

AIKEN CHAPTER MOAA

THE COURIER September 2025



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Caldwell (803) 226-0546

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Caldwell (803) 226-0546

CHAPLAIN: CPT Edward Schneider
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JROTC LIAISON: COL Lynda Mann
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All newsletters are sent by email

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FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Barbara McKnight, Capt, USAF



Preparations are underway for the fall season and the resumption of MOAA activities on September 10, 2025. The September meeting will be informal, providing an opportunity for members to reconnect and share experiences from the summer. There will not be a guest speaker in September, allowing time for renewing acquaintances and meeting new members.

The fall schedule includes several planned programs. In November, Lieutenant Colonel Corey Murphy, United States Army and Superintendent of Aiken County Schools, is scheduled to speak. Additionally, during the November meeting, a list of new officers will be presented for voting, with installation planned for December. The December meeting will feature Makin Music as part of the annual Christmas event.

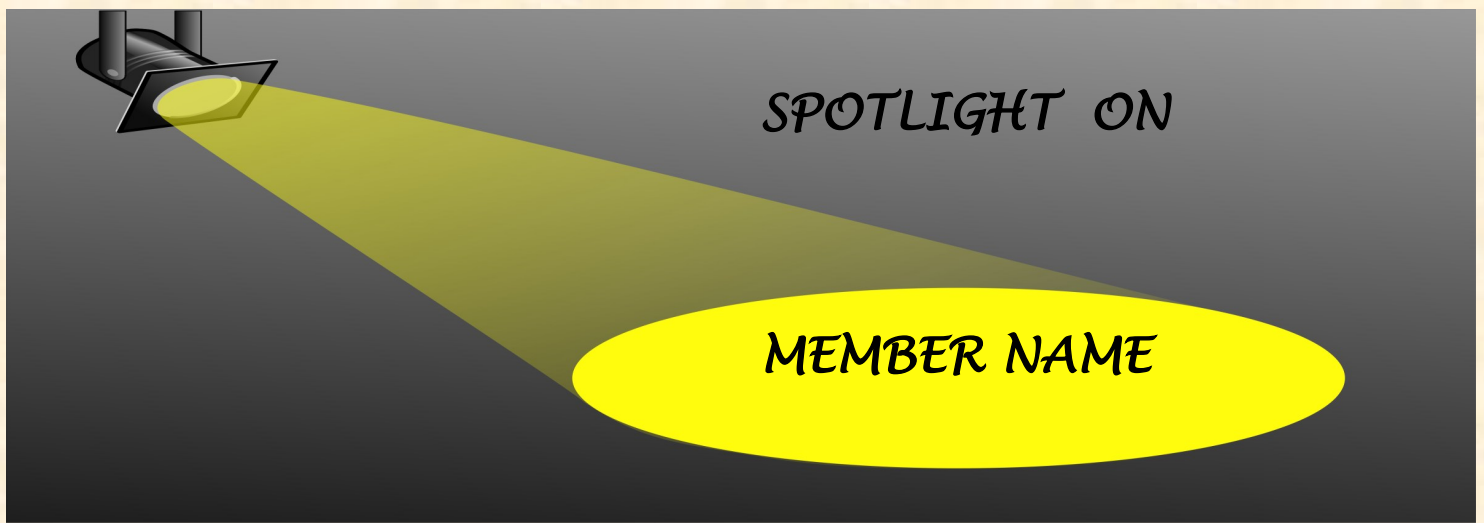
Lynda Mann has taken responsibility for the JROTC and ROTC programs, preparing community outreach initiatives over the summer. The Board continues planning for the Christmas Angel Program, which assists children of those serving or previously served while attending USC Aiken, along with other events supporting the local military community.

On September 6th, members are encouraged to attend the Battle of the Alley event. Increasing the organization's presence in the community is a priority, and more involvement from surviving spouses is being sought. Members are invited to share ideas and suggest outreach opportunities to the board.

Volunteer participation plays a key role in the success of outreach programs such as meals for the Fisher House and the Memorial Day parade. Input from all members is appreciated to enhance support for the military community. Efforts continue to address challenges related to aging membership and limited volunteering, with recruitment of new, younger members as a current objective. Individuals interested in joining MOAA are welcome to attend meetings.

