

CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER, NEW YORK MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Volume 10, Issue 1

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2019

Visit us at cdnymoaa.org



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



5-Star Chapter – 2017



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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S THANK YOU, p. 1
- REMINDER TO TAKE ACTION, p.2
- CHAPTER HAPPENINGS, pp. 2-4
- MEMBER PROFILE p. 5
- WEST POINT BAND CONCERTS p. 6
- MOAA KEY GOALS FOR 2019, p. 7
- LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM, p. 7

OUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT SAYS "THANK YOU."

I want to thank all of the members of the Chapter for allowing me to serve as Chapter President for the past three years. It has been a successful term because of each of you, if you read the Newsletters or visited the Chapter's website, contacted your legislator, attended the luncheon meetings, hosted a Board of Directors meeting at your house, contributed to one of the causes we support, or served in an elective or appointed position you have contributed.

Serving as President did require some time commitment, but I have gotten back much more than I have put in. Before this I knew everyone who attended our luncheons, I now consider each of you a friend. I have acquired friends from throughout the state, from the lower Hudson Valley to Buffalo. I have gone to National MOAA events representing the Chapter; there I have met Army, Marine, and Air Force Generals, Navy and Coast Guard Admirals, and all ranks of Officers and Warrant Officers. I have met John Mentor, COL, USA, Ret, the author of "The Lessor of Two Evils" and President of the Las Vegas Chapter. I have met George Wallace, CMDR, USN, Ret, President of the Fort Belvoir VA Chapter, the Author of "Firing Point" and the screenplay for the movie "Hunter Killer". I am very proud to have ADM Walt Doran and his wife Ginny as friends. I have gotten to participate in the very rewarding experiences of the "Toys for Tots Train" and the Veterans Miracle Network Gala.

I am very honored to have received the MOAA Leadership Award at the December Luncheon. *[At right, COL Coles presents award to Skip.]*

I hope that you will continue to participate and perhaps increase your level of participation as Chris assumes the reins as Chapter President.

THANK YOU ALL! *Skip Bebernitz*



REMINDER FROM MOAA TO TAKE ACTION

- End the government shutdown now
- Do Not Raise TRICARE Fees
- Military pay and benefits matter (Sustain military pay increases comparable to the growth in civilian sector wages and salaries)
- Support full concurrent receipt for disabled military retirees



Act now: Visit the MOAA website <http://takeaction.moaa.org/?0>

See page 5 for MOAA's Key Legislative Goals for 2019

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

NEXT MEETING/LUNCHEON – Sunday, February 10, 1300 - 1600 hours, Edison Club, Rexford, NY



GUEST SPEAKER: – *Keith Prairie* of Martins Point speaking about **Tricare**

TRICARE® keith.prairie@martinspoint.org; phone number: 518-588-4441.

REMINDER: Please pay dues for 2019, if you haven't done so already. Dues are now **\$30**. If you plan to attend our February luncheon meeting, please get your reservation and payment to CHRIS COSTIGAN NOT LATER THAN Tuesday **February 5**. The Edison Club needs a final count by the Wednesday before our meeting. If you expect 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 7](#).]

HIGHLIGHTED CHARITY for this issue → 14th Annual STRIDE Wounded Warriors Snowfest Welcome Banquet, March 1, Hilton Garden Inn, Troy

This year's Snowfest takes place February 28th-March 3rd. The Snowfest allows veterans wounded or injured in combat in any way to experience four days of skiing or snowboarding and family activities at the Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort in Hancock, MA. STRIDE's adaptive programs help these veterans to learn how to overcome their challenges and enjoy independence and freedom through sport. Total cost for four days of lodging, instruction, equipment, clothing, food and transportation for 20 warriors and their families is **\$40,000**, funded by donations.



