

**ECAC**

ECAC Newsletter

ecacmoaa.com**FEBRUARY 2023****MOAA®****When: February 9, 2023— a week earlier than usual****Program: Fraud Examination****Speaker: Kevin Robinson**

Kevin Robinson is the Associate Vice President for Audit, Compliance & Privacy at Auburn University and serves as AU's Chief Audit & Compliance Executive. He is also a past president of the Association of College and University Auditors (ACUA).

Kevin also serves as an adjunct member of the graduate faculty in the School of Accountancy at Auburn University's Harbert College of Business. Kevin currently teaches "Fraud Examination" annually in the Masters of Accountancy Program.

Kevin is a frequent speaker on the topic of ethics, occupational fraud, fraud prevention, internal controls, risk management, and leadership. Kevin is the primary author of the highly popular monthly electronic newsletter "Case-in-Point: Lessons for the Proactive Manager" which discusses emerging risks in higher education.

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

Appetizers:

Chicken Egg Rolls \$11

Fried Green Tomatoes \$14

Salad:

Clubhouse Caesar \$8/\$12

House \$8/\$12

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

Dinner:

All Served with Mashed Potatoes and Grilled Asparagus

8 oz Filet Mignon \$40

Grilled Salmon \$25

**Next Dinner Meeting
9 February 2023
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, 7 February 2023.**

Mark Your Calendar

ECAC-MOAA's 2023 Meeting Dates

Jan	19th	Thursday	6 PM	Auburn Univ Club
Feb	9 th	Thursday**	6 PM	Auburn Univ Club
Mar	16 th	Thursday	6 PM	Auburn Univ Club
Apr	20 th	Thursday	6 PM	Saugahatchee Club
May	18 th	Thursday	6 PM	Auburn Univ Club
Jun		None		
Jul		None		
Aug	19 th	Saturday-Luau	4 PM	Grove Hill House

**Second Thursday

Time to pay Chapter 2023 dues

Regular Members dues are \$20.

Surviving Spouses dues are \$5.

These dues will be collected at the January and February chapter dinner meetings.

If you need to mail them, please send them to:

ECAC-MOAA

P.O. Box 124

Auburn, AL 36831-0124

Make checks to ECAC-MOAA.



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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



Board Meeting February 2023

As of January 31, 2023, the chapter has:

2023 Dues

68 Regular Members	\$20	Per regular member.
12 Surviving Spouse Members	\$15	Per dual member.
1 Associate Members	\$5	Per Surviving Spouse/Associate/ROTC
81 Total Members		

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

The February Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 7th, at 11:30 at Chappy's. March's meeting should be scheduled for Tuesday, March 7th at 11:30 at Chappy's. Any member wishing to attend should contact a Board member for an invitation.

If you have any membership information that has changed, please contact the membership chair Judy Bohler at 826-1107 or bohler1107@charter.net as a new roster will be available in March after all the dues are paid.

Treasurer Report by Gordon Bugg

\$4346.85 1-31-23 Bank Balance



Motivational Quote of the Month

"Go oft to the House of thy Friend, for weeds Choke the Unused Path."
Ralph Waldo Emerson





Left: L-R Jack Walls, Lydia Walls, Jim Holt, Liz Smith, and Tom Smith



Above: L-R Jerry Williams, Judy Bohler, Danny Speigner, Greg Brannon, Ginger Brannon, and Debra Bugg

Right: L-R Karen Cochran, Bob Cochran, Chris Richie, Michele Richie, Cindy Carson, Ron Carson, and Dave Hall



January General Meeting at AU Club

Surviving Benefit Plan Update: National MOAA article 2-2-23

The FY 2020 National Defense Authorization Act terminated the so-called “widows tax,” allowing eligible military surviving spouses to collect the full Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) in full, with no offset (no reduction) after a three-year phase-in period. We are now entering the third and final phase. What happens now?

Survivor benefits. DIC, SBP, and the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) were increased by the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of 8.7% with the January 2023 payments. Beginning Feb. 1, 2023, eligible surviving spouses will receive their full SBP payment from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) and their full DIC payment from the VA without offset. The SSIA payment will stop, as this payment essentially becomes part of the full SBP payment. If you recall, the SSIA was a temporary solution to the offset, which is no longer necessary due to the aforementioned legislation. Although the SSIA goes away, the total these surviving spouses receive in their name will not be less than what was received the month prior for these specific benefits. There is no change to DIC other than the COLA increase.

