

CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER, NEW YORK MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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4-Star Chapter – 2016, 2015 & 2009



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT

I hope that your Holidays were GREAT and that you are having a happy, safe, and healthy New Year! Last year at this time I wrote about the terrific holiday that Mary Lou and I had experienced at several different events. This year I want to discuss the pride that I have felt in our organization over the past month.

Last year we started collecting for "Toys for Tots" at our December meeting. At that time I was impressed that we filled the bin to overflowing. This year there was no bin but the space under the Edison Clubs tree was stuffed full of bags of toys. A truly impressive sight!



Three years ago we became a fund raising site for "Wreaths Across America" that year we funded 30 something wreaths (we got a late start), last year we funded 69 wreaths (significant improvement), This year we funded 85 (terrific improvement). We were not alone in having a fantastic improvement, last year there were approximately 7,500 wreaths placed at the Saratoga National Cemetery. This year there was more than enough wreaths for one/grave!

Not only that, a goodly number of our members braved the frigid conditions on 16 Dec to place the wreaths. The members of whom I am aware that participated are Chris Costigan, the Memoles, the Schreckengosts, Pat Piccirilli, Kathy Gates, and I. If there was anyone whom I have left out, I am sorry. The entire Capital District really stepped up; there were at least 4 times as many people in attendance for the placement this year than there were last year. On 20 Jan, several of our members participated in the much less rewarding detail of retrieving all of the wreaths from the graves.

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The focus of our February meeting is the upcoming **Stride Wounded Warriors Snowfest Weekend Welcome Banquet** 2 March 1800-200 hours at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy. In the past years we have almost filled 2 tables at this event hopefully we will completely fill 2 tables this year. It is a very moving and well done event that is really worth attending.

We should all be very proud of that which we have accomplished and continue to accomplish.

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

NEXT MEETING/LUNCHEON – Sunday February 11, 1300 - 1600 hours at the Edison Club, Rexford, NY [The luncheon reservation form is on page 7.]

GUEST SPEAKER: Albany County Sheriff, Craig D. Apple, Sr.

Sheriff Apple will talk about two programs he instituted. The first program aims to rehabilitate veterans who find themselves in trouble. This program has reduced the recidivism rate for these veterans from the average of over 40% to less than 10%. The second program targets the opioid epidemic. He may also speak about the "Soldier On" housing program for homeless vets, which includes redoing the now vacant Ann Lee Nursing Home and adding two 100-room additions next year. Our hope is that our Albany County members will support these efforts, and members in other counties will urge their sheriffs to do similar things.

REMINDER: Please get your reservation and payment to **CHRIS COSTIGAN NOT LATER THAN Wednesday morning February 7**. The Edison Club needs a final count by the Wednesday before our meeting. If you plan to attend, even if you aren't 100% sure, please pay in anticipation. If for any reason you can't attend, we will refund your payment. **And don't forget that dues for 2018 are due**, if you haven't already paid. If you paid this year's dues, thank you for your support.

HIGHLIGHTED CHARITY for this edition → STRIDE Adaptive Sports



The **13th Annual STRIDE Wounded Warrior Snowfest** will take place March 1-4, 2018. The Snowfest allows active and former service members who suffered wounds, severe injuries, or PTSD to enjoy 4 days of skiing or snowboarding and family activities with their families at Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort, Hancock, MA. STRIDE's adaptive programs help these veterans "to learn how to overcome the challenges of injury and enjoy independence and freedom through sport."

**** Please note: STRIDE is in no way affiliated with national Wounded Warrior Project and has been offering programs for local/regional Wounded veterans for over twelve years.**

STRIDE is kicking off the weekend activities with its annual **Snowfest Welcome Ceremony on Friday, March 2, from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy**. This ceremony recognizes our region's war veterans for their service.

