Potato

Green Beans

Dinner Rolls

Coconut Cake

Tea & Water

Board Meeting was Monday, August 5, 2024.

As of July 30, 2024, the chapter has:

2024 Dues

72	Regular Members	\$20	Per regular member.
10	Surviving Spouse Members	\$15	Per dual member.
2	Associate Members	\$5	Per Widow/Associate/ROTC student
84	Total Chapter Members		

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

September Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, Sept 3, at 1200 at Chappy's. Any member wishing to attend should contact a Board member for an invitation.



Treasurer Report by Gordon Bugg
\$2060.45 7-31-24 Bank Balance
No outstanding items

Minutes from May General Meeting

- The meeting was held at the Auburn University Club and was called to order by Mike Horsefield at 6:25 p.m. There were many members and guests present. Mike welcomed everyone to the last general meeting before summer break.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ron Carson.
- The prayer was offered by Mike Horsefield.
- Social time was followed by dinner with no speaker scheduled.
- ✦ The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Secretary

BJ
DeBardeleben



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.

ECAC-MOAA's 2024 Meeting Dates

August 17th	Saturday	4PM	Grove Hill Luau
Sept 19th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
Oct 17th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
Nov 21st	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
Dec 14th	Saturday	11AM	Saugahatchee



The internment for Col. Linus Fiely at Arlington National Cemetery will be on October 25, 2024 at 1:00 PM ET.

Please contact Liz Fiely if you need any additional information or would like to attend.

From the Surviving Spouse Corner:

The nationally emailed MOAA Newsletter on August 1st has an article on **“Who is Best to Serve as an Executor”** by **Suzanne Walker**. It covers the usual items and has a list of other duties to think about when choosing the executor of your estate. If you don't get this emailed newsletter from national MOAA and would like a copy, go into your settings on your MOAA account to receive it. A printed copy can be sent as well by contacting Kathy Barto, Chapter Surviving Spouse Liaison, at 804-317-8588.

Your Voice Matters at MOAA and Nationally

This month is the biennial MOAA election. Please go into your MOAA accounts or mail back your ballot: and vote on resolutions, vote on by-law amendments, and elect the next class of MOAA's board members.



FYI: Distaff Club

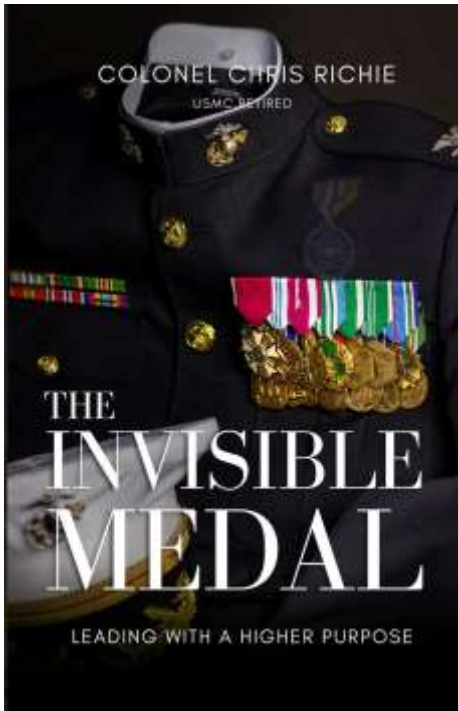
If you are somewhat new to ECAC MOAA, you may not be aware that there is a local organization called Distaff Club for military spouses. They restaurant hop on the second Wednesday of the month in the Auburn/Opelika area. Traditionally, the February meeting includes a bring a spouse/friend/Valentine to 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!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The Chapter Vice President, Chris Richie, wrote a book which is on Amazon for \$16.99.

Below is the link to read about it.

[The Invisible Medal: Leading with a Higher Purpose: Richie, Colonel Chris: 9781735834238: Amazon.com: Books](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B081735834)



Join retired Colonel Chris Richie as he entertains readers with stories and leadership lessons from the deserts of the Middle East, the rain forests of Nicaragua, the low country of South Carolina, and many more. Colonel Richie explores the leadership lessons and crucibles that guided his three decades as a United States Marine.

Be prepared to learn what it takes to be the leader you are called to be.

The Invisible Medal is the realization that the success we enable in others is greater than any personal accolade. Invisible medals will be earned if we focus on people and relationships, view life as a stewardship, and recognize that everyone has potential.

Becoming a servant leader is more than simply fulfilling the needs of others. Successful leaders look inward to identify their foundational purpose and values. They reflect on their life's crucibles and understand the leadership philosophy born from those challenges. When leadership dilemmas emerge, the best leaders can weather the storm because their principles have been built on solid ground.

Questions you will consider throughout *The Invisible Medal* include, "What is your purpose? What is your story? What do you value most? What virtues guide your behavior and ethical decisions? How can you shape your unique story into leading others?"

"Focus on the individual; earn your invisible medal."

TRICARE Fraud Alert: TRICARE For Life Phishing Scam By TRICARE Communications

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – If you’ve recently gotten a suspicious text message about your TRICARE coverage, don’t respond. Instead, report it to TRICARE. Some beneficiaries have gotten a text message from 888-763-0248. The sender claims to be Wisconsin Physicians Service, the TRICARE For Life contractor. But the text message is really part of a phishing scam targeting TRICARE For Life beneficiaries. The message says the recipient’s TRICARE coverage will expire due to nonpayment. It tells the recipient to call a toll-free number.

“The Defense Health Agency has recently learned of this phishing scam,” said Anne Breslin, TRICARE For Life program manager at the Defense Health Agency. “While it seems to be aimed at TFL beneficiaries, scammers may try to target anyone who has a TRICARE plan. You should stay aware and report any suspicious messages or calls that say they’re from TRICARE.” It’s important to know that WPS doesn’t collect payments. Also, WPS won’t try to contact you via text message.

TRICARE will never text or call you asking for: Payment and Personal identifying information

Keep these tips in mind when it comes to your personal information:

- ✦ Never share personal or financial information with someone you don’t know.
- ✦ Don’t open unsolicited, unexpected text messages or emails.
- ✦ Don’t open links from unknown numbers or emails. Instead, contact your TRICARE contractor using a phone number or website you know is real to verify that they’re trying to reach you.
- ✦ Reporting scams
- ✦ Have you or someone you know gotten this scam text message? You should report any suspected fraud or abuse related to your TRICARE benefits.

There are two ways to make a report:

Option 1: Contact your TRICARE contractor.

TFL beneficiaries: Contact WPS.

Others: Contact the appropriate TRICARE contractor. This may be your regional contractor, the pharmacy contractor, or the Dental Program contractor.

Option 2: Contact the DHA Office of the Inspector General.

Give as much information as possible when you make your report. This may include names, dates, and details. Investigations are confidential. You can choose to remain anonymous.

Protect your personal information. Treat it like a credit card. If someone contacts you by phone, email, or text message asking for this information, don’t provide it. Instead, report it to your TRICARE contractor right away.

There are many types of phishing scams targeted toward the military community. For more information, check out Military OneSource. Preventing TRICARE fraud and abuse is everyone’s responsibility. To learn more about how to spot scams, check out the FBI’s tips on catching health care fraud.

Would you like the latest TRICARE news sent to you by email? Visit TRICARE Subscriptions, and create your personalized profile to get benefit updates, news, and more.

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
P.O. Box 124
Auburn, AL 36831-0124



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.