A major fundraising event is the annual **STRIDE Wounded Warriors Snowfest Welcome Banquet**. This year's event will take place on March 1, *from 6 to 10 pm* at the location noted above. General admission is \$40 per person (1/10 of 1% of the total cost). A table of 10 is \$400, and a VIP table is \$500. Our Chapter and individual members have supported this worthy event over the past several years, and will do so again. If you have never attended, please consider joining our Chapter's contingent this March. It's a very moving experience that you will not forget! *For information, please check our Chapter website (<http://www.cdnymoaa.org/>) and click on the box for "Our Current Special Community Focus", or contact any Chapter Officer or Board Member to coordinate your attendance.*

NEW CHAPTER LEADERS FOR 2019 - 2020

At December’s Annual Business Meeting and Christmas Party, the members present affirmed eleven members to serve as Chapter Officers and Board of Directors until February 2021.



CHAPTER OFFICERS

President - Christopher J. Costigan, CDR USN, Ret; Secretary - Ralph Folger, LCDR USNR, Ret; Treasurer - Alfred M. Memole, LTC USA, Ret; *Both Vice President positions are VACANT.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rocco D. Acquilano, CDR USNR, Ret; Ernest “Skip” Bebernitz, MAJ USA, Ret (Immediate Past President); Anthony J. Ficara, COL USA, Ret; Kathy E. Gates, COL USA Ret; Thomas W. Lenahan, Capt USAF, Ret; Martin Leukhardt, RADM USNR, Ret; Ronald Neaton, CAPT USNR, Ret; Edmund M. Scheiber, Jr., Lt Col USAF, Ret.

The Officers and Board members will be sworn in at the February meeting. Long-time member Charles Marshall, who served in many capacities over the years as Treasurer, Board member, and Committee chief, is stepping down, as is Manny Biondi who served as 2nd Vice President. We thank both for their dedicated service. We warmly welcome Kathy Gates as a new Chapter leader on the Board. You will notice both Vice President positions remain vacant. *Any member may volunteer at any time. If you feel unready for an Officer position, please consider volunteering to help on one of our committees.*

2019 Board of Directors Meetings

All members are welcome to attend.

Feb 9 – 1000 hrs., NYS Military Heritage Museum, Saratoga

Aug 10 – 1000 hrs., Scheiber’s home, Bolton Landing [tentative]

Nov 2 – 1000 hrs., NYS Military Heritage Museum, Saratoga

News and other items of interest

- **Terri Coles, COL, USA, Ret, MOAA's Director of Council and Chapter Affairs** honored our Chapter by her presence at our December 9 annual business meeting and Christmas/Holiday party. Following the luncheon, COL Coles updated Chapter members on the healthy organizational condition of MOAA, and emphasized the importance of local chapters in achieving MOAA objectives. She also discussed various problems, issues, and ideas pertinent to all chapters.



- **Toys for Tots Success:** SSgt Pat Lurenz, Assistant, Coordinator for the Capital Region Toys for Tots, informed us that, despite the early obstacles placed before them, they were able to fully meet their mission for 2018 to serve needy children. The late drives on local news casts put them over the top! Thanks also to our Chapter and our members who contributed toys and monetary donations.

We are deeply saddened by the loss of long-time member (surviving spouse) **Jean Nolan**, who passed away on January 16. She regularly attended our luncheons with her daughter, Kathy. We will miss her.

- **Wreaths Across America™**: Many thanks to all our members and their family and friends who sponsored the 30 wreaths purchased through our Chapter. The overall drive for the Gerald B. H. Solomon National Cemetery in Saratoga was a huge success – over 12,000 wreaths were available to adorn all of the graves. The weather on December 15 was relatively mild, making it pleasant for everyone who came to honor and remember our deceased veterans.



over 12,000 wreaths were available to adorn all of the graves. The weather on December 15 was relatively mild, making it pleasant for everyone who came to honor and remember our deceased veterans. Al (left) and Mary Memole were able to attend the ceremonies and participate in the wreath laying.



Pictured above, the side of the trailer and cab of the truck that transported the wreaths from Maine to Saratoga.