Child Option Annuitants. Beginning Feb. 1, 2023, the annuity will transfer to the servicemember’s surviving spouse provided they are an eligible spouse and have completed the appropriate paperwork for the transfer. If the surviving children are currently receiving the annuity, they have been receiving the full SBP, plus COLA increases, so what they receive in January 2023 will be the amount the eligible surviving spouse will receive. If the surviving children have already aged out of the program, the SBP will be recalculated to incorporate all prior years’ COLAs. You can read more by [clicking here](#) or [here](#). You will be able to sign up for MyPay once the annuity transfers to you by [clicking here](#). Please note that recent changes in the SBP law do not impact the retiree child option SBP election, only that for the post-9/11 active duty child option election that was primarily made due to the SBP-DIC offset rules.

Eligible surviving spouses should have received a letter from DFAS in late 2022 detailing the background of the change, an example calculation, and a personalized SBP estimate. (Please note these were estimates only.) Find additional details about these updates from [DFAS](#) and [MOAA](#). Be sure to follow the [MOAA Surviving Spouses and Friends Facebook page](#) as well.

Please note this article is not intended to address all possible scenarios. And remember, military retirees who previously opted out of SBP will soon have a second chance to enroll. [Click here](#) to read a recent MOAA article on the top-

Minutes from January 19, 2023 General Meeting

- ✦ The meeting was held at the Auburn University Club and was called to order by Vice President Chris Richie at 6:07 p.m. There were 18 members and guests present.
- ✦ The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ron Carson.
- ✦ The prayer was offered by Bob Cochran.
- ✦ Chris Richie made brief comments which included the instructions to order from the menu provided on the tables. Members were to order and pay as individuals.
- ✦ Judy Bohler announced that Judi Perkins Sellers, wife of ECAC member John Sellers, passed yesterday on Jan. 18, 2023
- ✦ Debra Bugg reported for Treasurer Gordon Bugg that the financial status of the chapter is very good and sound.
- ✦ Dave Hall offered a joke for the day.
- ✦ Jack Walls won the raffle for a free meal at a future meeting.
- ✦ Dinner was ordered and served.
- ✦ The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Secretary: Jerry Williams



Pharmacy Update

On January 1, 2023, the Kroger family of pharmacies left the TRICARE network.

You will continue to have a large network of retail pharmacies. If you fill a prescription at a Kroger family pharmacy, you will pay the full price of the drug.

Also on January 1, 2023, the TRICARE retail pharmacy network changed for specialty drugs. The network includes:

- ✦ Accredo specialty pharmacy
- ✦ TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery
- ✦ Military pharmacies
- ✦ Select pharmacies for drugs Accredo does not carry



In Remembrance Of Judith Perkins Sellers

Judith Perkins Sellers passed away on January 18, 2023 and passed peacefully into her heavenly home at the age of 82. She was surrounded by family who loved her immensely.

She was born in Opelika, Alabama, and as a young woman attended school at Beulah High School. Judith attended Beauty School and married Harold Dean Perkins and started a family. She and her family returned to Opelika, Alabama later in life where she enjoyed all her regular spots. Harold preceded her in death, and she continued with her life.

Judith met MAJ Bob Sellers by bringing him a homemade pie to welcome him to the neighborhood, and the rest is history. They shared many years together filled with their own adventures of travelling around the country and enjoyed the Smokey Mountains and Myrtle Beach. Please keep Bob in your thoughts and prayers.

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. 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	Chair Positions	
Vice President:	Chris Richie	Surviving Spouses Liaison:	Open
Secretary:	Jerry Williams	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:	Open	Digital Communications:	Jeff Bohler
Past President:	Mike Golden	News Release:	Jeff Bohler
		ROTC Awards:	Jim Matthews
		Monthly Meeting:	Judy Bohler
		Guest Speakers:	Chris Richie
		By-Laws:	Open
		State Council:	Open
		Legislative Updates:	Open
		MOAA News:	Open
		Chaplain:	Mike Golden



Find
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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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