

# CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER, NEW YORK MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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5-Star Chapter – 2017



## REPORT – 2018 NYS COC CONVENTION

by Al Memole, Editor

The 46th Annual Meeting of the New York State Council of Chapters, MOAA, held at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Base, September 10 to 13, was a *roaring* success – and not only because Niagara Falls was nearby. Special guest and keynote speaker was Admiral Walt Doran from the MOAA Board of Directors, who was accompanied by his lovely wife, Ginny. Members from *seven* NYS Chapters attended. Representing our Chapter were Skip and Mary Lou Bebernitz, Chris and Mary Lou Costigan, Ed and Jennifer Scheiber, Paul Gancher, and Al and Mary Memole. Both lodging and meals at the base were first-class and the base staff was very accommodating.

Attendees spent Tuesday, September 11, touring the great city of Buffalo, arranged by the host Western NY Chapter. The tour started at the Buffalo Naval & Military Park on the up-and-coming Inner Harbor along the Buffalo River where it empties into Lake Erie. The park features three retired USN vessels: the cruiser USS Little Rock, the destroyer USS The Sullivans (named for the five Sullivan brothers who died when the USS Juneau was sunk in WWII), and the submarine USS Croaker. The tour began with the NYS CoC memorial service aboard the Little Rock for NYS MOAA members and spouses who passed away this past year. The service also remembered all who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks of 9/11/2001.



Following the ceremony, attendees had lunch aboard the Little Rock, then dispersed to tour the park as desired. Each of the three vessels was packed with fascinating and historically significant memorabilia: they are floating museums! A few of us from our Chapter were privileged to tour the vessels with Admiral Doran, whose enlightening commentary provided a special educational treat. The park also had vintage fighters, a helicopter, combat vehicles, a PT boat undergoing restoration, several war memorials, an interactive museum, a snack bar, and a gift shop.

After the touring the park, we attended a entertaining presentation by “police officer O’Connor”, a Buffalo tour guide of *dubious* origin. Immediately following the presentation, attendees climbed aboard a double-decker bus for a unique and super entertaining, laugh-filled tour of Buffalo. The tour covered all of the important public buildings and architecture, but, unlike most city tours, this one covered the port and the “blue-collar” history that made Buffalo what it is. The tour bus dropped attendees at Chef’s Italian Restaurant for a wonderful dinner. Attendees then returned to the NFARB for fellowship and a few drinks in the Training Room – seriously – the best “training” ever.

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## 2018 NYS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS CONVENTION (CONTINUED)

The Council of Chapters held its annual business meeting on Wednesday morning, September 12, at the NFARB. (Meanwhile, many spouses hit the nearby fashion outlets.) Among the matters pertaining to the Council and member Chapters, was a motion to *sponsor (purchase) awards for worthy enlisted students attending the US Military Academy Prep School*. Our Chapter voted to continue support, and our Board will consider funding one award, as we did the past few years. Admiral Doran gave a preview of his talk to be held later at the evening banquet, and Chapter representatives participated in an open discussion on a variety of issues affecting our Chapters and members. A couple of key “take-aways” from the discussions:

- MOAA continues to emphasize that engagement of Senators and Representatives by local Chapters, following Storming the Hill, and supporting the thousands of e-mails and letters sent to our Congressional reps, was vital to achieving many of MOAA’s top legislative goals to protect OUR hard-earned benefits. (See the MOAA website Legislative Action Center page: <http://takeaction.moa.org/?0>)
- Members and Chapters should encourage Premier Members, who pay MOAA dues annually, to upgrade their membership to Life Members. Life Members pay once rather than every year *and* receive additional benefits.
- Following its Bottom-Up-Review and resulting actions, MOAA has strengthened its financial position for the future.



The remainder of the warm, sunny day, attendees were free to tour on their own. Some of us took the opportunity to visit the falls. The convention banquet was held that evening at the NFAB, where **our Chapter received its 5-star Level of Excellence award**. Again, great fare, encouraging words from the Admiral, and a lot of fun with the 50/50 and gift basket raffles. We checked out and said our goodbyes the next day.

All in all, a productive and fun few days. Till next year – possibly at or near West Point!!



