

CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER, NEW YORK MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Volume 7, Issue 4

August 2016

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4-Star Chapter - 2015 & 2009



CHAPTER MEMBER RECRUITMENT ISSUE

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT

I hope that you are all well and having a great summer!

Our chapter has once again been recognized with the MOAA 4 Star Level of Excellence Award. This makes a clean sweep for the year. Both our newsletter and website received 4 Star Level of Excellence Awards earlier this year. These awards are dated this year; however the period that was rated was last year. Yet another testament to Tony Ficara's great leadership and the fine support he received from all of the members. Thank you Tony and Team!

There are several criteria on which these awards are based, such as;

Do we have a Legislative Affairs Committee and is it active?

Do we have a Personal Affairs Committee?

Do we provide our membership roster to MOAA early in the year?

Do we have a number of meaningful meetings per year?

Do we have a Newsletter and website?

Do we have an active program to recruit new members?

Only 14 out of approximately 420 MOAA Chapters received all three Level of Excellence awards (Website, Newsletter, & Chapter). We placed in a very elite group. NOT TOO SHABBY!

The answer to all of the above is affirmative. In a few cases our committees are a committee of one and there are some committees not listed in the criteria for which we are still seeking members. Many of you have given the Chapter all that you were able to give; it was that participation which has made this a great chapter! Perhaps your schedule has precluded you from more active participation in the past, if you have more time available please consider more active participation. The huge key in insuring the future success of this Chapter is new members!

Should you know a currently serving, retired or former officer please tell them the reasons why membership in MOAA is a great idea and more importantly why it is beneficial to be a member of this chapter.

Skip Bebernitz 

NEVER STOP SERVING

NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT

For current Chapter members:

Every member is (should be) a recruiter. Invite any Officer that you know to join, or bring them to one of our meetings to check us out. The Chapter recently established recruiting incentives for current members:

- Recruit 2 new members in a calendar year, and receive a free meal at a luncheon meeting
- Recruit a third new member, and we'll throw in a free year's membership in the Chapter

Please use the enclosed membership application form on page 3, or make copies to give out to prospective members. Current as well as new members can use the reverse side (page 4) to volunteer for one of our action committees.

NOT a Chapter member (yet)? Please read this:

MOAA: Many of you reading this are Life Members, so you know the vital importance of MOAA's fight to preserve our defense capabilities, which depend completely on the number and caliber of people who serve, and to honor and care for those who have served. You know that MOAA's renowned educational efforts on Capitol Hill represent the "pointy end of the spear", but do you know that the local Chapters are weight behind the spear point?

THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF CHAPTERS: Our Senators and Representatives are attuned to voters, because voters allow them to remain in office (or not). And, numbers matter! The larger and more influential an organization, the more attentive our elected officials are to their perspectives on issues. Our Chapter spans the districts of three US Representatives, a region also important to our two US Senators, and let us not forget our State Legislature. *Our Chapter needs YOUR membership to add to our strength and clout.* We are about 500 lbs. short of being the 800-lb. gorilla we need to be in order to succeed.

WHAT OUR CHAPTER IS DOING: We began a full-court press last year, meeting with all three US Representatives, Paul Tonko, Chris Gibson (COL, US Army Ret.), and Elise Stefanik, at their local offices, presenting MOAA's top issues. Chapter representatives have already met with Rep. Gibson and Tonko again this year. Of course, the Chapter is not all work and no play. We hold five general membership dinner meetings each year with very engaging guest speakers presenting a wide variety of military and veteran-related topics. We also contribute to and participate in worthy causes that help or honor local military personnel and veterans, such as the Stride Adaptive Sports Winterfest for wounded warriors and Wreaths Across America™. Our Chapter also presents MOAA awards to deserving ROTC and JROTC cadets.



JOIN US NOW! Fill out the enclosed application on page 3, or a copy of it, and send it to our Waterford PO Box address with proof of national service as an officer (photocopies, please) and a check or money order for annual dues (\$15 per year). Chapter membership entitles you to receive our newsletters, either hard copy or an electronic link to PDF versions on the Chapter website, attend our meetings, and participate in our activities. To remain a member, just pay your dues every year to support our activities, charities, and newsletters - *the level of commitment is up to you:*

- Minimal – You are counted on our rolls and you don't have to do anything more, if you don't want.
- Occasional – Like most current members, you can attend meetings and participate in activities at your convenience as often as you like. You are always welcome.
- Regular – Attend meetings and participate in Chapter-sponsored activities regularly; volunteer to serve on the one of the many committees, the Board of Directors, or as a Chapter officer. In other words, make a difference! *Volunteer for one of the CHAPTER COMMITTEES listed on the back of the Chapter Membership application form on page 4.*



New York State
Capital District Chapter
PO BOX 373
Waterford, NY 12188
Chapter Membership Application:

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP+4 _____

Email address _____

HOME PHONE (____) _____

CELL PHONE (____) _____

BRANCH OF SERVICE _____ COMPONENT _____

RANK/GRADE _____

DUTY STATUS _____ ACTIVE _____ RESERVE _____ RETIRED _____ FORMER OFFICER

IF RETIRED, YEARS OF SERVICE _____ DATE OF RETIREMENT _____

LAST FOUR OF SSN _____

MOAA NATIONAL NUMBER _____

SPOUSE's FIRST NAME (IF MARRIED) _____

SIGN HERE _____ DATE _____

NOTES:

1. Please enclose proof of status as an officer (commissioned or warrant) in one of the military or national services. Such as a photocopy of your DD214, Retirement Order, Letter of Appointment, or other official government document establishing your status.
2. Chapter membership annual dues are \$15.00 payable by January 31 each year. Make check payable to NYS CDC.
3. The Chapter typically holds five dinner meetings per year on Sunday afternoons. They are held at the Edison Club in Rexford, NY with a social hour at 1300 and meal at 1400. They are announced in the newsletters and mailings. Attendance at the meetings is not required but warmly encouraged. Enjoy the camaraderie of fellow officers and spouses.
4. If you were recruited by or strongly influenced to join by a current Chapter member, please print their name here _____

HELP OUR CHAPTER COMMITTEES

Check the box for one or more of the action committees below that interest you and return this page with the completed Chapter membership application (new members) or separately (current members) to the Chapter PO Box or to one of the Chapter Officers or Board of Directors listed on page 5. We will contact you about participation.

