



# ECAC Newsletter

ecacmoaa.com

ECAC

OCTOBER 2023



*Location: AU Club*

*When: October 19th, 6PM*

*COL Tom Whatley (Ret.) will swear in the new executive board of East Central Alabama Chapter of MOAA. (page 3 has the Slate of Nominees)*

*Senator Tom Whatley* represented Lee, Tallapoosa, and Russell Counties for

twelve years (2010-2022) in the Alabama Senate. He is the longest serving Chairman of the Agricultural Conservation and Forestry Committee in Alabama history serving as Chairman from 2010-2020 and then served as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee from 2020-2022. In addition, he was member of the following committees: Finance and Taxation Education, Confirmations, Banking and Insurance, Veterans Affairs, and Healthcare. Senator Whatley is one of the key leaders and voices in the Alabama Senate making sure our state and his district issues are heard and addressed. He was instrumental by sponsoring and passing the following pieces of legislation: Autism Insurance Coverage Act earning him National Legislator of the Year, Crossover Voting Ban Act, Agricultural Working Dog Act, \$50 Million National Guard Armory Infrastructure Improvement Act, \$2.4 million in funding for the 1<sup>st</sup> Cross Laminated Timber Building on the Auburn University Campus. Senator Whatley was also instrumental in passing legislation setting up Alabama Education funding on a rolling reserve so as to insure proration would never occur and that budgeting could be easily predicted. Senator Whatley was also the author of a slew of military friendly bills making Alabama a great place for military families to call home and thrive. Senator Whatley also was successful by securing \$5 million in funding for Auburn University thereby saving the Auburn Aviation Program and ensuring Delta's future commitment to the program. Over his twelve years in the Senate, Auburn University, the district's largest employer, has seen a substantial increase in their budget each year and Senator Whatley has stressed the commitment to Auburn to emphasize their Land Grant Mission. Over his twelve years the State's Education budget has built up a \$1.7 billion reserve and has not faced proration due to responsible budgeting.



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 ox Filet Mignon \$40  
Grilled Salmon \$25  
Panko Crusted Chicken \$25

**Next Dinner Meeting  
19 October 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 Wednesday, 18 October by  
9PM.**

## Board Meeting was Tuesday, October 2, 2023.

As of Sept 30, 2023, the chapter has:	2023 Dues
71 Regular Members	<b>\$20</b> Per regular member.
9 Surviving Spouse Members	<b>\$15</b> Per dual member.
1 Associate Members	<b>\$5</b> Per Widow/Associate/ROTC student
<b>81 Total Chapter Members</b>	

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

November Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, Nov 7th, at 1130 at Chappy's. Any member wishing to attend should contact a Board member for an invitation.



**Treasurer Report by Gordon Bugg**  
**\$3947.41    9-30-23    Bank Balance**  
**No outstanding checks or deposits.**

# Minutes from September 21st General Meeting

- ✦ The meeting was held at Auburn University Club and was called to order by Jeff Bohler at 6:07 p.m. There were 11 members and guests present.
- ✦ The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ron Carson.
- ✦ Jeff Bohler welcomed members and guests. He introduced special guest Maxine Hanson, Jeff's mother.
- ✦ Judy Bohler reported on the status of members that were experiencing health issues.
- ✦ Judy Bohler as Director of Banquets reported on the success of the Luau.
- ✦ Jeff Bohler made a request for nominations and/or volunteers for vacancies on the Executive Board. The speaker for the October General Meeting will swear in the Board members.
- ✦ An announcement was made that the November General Meeting will be at the Auburn University Club and the General Meeting in December will be the Christmas party at the Saughatchee Country Club on a Saturday.
- ✦ Jeff Bohler encouraged members to look on the ECAC MOAA website for information on the Wreaths Across America program and to consider purchasing wreaths by the end of November.
- ✦ Jeff Bohler asked for an expression of interest from members about participation in the Auburn University Student Veteran Association's annual Gala this year. No decision was made concerning buying a table for the current year.
- ✦ The prayer for dinner was offered by Gordon Bugg.
- ✦ The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.

Secretary

Jerry Williams



**ECAC-MOAA's 2023 Meeting Dates**

Oct 19th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
Nov 16th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
<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



**The MOAA 2023 Annual Meeting of the Membership**  
**Friday, Nov. 3 Arlington, VA**  
**Sheraton Pentagon City**

**Wreaths Across America**

If you or a friend would like to donate to Wreaths Across America, you can click on this website to go directly to the chapter's page for donations helping the Ft. Mitchell Cemetery receive wreaths for the Wreath Laying Ceremony. You can even donate (purchase wreaths) in memory of someone.

<https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/159330/Overview>

Our chapter supports Ft. Mitchell Cemetery or you can choose one of your own.