LOE Chapter reps with Adm Doran (third from right; Chris Costigan is second from right)

## CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

**NEXT MEETING/LUNCHEON – Sunday OCTOBER 14, 1300 - 1600 hours, Edison Club, Rexford, NY**

**GUEST SPEAKER: – Melody Burns - "The Veterans Miracle Center"**

**REMINDER:** Please get your reservation and payment to CHRIS COSTIGAN NOT LATER THAN Tuesday **October 9**. 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. [The luncheon reservation form is on page 5.]

### NEXT CHAPTER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON MEETING

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

(Chapter Happenings continued on next page)

## HIGHLIGHTED CHARITY for this issue → Wreaths Across America™

Wreaths Across America™ is a 501(c)(3) corporation whose mission is to Remember, Honor, and Teach. Their primary effort coordinates wreath laying ceremonies on one Saturday in December at Arlington and veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states. Our chapter is a fundraising sponsor of Wreaths Across America™.



This year our goal is **100 wreaths**. We can do it! Anyone may donate under our sponsorship, and *we encourage you to invite friends and family to donate through our Chapter*. The cost to sponsor a single wreath is **\$15**. Donate online on their website. The most direct, *least confusing* way to find our Chapter's page is to type or copy this URL in your browser:

<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/18601/Overview/?relatedId=16650>

The link will open the Gerald B. Solomon National Cemetery page – scroll down to see the link buttons for “New York State Chapter MOAA” group code **NY0087P**. The wreaths that we purchase will be placed at the Gerald B. Solomon National Cemetery in Schuylerville on December 15, starting at 1200 hrs. **We are all invited to attend the ceremony and assist in placement of the wreaths**. This is a very solemn and moving experience that you won't want to miss.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT

I hope that everyone has had a fantastic summer!

It was reported in the last newsletter that we are operating on a shoe string budget that at this time that precludes us from financially supporting the worthy causes that we support with only the generosity of you, our members. We have been looking at the need to raise our dues to meet rising expenses and to support our causes as a chapter. The Board set up a committee to establish a workable **budget** upon which to base our dues. The committee has met and *a detailed report is elsewhere in this newsletter*.

The featured cause in this newsletter is "**Wreaths Across America**". This year we are not doing the one extra wreath for every two wreaths donated. *We are receiving \$5.00/wreath donated. This will enable us to keep the dues increase to a minimum*. Last year, we gave 69 wreaths to the Saratoga National Cemetery. In order to donate the same amount this year we need to individually give 17 more wreaths.

Nine people from our chapter had a fantastic time at the **MOAA State Council of Chapters Convention** based out of the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve Base. We toured the Soldiers and Sailors Park and the ships there. We had an extremely amusing bus tour of downtown Buffalo with our tour guide "Officer O'Connor". We had a meal at one of Buffalo's premiere restaurants, Chefs. All other meals were at the Heritage Center on base and the housing was very nice. We all got our fill of "Training" in the training room (a.k.a. known elsewhere as a Hospitality Room), as always, Baileys was the big hit.

"**Toys for Tots**" is not without challenges this year. Toys 'R Us going out of business poses a huge problem nationally and locally. Nationally, they gave \$5 million annually plus toys collected in their stores; locally they also contributed \$50,000 in cash and about another \$50,000 in toys collected in stores. You may have noticed a letter from all three local Congresspersons at the back of the last online version of the newsletter to the president of AMTRAK. He has cancelled the "Toys for Tots" train that has serviced 14 counties of New York for the past several years. *Please send him a letter also* because this train has historically distributed 50,000 toys, thousands of sets of winter clothes and over 1,000 blankets to children from Binghamton to Rouses Point and all train stations in between.

Keith Prairie of Martins Point will be present at the meeting talking about upcoming changes in **Tricare**.

This month's speaker is Melody Burns. She is involved in a lot of good organizations, secretary of the Capital District Chapter of the Marine Corps League, she re-purposes thousands of holiday cards and sends them to deployed troops, she helped organize the trips to Washington D.C. to clean the Viet Nam Memorial Wall, and she will be talking to us about "**The Veterans Miracle Center**".

I hope to see you at the meeting!

*Skip Bebernitz* 📧

## OUR CHAPTER BUDGET

Inspired by national MOAA's Bottom-Up-Review, our Chapter did a mini-BUR of our own to establish a sound fiscal basis for our operations and targeted charitable donations going forward. Our fiscal "philosophy" as a *not-for-profit* organization rests on two fundamental principles:

1. Our Chapter must set and maintain minimum balances in our checking and savings accounts as emergency reserves. These reserves will ensure we can handle operational expenses throughout the year from the checking account with the savings account as back-up. Currently those balances are \$810 in checking and \$1,500 in savings, and *our intent is to maintain those minimums*, after meeting all annual obligations.
2. Any annual revenue above that required to maintain the balances set for each bank account will be considered available for donation to our supported causes, since we are a non-profit organization.

