

CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER, NEW YORK MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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2009 4-Star Chapter



President's Message

By Ed Scheiber

Jennifer and I attended the annual mid-year NYS Council meeting on April 28th, held this year in Utica. This was the first year in many that ALL of the chapters were represented.

Many topics were on the agenda; however one in particular discussion about **"The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children."** The Senate and Assembly bills will be coming up for a vote soon in the state legislature. New York is one of only a few that has not passed legislation to allow the schools to "get-in-step" with the rest of the country with regard to our military children affected by state-unique requirements and impacting their status for graduation. Our council President, Lt Col Bob Bienvenue, has been working tirelessly with the federal committee to "pressure" our state to get in step.

President Obama elevated the national visibility on this issue in early 2011 in the administration's initiative called **Strengthening Our Military Families: Meeting America's Commitment.** One of the priorities in that program is to "ensure excellence in military children's education and their development". That requires the playing field be leveled for transfers into and out of schools in different states to deal with the issues children face during the many moves their military parent(s) make. The Compact is designed to do just that. Please take the time to write a short note to our local senators and assembly folks asking for their support for NYS Assembly Bill A2141 and Senate Bill 2538. Passage of this legislation is critical to the military children that are transferred into NYS during their school years.

This year's convention in Buffalo plans to be just as exciting as the one in 2005; with many activities and excellent accommodations at the Buffalo ANG base. Included in this newsletter are the details along with an application. The price is right and if you haven't been to one of our conventions, this would be an excellent one to attend!

Our last luncheon in April was well attended with over 40. Our guest speaker, Army COL Mark Migaletti, Commander of the Watervliet Arsenal, was very informative. He provided our members with a powerful movie and power point presentation of the tremendous manufacturing capabilities of the arsenal and their contributions to all our war efforts since 1813. 📄

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We honor those who gave their lives
defending our nation.

MEMORIAL DAY 2012

Chapter Happenings

Chapter Meetings

DINNER MEETINGS

Dinner meetings are held at the Edison Club, Rexford, NY, unless specified otherwise

- June 10
- August - TBD
- October 14
- December 9 (*Annual Meeting*)

BOARD MEETINGS

- July 7 at 11 AM in Bolton Landing
- November 10

Join us at our next luncheon, Sunday June 10

The Chapter has invited guest speakers Karen Ferris-Fernside, 1st VP, and Karen Curtis, 2nd VP, NY Capital Region Chapter, **Blue Star Mothers of America**.

Blue Star Mothers (BSM) have/had children serving in the military honorably. Fathers, relatives, friends, and others who supporter US service members are accepted as associate members.

BSM provide emotional support to their military sons and daughters, service members in general, veterans, and Gold Star families.

OTHER KEY DATES & EVENTS

- September 24-27: NYS Council of Chapters 2012 Convention at Niagara Falls Air National Guard Base
Details and registration form included in this Newsletter - Deposit due by July 15

Know people who are eligible to join MOAA and our Chapter? Invite them to join us.

Chapter Support for Junior ROTC Cadets in the Region

This year our Chapter sponsored and procured JROTC awards for deserving cadets from Christian Brothers Academy in Albany, Amsterdam HS, and Mexico HS. Each of the schools selects a junior-year cadet who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership and academic excellence. On April 26, Chapter Board member Al Memole was honored to present the MOAA JROTC medal and certificate to Cadet Nicholas Holman, CBA, at the CBA annual JROTC awards night.

An Appeal to You, the Readers, from the Editor

The Chapter newsletter, like the Chapter website, is intended to provide you with useful information, alert you to issues, and invite you to events, such as our dinner meetings. The newsletter also tries to bond our members together more closely by providing chapter and member news and local information that we don't get from any other source. Such news can only come from YOU! **I invite each and every one of you to contribute news items, articles, or photos of vacation trips, family events, achievements, and milestones.** (If a newsletter seems too old fashioned, I suppose we could use Twitter or Facebook©)

The next newsletter will be mailed out the last week in September. I will need your input **by Sep 8**, to give me time to edit the layout, preferably by e-mail to amemole1@nycap.rr.com. Suggestions or complaints? E-mail me, or call me at 479-7165.

Al Memole, Editor

“NUGGETS FROM NATIONAL” (the MOAA website)

Non-Fiction

Operation Anaconda: America’s First Major Battle in Afghanistan. By Lt. Col. Lester W. Grau, USA-Ret., and Dodge Billingsley. University Press of Kansas, 2502 Westbrooke Circle, Lawrence, KS 66045, www.kansaspress.ku.edu, \$39.95

Front Burner: Al Qaeda’s Attack on the USS Cole. By Cmdr. Kirk S. Lippold, USN-Ret.

Public Affairs, 250 W. 57th St., Ste. 1321, New York, NY 10107, www.publicaffairs.com. \$27.99.

(The commander of the USS Cole tells the story of al Qaeda's bombing of his ship on October 12, 2000, why this act of war failed to change the course of a distracted nation, and its continuing ramifications in Yemen and the rest of the Middle East.)

Reverie: True Military Stories. By Barbara Nicholas Steinfeld, Ph.D.

Blue Note Publishing, www.bluenotebooks.com. www.amazon.com. \$17.95.

(53 true military stories from members of all services, including military members, spouses and brats, WWII to present)

Sunday in Hell: Pearl Harbor Minute by Minute. By Bill McWilliams. e-book and print-on-demand formats. \$39.95.

www.amazon.com, www.bn.com, and www.apple.com.

George Washington’s Military Genius. By Lt. Gen. Dave R. Palmer, USA-Ret.