Our Chapter, as well as individual members have supported STRIDE's WW Snowfest for several years through participation in the Welcome Ceremony banquet. General Admission is \$40.00 per person; table of 10 for \$400.00, or a VIP Table of 10 for \$500.00. This is a great event and a great way to support those who sacrificed themselves for our nation. If you wish to attend as part of our Chapter, please contact Skip or any of the Chapter officers or directors.

For more information about STRIDE, the Wounded Warrior Programs, or any of their adaptive sport and recreation programs, contact Megan Evans, Program Director at mevans@stride.org or 518-598-1279, or Don Tallman, Wounded Warrior Liaison at dtallman@stride.org.

MOAA'S TOP 10 LEGISLATIVE GOALS FOR 2018

As a member of an advocacy organization it is never too late (or too often) to contact your legislators concerning MOAA's goals for this year. These goals were listed and explained in the January issue of the Military Officer magazine and bear repeating. *For your convenience, these goals are presented here in an abbreviated fashion.* They are:

1. Ensure any TRICARE reform sustains access to top quality care;
2. Prevent disproportional TRICARE fee increases;
3. Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector;
4. Block erosion of compensation and non-pay and quality of life issues;
5. Protect military retirement and COLAs;
6. Sustain wounded warrior programs and expand caregiver support;
7. End financial penalties to survivors and the disabled;
8. Ensure the Guard and Reserve system adequately supports the requirement for an operational reserve;
9. Ensure spouse and family support programs are aligned with current and emerging needs of an all-volunteer force; and
10. Ensure timely access to VA health care and preserve earned veterans' benefits.

2018 CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

March 3 – 1000 hrs., NYS Military Heritage Museum, Saratoga

August 11 (tentative) – the Scheibers' home on Lake George

November 3 – 1000 hrs., NYS Military Heritage Museum, Saratoga

If you should have any questions feel free to reach out to any of the chapter's legislative committee members: *Skip Bebernitz, Chris Costigan or Pat Piccirilli.* Thank you.

2018 CHAPTER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY MEETING/LUNCHEON SCHEDULE

February 11 – Guest Speaker: Craig Apple, Albany County Sheriff

April 8 – Guest Speaker: Dave Hubbard, “Spies in Hoopskirts”

June 10 – Guest Speaker: Jim Ketcham (Mark Twain)

October 14 – Guest Speaker TBD

December 9 – Annual Business Meeting and Christmas/Holiday Party

Dates, speakers subject to change.



WEST POINT BAND – WINTER CONCERT SERIES

| WHEN | WHERE | WHAT |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Saturday, February 24, 2:00 p.m. | Eisenhower Hall Theatre, USMA | Concert Band |
| Tuesday, February 27, 7:00 p.m. | Eisenhower Hall Ballroom, USMA | Benny Havens Band |
| Sunday, March 4, 3:00 p.m. | The Egg, Empire State Plaza, Albany | Concert Band |
| Saturday, March 20, 7:00 p.m. | Washingtonville HS auditorium, 54 W. Main St, Washingtonville, NY | Quintette 7 |
| Wednesday, April 18, 7:00 p.m. | Tarrytown Music Hall, Tarrytown, NY | Concert Band |
| Monday, April 30, 7:30 p.m. | Margaret Williams Theatre – Hepburn Hall, 2039 JKF Blvd, Jersey City, NJ | Concert Band |

Phone (845) 938-2445; Fax (845) 938-5187; Performance Hotline: (845) 938-2617 or visit the website at <http://westpointband.army.mil/winter-concert-series.html>

NYS MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM EVENTS

Source: Friends of the NYS Military Museum Website

| DATE | EVENT |
|-------------|---|
| February 10 | Poets, Politics, and Poison Gas. The 42 Rainbow Division Attacks |
| February 17 | We were there, Adirondack Survivors of Iwo Jima |
| March 3 | The Fighting 69th |
| March 10 | Vietnam Remembered |
| March 17 | Hidden in Plain Sight: Seals and symbols of New York's Military History |
| March 24 | New York's Own Soldier Shows during WWI |
| April 7 | The Art of War; Civil War Sketch Artist Theodore Davis |

All museum events take place on Saturday at 1400 hrs.

