

# 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

Hopefully the Nor'easters are a distant memory and that you survived another winter in the northeast or enjoyed your winter in warmer climes for our snow birds. This month's message will once again contain a few disjointed subjects.

I announced at the 3 March board meeting that at the end of this year, my third in office as chapter president, I would not seek another two year term. I feel that to do so might lead to a lack of new ideas and therefore stagnation of the chapter. I have been extremely honored and thoroughly enjoyed being your president. I have met interesting people at the state and national level of MOAA. I have been given the opportunity to participate significant events, i.e. the Toys for Tots Train.

**Chuck Marshall** has asked to leave the Board of Directors. He has done great service to this country and its service personnel past and present, first in the Navy and then as a member of this chapter of MOAA's Board of Directors and deserves our heartfelt thanks. His position on the board will remain vacant until our elections later this year.

The By-Laws state that at least 60 days before an election, **a nominating committee consisting of three members** shall be established. In light of the two previous paragraphs, I have asked for volunteers for a nominating committee at the time. So far there are two volunteers, Al Memole and Rocco Acquilano. We need one more volunteer to round out the committee.

If you have ever had any desire to help shape this chapter or have had ideas to that end, please consider running for one of the elective offices of the chapter! The time requirement is not that great, the need for your input is huge.

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There has been a proposal that the chapter could be of service to some of our members by **helping to secure prescriptions from the Saratoga Naval Pharmacy**. This is addressed in more detail at another part of this newsletter. We need your input about this proposal, at the end of the newsletter on the reservation page is a ballot. Please take the time to respond even if you do not plan on attending the April Luncheon.

We have a fantastic chapter because of each of you members!

*Skip Bebernitz* 

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

## CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

**NEXT MEETING/LUNCHEON – Sunday April 8, 1300 - 1600 hours  
Edison Club, Rexford, NY**

**GUEST SPEAKER: – Dave Hubbard, “Spies in Hoopskirts”**

*REMINDER: Please get your reservation and payment to CHRIS COSTIGAN NOT LATER THAN Wednesday morning **April 4**. 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. THE CLUB NOW CHARGES US FOR MEALS ORDERED, not only for those served. **And don't forget dues for 2018, if you haven't already paid.** If you paid this year's dues, thank you for your support. [The luncheon reservation form is on page 5.]*

**HIGHLIGHTED CHARITY for this edition → GUARDIAN HOUSE** 

The GUARDIAN HOUSE, 1214 Saratoga Road, Ballston Spa, provides transitional living quarters for around 13 homeless female vets in Saratoga County. It has been in operation since 2008. Similarly, the Vet House of Saratoga County, 36 Church Ave, Ballston Spa, provides transitional living quarters for a dozen homeless male veterans. It has been in operation since 1983. Both facilities offer camaraderie and peer-to-peer support for at-risk veterans.

**How can we help?** Those coming to our April 8 meeting may bring items such as dish soap, dishwasher soap, paper towels, laundry soap, or toilet paper. Chris Costigan will collect all donated items and deliver them to both the houses. *If you want to help but can't get to the April meeting*, or if you have questions about these services, you may contact Chris at 518-884-2943. More information is available on the Veterans & Community Housing Coalition, Inc. website: <http://www.vchcnny.org/>.

