

CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER, NEW YORK MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Volume 10, Issue 2

MARCH-APRIL 2019

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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.

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WELCOME FROM OUR NEW CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Greetings to all as spring approaches and we hope for deliverance from these winter doldrums sooner than later. The spring season brings us warmer weather, a new baseball season where hope is eternal (even for Mets fans--at least for a while), and a refreshed perspective and spirit. Springtime for MOAA brings the "**Storming the Hill**" event which is scheduled for April 10th this year. This initiative involves having MOAA national staff as well NYS Council Of Chapters members visiting all of New York's congressional representatives and senators on Capitol Hill to be briefed on MOAA's goals and positions on issues such as TRICARE fee increases, military pay gaps, and the elimination of the "widows tax". We are quite fortunate that our own *Skip Bebernitz* will be representing us on Capitol Hill this year as a representative of the NYS Council of Chapters.

In anticipation of the "**Storming the Hill**" initiative, during the month of March, Skip Bebernitz, Pat Piccirilli, and I visited Representatives *Delgado*, *Stefanik*, and *Tonko* and their staffs. At all three visits we were well received and they were extensively briefed regarding MOAA's goals and positions.



Chris, Representative Stefanik, and Pat



Chris, Representative Delgado, and Skip

On a local Chapter level, this month at our luncheon we are asking for support of the **Guardian House** in Ballston Spa, which is just one of two housing programs for homeless female veterans in all of New York State. I am requesting that all attendees bring items for donation such as dish soap, paper towels, laundry soap, dryer sheets, toilet paper, 30 gallon trash bags, or sheets for twin beds. Thank you for your support of this endeavor and for all that you do for the Chapter. *Chris Costigan*

STORMING THE HILL

This year, MOAA is pushing Congress to support those issues Chris identified in the article above, including a 3.1% pay raise. All members can lend support by e-mailing our legislators (*Visit the MOAA website <http://takeaction.moaa.org/?0>*), calling them through MOAA's toll-free line (866-272-6622), and sharing MOAA's positions on social media.

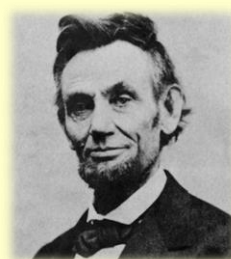


CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

NEXT MEETING/LUNCHEON – Sunday, April 7, 1300 - 1600 hours, Edison Club, Rexford, NY



GUEST SPEAKER: – Steve Trimm portraying General Grant discussing “*Grant's Friendship with President Lincoln*”



REMINDER: *If you plan to attend our April luncheon meeting, please get your reservation and payment to AL MEMOLE NOT LATER THAN **Tuesday April 2**. 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 → GUARDIAN HOUSE

The *Guardian House* for female veterans and the *Vet House* for male veterans are the key transitional housing programs of Saratoga County's **Veterans & Community Housing Coalition (VCHC)** (<http://www.vchcnny.org/transitional>). The VCHC serves veterans in Saratoga, Warren, Washington, Fulton, Montgomery, Schoharie and Schenectady Counties, offering “support and temporary financial assistance to veterans and their families”, as stated on their website.



Their program helps veterans and their families to obtain or maintain housing, VA benefits, health care, employment, and other public benefits. Guardian House and the Vets House provide transitional housing for struggling homeless veterans. Their program offers the camaraderie of peer support “in structured, substance-free environments with fellow veterans who are succeeding at bettering themselves” (veterans helping veterans).

We can support this worthy cause through donations of various types. Financial donations help these programs repair facilities, purchase clothing and other essentials, bring the residents to community and social events aimed at reintegrating them into the community, purchase vehicles to transport the residents, and provide them with proper nutrition. The houses also accept direct donation of clothing, furniture, household items, *cleaning supplies, personal care items*, pillows, twin-size comforters, twin-size sheet sets, *towels and washcloths*.

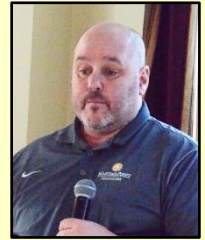
Those of you attending the April luncheon are encouraged to bring items to donate, especially consumables, such as those italicized above. The Chapter will deliver your donations to the VCHC. If you can't attend this luncheon please consider making a financial donation directly or through our Chapter.

