

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

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5-Star Chapter – **2017, 2018**



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

## EDITOR'S APOLOGY

Completion and distribution of this issue was delayed one week, due to a family emergency. I apologize to those who must rush to get your reservations in by Feb 3 for the Feb 9 dinner.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- CHAPTER HAPPENINGS, pp. 1-4
- CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S CORNER, p.4
- MOAA 2020 LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES, p. 5
- WEST POINT BAND CONCERTS, p. 5
- OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS, p. 6
- LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM, p. 6

## CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING/LUNCHEON –  
Sunday, **FEBRUARY 9**, 1300 - 1600 hours, Edison Club, Rexford, NY

Guest Speaker: **Dr. Daniel Way**, local physician, photographer and author

We were honored to have Dr. Way at our June meeting last year to talk about his 2016 book "*We Were There: World War II Stories from the Adirondacks' Greatest Generation*", a compelling collection of vignettes, complete with beautiful photographs, of persons he knew, mostly as patients, and their war experiences. The format parallels that of his two previous works, equally fascinating: "*All In A Day's Work: Scenes and Stories from an Adirondack Medical Practice*" and "*Never a Dull Moment: A Tapestry of Scenes & Stories from an Adirondack Medical Practice*". [Editor's Note: My wife and I read the WWII and Day's Work books "in context" while at camp in Indian Lake. The photography and writing in both are outstanding. They make you wish you had met all these fine people.]

**REMINDER:** If you plan to attend our luncheon meeting, please get your reservation and, preferably, your payment to AL MEMOLE NOT LATER THAN **Monday February 3<sup>rd</sup>**. The Edison Club needs a final count in advance of our meeting. If you plan to pay "at the door," please at least send Al your reservation by the due date. The club now charges us for meals ordered, not only for those served. [The luncheon reservation form is on page 6.]

## Chapter News and other items of interest

- **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT.** Storming the Hill will take place **March 22-26**. Our own *Skip Bebernitz* will attend as part of the NY team in his role as NYS Council of Chapters 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. (See *MOAA Objectives for 2020* on page 5.)

- AT OUR DECERMBER LUNCHEON, Two reps from the **Capital Region Toys for Tots Campaign**, Amanda and Shelby, attended as our guests to receive the many toys donated by attendees as well as a check for **\$100** from the Chapter, previously approved by the Officers and Board. Through this charity we support the USMC Reserve to help needy children in our region.
- WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA<sup>TM</sup>. Our Chapter sponsored a total of **68** wreaths for the wreath-laying ceremony on December 14 at the



Gerald B. Solomon National Cemetery in Schuylerville. Not a poor showing, but short of our goal of 100. The 68 sponsored wreaths were paid for at \$15 a piece, not through Chapter funds, but by Chapter members, their families, and friends. For our efforts, the Wreaths organization returned



\$280 to the Chapter. So, this is a “win-win”: We recruit people to remember and honor deceased veterans, and our Chapter receives much-needed funds. And when our members attend the wreath-laying event, it is a *three-way* win, because the event itself is a moving and edifying experience. *COL Kathy Gates* attended this latest event and provided the surrounding photographs.



- DUES! Thanks to the following 16 members who have *already paid their Chapter dues for 2020*:

Rocco Acquilano,  
Skip Bebernitz,  
Harold Brockman,  
James Cameron,  
Edward Choiniere  
Stephen Cipperly

Chris Costigan  
Kathy Gates  
Jeffrey Hughes  
Charles Marshall  
Jerome Meader  
Al Memole

Alfred Paris  
Pat Piccirilli  
Merle Schreckengost  
Thomas Walsh

Just a friendly reminder for Chapter members who *haven't* paid for 2020 that dues are essential to maintain Chapter operations and enable the Chapter to contribute generously to help local worthy causes that honor and serve active military and veterans. Chapter dues are not taken from annual MOAA dues or Life Memberships – MOAA national and the Chapter are affiliated but are distinct

