



ECAC

ECAC Newsletter

ecacmoaa.com

APRIL 2023



MOAA[®]

MOAA Award Program

This month's presentation will be our annual Senior and Junior ROTC Awards Ceremony, with CDR Jeffrey Bohler as the Emcee. In all, there will be thirteen awardees, four from Auburn University's ROTC units, four from Tuskegee University's ROTC units, four cadets from local high school JROTC units, and one cadet from a military academy. Please read about this year's recipients on pages 4-8.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA - The cadet or midshipman must:

Be in the next-to-last year of the ROTC or JROTC program (customarily in his junior year of college or high school). Local chapters have final approval if in a different year group.

Be in good academic standing.

Be of high moral character.

Evince a high order of loyalty to his/her unit, school and country.

Show exceptional potential for military leadership.



Next Dinner Meeting 1800 –Tuesday–20 April 2023

The location for the meeting this month is at the

Saugahatchee Country Club

3800 Bent Creek Road Opelika, AL 36804

Take Bent Creek Parkway which is Exit 57 off I 85. Go the opposite direction of the Sam's Club/Sports Academy stores and through the residential section. Saugahatchee Country Club is on the left before Hamilton Road.

Please RSVP at 334-826-1107 or by email to bohler1107@charter.net by Friday, 14 April 2023 by 1600.

Board Meeting was Monday, April 4, 2023. Membership Report

As of March 31, 2023, the chapter has:	2023 Dues
69 Regular Members	\$20 Per regular member.
9 Surviving Spouse Members	\$15 Per dual member.
1 Associate Members	\$5 Per Widow/Associate/ROTC student
79 Total Chapter Members	All Dues Are Paid For 2023.

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

The May Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 11:30 at Chappy's. Any member wishing to attend should contact a Board member for an invitation.

Minutes from March General Meeting

- ✦ The meeting was held at the Auburn University Club and was called to order by President Mike Horsefield at 6:31 p.m.
- ✦ There were 19 members and guests present.
- ✦ The prayer was offered by Mike Horsefield.
- ✦ Mike Horsefield reminded the members of the ROTC Awards Banquet scheduled for April 20 at Saugahatchee Country Club and encouraged everyone to attend if possible.
- ✦ Judy Bohler reported that updated membership rosters will be available soon. She gave an update on several members who have had recent health issues.
- ✦ Gordon Bugg won the raffle for the free meal at a future General Meeting.
- ✦ The meeting was adjourned at 7:59.

Jerry Williams
Secretary



Treasurer Report by Gordon Bugg
\$5213.83 3-31-23 Bank Balance



Mark Your Calendar

ECAC-MOAA's 2023 Meeting Dates

Apr 20th	Thursday-ROTC	6 PM	Saugahatchee Club
May 18th	Thursday	6 PM	Auburn Univ Club
Jun	None		
Jul	None		
Aug 19th	Saturday-Luau	4 PM	Grove Hill Club House
Sept 21st	Thursday	6 PM	Auburn Univ Club
Oct 19th	Thursday	6 PM	Auburn Univ Club
Nov 16th	Thursday	6 PM	Auburn Univ Club
Dec 9th	Saturday- Party	11AM	Saugahatchee Club

During a ceremony in Columbus, GA at Doughboy Stadium on May 11th, Ft Benning will officially become Ft Moore after Hal and Julie Moore.

Who Can Join?

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.



Why join MOAA or a Chapter?

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military service members and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military



A Look Inside the March Edition of the Military Officer Magazine

P. 4 From the President (Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret.)) “Your Story Can Make a Difference” — Benefits for Premium and Life Members Nationally

P. 10-17 Mission Advocacy by several writers “Target on TRICARE For Life”

P. 11 “Your MOAA Advocacy Toolkit”

P. 18 Your Benefits “How to Avoid PACT Act Fraud, Scams”—Tips to help access benefits without losing time or money

Some of you get this magazine in your mailbox at the end of your driveway, but you can receive a digital edition instead if you want to save paper. You need to be a Premium or Life member. Log into your National MOAA account online and set your preferences.