Chapter News and other items of interest

- **Thanks to all who have paid their 2019 dues.** If you haven't done so already, please send them soon, so that our Chapter can meet our upcoming obligations with confidence. Dues are now \$30.

- **At our last dinner meeting on February 10:**

- We were pleased to have *Keith Prairie* of Martins Point (*at right*) describe the various health care options available through **Tricare**. Keith answered questions from the floor to help clear up confusion, especially regarding eligibility for dental and vision coverage. If you still have questions or concerns, you may contact Keith: keith.prairie@martinspoint.org; phone number: 518-588-4441.
- *Peggy Phillips*, LTC USA (Ret.), President of the NYS Council of Chapters (*below, left*), was on hand to administer the oath of office to the newly elected Chapter Officers and Board of Directors, who will serve in their respective capacities over the next two years. (*Reciting the oath, below, l-r, are Secretary Folger, President Costigan, Past President Bebernitz, Treasurer Memole, and Board members Acquilano and Leukhart.*)



- Immediate Past President *Skip Bebernitz* presented MOAA Certificates of Merit to Ralph Folger (*below left*) and Al Memole (*below right*) for their dedicated work with the Chapter website and newsletter.



At left, retired Navy officers and good friends Chuck Marshall and Ron Neaton catching up at the meeting; at right, Chris Costigan gives his "inaugural address" to the membership.



NEVER STOP SERVING

Chapter News and other items of interest

- Twelve people represented our Chapter at the **14th Annual STRIDE Wounded Warriors Snowfest Welcome Banquet**, on March 1 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Troy: *Chris & Mary Costigan; Marty & Milena Leukhardt; Skip & Mary Lou Bebernitz; Ralph & Vicki Folger; Rocco Acquilano; Al, Mary & Teresa Memole*. The banquet honored 15 wounded warriors, some local, who were preparing for a weekend of snow sports at Jiminy Peak under the encouraging guidance of dedicated coaches. Banquet attendees included family and friends of the wounded warriors, service branch and veteran organizations, uniformed military, and local political dignitaries, including Representative Paul Tonko (D,NY). The keynote speaker, Pierre Larkin, MAJ USA (Ret.), himself an honored Snowfest participant this year, serves veterans as an advocate and life-coach. He gave a powerful endorsement for adaptive sports as highly effective programs to help wounded and PTSD veterans overcome physical disabilities, heal psychological wounds, and reintegrate fully into their communities. (STRIDE is an adaptive sports organization.) *The key, he said, is to get these veterans to help others. Making excuses does not solve one's problems. He learned in his youth from a Little League coach that when you make excuses for yourself, you build monuments to nothing!*



Pictured above right, the Adamsville Fife & Drum Band provided musical entertainment; below left: Members Rocco Acquilano (c.) and Skip Bebernitz (r.) with the USMC vet who portrayed Santa Claus (l.) on the Toys for Tots train; Pictured below right: Milena and Marty Leukhardt, generous contributors to the Stride Winterfest



Ralph and Vicki Folger discussing either the merits of adaptive sports or the perils of driving in Troy.



Mary Louise and Chris Costigan with Teresa and Mary Memole enjoy the music while waiting for dinner.

If you have news or a story to share with other Chapter members, don't be shy. May 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



HEARING CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

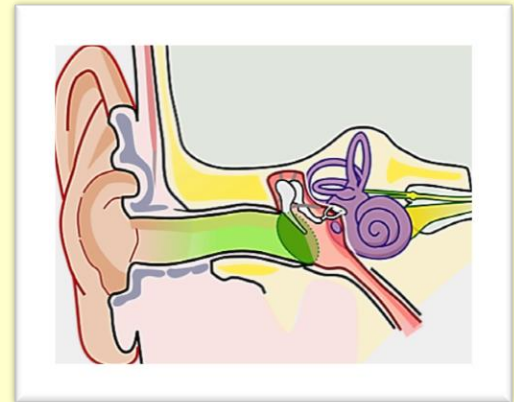
"The Hearing Center of Excellence fosters and promotes the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, rehabilitation and research of hearing loss and auditory injury. It supports the development, exchange and adoption of best practices, research, measures of effectiveness and clinical care guidelines to reduce the prevalence and cost of hearing loss and tinnitus among Warriors and Veterans."