## CHAPTER NEWS & OTHER EVENTS

- **Chapter funds** are being squeezed by operating costs and our support of worthy causes. If we want the Chapter to continue to “make a difference”, we need to raise revenues. One option is to raise annual dues from the very modest \$15 to something more substantial. The question is: *How much?* Think about this, because we will be surveying members later this year.
- **At our last meeting on February 11**, Albany County Sheriff, *Craig D. Apple, Sr.* wowed members with a riveting description of two highly successful programs he instituted at the County correctional facility: one rehabilitates veterans with problems; the other, opioid addicts. Both programs aim to end the “revolving door” of repeat offenders who return to old habits after serving time and end up back in jail. Sheriff Apple has been working hard to wean people off self-destructive criminal behavior so they can resume productive lives.
- On Friday, March 2, despite the snowstorm, nine attendees represented our Chapter at **STRIDE'S 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Snowfest Welcome Ceremony** for “wounded warriors” at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy. (Unfortunately, the Leukhardts, who made a *very generous donation* to the Snowfest, were not able to make the welcome banquet.) The ceremony kicked off a weekend of snow sport activities at Jiminy Peak for severely wounded and injured veterans and their families to help them regain confidence to cope with life, despite physical or psychological limitations. *[See photos on the last page]*
- The **Leather Stocking Honor Flights** will be having their first flight dedicated to Vietnam vets. It will be on 21 April. It is their first flight, three more to follow. Anyone interested can apply at their website, [www.leatherstockinghonorflight.org](http://www.leatherstockinghonorflight.org).

- **Edrick-Hamlink Post VFW Post 369 3rd Annual Vietnam Vets Get Together LZ Mexico.** This event is scheduled for Saturday, June 16, 2018 in Mexico, NY. Further information is on attached flyer. This is an awesome event where over 500 Veterans attended last year!!! All are welcome to attend.

**2018 UPCOMING CHAPTER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON MEETINGS**

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

**October 14** – Guest Speaker: *Melody Burns*, Veterans Miracle Center

**December 9** – Annual Business Meeting and Christmas/Holiday Party, Guest Speaker: *COL Terri Coles*, MOAA Chapter Affairs

*Dates, speakers subject to change.*

**NYS MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM EVENTS**

Source: *Friends of the NYS Military Museum Website*

DATE	EVENT
April 7	The Art of War; Civil War Sketch Artist Theodore Davis

*All museum events take place on Saturday at 1400 hrs.*

**MOAA UPCOMING STATE & NATIONAL EVENTS**

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

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

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

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

Tuesday, May 8 - V-E Day Observance

Monday, May 28 - Memorial Day Observance

**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>

*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.*

## CHAPTER LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

We have been told by Ben Margolius that it is a big help to those who do MOAA's "Storming the Hill" if the elected officials are at least aware of MOAA's issues for the year prior to the arrival of the "Storming" people. The committee members are striving to accomplish that goal. On 5 March, Chris Costigan and Skip Bebernitz (Pat Piccirilli is recovering from surgery) met with Colleen Williams of Congressman Tonko's office. She was very attentive and receptive to the top 10 list of MOAA's agenda for this year.

They have gone to the website for Congressman Faso and Congresswoman Stefanik to request a similar meeting and are awaiting notification from those offices. They will again do follow ups with all three offices during the August Congressional Break. *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 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

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

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

## CHAPTER MEMBER SERVICE PROPOSAL

**Medications from the Naval Dispensary in Saratoga Springs are so much cheaper than VA, XPress Scripts or the neighborhood pharmacy.** So, Chapter member *Harry Brockman* presented this proposal to the Board of Directors:

- **The Problem:** As Military Retirees age, we lose mobility and/or transportation to access the Naval Dispensary in Saratoga Springs. Fortunately, the Navy allows a proxy to pick up retiree prescriptions by presenting a written authorization and a copy of the retiree's Military Identification Card. However, the proxy would need his or her own military ID card to access to the Naval Dispensary, and few retirees know someone nearby who has a military ID.
- **Proposed Solution:** Since every MOAA member and spouse has a valid military ID card, our Chapter should form a committee of volunteers to set up a program for pick-up and delivery of medical prescriptions for other members and retirees unable to drive to Saratoga Springs.
- **Concept of Operations:** To lighten the load on individuals, the committee could set up rotating assignments among volunteers. Assignments might include: (1) determining medical/pharmacy deadlines and documentation needed by proxies; (2) receiving calls for assistance and contacting drivers (proxies); (3) pick-up and delivery service, and (4) invoicing/collecting mileage reimbursement owed by recipients.
- **Considerations:** Recipients of the delivery service should expect to reimburse volunteer Committee members for mileage costs. Consider that our "Tricare-for-Life" benefits do not require co-payment, but recipients are expected to ensure that medical providers transmit the prescriptions to the Dispensary and order the prescribed refills.

