



December 2019



Christmas Luncheon at Saugahatchee Country Club

December 14, 2019 Saturday 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Program will be Fellowship & Fun!

With raffle prizes \$5 for 3 tickets for Christmas gifts.

Meal price is \$25 per person.

Come eat with us first, then catch all the other festivities in the area on page 2.

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 334-246-7142 or by email to moaa.ecac@gmail.com by Thursday, 12 Dec 2019 by 1200.



Calendar of Events:

- ◆ Dec. 3rd, Tuesday at 7:00: **East Alabama Arts Civic Chorale Christmas Concert** at the Auburn First Baptist Church. Admission is **free** and donations are appreciated. Half of the proceeds will go to East Alabama Food Bank.
- ◆ Dec. 4th, Wednesday from 5 PM to 8 PM: **SNO*PELIKA** at the Courthouse Square, Downtown Opelika — Tree lighting, Holiday Music, & Celebration.
- ◆ Dec. 7th, Saturday at 10 PM — **Opelika Christmas Parade** — Downtown Opelika.
- ◆ Dec. 11th thru 15th, Wednesday thru Sunday: **Victorian Front Porch Christmas** in Opelika. The event is a self-directed driving tour, **except Saturday night, which will be a walking tour.**
- ◆ Dec. 13th, Friday from 5 PM – 8 PM: **Christmas in a Railroad Town** — Downtown Opelika.
- ◆ Dec. 7th, Saturday, 8 AM to 1 PM: **Great Christmas Cookie Walk** at Grace UMC in Auburn. This event benefits Habitat for Humanity.
- ◆ Dec. 8th, Saturday, 2 PM: **Auburn Christmas Parade** — Downtown Auburn .
- ◆ Dec. 13th at 7 PM, 14th at 2PM & 7 PM, 15th at 2 PM (Friday thru Sunday). **“The Nutcracker Ballet”** at the AU Telfair Peet Theater —Be enchanted as dancers bring this traditional tale to life. \$15 per person.
- ◆ Dec. 14th, Saturday from 10 AM to 4 PM & Dec 14th, Sunday from 1-4 PM — Auburn Preservation League’s **13th annual Loveliest Village Christmas Tour of Homes and Buildings.** Tickets can be purchased at Behind the Glass, Ware Jewelers, & The Flower Store.
- ◆ Dec. 14th, Saturday 9 AM to 4 PM: **Annual Holiday Art Sale** by the Auburn Art Association at the Jan Dempsey Art Center across from the Auburn Post Office.

ECAC-MOAA’s 2020 Calendar of Meetings

Jan 21 st	Tuesday	6 PM	TBA
Feb 18 th	Tuesday	6 PM	TBA
March 21 st	Saturday	11 AM	TBA
April 21 st	Tuesday	6 PM	TBA
May 19 th	Tuesday	6 PM	TBA
June	None		
July	None		
Aug 15 th	Saturday	4 PM	Grove Hill Clubhouse
Sept 15 ^h	Tuesday	6 PM	TBA
Oct 20 th	Tuesday	6 PM	TBA
Nov 17 th	Tuesday	6 PM	TBA
Dec 12 th	Saturday	11 AM	TBA

MOAA Scholarships

Giving Tuesday and year-end charity drives are fast approaching. With so many options and requests for donations, how do you decide which organizations will receive your support? I can tell you the MOAA Scholarship Fund’s unique program ensures 100% of every donation reaches the intended recipients.

We are proud of our track record, including a platinum rating from Guidestar. This school year, we are providing more than \$9 million in assistance to college students from military families. Over the last 70 years, the MOAA Scholarship Fund has provided nearly \$150 million in financial aid and helped thousands of these dedicated scholars.

Speakers & Programs

Photo Below: President Mike Horsefield (R) presents Lee County Sheriff Jay Jones (L) with a ECAC Coin for a truly outstanding presentation on the Beauregard Tornadoes that occurred on March 3, 2018



Above: Lee County’s response to tornadoes in Beauregard and surrounding areas was a well executed operation.