**Slate of Nominees for Oct 2023- Oct 2025 Term**

**Voted Positions on the Executive Board**

President  
 Mike Horsefield

Vice President  
 Chris Richie

Treasurer  
 Gordon Bugg

Secretary  
 BJ DeBardeleben

Director of Legislation: Ron Barto

Director of Public Affairs: Rob Carson

Director of Social Media: Jeff Bohler

Director of Banquets: Judy Bohler

Past President: Mike Golden

**Appointed Positions**  
 Surviving Spouse Liaison  
 Kathy Barto

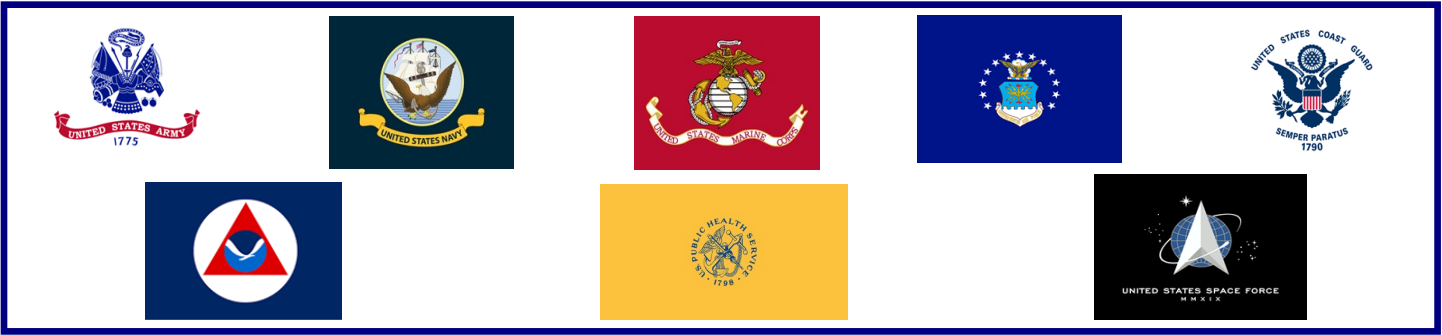
Newsletter Editor  
 Judy Bohler

JROTC/ROTC MOAA Awards Chair  
 Jim Matthews

Membership Chair  
 Judy Bohler

TOPS Chair  
 Mike Horsefield





## 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](http://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.

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

## Update on Dick Phelan and Teresa Moore

After a wonderful July 4th family vacation in Jacksonville, Dick Phelan was in the hospital in Jacksonville and in Atlanta for a long period after his major medical issue when heading for home.

His son, Todd, has informed the chapter that his father is now in The Terraces at Peachtree Hills for addition care. It is a long-term facility with skilled nursing care, and Dick is not able to communicate verbally.

Todd has asked that you call him first at 404-936-5143 before visiting and the facility as well to make sure it is a good day. The family has appreciated the prayers and concern for both the loss of his mother, Edna, and the health of his father, Dick.

Dave Moore's wife, Teresa, had a major medical issue and had been in the hospital for two months. Teresa was recently moved to Capitol Hill Healthcare in Montgomery, AL for addition care, and she is able to have visitors. Please call Dave at 703-338-0979 and the facility before visiting Teresa to make sure it is a good day. Her care will be a long term situation, so Dave is moving into his father's house and selling his house.

He mentioned planning an estate sale at his home off Ogletree Road at the beginning of November, so please plan to drop by or let someone know if he or she is looking for a house or items. His daughters and extended family are helping with this huge event, so mark your calendar. The house will be on the market, also.



Dave Moore's  
Estate Sale  
640 Elizabeth Dr.  
Auburn  
November 4th  
Time: TBD

## In Remembrance Of...

Previous Member LTC Howard Deane (Ret.) passed away on September 28, 2023 at the age of 93. In October 2007 he was voted as one of our ECAC-MOAA directors on the executive board. To the right is a picture of Ted McMurtrie, Mike Kosolapoff, Howard Deane, and Dick Phelan (L-R) from the September 2007 ECAC-MOAA newsletter.



### *MOAA Council of Chapters had a quarter meeting in Montgomery, Alabama.*

On Oct. 10th the Council of Chapters had a quarterly meeting in Montgomery in person. Since the pandemic, many of the quarterly meetings have been done by Zoom. The presidents from the 13 chapters were invited along with the council board and chairs. On Oct 9th the group met at a restaurant with spouses with many staying at a hotel that evening. The next day at the Arrowhead Country Club the quarterly meeting took place with spouses attending a book swap. The MOAA CoC hopes to have other social events during future quarterly meetings.



## 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 will change.

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: 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.

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