Our budget, then, is based on the ideal that anticipated annual revenue should equal estimated annual expenditures. To arrive at the figures, we analyzed our revenue sources and spending patterns over the past year. We created the simple tables below that show obligations and recurring spending and a short list of desired monetary donations, in the Chapter's name. These donations further the missions of MOAA and our Chapter by helping veterans and actively serving military members and families directly or through other organizations, and fostering community awareness and appreciation for the sacrifices made by those who serve(d). We compared the proposed expenditures to expected revenues. We calculated revenue from dues to be \$750 based on the current reality of 50 regular dues-paying members and the annual rate of \$15 established more than a decade ago. We saw that current revenue barely covered current operating expenses, leaving little to support charitable efforts that further our mission. **Therefore, we are proposing to raise annual dues to \$30** – the cost of one meal at one of our meetings, which is not an unreasonable amount these days. The increase would raise annual dues intake to \$1500. Actual revenues and expenditures may vary, and spending will have to be monitored throughout the year to remain within budget. As always, *we welcome your input* on this important matter.

ANNUAL REVENUES - estimate	TOTALS
ANNUAL DUES (ANTICIPATED)	\$1,500.00
AVERAGE ANNUAL MEAL OVERAGE	\$935.00
AVERAGE ANNUAL 50-50 INTAKE	\$75.00
MOAA INCENTIVES	\$300.00
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED REVENUE</b>	<b>\$2,810.00</b>

Besides doubling dues, an increase in dues-payers, luncheon attendance, or 50/50 participation would raise revenues and allow more generous donations. Should revenues decline, we may have to decrease or forego donations.

### 2018 CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

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

RECURRING ANNUAL EXPENSES	TOTALS
NYS COC ANNUAL DUES	\$50.00
MAILED CHAPTER NEWSLETTER	\$980.64
GUEST SPEAKER MEALS/GIFTS	\$410.00
PO BOX FEES	\$73.00
WEBSITE FEES	\$125.00
ROTC AWARDS	\$17.25
JROTC AWARDS	\$32.99
<i>Recurring Expense Sub-total</i>	<b>\$1,688.88</b>

TARGET CHARITABLE DONATIONS	TOTALS
STRIDE – WOUNDED WARRIOR	\$300.00
BOOKS FOR TROOPS	\$60.00
TOYS FOR TOTS	\$100.00
NYS MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM	\$100.00
USMA PREP SCHOOL AWARDS	\$60.00
<i>Potential Expense Sub-total</i>	<b>\$620.00</b>
<b>TOTAL PLANNED EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,308.88</b>

**Nov 15** 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)

KEEP THE TOP HALF OF THIS PAGE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

### CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anthony J. Ficara*, COL USA, RET	Edmund M. Scheiber, Jr.**, Lt Col USAF, 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

\* Immediate Past-President \*\* Former President

## LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Date: **OCTOBER 14, 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 Tuesday, **October 9.***

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

Number of persons attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Qty	Menu Item
_____	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.*

**GUEST SPEAKER LINE-UP FOR CHAPTER LUNCHEON MEETINGS IN 2019**

Feb 10 - Keith Prairie of Martins Point speaking about Tricare

Apr 7 - Steve Trimm as General Grant on Grant's friendship with President Lincoln

Jun 9 - Daniel Way, MD on his book "They Were There"

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Oct 1 – Celebrating Women’s Suffrage: 1848-1920, 1-2pm at the Grant Cottage

Oct 27 – Veteran of the Year Ceremony, 1pm at the NYS Military Museum

**AN INVITATION TO ALL VETERANS FROM THE NYS DIVISION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Nov 7 - Free Admission For Veterans At Baseball Hall Of Fame**