Visit the HCE website at <https://hearing.health.mil/> for additional information

MEMBER PROFILE: KATHY GATES

Colonel (Retired) Gates served over twenty-six years in the Army. Her last assignment was Integrated Service Chief, Audiology and Speech Center, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. During this tour she also served as the Audiology Consultant for the Army Surgeon General from July 2005-July 2010. Kathy Gates currently works for the Department of Defense (DoD) Hearing Center of Excellence (HCE). Her primary area of focus within the HCE is to promote hearing loss prevention initiatives and is currently working on the Comprehensive Hearing Health Program/Campaign. Kathy lives in Queensbury, New York with her daughter, Maggie Lynn Bolgiano.

[Professional contact info: Dr. Kathy Gates, Prevention Branch Contractor, HO-CHUNK INC., Prevention Project Manager, Hearing Center of Excellence, Defense Health Agency, 518-223-0677, 410-562-5609, or kgates@blueearthmarketing.com]



2019 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEONS DATES & GUEST SPEAKERS

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

2019 Board of Directors Meetings

Aug 10 - 1000 hrs., Scheiber's home, Bolton Landing [tentative]

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

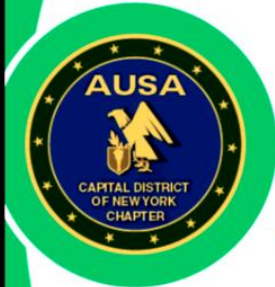
READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

If so, how about writing a review for this Newsletter? Your fellow officers might be interested. Send your review to the editor.

COMMISSARY AT NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY SARATOGA SPRINGS

Address:	Defense Commissary 19 J F King Drive Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
E-mail:	Admin.nsa.saratoga.fct@navy.mil
Phone Number:	(518) 581-2180
Fax Number:	(518) 226-0340
Hours of Operation:	Closed (Sun, Mon) 1000 - 1800 (Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat) 1000 - 1900 (Thurs) Closed on all Federal Holidays

The Association of the U.S. Army Capital District – New York Chapter



**CELEBRATING
THE UNITED STATES ARMY'S
244th BIRTHDAY**

GOLF FUND RAISER

10 June 2019

Eagle Crest Golf Course, 1004 Route 146 A, Clifton Park, NY 12065

\$125.00

- includes:* green fees & cart
- Continental breakfast
- Lunch (Grab and Go)
- Steak Buffet (cash bar)
- Awards and Prizes

Non-golfers are invited to join us for the buffet at 1500 hrs for \$25.00 per person

The "Scramble, "Longest Drive" and "Closest to the Pin" contests are a fund raiser to benefit AUSA programs and support Soldiers, Veterans and their Families. Join us for a full day of golf, a Posting of the Colors by the New York Army National Guard and a cake cutting ceremony, celebrating the U.S. Army's 244th birthday.

POC:

John Willsey

518.496.2669

jwillsfc@aol.com



0730-0830	registration and continental breakfast
0900	shot gun start
1400	turn in scorecard, and raffle sales
1500	buffet (cash bar), prizes and awards, raffle results

**TEAM
ENTRY FORM**

Team Name: _____

**Make checks payable to:
CD-NY Chapter-AUSA
and mail no later than**

4 June 2019 to:

**John Willsey
48 McDonald Drive
Cohoes, NY 12047**

Player 1: _____

(Team CPT or individual registration)

Player 2: _____

Player 3: _____

Player 4: _____

KEEP THE TOP HALF OF THIS PAGE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

CHAPTER OFFICERS

CHAPTER OFFICE	INCUMBENT	E-MAIL
President	Christopher J. Costigan, CDR USN, RET	pres@cdnymoaa.org
1 st Vice President	VACANT	1vp@cdnymoaa.org
2 nd Vice President	VACANT	2vp@cdnymoaa.org
Secretary	Ralph Folger, LCDR USNR, RET	secre@cdnymoaa.org
Treasurer	Alfred M. Memole, LTC USA, RET	treas@cdnymoaa.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rocco D. Acquilano, CDR, USNR, RET	Ernest "Skip" Bebernitz*, MAJ USA, RET
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

* Immediate Past-President ** Former President

Luncheon Reservation Form

Date: **APRIL 7, 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: **Al Memole** (cell phone: 518-641-8664)
8 Rose Lane
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Please make your reservation Not Later Than **Tuesday, April 2.**

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