Wreaths Across America at Fort Mitchell Cemetery

Fort Mitchell National Cemetery is one of the 130 United States National Cemeteries, located in Fort Mitchell, Alabama, adjacent to the state-owned and operated Fort Mitchell Park. It has interred approximately 5,000 individual since it officially opened its 280-acre site in 1987.

Wreaths Across America coordinates wreath--laying ceremonies at more than 1,600 locations across the United States, at sea and abroad including ceremonies at the Arlington, Pearl Harbor Memorial, as well as Bunker Hill, Valley Forge and the sites of the September 11 tragedies.

Wreaths Across America will be at Ft. Mitchell for a wreath laying ceremony on December 14th at 12 PM ET / 11 AM CT. Our ECAC chapter members have been invited to attend.

Go to ecacmoaa.com to purchase your wreath today. Time is running out!

Secretary's Report December 2019

As of November 20, 2019, the chapter has:	77 Regular Members
	9 Surviving Spouse Members
	2 Associate Members
	88 Members Total
A reminder that 2020 dues are due by January 1 st .	\$20 per regular member.
	\$15 per dual member.
	\$5 per Surviving Spouse/Associate/ ROTC

Please mail a check to ECAC-MOAA, P.O. Box 1003, Auburn, AL, 36830-1003.

Or, bring your check to a dinner meeting.

As a reminder, you must also be a member of National MOAA to belong to the chapter.

If you have any information that has changed, please contact Bill Broome @ wjbroome@gmail.com or 703-395-4317.

There is a meeting of the Board of Directors scheduled for Tuesday, December 3rd at 1PM at the American Red Cross Building, 206 26th St., Opelika, AL.

December Meeting Minutes

The December dinner meeting was called to order at 6:27 PM by President Mike Horsefield.

33 members and guests enjoyed a great dinner and then heard Lee County Sheriff Jay Jones speak about the Lee County response to the tornadoes on March 3, 2019.

Chapter Business:

- The Moore's Mill Club as a future venue was well received.
- The 2020 meeting dates and venue will be announced after the Christmas party.
- Mike Horsefield commented on the Auburn Student Veterans Association (ASVA) Gala that several of us attended. It was a great event and he hopes more can attend next year.
- Mike Horsefield also presented the Sponsorship Form to the chapter so we can start selling sponsorship/advertisements in the newsletter and website.
- Mike Horsefield also stated that he will not be in town for the December meeting and Vice President, Jeff Bohler, will be running the meeting.
- The raffle was won by John Hughes.
- The next dinner meeting will be at the Saugahatchee Country Club on Saturday, December 14th at 11 am. This is the Christmas Brunch Meeting.
- President Mike Horsefield adjourned the meeting at 7:56 PM.

Legislative Chair—Charlie Block

Another CR and why it is bad.

Congress has failed again to deliver a federal budget for the new fiscal year that started Oct. 1, opting instead for another continuing resolution (CR), this one funding the government through Dec. 20. Another CR creates more uncertainty and less predictability for uniformed service members and their families, and may set the stage for a government shutdown during holiday season amid turbulent times and partisanship on Capitol Hill. Federal agencies have unfortunately become accustomed to the CR problem: In 13 of the last 18 years, the federal government has started the fiscal year under a continuing resolution.

Why Is a CR So Bad? A CR is very restrictive because no new projects, acquisitions, or changes to contracts may occur. Each of the military services have compelling reasons why a CR is damaging to our national security and fiscally irresponsible. Some examples from recent news coverage:

Army: Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy and his chiefs of staff have identified [31 modernization projects](#) requiring immediate funding to maintain progress in innovation, specifically in urgent areas of cybersecurity and technology.

Navy: Service leaders have [outlined the cost of continuous CRs](#), which may have reached \$4 billion since 2011. The funding is vital to build up the strength of the service to address contemporary threats.

Air Force: About [145 projects in development will be negatively affected](#) by the budget impasse, according to Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein ... if they have not been already. Included on the list is an estimated \$466 million for funding the natural disaster recovery efforts at Tyndall AFB, Fla., and Offutt AFB, Neb.