Sent: Friday, September 21, 2018 1:36 PM

Good afternoon everyone. I’m pleased to tell you about a brand-new partnership between the New York State Division of Veterans Affairs and the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. **November 7, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., admission to the Hall of Fame will be free for all Veterans.** In addition, the Hall of Fame will provide Veteran-focused programs on that day, including guided tours focusing on the contributions of the 68 Veterans who are enshrined in the Hall of Fame. Our agency will be on site all day as well, ready, willing, and able to work with any Veterans who have any questions about the benefits that they have earned by virtue of their military service. This is the first time that the Hall of Fame has provided free admission to all Veterans on a specific day. *If this program goes well, they may make this an annual tradition.* So you are all invited to join us at the Hall of Fame on November 7, and we urge all of you to please spread to the word about this special offer to all Veterans whom you know (and even to Veterans whom you do not know). ... You are not required to RSVP to attend, but if you want to secure a free ticket for that day or if you have any questions about this special event please feel free to email me ([benjamin.pomerance@veterans.ny.gov](mailto:benjamin.pomerance@veterans.ny.gov)) or call me (518-474-6114) at any time. Greatly hoping to see you at the Hall of Fame on November 7.

Respectfully,  
Benjamin P. Pomerance Deputy Director for Program Development  
New York State Division of Veterans Affairs  
2 Empire State Plaza, 17th Floor, Albany, NY 12223

# 2018 NYS COC CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY

## Buffalo Naval & Military Park

Terminus of the Erie Canal / PT boat restoration project



CDR Costigan & 1<sup>st</sup> Mate Mary Louise aboard the Little Rock (Lake Erie in far background) / View of the USS Little Rock from her bow



Mary Memole aboard The Sullivans (destroyer)/ Skip invites Admiral Doran below deck on the submarine Croaker



## TRICARE NEWS

By law, the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) will end on Dec. 31, 2018. Starting Jan. 1, 2019, new dental plan options for those enrolled in TRDP will be available through the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP). FEDVIP vision coverage will also be available for the first time.

Sign up for TRICARE email updates at [www.tricare.mil/subscriptions](http://www.tricare.mil/subscriptions)

### Update - Voluntary Drug Recall Alert: Valsartan

On July 13, 2018, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a voluntary recall of valsartan. Valsartan is used to treat high blood pressure and heart failure. The FDA announced the voluntary recall after finding an impurity linked to cancer in drug products containing valsartan. The Department of Defense sent notification letters to all beneficiaries who potentially received currently affected products.

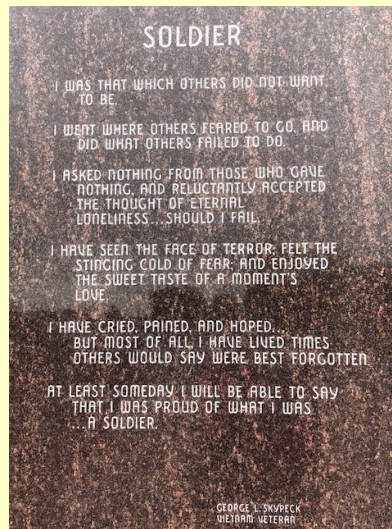
# 2018 NYS COC CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY

## Buffalo Naval & Military Park (continued)

Lt Col Norma Weissend (Genesee Valley Chapter) with hubby, Guy / LTC Al Memole alongside the USS Croaker / Military equipment from all services on display

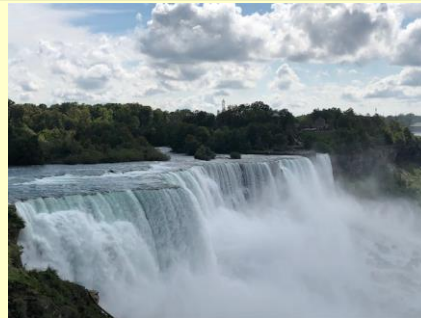


War Memorials in the park: the Vietnam War Memorial and soldier's tribute (close-up) / a monument to Poland's contributions to the Allies in WWII



## NIAGARA FALLS

View of American Falls & Niagara Falls, Canada / American Falls / American Falls w/rainbow & Peace Bridge





# 2018 NYS COC CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY

## Convention Banquet

Mary Lou & Skip Bebernitz with Admiral Walt & Ginny Doran / the Admiral addresses the Convention / Five NYS Chapters, including ours, are recognized for MOAA Level of Excellence awards



Chris tries to sneak the **Bailey's** back to the table before anyone might notice it was missing!



*Many thanks to the people who worked hard to plan and prepare this convention. Among the many are Peggy Phillips, Tim & Ingrid Balunis, Bob Pecoraro, Norma Weissend and Guy MacClean, "Master Trainer" Tim Vaughan, and Jamie Scotland.*

