

**ECAC**

ECAC Newsletter

ecacmoaa.com**NOVEMBER 2024**

Thursday Nov. 21st AU Club 6PM



*Presentation: Alabama Extension
of the Lee County Veterans Outreach*

Presenter: B.J. DeBardleben

Chapter Secretary

Benjamin J. (B.J.) DeBardleben has worked for Alabama Extension as the Lee County Veterans Outreach administrator since May 2023. He has over 20 years of military experience both as an M1A1 tanker in the United States Army and as a retired CH-46/MV-22 Naval Aviator in the United States

Marine Corps. B.J. has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from Auburn University and a Master's degree from Marine Corps University in Military Science. He lives in Auburn with his wife Charlotte, and has four daughters. His focus at work is to connect Service Members, Veterans, and their Families with resources available in our community. His presentation will cover Veteran statistics, issues, and services at all levels of government.

Order from the menu below,
and each person/couple pays their own bill.

Salad:

Clubhouse Caesar \$8

House \$8/\$12

Add Chicken \$8, Add Shrimp \$11, Add Steak \$12, Add
Salmon \$13

Dinner:

All Served with Mashed Potatoes and Grilled Asparagus

8 oz Filet Mignon \$39

Grilled Chicken Breast \$25

Cabana Burger \$15

Fresh Catch Special \$38

**Next Dinner Meeting
November 21, 2024
1800 —Thursday— 6 PM**

1650 Yarbrough Farms Blvd.

Auburn, AL 36830

Take Shug Jordan Pkwy to
North Donahue Dr. and go north.

After 1/2 mile turn left
onto Yarbrough Farms Blvd.,
and the AU Club is on the right.

Please RSVP at 334-826-1107

or by email to

bohler1107@charter.net

by Tuesday, Nov. 19th by 9PM.

Board Meeting was Monday, Nov. 4, 2024.

As of October 31, 2024, the chapter has:

2024 Dues

| | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------|------|----------------------------------|
| 72 | Regular Members | \$20 | Per regular member. |
| 10 | Surviving Spouse Members | \$15 | Per dual member. |
| 3 | Associate Members | \$5 | Per Widow/Associate/ROTC student |
| 83 | Total Chapter Members | | |

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

December's Board of Directors meeting will be Monday, Dec. 2nd, at 1145 at Chappy's. Any member wishing to attend should contact a Board member for an invitation.



Treasurer Report by Gordon Bugg
 \$2066.40 10-31-24 Bank Balance
 No outstanding items or deposits

Minutes from October General Meeting

- 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 nineteen members and guests present.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Danny Sample.
- The prayer was offered by Jerry Williams.
- Tom Wynn gave a presentation on the SS Mayaguez Incident. Tom was a young USAF Lieutenant Co-pilot flying an EC-130 ABCCC during the mission.
- Some business was conducted from the last Executive Committee meeting: BJ made a motion to raise the member chapter dues from \$20 to \$50 and the surviving spouse dues from \$5 to \$25. The dues have not been raised in over a decade and are not allowing us the flexibility to care for our members and support the community properly. Chris Richie seconded the motion and the vote passed with a majority of hands raised in support. The chapter membership dues are now \$50 for members and \$25 for surviving spouses. 2025 dues will start to be collected January.
- BJ let everyone know that the week of November 11-16 will have special events everyday on campus to celebrate military appreciation week ending with the football game on the 16th against ULM. There is a breakfast on campus Nov 11 at 8 am and ceremony at 10 am at the City of Auburn's **Veterans Memorial**. Mary Riley reminded everyone that there are memorial bricks available for purchase at the City of Auburn Veteran Memorial (<https://www.auburnalabama.org/veterans/bricks/>)
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Secretary

BJ
DeBardeleben

ECAC-MOAA's 2024-2025 Meeting Dates

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Nov 21st | Thursday | 6PM | Auburn Univ Club |
| <i>Dec 14th</i> | <i>Saturday</i> | <i>11AM</i> | <i>Saugahatchee</i> |
| 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> |



Only those who wander find new paths.

Norwegian Proverb



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!

Is Your Child Starting College Next Fall?

