

**ECAC**

ECAC Newsletter

ecacmoaa.com**MAY 2024**

Thursday, May 16th, 6PM, at the AU Club

The next chapter meeting on May 16th will be a social dinner without a presentation. It will be the last meeting until the Luau Party on August 17th. The summer months, June and July, give everyone a break to go on vacation and relax.

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**May 16, 2024****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, May 14th by 9PM.****Mark your calendars for the MOAA Luau Party****August 17th, Saturday, 4PM-8PM****Grove Hill Club House**

The Auburn Planesmen R/C Flying Club,

<https://auburnplanesmen.org/>

is located on a private full-scale (700 feet long by 100 feet wide) grass runway, flying radio-controlled electric, glow, gas, and turbine-powered aircraft. There is a solar-powered battery charging station for 12V and 120V battery chargers. You can expect 5-7 of the flying club members out every weekend, most likely on Sunday afternoons.

Check out the website for more information.



Board Meeting was Monday, May 6, 2024.

As of April 30, 2024, the chapter has:

2024 Dues

72	Regular Members	\$20	Per regular member.
10	Surviving Spouse Members	\$15	Per dual member.
2	Associate Members	\$5	Per Widow/Associate/ROTC student
84	Total Chapter Members		

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

June's Board of Directors meeting will be Monday, June 3rd, at 1130 at Chappy's. Any member wishing to attend should contact a Board member for an invitation.



Treasurer Report by Gordon Bugg
 \$2555.80 4-30-24 Bank Balance
 One outstanding item
 Check for \$100 from AU Golf for Vets



Left Photo:
Jeff Bohler
as Master of
Ceremony
reading each
recipient's
biography.



Above Photo: L-R Vice President Chris Richie; AHS instructor and member, Tony Benitez; AHS recipient, Savannah Trejo; and President Mike Horsefield during the program

Minutes from April General Meeting

- The meeting was held at the Saugahatchee Country Club and was called to order by Mike Horsefield at 6:37 p.m. There were many members and guests present. Mike welcomed everyone to the Annual ROTC/JROTC Awards banquet.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chris Richie.
- The prayer was offered by BJ DeBardeleben.
- Dinner was enjoyed and then the awards presentation began with Jeff Bohler narrating, Mike and Chris presenting, and Judy taking pictures. Eleven MOAA certificates were presented to the recipient with their instructor and family being recognized with one recipient not able to attend.
- Jeff did a great job narrating and mentioned how nice the large turnout was and thanked everyone for their hard work to make the event a success. Mike then closed with a motivational story about attitude and military service. It was a great event!

★ The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Secretary

BJ
DeBardeleben



ECAC-MOAA's 2024 Meeting Dates

May 16th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
June & July	No Meeting		
August 17th	Saturday	4PM	Grove Hill Luau
Sept 19th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
Oct 17th	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
Nov 21st	Thursday	6PM	Auburn Univ Club
Dec 14th	Saturday	11AM	Saugahatchee

****Friday, May 10th, is Military Spouse Appreciation Day. Thank you to all the spouses for the hard work and for the support to the military personnel.****



The day is celebrated to honour the birthday of Henry Dunant. Born on May 8, 1828, he founded the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and was a Nobel Peace Prize laureate. This day is a yearly celebration of the principles of the Red Cross Society, which operates in numerous countries.

The theme designated for World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day in 2024 is **"I give with joy, and the joy I give is a reward."** This theme promotes the idea of giving with a sense of joy and recognizing that the joy experienced in the act of giving itself is a rewarding outcome.

Legislative Update on YouTube

Join MOAA's financial and benefits professional – Capt. Paul Frost, USN (Ret), AFC® – for a comprehensive review of recent legislation and MOAA's priorities for the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

[https://www.moaa.org/content/benefits-and-discounts/transition-and-careers/transition-center-webinars/moaas-legislative-update-\(2023\)/](https://www.moaa.org/content/benefits-and-discounts/transition-and-careers/transition-center-webinars/moaas-legislative-update-(2023)/)

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!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New Members for March and April



Top Left: Bob and Jenny Head

Bob was former re-serve in the US Army. Bob and Jenny were at the March meeting as guests of Gordon and Debra Bugg.



Above Right: Terry "Cooker" Cook and his wife, Joanna Cooker joined the chapter on-line in April and he is retired US Army.



Center Left: Robert and Michelle Straw

Robert is retired from the US Air Force. Robert and Michelle were at the March meeting as guests of Jeff and Tate Davis.



Above Right: Phillip Parker and his wife, Shannon



Bottom Left: Ron and Darlene Brown

Ron is retired from the US Navy. Ron and Darlene were at the March meeting as guests of Mike Horsefield.

Phillip joined the chapter on-line in April and he is retired US Army.

If you have prepared or up-dated your medical directives and proxies (POA) after the wonderful presentation Dave Moore gave us, you can take them to Building 28 across from the hospital and behind the armory to be put on file.

**100% of dues were collected.
Chapter Membership: 82
New Rosters were mailed.**

Beyond the Horizon Air and Space Show Maxwell Air Force Base Montgomery, AL April 6-7, 2004



Bill and Nancy Hecker had a special photo of the Blue Angels at the air show on April 7th which is above. Their son, John Hecker, in the black shirt was a Blue Angel pilot from 2011 to 2013, so the family was able to meet and to pose with the pilots that day. Nancy and Bill are on either side of John with his wife, Melody, and their kids, Madelynn Kate and Jake in front. The pilots on the left side are L-R CDR Thomas Zimmerman, LCDR Brian Vaught, LCDR Amanda Lee, and LCDR Jack Keilty and the pilots on the right side are L-R CDR Alexander Armatas, LT Wes Perkins, LCDR Griffin Stangel, and LT Connor O'Donnell.