Looking ahead to a great fall season of MOAA!

Barbara McKnight



Stay tuned—for various reasons, this site is still on vacation. For future issues, we have several members lined up to share their story.



September Meeting: September 10, 2025



Happy Half Hour: 1800 hours

Pledge and Invocation: 1830 hours

Dinner Menu:

Preset Salad w/Homemade dressing

Chef's choice Starch

Seasonal vegetables

BBQ style Pulled Pork w/sauces

Preset Dessert

Coffee, tea, water

Full Cash Bar

Dress Code: Casual

Open Seating

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: FRIDAY, September 5th

Contact Jeanne Townes at jeannetownes@gmail.com

Upcoming Chapter Events

October 1, 2025

Chapter Meeting w/ Chief Brian Harris, Catawba Indian and retired USN veteran, will speak about the SC Indian Tribes and their military service.

November 5, 2025

Chapter meeting with Dr. Corey Murphy, LTC, USAR Superintendent for Aiken County Public School.

Nomination and presentation of Board candidates for the 2026-2028 term.

Distribution of Christmas Angel Ornaments

November 11, 2025:

Veterans Day Service at the Aiken County Veterans Park 11:00 AM 1435 Richland Ave. East Aiken

December 3, 2025

Chapter meeting with Makin Music as our entertainment.

Election of the Board candidates for the 2026-2028 term

Christmas Angel gifting for the children of USCA veteran and military families

Veteran Events

**AIKEN COUNTY VETERANS COUNCIL
PRESENTS**



Battle at the Alley

-----FEATURED BANDS-----

**WIRE ROAD
THE HOYT CLAGWELLS
STELLIUM - HEART & SOUL
ZACH SCOTT KLINE
LOST DOG**

Saturday, Sep 6, 2025 6-10 PM

The Alley, Downtown Aiken

Chair - Lowell Koppert

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Dear MOAA Members and Honored Guests,

Welcome to the 2025 Biennial South Carolina Council of MOAA Chapters State Conference!!

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to each of you as we gather in beautiful historic Greenwood, South Carolina for this special opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the MOAA motto, "Never Stop Serving."

My heartfelt gratitude goes out to this year's host chapter, Star Fort, and Conference Chair, LTC Terry Greenfield, USA (Ret), for their dedication and hard work in crafting an exceptional conference that promises to offer examples and ideas to build and maintain chapter health and success. A special thank you goes to LtCol Jim Albert, USAF (Ret) and the Grand Strand Chapter for allowing our use of their website for conference registration.

I am pleased to invite you to join us as we create new relationships, strengthen old friendships, and learn from each other. It is only through the exchange of ideas, sharing of experiences, and forging connections that we can best advance the goals and principles of MOAA, as well as grow and support our chapters and membership across South Carolina.

Very respectfully,

Linda

CPT Linda S. Caldwell, USA (Fmr)
President, South Carolina Council of MOAA Chapters

NEVER STOP SERVING

News From MOAA National

Visit the MOAA Advocacy and Legislative pages and read about the many important issues our national organization is working on for our behalf. Links are embedded



- ♦ **MOAA-Backed Caregiver Aid, Plus Other VA-Focused Legislation, Moves Through Key Committee**—click here—[Caregiver](#)
 - ♦ **Major Richard Star Act: Fact vs. Fiction** : Despite overwhelming support in recent sessions, misconceptions remain about this effort to support combat-injured retirees. —click here-[Star](#)
 - ♦ **3 Priorities, 1 Mission: MOAA's Summer Advocacy in Action Topics**
 - Support Combat-Injured Veterans
 - Support Military Families
 - Improve Access for families using TRICARE
- ***Click here—[summer](#)
-
- ♦ **To support this legislation : click [support](#)**



IMPORTANT REMINDER FROM MOAA

NATIONAL



Reminders from national MOAA to remain non-partisan in everything concerning MOAA:

Partisan Political Activities: As organizations exempt from federal taxation under Sec. 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code, MOAA and its affiliates must take care to avoid engaging in partisan political activities. Under IRS rules, we are prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.