TRI-CARE PRIME NEWS

As of January 1, 2018, most TRICARE Prime enrollees no longer need a referral for urgent care visits and point-of-service charges no longer apply for urgent care claims. This change replaces the previous policy, which waived referrals for the first two urgent care visits per year.

Sign up for TRICARE email updates at www.tricare.mil/subscriptions.

KEEP THIS PAGE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

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

LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Date: **February 11, 2018**

Location: **Edison Club, Rexford, NY**

Time: 1:00PM - Social Hour
2:00PM – Dinner

Menu Choices: *FLAT IRON STEAK CHICKEN ALEXANDER PECAN-ENCRUSTED SALMON*

Price: **\$30.00** per person (Please make checks payable to: NYS-CDC.)

To pay Chapter dues for **2018**, please add \$15.00 to your total.

Send reservation form and check to: **Chris Costigan** (phone: 518-884-2943)
153 Paisley Road
Ballston Spa, NY 12020-2109

Please make your reservation Not Later Than Wednesday, February 7.

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|
| Your name: _____ | Choices: | <u>Qty</u> <u>Menu Item</u> |
| Number of persons attending: _____ | | _____ Flat Iron Steak |
| | | _____ Chicken Alexander |
| | | _____ Pecan-Encrusted Salmon |



New York State Capital District Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
PO Box 373
Waterford, NY 12188-0373

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.

NYS WWI CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION COMMISSION

Now through June 1 2018 - *Exhibit-A Spirit of Sacrifice: NYS in the First World War*, at the NYS Museum, Albany

April 21-22 – *Reflections on the Great War, 1914-1918*, Best Western Hotel Oswego, NY
[See ad on last page]

For details of events, please visit the NYS WWI Centennial Commemoration Commission website at
<https://www.ny.gov/programs/new-york-state-wwi-centennial-commission>

WWII 75TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION EVENTS AT THE WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

Monday, February 19 - Battle of Kasserine Pass

Friday, March 23 - Battle of El Guettar

MOAA UPCOMING STATE & NATIONAL EVENTS

Storming the Hill and the Council Presidents' Seminar - **Apr 15-19**, Washington DC

NYS Council of Chapters 2018 Annual Convention, Sep 10-13, Niagara Falls, NY

MOAA Annual Meeting and Levels of Excellence Award Dinner - **Nov 1-2**, Phoenix, AZ.



Fort Ontario Conference On History & Archaeology "Reflections on the Great War, 1914-1918"

April 21-22, 2018

Lake Ontario Event & Conference Center
Best Western Hotel
26 East 1st St
Oswego NY



Saturday Speakers

Paul Lear

Fort Ontario in the War of 1917

George A. Bray III

Bradstreet's 1758 Raid on Fort Frontenac

René Chartrand

Canadian Army Uniforms and Equipment 1914-1918

Timothy J. Abel, PhD

Lake Ontario's Forgotten War of 1812 Naval Shipyard

Brian Leigh Dunnigan

Historic Links in the Waterways of the Early Great Lakes

Dianne Graves

John McCrae, The Armistice and the Remembrance Poppy

Donald E. Graves

The Daily Life of the Canadian Soldier on the Western Front, 1915-1918, and Those Who Waited at Home for Him

Sunday Bus Tour-War of 1812

Oswego, Big Sandy & The Great Cable Carry

In the Trenches



Registration: \$60 (Includes Lunches)
Saturday Only: \$35 (Includes Lunch)
Sunday Bus Tour Only: \$35 (Includes Lunch)
Advance Registration & Payment Required
Registration: [www.historicfortontario.com]
Contact: [Paul.Lear@parks.ny.gov]
315-343-4711