When our lawmakers come back from Thanksgiving break, they will only have three weeks to get a budget signed into law before the end of the first session in the 116th Congress. House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Rep. Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) and Senate Appropriations Chairman Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) were able to reach an agreement signaling they are ready to get to work and pass the appropriations. The agreement provided subcommittee funding allocation, but challenging topics regarding the border wall and military construction funding still remain contentious. (Source MOAA)



- ✦ Use caution when posting details about travel plans.
- ✦ Ask a neighbor to watch your home & collect mail & papers.
- ✦ Be careful when disposing of the boxes of high-end gifts (TVs, Computers), these can be a red flag for thieves.
- ✦ Put interior lights on a timer (Don't leave light on all the time).



2020 FEDVIP Dental and Vision



Overall, FEDVIP dental rates will rise by an average of 5.6% for 2020; vision premiums will increase an average of 1.5%. The change in dental premiums range from a decrease of -5.9% to an increase of 9.5% depending upon your location. OPM states that the two primary factors drove increases this year; the health care insurance providers fee, which had been suspended in 2019 but reinstated in 2020, and an increase.

The 2020 TRICARE and FEDVIP open season will run from Nov. 11 to Dec. 9

MEMBERS AND EVENTS



We would like to welcome back Marilyn (L) & Rob (R) Thomas to our monthly Chapter meeting.

2019 Auburn Veterans Day Ceremony



ECAC members attend Auburn Veterans Day Ceremony on Nov. 11th.



Cathy (L) & Mike Golden (R), honor fellow veterans with their granddaughter, Collins (C).

4th Annual Auburn Student Veterans Association (ASVA) Gala



Several Chapter members attended the Gala on Friday, Nov. 8th. Mike Horsefield, Chapter President (L), Mike Golden, Past President (C), & Sam Nichols, Chair, Auburn Veterans Committee & Chapter member (R).



Bill Broome, one of two US Coast Guard veterans left standing.



Spouses were recognized for their loyalty & commitment to the Uniformed Services. Michy Aja (L) & Marilyn Horsefield (R).



Official Gala Photos

Left: Judy (L) & Jeff Bohler (R).



Right: Dana (L) & Puck Esposito (R).

Executive Officers and Chair Positions for 2020-2021

Executive Board

President: Mike Horsefield
 Vice President: Jeff Bohler
 Secretary: Bill Broome
 Treasurer: Earl Digman
 Director Chapter Affairs: Marilyn Horsefield
 Director Communication: Cathy Golden
 Director Program & Banquet: Mike Golden
 Director Legislative: Charlie Block
 Past President: Mike Golden

Chair Positions

Surviving Spouses Liaison: Marilyn Horsefield
 Tops: Mike Horsefield
 Membership: Judy Bohler
 Personal Affairs: Marilyn Horsefield
 Newsletter: Cathy Golden
 Web Site: Bill Broome

Chair Positions- cont.

ROTC Awards: Mike Golden
 Monthly Mtg: Mike Golden
 Guest Speaker: Jeff Bohler
 By-Laws: Charlie Block
 State Council: Charlie Block
 Legislative Updates: Charlie Block
 MOAA News: Charlie Block



“The Star-Spangled Banner” is the national anthem of the United States. By the time the song officially became the country’s anthem in 1931, it had been one of America’s most popular patriotic tunes for more than a century. The anthem’s history began the morning of September 14, 1814, when an attorney and amateur poet named Francis Scott Key watched U.S. soldiers—who were under bombardment from British naval forces during the War of 1812—raise a large American flag over Fort McHenry in



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 ECAC-MOAA
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 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/>

VA and Walgreens are national partners, providing no-cost standard (Quadrivalent) flu shots to enrolled Veterans of the VA health care system. Simply go to any Walgreens, tell the pharmacist you receive care at a VA facility and show your Veterans Health Identification Card and another form of photo ID.

With the VA-Walgreens partnership, after a Walgreens pharmacist administers a vaccine, the immunization information is transmitted to VA through the eHealth Exchange and becomes part of the patient's VA health record. The no-cost flu shot program starts August 15, 2019 and runs through March 31, 2020.

Publix has free flu shots if you are on Medicare.



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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