President's Letter



Dear Membership,

I’m not sure if you’ve been paying attention, but we’re about to have an awards banquet on April 20th at Saugahatchee Country Club at 6:00pm! It has been a LONG TIME since we’ve done this, and I am really looking forward to this event. It’s also been a while since we’ve had dinner at Saugahatchee as well, and I know we’re all curious to see what they’ve done with the place in our absence. We already have a good RSVP count from the awardees and their families, however I’d like to fill the venue with our own ranks as well. Its always fun and interesting to talk and break bread with the future of our military and this event is our own exclusive chance to do exactly that, so check the MOAA award recipients’ bios below.

Take care and I’ll see you then!
Mike Horsefield

Thirteen Students Receive ECAC-MOAA Awards



ECAC-MOAA Military Academy Award Winner



Southern Preparatory Military Academy

Gavin J. Lamberty

Major Lamberty has attended Southern Preparatory Academy for two years. Major Lamberty currently is the Battalion Commander for the Southern Preparatory Academy. During his 2 years here at the Academy Cadet Lamberty has been the Company Commander for Alpha Company, he has been in several other leadership positions and has been the Color Guard Commander for a period of time.. Cadet Lamberty has been on our Beta Club , and currently on our golf team. Cadet Lamberty has been accepted to the University of Alabama where he will attend starting in the fall of 2023.



ECAC-MOAA Tuskegee Univ. ROTC Award Winners



Tuskegee University Air Force ROTC

Jasmine Donehue

Cadet Colonel Jasmine Donehue is the Det 015 Cadet Wing Commander and is responsible for the development and training of 43 cadet in the cadet wing. She is a Senior Aerospace Science Engineering Major with 3.2 GPA from McDonough, GA. Her goal in the Air Force is to be a Cargo/Transport Pilot. This goal comes from her passion to make sure that DAF forces make it to and from their destination swiftly and safely. She also has aspirations and hopes to do rescue mission and save those in dangerous situations and take them back home.

Tuskegee University Naval ROTC Navy

Jonathon Edward Licea

MIDN Licea was born in Visalia, California. Being a part of a military family, he moved a couple of times, first to Corpus Christi, Texas followed by Fresno, California and finally Pensacola, Florida. He attended Flour Bluff HS his freshman year where he would be selected for the Gifted and Talented program. Sophomore year onwards, he attended Clovis West HS where he would eventually graduate having completed 6 AP classes, having been a team captain of the varsity football team where he earned All-Conference honors, and earning the 4-Year NROTC National Scholarship.

He enrolled at Tuskegee University in August 2019 choosing to major in Mechanical Engineering. While in NROTC, he has held billets including Platoon Commander, Battalion Executive Officer, and Battalion Commanding Officer. He was a part of the AU/TU Warrior Challenge Club for 4 years and was on the Tuskegee University cross country team his junior year. He chose Naval ROTC to serve his country and continue a family tradition of service in the Navy. MIDN Licea has service-selected Naval Aviation and wants to fly jets of any kind.

MIDN Licea enjoys running, swimming, and weightlifting to keep fit. He is an avid reader. His short term goals include keeping his CGPA above a 3.9 and running his Battalion MIDN Licea's long term goals are to graduate Flight School at the top of his class to be selected to pilot jets, and eventually go on to command an aircraft carrier.

Tuskegee University Naval ROTC Marine

Luke Fair

Midshipman Fair was born in Honolulu, Hawaii and grew up in Ohatchee Alabama. He attended Ohatchee High School and was a member of the Cross Country, Outdoor/indoor track team for 6 years. Midshipman Fair graduated Highschool in 2021. He was part of Big Oak Fire Department and worked as a volunteer firefighter.

He enrolled at Tuskegee University in August 2021 with a major in Physical Education and a four-year Marine option NROTC scholarship. Midshipman Fair chose NROTC to pursue his lifelong goal of commissioning as a Marine Corps officer. He has held the billet of Marine Platoon Sergeant and Midshipman in Charge of Fitness Enhancement Program. He currently has a cumulative GPA of 3.27. Midshipman Fair plans to be commissioned in May 2025. Following commissioning he will attend The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia and he hopes to serve in a ground combat arms role.

