

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

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2009 4-Star Chapter

## WOUNDED WARRIORS

At our October 6 meeting, our Chapter was honored with a very moving and powerful presentation by Kristen Kelley, Program Development Director of **STRIDE Adaptive Sports** and Jeremy, one of their supported Wounded Warriors. STRIDE's stated mission is "to educate and empower individuals with special needs in life-changing sports and recreation programs to sustain healthy, active lifestyles". Their program had been aimed primarily at special needs children and youth. But, the staff realized another group with special needs and reached out to help them as well: former military personnel returning from combat zones. Among this group are "wounded warriors" trying to cope with new physical disabilities as well as those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD).

As Kristen explained, STRIDE gets their clients to focus on what they CAN DO, rather than on what they can't. Thus, they gain self-confidence and a renewed outlook on life as they participate in sports and other activities that they thought they could never do. STRIDE offers opportunities for physical activities such as skiing, snowshoeing, archery, bowling, shooting, dance, sailing, golf, and camping.

Jeremy, a young Marine who had multiple combat tours, suffered from a PTSD and was unable to cope with normal life. It cost him his family, as his wife and young daughter could not remain with him. STRIDE has helped Jeremy make tremendous progress, although he has a long way to go. They helped him get a companion dog, which Jeremy brought to our meeting. Focusing on controlling his pet helped Jeremy control himself, as he ably demonstrated for us.



Kristen invited Jeremy to help out with the children and youth served by STRIDE, and the kids immediately looked up to him as a mentor. It gave Jeremy a great sense of purpose. The kids in the program are very much in awe of

the military veterans. More interesting is the fact that the veterans themselves learn a lot about coping with disabilities from the kids, most of whom have had to live with their particular situations since birth.

Kristen invited our Chapter to consider supporting their Wounded Warrior program. They will be holding their annual **Wounded Warrior Snowfest March 6-9, 2014**, in which they will host 15 new and 5 returning participants and their families. The warriors will have the opportunity to learn or relearn how to ski and snowboard at nearby Jiminy Peak in Hancock, MA. The event costs more than \$40,000. Donors/sponsors are invited to the Welcome Ceremony at the Hilton Garden Inn, Troy, on March 7.



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We salute all  
veterans!

STRIDE Adaptive Sports - 476 North Greenbush Rd Suite 9, Rensselaer, NY 12144  
Web site: [www.stride.org](http://www.stride.org) / Email: [info@stride.org](mailto:info@stride.org) / Phone: 518-598-1279 / Fax: 518-391-2563

## CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

### 2013 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING & CHRISTMAS PARTY - December 8

- Dinner, camaraderie, and jokes, as usual
- Voluntary 50-50 drawing and Grab Bag
  - If you wish to participate in the grab bag, please bring a wrapped unmarked gift with a value between \$10 and \$15
  - We're doing a standard grab bag this year - no gift "stealing"
- MOAA National, State, and Chapter news/business



The Edison Club needs a final count by the Wednesday before our Sunday meeting. Therefore, we need your reservation and payment NOT LATER THAN Wednesday morning December 4. If you plan to attend but aren't 100% sure, we ask that you pay in anticipation. Then, if for any reason you can't attend, we will refund your payment.

#### DUES (\$15) FOR 2014 ARE DUE JANUARY

The good news: Nine members are already paid up through 2014 and 33 others are paid up through this year.

The sad news: 19 are paid through 2012; 11 through 2011; and 50 are at risk of being dropped from Chapter membership rolls because they are in arrears by over three years or have never paid. (You know who you are!) We ask that you please pay dues for all the years that you have been a Chapter member but have not paid.

