



ECAC

ECAC Newsletter

ecacmoaa.com

NOVEMBER 2023



Guest Speaker: Bill Shannon, M.Ed.

Bill Shannon, M.Ed. is currently an Auburn University Associate Athletic Director for Leadership Development. He previously served as the Director for Human Resource Development. Prior to coming to Auburn, Bill worked for two decades with the Walt Disney Company. Bill was also a highly successful high school basketball coach including winning the California State Championship.

Bill was a founding manager of the prestigious Disney Institute where companies and individuals learn “The Business behind the Disney Magic.” Among his assignments was working with Disney’s corporate alliance partners including Exxon Mobil, Coca-Cola, Delta Airlines, Siemens and Adventist Health System. Bill’s other Disney leadership roles include the development of Disney’s Wide World of Sports complex, Disney’s California Adventure theme park, the town of Celebration, Florida, Celebration Health Hospital, and the Disney company’s fitness centers and spas. At Disney Institute, Bill created customized programs in multiple industries and was the lead manager for healthcare. Bill led engagements with the Cleveland Clinic, American College of Cardiology, Johns Hopkins, Baylor College of Medicine, Duke, UCLA, and several others including rural health initiatives.

Among his Disney clients were two powerhouse healthcare brands, Duke University and DaVita. Both recruited Bill to executive positions. Among other responsibilities, Bill led six departments at Duke University Hospital and School of Medicine and started comprehensive patient satisfaction efforts. For five years, Bill was Director, Employee Engagement & Learning at the Duke Clinical Research Institute, the largest academic research organization in the world. Bill also spent a year at Duke’s School of Business, honored with Visiting Scholar status.

Taking a sabbatical from Duke, and joining DaVita, Bill had the best job title of all time—Chief Wisdom Officer. Bill led all staff training, the corporate university, company-wide events, and all internal communications functions. He was part of branding and marketing efforts, physician and employee satisfaction process and new business development. Bill is the recipient of two DaVita Core Value Awards and Duke Hospital’s Diversity Leadership Award. He is the author of several books and articles.

Now retired twice—from Disney and Duke—Bill enjoys developing Auburn University employees and members of the athletic department. A sought after speaker, Bill has presented in 46 states, in Africa, Australia, Central and Latin America, and Europe. Bill and Vicki, his wife of 38 years have two sons, Matt and Mike, and two grandchildren. Vicki is one of a handful of people including Walt Disney himself to work at Disneyland, the Disneyland Hotel, Walt Disney World, the Disney Studios, and Disney Consumer Products. They split time between Auburn and Lake Martin, Alabama.

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
Panko Crusted Chicken \$25

Next Dinner Meeting
16 November 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, 14 November by 9PM.

Board Meeting was Tuesday, November 3, 2023.

As of October 31, 2023, the chapter has:	2023 Dues
73 Regular Members	\$20 Per regular member.
8 Surviving Spouse Members	\$15 Per dual member.
2 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 Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, Dec 5th, at 1130 at Chappy's. Any member wishing to attend should contact a Board member for an invitation.



Treasurer Report by Gordon Bugg
\$3957.41 10-31-23 Bank Balance
No outstanding
checks, debits, or deposits.

Minutes from October 19th General Meeting

- ✦ The meeting was held at the Auburn University Club and was called to order by Mike Horsefield at 6:21 p.m. There were 18 members and guests present.
- ✦ The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jeff Bohler.
- ✦ The prayer for dinner was offered by Jerry Williams.
- ✦ COL Tom Whately (RET), ECAC-MOAA member and former Alabama State Senator, presided over the election of officers and Executive Board members who will serve ECAC for the next two years. Jerry Williams, outgoing Secretary, presented the following nominees: Mike Horsefield, President; Chris Richie, Vice President; Gordon Bugg, Treasurer; BJ DeBardeleben, Secretary; Mike Golden, Past President; Ron Barto, Director of Legislative Affairs; Ron Carson, Director of Public Affairs; Jeff Bohler, Director of Social Media; and Judy Bohler, Director of Banquets. The nominees were elected unanimously and sworn in by Tom Whately.
- ✦ Members who will serve in appointed positions were recognized as follows: Kathy Barto, Surviving Spouse Liaison; Jim Matthews, JROTC/ROTC MOAA Awards Chairman; Judy Bohler, Membership Chair and Newsletter Editor; and Mike Horsefield, TOPS Chair.
- ✦ Mike Horsefield recognized and welcomed new member Mary Riley and guest Cathy Anderson.
- ✦ Judy Bohler gave an update on several members experiencing health issues.
- ✦ Chris Richie announced that plans are in place for a speaker at the November General meeting.
- ✦ Gordon Bugg reported that the Chapter is in very good financial standing. He also encouraged members to donate through the website to the Wreaths Across America project. ECAC receives a portion of each contribution.
- ✦ Jeff Bohler thanked Tom Whately for his participation in the meeting.
- ✦ Mary Riley announced that the Auburn City sponsored Veteran's Day ceremony will be November 10 at 10:00 a.m. at Ross St/Glenn Ave with the flag.
- ✦ The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm. Submitted by Jerry Williams