Midshipman Fair enjoys the adrenaline of physical training, inspiring others, educating in and out of the classroom, and spending time with loved ones. His goals include obtaining a 3.8 GPA or higher for his remaining time in college, maintaining a "300" fitness standard, and making a lasting impact within his unit and the Marine Corps. He plans to serve his time as a Marine Corps officer until retirement (20 years).

Tuskegee University Army ROTC

De'Asia Ford

Cadet De'Asia Ford was born and raised in Americus, Georgia. She is currently working toward a major in Occupation Therapy with a GPA of 3.68. She is hoping to branch Medical Service Corp upon graduation in the Spring of 2024. She currently serves as the 1st Squad Leader for Bravo Company in the Tuskegee University Golden Tiger Battalion (Army ROTC).



ECAC-MOAA Auburn Univ. ROTC Award Winners



Auburn University Air Force ROTC

Christian M. Brown

Cadet Brown was born and raised in Gadsden, Alabama. He attended Westbrook Christian High School and was a member of the football team, and track and field team. Cadet Brown graduated in June 2020 where he was a member of the National Honor Society.

He enrolled at Auburn University in August 2020 with a major in Chemistry and switched to Industrial Engineering in his sophomore year. Cadet Brown joined the Auburn University Air Force ROTC program at the beginning of his freshman year after receiving a 4-year AFROTC Scholarship. He chose AFROTC to serve his country and better himself as a leader. Cadet Brown wishes to serve in the Space Force as an Intelligence Officer.

He currently serves as the Cadet Wing's Logistics Readiness Squadron Commander, where he leads ten cadets and is responsible for managing training supplies and cadet uniforms worth more than \$50,000. Cadet Brown was recently promoted to Cadet Major following his excellent record of leadership and attention to detail.

Cadet Brown enjoys playing volleyball, football, and many other team sports. He also enjoys hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities. His short-term goal is to begin his interview process with the Space Force. Cadet Brown's long-term goals are to graduate and commission as a Space Force Intelligence Officer.

Auburn University Army ROTC

Major Dwyer

CDT Major Dwyer was born in Hartford, Connecticut, and raised in Glastonbury, Connecticut until 2015. He moved to Huntsville, Alabama with his mother and little brother, soon followed by his father. CDT Dwyer went to Randolph School for his eighth grade and high school years, playing three sports all five years. He enrolled at Auburn University following graduation.

He was in the Air Force ROTC program his freshman year, and after learning about the Army ROTC program from friends in the program and from Mr. Paul West, he joined the War Eagle Battalion. He acted as the guidon bearer both semesters for 2nd Platoon and was a team leader for second and third squads. He earned the title of Cadet of the Month for the month of March in 2022 his sophomore year and served as a squad leader for the fall semester of his junior year while being a member of the Auburn Ranger Challenge Team. This fall he will assume responsibility as the S3 Operations Officer for the War Eagle Battalion. A position that is earned through a board process and vote by the current Cadet leadership and Cadre.

CDT Dwyer has an older brother Bo, who serves as an Infantry Platoon Commander in the Marine Corps. He also has a little brother Finn, who will be beginning his first semester at Auburn in the fall.

CDT Dwyer is involved in the Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society and a member of the School of Accountancy in the Harbert College of Business. He has a 4.0 GPA and has been named to the Dean's List five times. He hopes to obtain his CPA license after graduating from Auburn in May 2024. CDT Dwyer volunteers with the Huntsville Animal Shelter in his free time.

Auburn University Naval ROTC Navy**Jonathon Dillion Goforth**

MIDN Goforth was born and raised in Matthews, North Carolina. He graduated from Hickory Grove Christian School and is an Eagle Scout and Congressional award gold medal recipient. MIDN Goforth enrolled at Auburn University in August 2019 with a major in Electrical Engineering and currently holds a 3.92 GPA. Further, MIDN Goforth is involved with First Baptist Church of Opelika and The Way2Serve ministry, where he serves in the community. He joined Auburn's Naval ROTC program as a college program student and received the national scholarship before his sophomore year. In the program,

MIDN Goforth was a member of the Drill team for three years and was a member of the Trident Society for four years. MIDN Goforth has held the position of squad leader and adjutant assistant and currently holds the position of Company XO. Further, he has held the position of secretary in the Trident Society and currently holds the position of president. MIDN Goforth plans to commission as a Naval Reactors Engineer in May 2023. MIDN Goforth is also a member of the bass fishing team, Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the honors college, and Eta-Kappa-Nu Electrical Engineering honors society, where he serves as the engineering student council representative. His goals for college are to graduate Summa Cum Laude and as a University Honors Scholar.

