

CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER, NEW YORK MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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2009 4-Star Chapter



President's Message

By Ed Scheiber

Greetings to all,

It looks like the cold weather and winter is beginning to set in. Jennifer and I attended the MOAA Annual Meeting which was held on October 29-30 in Alexandria, VA. We were in the area for a weekend wedding and arrived at the hotel around 11am. The wind was picking up as was the rain. The brunt of the storm hit in late afternoon and continued throughout the evening and well into the night. The hotel lost power around 11pm; however we were fortunate enough to have it back around 5am. Our side of the hotel was pummeled by rain and wind to the point where the rain was coming down the inside of the window only to be soaked up by towels and the carpet. Anyway we survived; nothing like the unfortunate people in NY and NJ. More than half of the registered attendees did not make the meeting; but those that were there enthusiastically supported the awards dinners and the business meeting.

Admiral Ryan, MOAA President, presented a very clear and concise picture of the MOAA mission and its direction and progress at the annual business meeting. Jennifer and I also attended the "Levels of Excellence Award" banquet where I was privileged to accept another "5-Star Award" for our Southern Tier Chapter. Chapter President Peggy Phillips was not able to get to DC as a result of the hurricane. At the close of the two day event, Jennifer and I, once again, came away with renewed confidence that MOAA is THE organization to belong to for anything dealing with military issues.



The highlight of the event was the "2012 Community Heroes Award Night" which recognized the Caregivers of the National Capital Region. There were group awards, Military/Civilian caregiver awards, as well as two individual awards to recognize their service to the wounded returning from the wars. It was a very emotional event and makes one proud to be an American.

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NEWSLETTER PREFERENCE - 2nd APPEAL

If you would like to receive an e-mail with a link to the newsletter on the Chapter's website, in lieu of the usual paper newsletter via US mail, contact Al Memole at amemole1@nycap.rr.com or call (518) 479-7165 in the evening.

Chapter Happenings

Chapter Meetings

DINNER MEETINGS FOR 2013

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

- February 10
- April 14
- June 9
- [July-August - TBD - suggestions?]
- October 6
- December 8 (Annual Meeting)

BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2013

Board meetings are held at the NYS Military Heritage Museum, Saratoga Springs, NY, unless specified otherwise

- January 26
- July 6 (Lake George)
- November 2

2013 NYS MOAA Council of Chapters Convention

- **October 14-16**
- Canandaigua Inn on the Lake
- Hosted by the Genesee Valley Chapter

Don't miss our next luncheon, Sunday December 9

This is our annual Business Meeting and Christmas Party



Bring your spouse! Bring a guest! *Bring a new member!!*

Remember also to bring:

1. Your completed ballot for the election of Chapter Officers and Directors (*The ballot is found on Page 5, above the dinner reservation form*)
2. Items for our deployed service members (Operation Shoebox)
 - a. See Page 4 for a list of preferred items
 - b. Contributions will be distributed through the local Blue Star Mothers
3. Wrapped grab bag gift (*Optional, if you wish to participate in the fun*)
 - a. Around \$5 - \$10 value
 - b. Each person may bring one gift; whoever brings a gift, gets to pick one



"Grand Bargain?" Not for Military People *(from the MOAA website)*

In the afterglow/aftershock of the November elections (depending upon their political persuasion), administration and legislative leaders have signaled willingness to compromise (sort of) on a "grand bargain" to get the country back on a sound fiscal path.

The question is which chips are being bargained with. One indicator: the list of initiatives recently cited in a "[Meet the Press](#)" segment that were offered by the administration during last year's "grand bargain" discussions. In addition to changes to Medicare, Social Security and more, the list included \$27 billion in cuts over 10 years to military retirement and healthcare.

While the military community won't escape some cutbacks in this environment, it's important to get your oar in the water with a [MOAA-suggested message](#) to urge elected and appointed officials to oppose disproportional cutbacks on the military community that has "already given" in so many ways.

MOAA Annual Meeting – Alexandria, VA

President's Message *(continued from page 1)*

At the opening of the awards ceremony, Admiral Steve Abbott said; “This is our annual celebration of those who are true community heroes because they are taking care of our wounded and injured,” he said, noting the importance of the evening. Keynote speaker James A. “Sandy” Winnefeld Jr., USN, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, invoked the storm as he said, “Tonight, literally come hell or high water, you stand with those who have stood with us for decades, and your support is recognized.”