Regnery History, 1 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20001, \$27.95

Fiction

Christine: A Life in Germany After WWII (1945-1948). By Johanna Willner.

AuthorHouse, 1663 Liberty Dr., Bloomington, IN 47403, www.authorhouse.com, www.christinenovel.com, \$26.99.

(Story based on the life of the author)

*Some interesting new books
authored by MOAA members*

“Military Health Care Protection Act of 2012” (S. 3203)

Senators Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Marco Rubio (R-FL) introduced a bi-partisan bill, “**Military Health Care Protection Act of 2012**” (S. 3203), to stop unfair TRICARE fee hikes for military beneficiaries.

Key provisions of the bill:

- Acknowledgement that service members’ service and sacrifice pre-pay healthcare premiums, over and above what they pay in cash
- Annual percentage increase in cash fees (including pharmacy copays, TRICARE Standard deductible, and the cap on annual out-of-pocket expenses) limited to the percentage increase in military retired pay
- No further increase in existing TRICARE Standard retiree inpatient copay of \$708 per day.
- Automatic enrollment in TRICARE Standard for any eligible beneficiary filing a claim until they opt to dis-enroll, if DOD should establish an enrollment system. ☞

“We’re grateful for Sen. Lautenberg’s and Sen. Rubio’s leadership in introducing this bill to protect uniformed services beneficiaries from disproportional TRICARE fee increases.”

VADM Norb Ryan (USN-Ret)
President, MOAA

Let’s urge our Senators to cosponsor this critical piece of legislation!

NY Council of Chapters 40th Anniversary Convention

Hosted by the Military Officers Association of WNY

The 2012 Convention Host Chapter Committee Chairman CDR Tim Balunis, USCG Ret., and the Chapter President COL Ken Braunbach, USA Ret. are still working the details for this convention with the committee members. Here is a general description of the plans (which may change) as we know them.

Convention HQs: Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station -- Lodging Facility (Niagara Inn)

Dates: September 24 - 27, 2012 [These are firm dates]

Preliminary Package cost for double occupancy: \$ 795.00 // Single occupancy: \$ 495.00

This all inclusive package includes:

- √ Three nights lodging (one queen sized bed, ref., coffee maker, dvd player, microwave)
- √ Three Private Buffet Breakfasts (Tues - Wed - Thurs)
- √ First class coach transportation to and from all venues (including tours)
- √ Other meals and planned activities as described below

Daily Schedule of Activities:

Monday (2:00 - 6:00 PM) - Registration and complimentary hospitality; Hotel Lobby

Monday Evening: "Traditional Buffalo Buffet" Dinner and Memorial Service for members who have passed since the last convention; the Heritage Center (the base's newly opened Community Activities Center)

Tuesday Morning: - Council of Chapters Workshop *

Tuesday Afternoon: Lunch and free time at the Buffalo & Erie County Naval and Military Park.

Choice of tours in Buffalo City area: architectural highlights and features; 2nd tour TBD

Tuesday Evening; Cocktail hour with butlered hot hors d'oeuvres and wine tasting; cook stations with two small plate entrees; followed by dessert & coffee. Entertainment from 6:00 till 8:30 by Theresa Quinn and the "McGuire Sisters" cover act. Tour the grounds, aging barn, vineyards, tasting room and gardens; at Eveningside Winery, Niagara County

Wednesday Morning: Council Business Meeting *

Wednesday Afternoon; Lunch at "Top of the Falls" restaurant near Terrapin Point on Goat Island overlooking the Niagara Horseshoe Falls.

Choice of tour packages to "Niagara Wine Trail" or Niagara Falls State Park attractions.

Wednesday Evening: Convention Banquet at the Heritage Center (mess dress/black tie optional); Invited Guest Speaker: VAdm Norb Ryan, USN Ret., President of MOAA.

A Gala Celebration for the NY Council's 40th Anniversary!

Thursday Morning: Farewells during and after breakfast

** We anticipate our President will want to participate in both the Council Workshop and Business Meeting, as well as serving as the Guest Speaker for the Banquet.*

2012 NEW YORK STATE MOAA ANNUAL CONVENTION
24-27 September 2012



Hosted By:
 The Military Officers Association of WNY, Inc.

REGISTRATION FORM

Member Name _____ Rank _____ Service _____
 (Include first name desired on name tag)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

Chapter _____ Chapter/Council Position (if applicable) _____

Guest Name _____
 (Include first name desired on name tag)

Special Requests (if required):

Selection Preferences (Select one item in each column below for each attendee; place a "2" in the box if member and guest are making the same selection):

Tuesday Tours:

Wednesday Tours:

Wednesday Lunch:

Banquet Meal:

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tour A-Botanical Gardens, or | <input type="checkbox"/> Tour C-Niagara Falls Trolley, or | <input type="checkbox"/> Coulette Steak | <input type="checkbox"/> Prime Rib |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tour B-Queen City Downtown | <input type="checkbox"/> Tour D-Old Planes/New Wines | <input type="checkbox"/> Rigatoni Sorrentino | <input type="checkbox"/> Grilled Salmon |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Breast |

Convention Prices:

Deposit due by 15 Jul 2012

Balance due by 24 Aug 2012

Room Choice	# Per Room	Total Price	Deposit	Amount Enclosed
Couple in a Room	2	\$795	\$400	
Single in Room	1	\$495	\$250	
Please circle room choice above			TOTAL ➔	

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
 MOA of WNY, Inc.

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM & CHECKS TO:

Jamie Scotland, 4 Beatrix Cir, Lancaster NY 14086

Registration Questions: Jamie Scotland, jscotland@roadrunner.com or (716) 681-3515

NYS CoC convention registration form on reverse.





New York State Capital District Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
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