Auburn University Naval ROTC Marine**James Connor Mims**

Midshipman Mims was born in Birmingham, Alabama and grew up in Chelsea, Alabama. He attended Chelsea High School and was a member of the wrestling team for all four years. Midshipman Mims graduated in May of 2020. He was part of the National Honor Society, Bigtime Ministries, his Church's serve team, and he ran his own landscaping company throughout high school.

He enrolled at Auburn University in August 2020 with a major in Building Science and a four-year Marine option NROTC scholarship. Midshipman Mims chose NROTC to pursue his lifelong goal of commissioning as a Marine Corps officer. He has held multiple billets in the NROTC program such as platoon commander and Marine platoon squad leader. He currently has a cumulative GPA of 4.0. Midshipman Mims plans to be commissioned in May 2024. Following commissioning he will attend The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia and he hopes to serve in a ground combat arms role.

Midshipman Mims enjoys many outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, and hiking. His biggest goal and focus now is to prepare for and graduate from Officer Candidate School this summer. Midshipman Mims is currently a volunteer firefighter for Farmville Fire Department. He plans to serve his time as a Marine Corps officer and then use his degree to work in the construction industry as a project manager or superintendent.

**ECAC-MOAA High School JROTC Award Winners**

Auburn High School JROTC**Cadet Emily Lehr**

Cadet Lehr was born in Carlisle, PA and moved to Auburn, AL when she was about four years old. From third grade to seventh grade, she was homeschooled by her mom, where she went on frequent day trips with her family to hike and learn about history or nature. She is currently a junior at Auburn High school and is the C/SGM of her JROTC Battalion. Additionally, she is a part of the varsity girls' wrestling team, earning 5th in state during the 2023 state championship. She enjoys academic rigor, taking several AP classes and holding a 3.9 GPA and being a part of her school's chapter of the National Honor Society. She is a part of the 4-H History Seekers and JROTC Color Guard.

Cadet Lehr plans to attend the US Naval Academy, become an aviator, earn her PhD in astrophysics, and become a NASA astronaut. In the short-term, she plans to earn at least a 30 on the ACT, improve her PT scores, earn girls' wrestling state champion, and become her JROTC battalion's commander next school year. Outside of school, she enjoys swimming, kayaking, hiking, and camping, as well as reading, painting, and music.

Booker T. Washington High School JROTC
Cadet Cheryl Anita Harden

Cadet Harden was born in Montgomery, Alabama but is a native of Tuskegee, Al. She attends Booker T. Washington High School and is involved in Student Government, Volleyball, Choir, Art Club, and TV Media Design. Cadet Harden is graduating in May 2023 ranked 1/114 (5%). Cadet Harden is part of the National Honor Society, Golden Ambassadors and is Macon County's Distinguished Young Woman 2023. She also participates in her church's monthly food drive which helps those who are food insecure.

She has been a part of the JROTC program since her freshman year. She has always demonstrated the seven Army values which has shaped her to be a leader not only in JROTC but in every activity she participates in. She joined the JROTC academic team her junior year, where she was a part of the first place winning scholar bowl team. She also had the highest personal score for the scholar bowl (2022).

Cadet Harden plans to major in biomedical sciences in hopes to attend medical school to become a Dermatologist. Her short term goals include making the dean's list, joining an intramural sports team, and enjoying her first semester of being away from home. Cadet Harden's long term goals are to graduate from college, give back to rural communities, and to open her own dermatology practice.

Smiths Station High School JROTC

Cadet Emily Ludwig

Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Emily Ludwig is currently serving as the Company Executive Officer for the Smiths Station High School Marine Corps JROTC Program. Emily has possessed a strong desire to serve her school, community, and nation. Emily has contributed to more than 100 volunteer hours in various activities. She has exemplified leadership traits and leadership principles needed to be a leader and has performed in an exemplary manner. Emily has participated on the Drill Team, and on the Color Guard, and served as the Editor of the Smiths Station High School Yearbook, Senior Class Chaplain, and the President of the National Honor Society. Emily is a member of the Math, English, Social Studies, and Science Honor Societies as well as a member of the BETA Club and Lee County Young Leaders.