The photo to the right is John Hecker when he was a Blue Angel pilot with grandkids of Bill and Nancy's friends. The kids are Molly and Thatcher Shepard who have both grown up and graduated from West Point.



Memorial Day Monday, May 27th



The Auburn community is invited to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice at the 24th annual Mayor's Memorial Day Breakfast. The event will begin at 8 a.m. on May 27 at the Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center.

Marine Corps Sgt. Eugene Stanaland will be the guest of honor and the recipient of this year's Distinguished Veteran Award. The Auburn Heroes Remembered Award will be presented to the family of Marine Corps Capt. David Miller.

Tickets can be purchased at City Hall (144 Tichenor Ave.) and are \$25 a person or \$250 for a table of eight.

A free memorial wreath laying ceremony will follow the breakfast at 10 a.m. at the Auburn Veterans Memorial Monument at the northeast corner of Ross Street and Glenn Avenue. The ceremony will include a rifle detail performed by VFW Post 5404.

Attendees are encouraged to park at the Douglas J. Watson Municipal Complex, Felton Little Park and the East Glenn Avenue Municipal Parking Lot. Ross Street between Glenn and Harper avenues and Glenn Avenue between Burton and North Debardeleben streets will be closed during the ceremony to provide room for on-street accessible parking.

*****MOAA Website/Account Upgrades*****

During the transition, which began April 1, members will not be able to log into their membership accounts online. To make a change to your account during this time, or to renew or upgrade your membership, email MOAA's Member Service Center (MSC) at msc@moaa.org or call (800) 234-MOAA (6622). These changes will go into effect following the completion of this transition. Please anticipate a brief delay before these are reflected on the website.

Login Changes

Once the new system is in place, your "email of record" will replace your username when accessing your online account. Contact the MSC if you have multiple emails on file with MOAA to determine your email of record. Once the new membership database is live, your password will need to be reset. Access to MOAA's Legislative Action Center will not be affected. Further instructions on using the new system will be available in the coming weeks.

Smiths Station High School JROTC

Lawrence Grant

Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Grant was born in Merced, California but moved to Phenix City, AL in the 6th grade. He attends Smiths Station High School and is the Company Commander of his JROTC unit. He also Commands the Drill Team, Raider Team, and Color Guard while participating in JLAB Team. Cadet Grant will graduate on May 23rd, 2024. Cadet Grant has been accepted into the Virginia Military Institute for the fall of 2024, where he plans to major in electrical engineering and plans to commission as an Air Force officer.

He spent his high school years advocating to better not only himself, but his community by volunteering in numerous events in the support his community, with over 100 volunteer hours. He has also spent his years representing Won's Martials Arts Academy for 3 years.

Cadet Grants awards include; Sons of The American Revolution, Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame Selfless Service Act, Best Drill Cadet, Distinctive Scholastic Achievement, Physical Achievement, and Distinguished Conduct 3rd award. With an A/B Honor Roll, cadet Grant upholds a 3.43 GPA

Twelve Students Receive ECAC-MOAA Awards



ECAC-MOAA High School JROTC Award Winners



Left: Auburn High School JROTC instructor LTC Anthony Benitez – R with student Savannah Grace Trejo-L



Right: Booker T. Washington High School JROTC student **Ja'Kiya** Pickens-L with instructor LTC Chip Flowers-R



ECAC-MOAA Military Academy Award Winner



Left: Southern Preparatory Military Academy instructor 1SGT Lee Kolb-R with student Sean Turner-L



Right: Smith Station High School JROTC student Lawrence Grant-L with instructor 1st Major William Bolden-R





ECAC-MOAA Tuskegee Univ. ROTC Award Winners



Photo Left:

Student
Deyana Fra-
zier Air
Force ROTC
was not able
to attend the
banquet.

Photo Right:

Instructor
1LT Josiah
Kinsey –R
with student
De’Nizha
Lynette Ray
–L Army
ROTC



**Future
Leaders
of
America**



Photo Above: Instructor LT Leo
Petters-R with student Caleb
Mekiah Alexander– L Naval
ROTC-Marine



Photo Above: Instructor LT Leo
Petters-R with student Janae
Wilson– L Naval ROTC-Navy



ECAC-MOAA Auburn Univ. ROTC Award Winners



Photo Left: AU Instructor Capt. Justin Hitt-R with student Anna Grace England -L Army ROTC



Photo Right: AU Instructor 2LT Thomas McMillan -R with student Ethan Davis-L Air Force ROTC



Photo Left: AU Instructor LT Michael Taylor-R with student Caleb Maxwell -L Naval ROTC Navy



Photo Right: AU Instructor LT Michael Taylor -R with student Noah Koons -L Naval ROTC Marine

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.

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>

Executive Officers, Board of Directors, Chair Positions for Oct 2023-Oct 2025.

President:	Mike Horsefield	Chair Positions	
Vice President:	Chris Richie	Surviving Spouses Liaison:	Kathy Barto
Secretary:	BJ DeBardeleben	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:	Ron Barto	Digital Communications:	Jeff Bohler
Past President:	Mike Golden	News Release:	Ron Carson
		ROTC Awards:	Jim Matthews
		Monthly Meeting:	Judy Bohler
		Guest Speakers:	Chris Richie
		By-Laws:	BJ DeBardeleben
		State Council:	Ron Barto
		Legislative Updates:	Ron Barto
		MOAA News:	Ron Barto
		Chaplain:	Mike Golden



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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Editorial Policy. The East-Central Alabama Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and national MOAA provide their advocacy in a nonpartisan manner. Any conveyance of partisanship is unintended.