2019 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEONS DATES & GUEST SPEAKERS

Apr 7 - Steve Trimm as General Grant presents *"Grant's Friendship with President Lincoln"*

Jun 9 - Daniel Way, MD, will speak about his book *"They Were There: World War II Stories from the Adirondacks' Greatest Generation"*

Oct 13 - TBD

Dec 8 - Christmas/Holiday Luncheon and Annual Business Meeting

MEMBER PROFILE: CHRIS COSTIGAN

We haven't featured a bio in the newsletter in a long time, but we are now pleased to present our incoming Chapter President, Chris Costigan. Chris is a native of Delmar, NY, the youngest of three boys, born on 29 Nov 1958. His dad was B26 navigator for Army Air Corps during WWII.

Civilian Education: Bethlehem Central High School Class of 1977; University of Albany, BA Sociology 1981; Diploma in Nursing, Albany Medical Center School of Nursing, 1985; Bachelors in Nursing (BSN), Holy Names University, Oakland, CA, 1995; Masters in Nursing, Holy Names University, Oakland, CA, 1999

Military Service:

1. US Army Reserve 1980-1987: Basic training at Ft Sill, OK, Combat Medic Training (91B) and X-Ray Tech Training (91P), Ft Sam Houston, TX; OJT for X-Ray Technician at Cutler Army Hospital, Ft Devens, MA; assigned to the 364th General Hospital Albany, NY; annual training over many years at Ft Drum; left Army Reserve as an E-6 (SSGT).

2. US Navy 1987-2006: Direct Accession/Commission February 1987; completed Officer Indoctrination School (OIS) at Newport, RI, April 1987; assignments included:

- Naval Hospital Charleston: Staff Nurse, Multispecialty Surgical Unit and Intensive Care Unit
- Naval Hospital Guam: Staff Nurse, Intensive Care Unit
- Naval Hospital Oakland: Staff Nurse and Assistant Division Officer Surgical Intensive Care Unit; Division Officer Post Anesthesia Care Unit; additional 4 month deployment to GITMO Cuba for JTF Haitian Refugee
- Naval Hospital Lemoore: Department Head, Family Practice and Pediatric Clinics.
- USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75): Ship's Nurse and Head Medical Training Team (*"The Truman was newly commissioned and I had the privilege of making its maiden deployment. I consider this the best assignment I had due to the variety of experiences ... in direct support of the fleet".*)
- Naval Hospital Okinawa: Department Head, Inpatient Medical-Surgical, Critical Care, and Mental Health Services.
- National Naval Medical Center Bethesda: Department Head, Hematology and Oncology Nursing, and Department Head Orthopedic Nursing; had the interesting collateral duty of MEDEVAC Coordinator for Bethesda at Andrews AFB, MD, arranging transport and care resources for patients on medevac flights from Landstuhl, usually three times a week, with some patients who, 48-72 hours previously, were on the battlefields of Iraq or Afghanistan. (*"This was a great opportunity to work collaboratively with both USAF personnel and Army staff from Walter Reed Medical Center."*)

3. Mentors: Many, but two stand out: CDR Robert Morrison, NC, and CAPT Barbara McLean, NC.



Personal: Married Mary Louise (Morris) Costigan of Tupper Lake, NY, October 11, 1986; children: Sean (August 9, 1987) and Teresa (August 9, 1989)

Current employment: Nurse Manager Psychiatric Services Albany Medical Center

Hobbies: Reading (history a favorite); following/watching the NY Mets; walking for exercise; used to enjoy running before onset of osteoarthritis - completed Boston Marathon in 1980 (39 years and 30 pounds ago).