Emily's awards include; the Color Guard 4th Award, American Legion Gold Medal for Citizenship, American Legion Gold Medal for Scholastic Excellence, and the Distinguished Scholastic 3rd Award. While being in the MCJROTC Program, Emily has served in numerous leadership billets such as; Squad Leader, Platoon Commander, Color Sergeant, and Company Executive Officer. Emily has qualified with a 3 or higher in AP History, AP Biology, and AP Language. She has also earned college credit for Dual Enrollment in Pre-Calculus, English 101, English 102, and Leadership. Emily's current GPA is 4.2 and will graduate on May 25th, 2023. Emily has been accepted into the University of Alabama's Honors College on a full-ride scholarship, she plans to major in Aerospace Engineering. She also plans to enroll in the Air Force ROTC Program to be commissioned into the US Air Force.

Central High School JROTC

Cadet Philip Spencer

Cadet Philip Spencer is a senior at Central High School . He is the executive officer for the Red Devil Battalion of the JROTC unit and has high moral character. Cadet Spencer has excellent leadership skills and has been an outstanding scholar and athlete. Cadet Spencer enlisted in the Alabama National Guard recently and has been accepted into Marion College next year.

In Memory Of...



Longtime Auburn resident Anna Elizabeth McKenzie Hathcock, 88, passed away on March 12, 2023 in Dothan, Alabama. After working for several years as a Registered Nurse, she remained at home to be a mother of her four children. Anna and her husband, Ray Hathcock broadened their love for youth by serving as Trainers in Scouting for many years. Her love for youth was reenergized upon her husband's retirement from the Air Force. Mrs. Hathcock became a college student again, majoring in Secondary Education at Auburn University. She taught at Beauregard and Auburn High Schools until she retired in 1998. Her husband, LCOL Ray Hathcock, passed away in 2020 and the family moved Anna to Dothan. Please keep the Hathcock family in your thoughts and prayers.

Our ECAC-MOAA VP, Chris Richie, will be featured in an up-coming webinar, speaker series on Auburn University The Newsroom— Join the Link



Chris Richie, director of human resource development for Auburn University and part-time leadership instructor for the Harbert College of Business, will lead the March 28 installment of the Eagle Cast Webinar Series.

Richie, a retired United States Marine Corps Colonel, has led thousands of people around the globe under extreme pressures and conditions throughout his 30-year military career. In his presentation, he discusses his T-E-A-M principle, which formed the leadership philosophy he still uses today. In this webinar, he shares the components of the principle and how it can be used to achieve extraordinary results. The online webinar takes place from 8:30-9:30 a.m. through Zoom.

Richie also leads the in-depth, half-day AU Leadership Series workshop on **April 13**. His presentation, Leading with Purpose, weaves his own wisdom and lessons learned into proven strategies and methods to guide participants toward leading individuals, teams and organizations at any level. Early registration and group rates are available.

[Link to more information and to register.](#)

The EagleCast Webinar Series is free and open to the public.

[Link to register for EagleCast webinar.](#)

Submitted by Amanda Salatto to Auburn University The Newsroom



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>

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!

Executive Officers, Board of Directors, Chair Positions for 2021-2023

President: Mike Horsefield
 Vice President: Chris Richie
 Secretary: Jerry Williams
 Treasurer: Gordon Bugg
 Director Chapter Affairs: Ron Carson
 Director Communication: Jeff Bohler
 Director Banquet: Judy Bohler
 Director Legislative: Open
 Past President: Mike Golden

Chair Positions

Surviving Spouses Liaison: Open	Monthly Meeting: Judy Bohler
Tops: Mike Horsefield	Guest Speakers: Chris Richie
Membership: Judy Bohler	By-Laws: Open
Personal Affairs: Ron Carson	State Council: Open
Newsletter Editor: Judy Bohler	Legislative Updates: Open
Web Site: Jeff Bohler	MOAA News: Open
Digital Communications: Jeff Bohler	Chaplain: Mike Golden
News Release: Ron Carson	
ROTC Awards: Jim Matthews	



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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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