These are the Chapter's most URGENT needs (in alphabetical order):



Personal Affairs – We need a people person to be our primary point of contact for issues associated with military rights and entitlements, including survivor benefits information, and who will help members with the submission of inquiries, applications, and claims to governmental agencies such as the VA, military personnel offices and finance centers.

Program – We need a chairperson to lead a committee of two members who plan and organize Chapter meetings and other social and charitable events. Can you throw a party?

Public Relations – The Chapter needs one or more members, auxiliaries, or member spouses, to interact with local media outlets – *and social media* – on a regular basis to publicize Chapter contact information and events. People in the Capital District need to know who we are and what we do!

Surviving Spouse Liaison - We need a primary point of contact who will focus on legislative and benefits-information issues concerning surviving spouses and who will work directly with the national association's *Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee (SSAC)*.

Transition Assistance Program – OK, upstate NY is not exactly a Mecca for officers transitioning out of the military to civilian life or simply re-locating to our area, but, even so, those who do deserve our help. To date, we haven't had anyone available with the extensive local connections to fill this role. Might that person be YOU?

Help is always most gratefully welcome for the following committees:

Chapter Historian – We recruited one of our Past Presidents for this role recently, who has just begun to assemble the Chapter history. There is a lot to do, and he could use help.

Legislative Affairs – *Got connections?* The Chapter President and two members have started annual visits with the three US Representatives from our Chapter's area, but a larger team could be more effective. We have yet to make contact with our Senators, and we have no one dedicated to reach out on a regular basis to our local State Senators and Assembly Representatives. *Can you help beef up this team?*

Membership – Historically, this has been a committee of one – currently our Chapter President – and one part-timer can't do this vital task justice. We need a squad to reach out to MOAA members who are not in our Chapter, and also to recruit members for MOAA and the Chapter from among actively serving, former, and retired officers.

Newsletter – We have one editor and *no* back-up. We could use one or even two associate editors to help with articles, and even issue one or more of the six newsletters per year. You can work independently from home on layout, writing short blurbs, editing articles submitted by others, or coordinating the printing and mailing/e-mailing. We'll show you what to do. Our NLs are good, but you can make them better.

ROTC/JROTC – Two of the Chapter Board members have been able only to do the bare minimum for local college ROTC and high school Junior ROTC programs: procuring and, where possible, presenting MOAA awards (medals and certificates) to deserving cadets. We should do more to support our youth and future officers, but to do that we need help.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

CHAPTER OFFICE	INCUMBENT	E-MAIL
President	Ernest "Skip" Bebernitz, MAJ USA, RET	pres@cdnymoaa.org
1 st Vice President	Christopher J. Costigan, CDR USN, RET	1vp@cdnymoaa.org
2 nd Vice President	Emanuel "Manny" Biondi, MAJ USA, RET	2vp@cdnymoaa.org
Secretary	Ralph Folger, LCDR USNR, RET	secr@cdnymoaa.org
Treasurer	Fred Ames, CW4 USA, RET	treas@cdnymoaa.org

BOARD MEMBERS

Anthony J. Ficara*, COL USA, RET	
Rocco D. Acquilano, CDR, USNR, RET	Thomas W. Lenahan, Capt USAF, RET
Martin Leukhardt**, RADM USNR, RET	Charles Marshall, CWO4 USNR, RET
Alfred M. Memole, LTC USA, RET	Ronald Neaton**, CAPT USNR, RET
William Potts, CW4 USA, RET	Edmund M. Scheiber, Jr.**, Lt Col USAF, RET

* Immediate Past-President

** Former President

Upcoming Chapter Meetings for 2016

General Membership Sunday Luncheons: *Edison Club, Rexford, NY; Social Hour begins at 1300 hrs., with luncheon from 1400 ~ 1600 hrs.*

- October 16 – Guest speaker - *Dr. Kevin Kiley, MG USA Ret., 41st Army Surgeon General and Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Albany Medical Center*
- December 11 – Annual Chapter Business meeting and Christmas/Holiday Party



Chapter Board Meeting: October 1 - *NYS Military Museum, Saratoga Springs, at 1000 hrs.*

Chapter Events: *Voluntary participation supported or sponsored by the Chapter*

- December 17 - Wreaths Across America™ at the Gerald Solomon National Cemetery, Schuylerville, an event to help remember – and never forget - those who served our nation

Luncheon reservation forms and details about these and other upcoming events will appear in subsequent issues of this newsletter. The next issue will be disseminated on/about September 27.



New York State Capital District Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
PO Box 373
Waterford, NY 12188-373

The NYS Capital District Chapter and the Military Officers Association of America are non-partisan member organizations that honor, assist, and advocate for all who serve and have served honorably in the uniformed services of the United States of America.

Every organization, without exception, reflects the needs and interests of its most active members, or it disappears. If you are avoiding participation in our organization because you don't like our activities or find our meetings and events inconvenient, *it's probably because you are not participating.* By taking an interest and getting involved you help guide and shape the organization to meet *your* needs and better serve the greater community.