Continued on page 3

entities. Last year only 33 of our chapter members paid Chapter dues, which was less than half of our roster members! (*Auxiliary members and surviving spouses do NOT pay Chapter dues.*) Funds collected from dues last year totaled less than the cost for printing and mailing our six newsletters. So, if you are receiving this newsletter, printed or electronic (we also pay for the website), please support our Chapter by paying dues. We truly value your membership, but meaningful membership does require a degree of commitment. If you can't attend meetings, we understand because we all have multiple demands on our time. Payment of annual dues (only \$30, equal to \$2.50 per month) would be much appreciated.

**R.I.P. RONALD A. NEATON, CAPTAIN USNR (Ret.)**

With great sadness we mourn the loss of our dear friend, Ron Neaton, who passed away peacefully on December 29, 2019, at the age of 85. Ron was a native of Troy, NY, who graduated and earned a Master's degree from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI).

Besides serving his country as an officer in the Navy Reserve, Ron worked as a welding engineer for General Electric (GE). He served his local community as an elder and Sunday school teacher for the Jermain Memorial Presbyterian Church, and as a Mason. *He was a pillar of our MOAA Chapter, serving in multiple roles over many years, including Chapter President, member of the Board of Directors, and ROTC Awards Committee.*

Ron is survived by his loving partner Carole Akots, his sister, son, two daughters, six grandchildren, one great grandchild on the way, two nieces, and his close friends and Chapter members, Jimmy Brooks and Charlie Marshall.

Ron loved travel and the outdoors. He and Carol toured China, Russia, the Middle East and Europe, and bought a camp on a brook in the Adirondacks where they enjoyed many happy hours kayaking, skiing, walking and sitting by camp fires with friends.

He had a great sense of humor and served as an example of service and a mentor to many. He will be missed.



*"Ron has been a mentor in much of my military life and I owe him so much in my post active duty US Naval Career....I owe him my commission!"*

Ralph Folger, LCDR, USNR (Ret.)



**NEVER STOP SERVING**



**Mar 26** 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 [ammmemole@gmail.com](mailto:ammmemole@gmail.com) or [amemole1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:amemole1@nycap.rr.com)

2020 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON MEETING DATES and GUEST SPEAKERS

Apr 19 @ Edison Club – BG John Andoni, Chief of Staff, NY National Guard

Jun 14 @ Edison Club – (tentative) Ms. Ellen Keegan, Director and founder of Books for Troops

Oct 4 @ TBD – (tentative)

Dec 13 @ TBD – Christmas/Holiday Luncheon and Annual Business Meeting

*The Edison Club is planning renovations beginning around July 2020 that might take six months or longer.*

## HIGHLIGHTED CHARITY for this issue → STRIDE ADAPTIVE SPORTS Wounded Warrior Snowfest

Our Chapter has supported STRIDE's WW Snowfest since 2013. We are deeply moved by this local organization's efforts to help veterans suffering physically or psychologically "to learn how to overcome the challenges of injury and enjoy independence and freedom through sport." Each year STRIDE invites veterans with wounds, severe injuries, or PTSD to enjoy a weekend of skiing, snowboarding and activities with their families at Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort, Hancock, MA. Twenty WW are expected to be honored this year.



The biggest fundraiser for this expensive event is the annual Snowfest Welcome Ceremony and banquet. This year's ceremony takes place on **Friday, March 6, from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy**. It is a first-class event replete with color guard, pipe & drum band, choral group, and keynote speaker. Our Chapter Officers and Board voted to donate **\$300** on our behalf, and several members plan to attend to show our support. We might qualify for a couple o extra tickets, but in any case, general admission is \$40.00 per person. *If you wish to attend as part of our Chapter, please contact Skip or any of the Chapter officers or directors so we can reserve a MOAA table.*

## CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As we begin the New Year let us pause for a moment to reflect on past accomplishments as we prepare for the challenges of the coming year. In 2019 MOAA's advocacy efforts played a key role for the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act to include the repeal of the Widow's Tax, obtaining a military pay raise of 3.1%, a pause in DoD's plan to cut 18,000 medical billets, and military housing reform to include a "Tenant's Bill of Rights". These accomplishments were possible due to MOAA members' awareness and communication with their elected representatives. The goals for 2020 are equally challenging as they were in 2019. They include protection of health care benefits, keeping military pay and benefits strong, supporting military families, ending concurrent receipt penalties for all retirees, and improved DoD and VA services. Your support and engagement at the national and Chapter level is crucial for the realization of these goals. Thank you again to your commitment to "Never Stop Serving".

*Continued on page 5*

**Appeal for new Board Members:** The Chapter is currently in need of two Board of Directors members. No experience necessary! All that is required is an interest in learning how the Chapter functions and contributing to its growth and vitality. Contact/see Chris Costigan or any other current Board member for more information.

*Chris Costigan*

2020 Board of Directors Meetings

August – Date TBD; Scheiber’s home on Lake George, Bolton Landing (tentative)

Nov 7 – 1000 hrs, NYS Military Heritage Museum, Saratoga Springs

## MOAA LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES FOR 2020

MOAA’s leadership has identified the broad objectives listed below for 2020. Each objective has associated actions to protect or improve benefits and conditions of service. Stay current with calls to action by subscribing to the MOAA Newsletter online, and visiting the MOAA website at <http://takeaction.moaa.org/?0>

1. Ensure any changes to the Military Health System sustain military-medical readiness and beneficiary access to top-quality care.
2. Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector and block erosion of compensation and non-pay quality-of-life benefits.
3. Protect family support programs, and ensure military-provided services (housing, PCS, child care) are affordable, readily available, and meet quality standards.
4. End concurrent receipt penalties for military retirees.
5. Achieve equity of benefits, protections, and administrative support for Guard/Reserve members consistent with their active duty counterparts.
6. Ensure timely access to service-earned benefits, and resist proposals to erode foundational services delivered through the VA and DoD.
7. Support legislation, policies, and programs to enable the seven uniformed services to recruit, retain, and manage personnel.

*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.*

## West Point Band Masterworks Concert Series through March

DATE/TIME	SHOW	VENUE
<b>February 12 at 7:30 PM</b> <i>Incident Date - Thursday, February 13 at 7:30 PM</i>	Black History Month Celebration West Point Jazz Ensemble featuring Donald Harrison on alto sax	Haig Room - USMA Library, 6th Floor, West Point, NY
<b>February 22 at 7:00 PM</b> <i>Incident Date - Sunday, February 23 - 3:00 PM</i>	Bernstein, Benny, and Pierson	Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center, Chester, NY
<b>March 1 at 3:00 PM</b>	Barber, McGinty, and Broadway	West Side Presbyterian, Ridgewood, NJ
<b>March 21 at 2:00 PM</b>	Serenade for Winds Concert Band Woodwinds	Cadet Chapel, West Point, NY
<b>March 28 at 7:30 PM</b> <i>Incident Date - Sunday, March 29 - 3:00 PM</i>	Hindemith, Dahl, and Ticheli	Studley Theatre, New Paltz, NY

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 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	VACANT	1vp@cdnymoaa.org
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	VACANT	2vp@cdnymoaa.org
Secretary	Ralph Folger, LCDR USNR, RET	secr@cdnymoaa.org
Treasurer	Alfred M. Memole, LTC USA, RET	treas@cdnymoaa.org



*You can make a difference!*

### 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
VACANT	Martin Leukhardt**, RADM USNR, RET
VACANT	Edmund M. Scheiber, Jr.**, Lt Col USAF, RET

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

## Luncheon Reservation Form

Date: **FEBRUARY 9, 2020**

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 MOAA.)

To pay Chapter dues for **2020**, 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 Monday, Feb 3

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