New Secretary
BJ
DeBardeleben



ECAC-MOAA’s 2023 – 2024 Meeting Dates

<i>Dec 9th</i>	<i>Saturday-Party</i>	<i>11AM</i>	<i>Saugahatchee</i>
Jan 18th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
Feb 15th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
Mar 21st	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
<i>April 18th</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>6PM</i>	<i>Saugahatchee</i>
May 16th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
June & July	No Meeting		



Restaurants in the Auburn/Opelika Area Recognizing Veterans This Year 2023

Applebee’s, Red Lobster, Wendy’s, Another Broken Egg, Red Robin, Smoothie King, Starbucks, Buffalo Wild Wings, Chicken Salad Chick, Zaxby’s, Outback, Zen, and Cici’s Pizza



MOAA Scholarship edassist@moaa.org

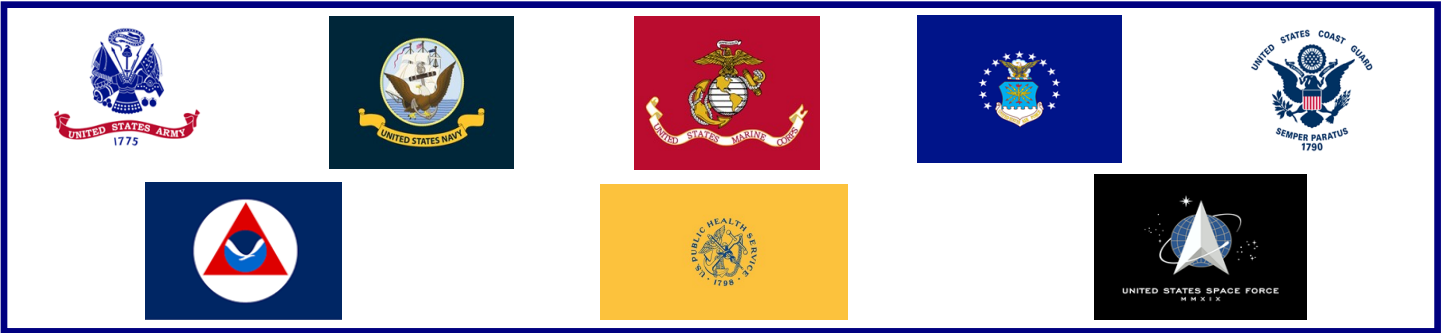
Application Window Now Open for 2024-2025

To be eligible for an interest-free loan, you must meet the following requirements:

- 24 years of age or younger (your 24th birthday must be on or before March 1, 2024)
- If parent is military officer-
 - Parent must sign up for a paid MOAA membership if child is selected to receive financial assistance and continue the membership until the child is no longer in the program.
- If parent is enlisted military personnel-
 - Parent must be active duty, Reserve, National Guard, or retired. No membership is required. **Children of former enlisted personnel are not eligible.**
- High school or college GPA must be 3.0 or higher.
- Children attending U.S. military academies and academy prep schools are not eligible.

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.



Tricare Open Enrollment November 13– December 12, 2023

TRICARE

OPEN SEASON 2023

NOVEMBER 13 – DECEMBER 12, 2023

What is TRICARE Open Season?

It's the annual period when you can enroll in or make changes to your health care coverage for the following year.

During open season, you can:

- ❖ **Stick with your plan.** Happy with your current plan? No action is needed. You'll remain in your current plan, as long as you're eligible and pay monthly enrollment fees.
- ❖ **Enroll in a plan.** Eligible for a TRICARE Prime option or TRICARE Select but not yet enrolled? You can enroll during open season.
- ❖ **Change plans.** Already enrolled in a TRICARE Prime option or TRICARE Select? You can switch plans or change between individual and family enrollment.