The MOAA Education Assistance Program

Interest-Free Loans & Grants for College Students of Military Families

To qualify for our Education Assistance Program, students must meet the following criteria:

- **Age Requirement:** Students must be 24 years of age or younger.
- **Military Affiliation:** All children of officers are eligible. Officer parents are required to have a paid MOAA membership if their child is selected for our program. Children of active duty or re-tired enlisted personnel are eligible as well. However, children of former enlisted personnel are unfortunately not eligible for our program. "Former enlisted" refers to individuals who have been discharged or separated from the military and are no longer serving.
- **Academic Requirement:** Students must have a cumulative high school or college GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- **College Enrollment Status:** Accepted students of our program must be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student at an accredited college, university, 2 year accredited program, or trade school. Our program does not provide funding for those enrolled in medical school, law school, or pursuing any postgraduate degree.

November 1st Applications open for new and renewing students

March 1st Applications are due by 11:59 PM EST

How the Program Works

Students apply for the Education Assistance Program through a single, streamlined application process. The application includes questions about the student's academic achievements, extracurricular activities, military affiliation, and financial background. Additionally, applicants are invited to share their post-graduation plans and college aspirations through an essay question.

Unlike traditional programs where students apply for specific funding types, our approach allows us to match each student with the most suitable funding opportunities based on their eligibility. This way, students won't miss out on any funding opportunities they're qualified for.

To participate in the Education Assistance Program, students must submit an application during the November 1 - March 1 window. Our program has two applications: New Student Applications and Renewing Student Applications. Once a student is accepted into the program and receives funding, they have the opportunity to reapply for funding each year of their undergraduate studies. Students who have previously applied for the Education Assistance Program AND have received program funds are considered renewing students.

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

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



How Does Our Chapter (ECAC-MOAA) Rank with Chapters Around the Nation?

Using the *Military Officer* magazine's article "How MOAA Supports Councils and Chapters" on pages 46-51, the board wanted to use the information from page 49 to see how our chapter ranks. This information was from surveys sent to the chapters and getting 170 responses.

- ✦ 70% of chapters reported that their membership numbers are growing or stable. *Our chapter has been stable for at least 2 decades with 80 members which is pretty good for our area.*
- ✦ 81% of chapters regularly host speakers. *Our chapter has had 6-7 speakers a year for 25 years.*
- ✦ 85% of chapters host regular membership meetings with 60% having at least 8-11 meetings a year. *Our chapter has hosted 10 meetings a year for at least 25 years. Even during the pandemic we met by Zoom with speakers from around the nation.*
- ✦ 97% of chapters communicate regularly with their members. *All of our members get a monthly newsletter emailed to them and can email any questions to the board knowing an answer will be returned.*
- ✦ 62% of chapters have open leadership positions. *All of our board positions are filled, so our chapter is in the top percentage with members volunteering to serve.*
- ✦ 67% of chapter leaders participate in national MOAA Leadership Workshops. *Our chapter members have participated in many workshops led by national leaders. The latest workshop was in August of this year.*
- ✦ 41% of chapters maintain other VSO or MSO relationships to support and better serve their community. *Our chapter needs to work on this area of service.*
- ✦ 40% of chapters partner with other community groups. *Our chapter supports the Auburn Student Veterans Association and other organizations in the area. Our chapter also host the JROTC/ROTC banquet for 13 students who receive the MOAA award from 2 universities, 4 high schools, and 1 military academy.*

Zazu Gastro Pub
Evenings at 7pm



MOAA MOCHA and MOAA MINGLE
will be quarterly events for members
to participate in comradery.
Look for dates in the newsletter,
Facebook, or by email.



Another Broken Egg?
Mornings at 10am

Memory Screening Site

My name is Brian, and I am a junior at Auburn University majoring in Biomedical Sciences. I am reaching out to promote a valuable service for senior citizens in the Auburn/Opelika community—a free memory screening to help detect potential cognitive impairments and/or early signs of Alzheimer's disease.

We are offering this memory screening service on the first Wednesday of every month from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Hubert & Grace Harris Center, located at 425 Perry St. Our upcoming dates are September 4th, October 2nd, **Nov. 6th** and so on.

No registration is required to participate. If people are unable to attend on the designated day, we are also happy to schedule an appointment via email.

For more information, please visit

https://auburnal.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30807&AdminPreview=1

This is a wonderful opportunity to take a proactive step in maintaining cognitive health, and we encourage all seniors and veterans in Auburn/Opelika to take advantage of this free service.

Very Respectfully, Brian Kim yzk0080@auburn.edu (334) 740 - 2308

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.

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.

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