If you have news or a story to share with other Chapter members, don't be shy. **Mar 22** 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 ammemole@gmail.com or amemole1@nycap.rr.com

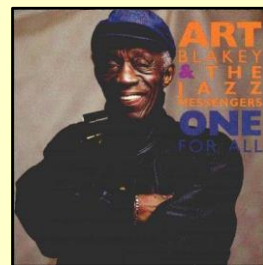
WEST POINT BAND'S MASTERWORKS CONCERT SERIES

The Masterworks Concert Series returns, running from January to May of 2019. Join them for band favorites, military marches, and classical repertoire from renowned composers like Pyotr Tchaikovsky, John Adams, and Igor Stravinsky!

Please note: starting in 2019, all concerts at Eisenhower Hall Theatre will be ticketed through Eventbrite. Like all West Point Band performances, these concerts are **FREE** and open to the public. However, to attend an event at Eisenhower Hall Theatre, they are now asking audience members *to reserve mobile tickets in advance on Eventbrite*. The schedule of performances is:

Wednesday, February 6, 7:30 p.m. - The Music of Art Blakey

The West Point Jazz Ensemble, comprised of members of the West Point Band, is proud to present this concert featuring music of Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers in celebration of the Art Blakey Centennial. The West Point Jazz Ensemble welcomes consummate drummer, bandleader, and educator, Ralph Peterson as a distinguished guest for this event. Join the Army's oldest band for this unique and world-class performance in honor of African American History Month.



Saturday, February 23, 2:00 p.m. - Short Ride Fast Machine

The artistry of the West Point Band is on full display in this sophisticated and virtuosic program featuring seminal works for symphonic winds, including Felix Mendelssohn's Overture for Winds, Op. 24, and Stravinsky's Concerto for Piano and Wind Instruments. The driving energy and excitement of this work, featuring Sgt. 1st Class Yalin Chi on piano, propels us into John Adams' joyfully exuberant Short Ride in a Fast Machine. Both accessible and engaging, the concert concludes with a vocal tribute to great American songwriter Irving Berlin, followed by a heartfelt salute to all who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Saturday, March 16, 2:00 p.m. - Glass Bead Game



The West Point Band's Masterworks series continues with this dynamic performance featuring powerhouse soloist Staff Sgt. Nicole Caluori in James Beckel's Pulitzer Prize-nominated work, "The Glass Bead Game: Concerto for Horn and Orchestra." This program is a true wind band-lover's delight, showcasing works by contemporary American composers, including Syntonos by Anne McGinty, Courage for Winds by Adrienne Albert, Errol Weiss Schlabach's Poetic Structures, and With Each Sunset by Richard Saucedo.

Saturday, May 11, 2:00 p.m. - Concert Concerto

In Concert Concerto, the West Point Band showcases the immense talent of not only its own members, but also those of featured West Point cadet soloists in a program that is rife with the sweeping melodies of your favorite Romantic composers. This unique collaboration includes two of the most celebrated concertos for string instruments: the Saint-Saens Cello Concerto No. 1, and Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto. Sgt. 1st Class Yalin Chi follows with the tenderly wistful second movement of the Concerto for Piano by award-winning British composer Nigel Hess. The band also gets its chance to shine in Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral by Richard Wagner.

KEEP THE TOP HALF OF THIS PAGE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

MOAA'S KEY GOALS FOR 2019

- 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) Stop erosion of compensation and non-pay quality-of-life benefits
- 5) End financial penalties for military survivors
- 6) End concurrent receipt penalties for military retirees
- 7) Achieve equity of benefits for Guard and Reserve members with their active duty counterparts
- 8) Strengthen DoD-VA collaboration and services to support wounded warriors and an expanding population of women veterans
- 9) Ensure timely access to service-earned VA benefits
- 10) Protect military and veteran family support programs and policies



For a description of each goal and a plan of action visit the MOAA website at www.moaa.org/2019Goals/

Luncheon Reservation Form

Date: **FEBRUARY 10, 2019**

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 **2019**, please add **\$30.00** 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, **February 5.***

Your name: _____ Choices:

Number of persons attending: _____

<u>Qty</u>	<u>Menu Item</u>
_____	Flat Iron Steak
_____	Chicken Alexander
_____	Pecan-Encrusted Salmon