Divisive Social Issues: We are all aware of the divisive nature of the debate over today's leading social issues – protesting during the national anthem at sporting events, racial justice, public protests, and the conduct of law enforcement officers. These are issues over which many Americans have deeply held, but differing, personal beliefs. This is also true within the military community among the ranks of active duty and retired officers and within MOAA itself.

MOAA leaders have an obligation to keep this in mind when communicating on behalf of MOAA or its affiliates. Suggesting that MOAA only supports one side of a deeply divisive issue sends a message to those with a different belief that MOAA is not for them. See the complete statements from MOAA: (click this link) [MOAA - MOAA Guidance on Partisan Political Activities](#)



NEWS FROM THE VA

New Season: **Veteran Hunting & Fishing License**

As South Carolina's hunting season begins for the Fall, now is the perfect time for eligible Veterans to secure their free license! South Carolina resident Veterans with a service-connected disability may be eligible for a free hunting and fishing license through the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR).

The three year Disability Combination License covers freshwater and saltwater fishing, state wildlife hunting, and comes with the base set of deer tags each year. The application form is available on the SCDNR "Disabled" license webpage, and can be completed online, or mailed along with the required documentation.

Veterans are encouraged to review the SCDNR hunting season calendar for specific game dates and zones, and to apply early so they can take full advantage of this year's hunting opportunities.



Surviving Spouse Corner

By: Susan R. Collins August 01, 2025

Recently, I've heard questions about what happens to a USAA Subscriber's Account when the account holder passes away. These accounts hold part of USAA's capital and allow the association to share earnings with members, some of whom may qualify for senior bonus distributions.

Upon the death of my husband in 2021, USAA asked whether I would like to take the money out of the account and start the account over again as a new owner, or to take some money out in small withdrawals.

USAA bylaws state that upon the death of the account holder:

“[P]ayment will be made to the widow(er) or, if there is no surviving spouse, to the estate. However, if a widow(er) entitled to such payment chooses to continue membership in his or her name, at the option of the widow(er), such amount may be paid to the widow(er) or retained in the subscriber's account; any election to receive such payment must be made in conjunction with the decision to continue membership in such widow(er)'s name.”

[RELATED: [More Financial Programs From USAA and Other MOAA Partners](#)]

Either option may make sense as part of your financial plans moving forward. My advice: Contact USAA to learn more about your options.

More resources regarding Subscriber's Account distribution are available at the USAA website.



... HOW TO ACCESS THE AIKEN CHAPTER'S WEBSITE?

To access the website you must go through the SC Council's website (www.moaasc.org/aiken) BUT you can click on the link

here: www.moaasc.org

... HOW TO OPEN IMBEDDED LINKS IN OUR COURIER?

Many of us are challenged by many of today's technological advances. We incorporate links into our documents to make it easier to access information. By placing the cursor just under the link and pressing the ctrl button on your keyboard a hand (with a finger pointing to the link) will appear. Then just one click and you are at the imbedded website.

VETERAN ASSISTANCE

Aiken County Veterans Affairs: Major Dwight Bradham is the Aiken County Veterans Affairs Officer. He and his team can be reached at (803) 642- 1545 or dbradham@aikencountysc.gov by email. If you have any veteran issues, please contact the office.

US Congressman Joe Wilson - Veteran Assistance: The local number to Congressman Wilson's Aiken County office is (803) 642-6416. His State Senate office also regularly assists veterans with many issues. The number is (803) 212- 6000.

Veterans Legal Clinic: The USC School of Law operates the Veterans Legal Clinic. Veterans can inquire about help with a legal problem by calling (803) 777- 2278





Important Links

Listed here are several links to contacts that members and friends of Aiken Chapter may find informative or helpful.

MOAA National: [MOAA](#)

Aiken Chapter MOAA: [Aiken](#)

****Please Note an application to Aiken Chapter is on the Home Page as a PDF

Department of Veteran Affairs: [DVA#](#)

Aiken County Veterans Affairs: [ACVet](#)

Aiken County Veteran's Council: [ACVC](#)

Lindsay Graham's Website: [Graham](#)

Joe Wilson's Website: [Wilson](#)