For more information, visit www.tricare.mil/OpenSeason2023

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*Enrolled in a TRICARE health plan? You're eligible for vision coverage. You may also be eligible for dental coverage.

*Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) offers several plan options. You can choose the vision and dental coverage that works best for your needs and budget.

*Coverage is not automatic. You must enroll during Federal Benefits Open Season, from November 13 to December 11, 2023.

President's Letter

Greetings Everyone and Happy Veteran's Day!

National MOAA has been busy lobbying to protect our hard-earned benefits and if you haven't been keeping up with all that they've accomplished, I'd encourage you to visit the National MOAA website and check it out. This is perhaps the most important reason to be a part of MOAA but sometimes we need to be reminded of all that this organization does for us and everyone who served or is serving. Our participation and support directly benefits us all so if you are looking for more ways to serve they have plenty both locally and nationally depending on how motivated you might be.

On that note, I'd like to thank Jerry Williams who served as our Secretary for the past couple of years and he did a fantastic job at a crazy point in our history. Joining the board are BJ DeBardeleben and Ron Barto. Kathy Barto has also volunteered to be our new Surviving Spouse Liaison as well. All of the other board members are happy to serve for 2 more years. With this in mind, I am looking for ways for our organization to help our own members when they need it. If you know of anyone who needs some help please bring it to the attention of the board and we will see what we can do.

The Christmas party is coming up on Saturday, December 9th for a lunch from 11:00-1:00 at Saugahatchee Country Club. The meal is \$30 per person (cash or check to ECAC-MOAA) with a \$5 raffle for presents with some nice cash and gifts.

Please plan to attend and I hope to see everyone at the AU Club at 6 PM on Thursday for our next dinner.

Mike Horsefield

ECAC-MOAA President

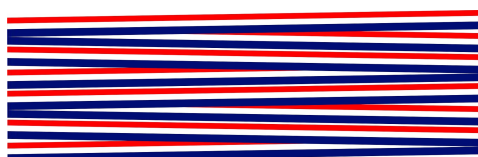



Photo Left: New ECAC-MOAA Board Members: L-R Jeff Bohler (Social Media Dir.), Ron Barto (Legislative Dir.), JB DeBardeleben (Secretary), Gordon Bugg (Treasurer), Chris Richie (Vice President), Mike Horsefield (President), and Judy Bohler (Banquet Dir.), Not Present Ron Carson (Public Affairs Dir.)



Photo Right: COL Tom Whatley Ret. swearing in the new board for the Oct 2023– Oct 2025 term for ECAC-MOAA. New member, Mary Riley is at the bottom right.

Photo Left: New Appointed Positions: L-R Jim Matthews (ROTC-MOAA Awards Chair), Mike Horsefield (TOPS), Kathy Barto (Surviving Spouse Liaison), and Judy Bohler (Newsletter Editor and Membership Chair)





VETERANS ★ DAY ★ CEREMONY



AUBURN VETERANS MONUMENT
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023
10AM

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW AT THE
AUBURN CHAMBER
714 EAST GLENN AVENUE



Parking for the ceremony will be available at Felton Little Park and the Development Services Building. Ross Street will be closed during the ceremony to provide parking for the disabled.

In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be moved to the Auburn Municipal Court inside the Public Safety Building located at 141 N. Ross St.



REMEMBER the Fallen. . .

HONOR those who Serve. . .

TEACH our children the value of Freedom.

On December 16, 2023 at 12:00 pm, East-Central Alabama Chapter, MOAA will be helping Fort Mitchell National Cemetery to Remember and Honor our veterans by laying Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes.

Please help us honor and remember as many fallen heroes as possible by sponsoring remembrance wreaths, volunteering on Wreaths Day, or inviting your family and friends to attend with you.

ECAC-MOAA is not asking for volunteers to lay wreaths...unless you want to attend the ceremony. There will be organizations there like the Scouts, JROTC units, and others who will do this. All we are asking is that you buy wreaths.

Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization so your purchases are tax-deductible. Wreaths are \$17 each to sponsor.

Go here to order: <https://wreathsassamerica.org/pages/159330>

Page should show AL0046P East-Central Alabama Chapter-MOAA with a red sponsor button to click on to pay for the number of wreaths you want to sponsor. The location slot should have Ft. Mitchell already there. If you wish to sponsor wreaths for a different location, then look for the cemetery you wish to designate.



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 Oct 2023-Oct 2025.

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

Chair Positions

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



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
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