Adm. Steve Abbot, USN (Ret), left, chair of MOAA's board of directors, and Mr. Fred Hannett, CHAN Executive Sponsor from United Healthcare, far right, present representatives from the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center physical therapy team with a 2012 MOAA Community Heroes Award Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2012

Winnefeld presented his plan for not only ensuring wounded warriors get the care they need in hospitals and rehabilitation clinics but also making sure they – and all returning veterans – are successfully reintegrated into civilian life. He said key to veterans' success is that Americans hire these hard workers, prevent and reverse the trend of veteran homelessness, and continue to care for the wounds of war. “Yet even with all the outstanding work of these caregivers, our work is never complete,” he said. “We need to take care of [veterans] and their seen and unseen wounds for decades to come.” He noted this support and advocacy is where MOAA chapters nationwide especially are of service.

Ryan presented the night's awards to six groups and three individuals who are dedicated to helping wounded warriors:

- Group award, military – the 779th Aeromedical Staging Facility.
- Group award, military/civilian – Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Physical Therapy Amputee Section.
- Group award, military/civilian – Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Orthotics and Prosthetics Department.
- Group award, military/civilian – Team Red, White & Blue DMV Chapter.
- Group award, civilian – Fisher House Foundation's Hero Miles Program staff.
- Group award, civilian – Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, Combat Casualty Assistance Nurses.
- Individual award, civilian – Merri Beth Cully, lead physician assistant for the Orthopedic Surgery Service.
- Individual award, civilian – Edward and Elsie Smolarsky, Red Cross volunteers, 779th Aeromedical Staging Facility.

MOST REQUESTED ITEMS**CANDY**

Candy (heat resistant & individually wrapped)
Fruit Breezes (throat drops)
Twizzlers

CORRESPONDENCE

Writing paper & Envelopes
Pens/Pencils

DENTAL

Floss
Mouthwash (regular & travel size)
Toothbrushes
Toothpaste (regular & travel size)

DRINK

Coffee (instant)
Coffee Creamer
Gatorade
Powdered Drink Mixes
Tea Mixes (sweet)
KoolAid bursts— to freeze
FOOD (including dry goods, snacks)

Bars (Balance)
Beef Jerky
Canned Fruit (pop-top cans)
Cereal (small boxes)
Girl Scout Cookies
Granola Bars

Gum
Oatmeal (instant)
Ramen Noodles
Pop-Tarts
Ravioli (pop-top cans)
Tuna Kits

GAMES

Board Games
Checkers and Chess (travel size)
Crossword Puzzles, Sodoku books
Playing Cards

MUSIC

CDs/Tapes/DVDs new and used
Hand-held electronic games

HYGIENE

Travel size Shampoo & Lotions
Baby Wipes
Deodorant
Feminine Hygiene products (for female troops)
Foot Powder
Hand Sanitizers (waterless)
Sunscreen

Travel size body wash

TYLENOL & ADVIL (individual packets)

ITEMS FOR OPERATION SHOEBOX

CHAPTER MEMBER NEWS***Cruisin'!!***

Pat and Eileen Piccirilli completed a nine-night Baltic Capital cruise on June 27! The cruise included visits to Berlin (Germany - *Hey! Berlin isn't on the Baltic Sea!*), Tallinn (Estonia), St. Petersburg (Russia), Helsinki (Finland), and Stockholm (Sweden).

Below, Eileen & Pat hoist brews at the Löwenbräu Restaurant in Berlin.



The next newsletter will be published in late January. All members are encouraged to submit articles, including photos, by e-mail to amemole1@nycap.rr.com or by regular mail to Al at 8 Rose Lane, Rensselaer NY 12144. Deadline for the next newsletter is Dr. Martin Luther King Day.

Defense Authorization Bill (from the MOAA website)

- As now written, the Senate bill would let DoD triple TRICARE pharmacy copays.
- The House bill would prevent that by requiring a one-year trial of using the mail-order pharmacy for maintenance medication refills by TFL beneficiaries.
- 97% of beneficiaries say they prefer the House plan to the huge Senate copay hikes.
- But the big drug stores are making huge political contributions to fight the House plan and stick you with big copays.
- Tell your legislators to protect military beneficiaries by adopting the House plan.



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