**Please think about this and let us know your thoughts by answering our survey on page 5.** Our Chapter wants to know: *Are you interested in this proposal? Would you be willing to serve on such a committee? Would you be willing to chair that committee?* **PLEASE RESPOND TO OUR SURVEY ON PAGE 5**, and send it in with your dinner reservation, or send it separately to the Chapter PO Box.



**May 13** is the deadline for submitting news articles, photos, bio's, or stories for the *next* issue. Please e-mail your input to newsletter editor Al Memole at [amemole1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:amemole1@nycap.rr.com)

**CHAPTER NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

We will elect Chapter officers and board members at our annual meeting in December. Rocco Acquilano and Al Memole are the first two of three volunteers needed for the nominating committee. WE NEED ONE MORE VOLUNTEER. Please contact Rocco, Al, or Skip, if you are interested. This is *not* a big time-consuming duty. Between April and November, the committee needs to talk to prospective candidates, both new and returning, to develop a slate of 12-13 nominees for Chapter leadership positions, subject to membership approval. Despite appearances, you do *not* need to live in East Greenbush or be of Italian descent to serve on this committee☺. Don't make us come get you! ☺

**2018 NYS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS CONVENTION**

The 2018 NYS Council of Chapters Convention will take place at the **Niagara Falls Reserve Air Force Base (NFRAFB )**, **10 through 13 September**. This event will be hosted by the NYS Council and conducted by a *state-wide* team from multiple Chapters. Planning is still in a formative stage, but here is a tentative high-level schedule of proposed activities:

- 10 Sept – Check in at NFRAFB
- 11 Sept – Trip to Buffalo via double-decker tour bus.
  - Memorial Service at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park
  - Lunch aboard Little Rock
  - Dinner at Chef’s restaurant
- 12 Sept – The MOAA business portion of the Convention at the Heritage Center at NFRAFB.
  - Optional free time to explore the:
    - Niagara Aerospace Museum (conveniently close by)
    - Niagara Falls State Park
    - NY Power Authority Power Vista
    - Seneca Casino
    - NF Outlet Mall.
  - Installation Banquet at the Heritage Center in the evening
- 13 Sept – Check out



The Convention Team will gladly accept additional volunteers. If you are interested, contact Skip or any of our Chapter officers and directors.

<b>WEST POINT BAND – WINTER CONCERT SERIES</b>		
<b>WHEN</b>	<b>WHERE</b>	<b>WHAT</b>
Wed., April 18, 7:00 pm	Tarrytown Music Hall, Tarrytown, NY	Concert Band
Mon., April 30, 7:30 pm	Margaret Williams Theatre – Hepburn Hall, 2039 JFK Blvd, Jersey City, NJ	Concert Band

**WEST POINT BAND – MAY EVENTS**

WHEN	WHERE	WHAT
Sat., May 5, 12 - 1 pm	Shea Stadium, West Point, NY ( <i>Special Olympics Opening Ceremony</i> )	Marching Band
Sun., May 20, 2 - 4 pm	Eisenhower Hall Theatre, West Point, NY ( <i>Armed Forces Day Concert</i> )	Concert Band
Tue., May 22, 11 am – 1 pm	The Plain, 2 Thayer Rd, West Point, NY ( <i>Alumni Review</i> )	Marching Band
Fri., May 25, 10 am – 2 pm	The Plain, 2 Thayer Rd, West Point, NY ( <i>Graduation Parade</i> )	Marching Band
Mon., May 28, 8 – 10 am	John Paul Jones Park, 101 Street Shore Pkwy, Brooklyn, NY ( <i>Memorial Day Parade</i> )	Marching Band
Mon., May 28, 1 – 30 pm	Jayson Ave & Northern Blvd, Great Neck, NY ( <i>Little Neck-Douglaston Memorial Day Parade</i> )	Marching Band

**WEST POINT BAND – MUSIC UNDER THE STARS**

WHEN	WHERE	WHAT
Sat., Jun 9, 7:30 – 9:30 pm	Trophy Point Amphitheatre, West Point, NY ( <i>"Miles Ahead"</i> )	Jazz Ensemble
Sat., Jun 16, 7:30 – 9:30 pm	Trophy Point Amphitheatre, West Point, NY ( <i>"The Army Goes Rolling Along"</i> )	Concert Band
Sat., Jun 23, 7:30 – 9:30 pm	Trophy Point Amphitheatre, West Point, NY ( <i>"American Soundscapes"</i> )	Concert Band
Tue. Jul 3, 6:30 – 8:30 pm	White Plains HS, 550 North St, White Plains NY ( <i>"Independence Day Celebration"</i> )	Benny Havens Band
Sat., Jul 7, 7:30 – 9:30 pm	Trophy Point Amphitheatre, West Point, NY ( <i>"Independence Day Celebration"</i> )	Concert Band
Sat., Jul 14, 6:30 – 8:00 pm	Trophy Point Amphitheatre, West Point, NY ( <i>"Kids' Night Story Time with Quintette 7"</i> )	Quintette 7
Sat., Jul 21, 7:30 – 9:30 pm	Trophy Point Amphitheatre, West Point, NY ( <i>"Night at the Movies"</i> )	Concert Band
Sat., Aug 4, 7:30 – 9:30 pm	Trophy Point Amphitheatre, West Point, NY ( <i>"Dancing Under the Stars"</i> )	Benny Havens Band
Sat., Aug 11, 7:30 – 9:30 pm	Trophy Point Amphitheatre, West Point, NY ( <i>"Hello Dolly at 50"</i> )	Concert Band
Wed., Aug 15, 6:30 – 8:30 pm	Vanderbilt Mansion Natl Historic Site, Hyde Park, NY ( <i>"Music in the Park"</i> )	Benny Havens Band
Thu., Aug 16, 7:30 – 9:30 pm	Long Island State Veterans Home, 100 Patriots Rd, Stony Brook, NY ( <i>"Patriotic Salute"</i> )	Concert Band
Sat., Aug 18, 7:30 – 9:30 pm	Trophy Point Amphitheatre, West Point, NY ( <i>"Red, White, and Country"</i> )	Benny Havens Band
Sun., Sep 2, 7:30 – 9:30 pm	Trophy Point Amphitheatre, West Point, NY ( <i>"Labor Day Celebration"</i> )	Concert Band, Hellcats, & Benny Havens Band

*All concerts are free and open to the public. No tickets are required. All concerts happen rain or shine. For more info, visit the website at <http://westpointband.army.mil/>*

## SERVICE PROPOSAL SURVEY

**PROPOSAL:** Our Chapter forms a committee of volunteers among our members and spouses who have a valid military ID card. The committee plans and implements a service program where volunteers pick-up and deliver less expensive medical prescriptions for other Chapter members and retirees who are unable to drive to the Naval Dispensary in Saratoga Springs. Recipients of this service reimburse volunteers for mileage.

SURVEY QUESTIONS (Circle either “YES” or “NO” for each question below):

1. *Are you interested in this proposal?* YES / NO
2. *Would you be willing to serve on such a committee?* YES / NO
3. *Would you be willing to chair that committee?* YES / NO

*Comments:*

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number where you can be reached: \_\_\_\_\_

Your e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your survey in with your dinner reservation, below, or send it separately to the New York State Capital District Chapter, Military Officers Association of America, PO Box 373, Waterford, NY 12188-0373

## LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Date: **April 8, 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, April 4.*

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



STRIDE Wounded Warrior Winterfest Welcome Ceremony & Banquet, March 2, Hilton Garden Inn, Troy. Attending from our Chapter: Chris and Mary Louise Costigan (photo at upper left), Al and Mary Memole (photo above on left), Skip and Mary Lou Bebernitz (photo above on right), Ralph and Vicky Folger (not pictured), and Teresa Memole (photographer).