Why dues are crucial: We're a not-for-profit organization, but need funding to take care of essential business, such as our website and these newsletters that communicate with members, and to fulfill our mission through activities and support to our troops and veterans, such as ➔

### **DONATION TO STRIDE Adaptive Sports**

At the last meeting of the Chapter Officers and Board of Directors on November 16, all present voted to donate \$540 from Chapter funds in support of STRIDE's Wounded Warrior Snowfest. Our donation provides a partial sponsorship for one wounded warrior, including ski lessons and equipment. Past Presidents/Board members are also pledging generous individual offers, and plan to attend the Welcome Ceremony on March 7.

**NEWSLETTER BUSINESS:** Help the Chapter save money -- E-mail Al Memole at [amemole1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:amemole1@nycap.rr.com) to request to receive future newsletters online, rather than the usual paper copy by mail.

Deadline for submitting news, photos, and articles for the next issue is **January 14**. All members are invited to send Al their bio's for future editions. Preferred means of submission is via e-mail; MS Word, .txt, and JPEG formats are acceptable.

### UPCOMING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER MEETINGS

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

- **December 8 (Annual Meeting)**
- February 9, 2014  
Guest speaker—Colonel Brian Anderson, MOAA
- April 6, 2014
- June 8, 2014
- October 19, 2014
- December 14, 2014

### BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2014

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

- January 22, 2014
- July 26, 2014 @ TBD
- November 8, 2014

### JUNE 9, 2013 MEETING

Below: Chapter President Tony Ficara presents a token to guest speaker Amy Hughes of the Saratoga Veteran's Service Agency.



**A Low-Cost Support Opportunity:** "Books for Troops" sends books to VA hospitals and deployed troops. They need donated books. For information about this organization visit their website: [booksfortroopsweb.com](http://booksfortroopsweb.com)

## Chapter Member Profiles

### Ernest H. "Skip" Bebernitz, MAJ USA, RET

#### *Military –*

- Enlisted in the Army National Guard as an armor scout on 1 May 71. (SSG Bill Potts walked him through the enlistment paperwork.)
- OCS Aug 1973; primary MOS - Armor and Cavalry Officer; secondary MOS - Tactical Intelligence Officer
- Duty assignments:
  - Armor Platoon Leader, Detachment Commander, Armor Company XO, Armor Company Commander (twice);
  - Armor Battalion S-2 (Intelligence Officer), Armor Battalion Communications-Electronics Officer, Armor Headquarters Company Commander, Armor Battalion's S-3 Air, Headquarters Troop Command Intelligence Officer;
  - 42 Infantry Division Assistant G-3 (Operations Officer), G-3 Air, Operations Officer for the rear Command Post
- Deployments:
  - Coxsackie Correctional Facility during Operation Gold Plum (NYS Corrections Officer Strike)
  - Two weeks in Italy participating in NATO exercise Dense Crop in 1985 with the 30th Separate Infantry Brigade; one week in Vicenza and one week in Milan at the Italian 5th Corps HQs
- Additional duties and skill identifiers: Physical Security Manager, COMSEC Custodian, NBC Defense Officer, Battle Staff Course ( air to ground operations), Terrorism Counteraction Instructor, Classified Document Courier, 42 ID Emergency Actions Manager
- Military Awards: Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and others

#### *Academic/Professional –*

- Graduated from the Lansingburgh High School; attended Northeastern University; completed an EMT course
- Employed as a Paramedic and Field Supervisor by Mohawk Ambulance Service
- Deployed as part of a Mohawk Ambulance crew to Louisiana after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita for two weeks
- Rensselaer "EMS 4" (chairman of the County QI Committee)
- Local Firefighter, having served as Financial Secretary, Firematic LT, Fire police SGT, Assistant Chief, and Chief

#### *Personal –*

- Born in Troy; lived in Speigletown for 39 years; now resides in Pleasantdale
- Participated in Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Drum Corps in Speigletown
- Married Mary Lou on April 15, 1989; No children, but Mary Lou has seven sisters and two brothers, and many nieces and nephews in the area
- Hobbies: physical fitness training; NASCAR races; NHRA races; car shows; detailing cars (1988 Buick Reatta, 1994 Pontiac Trans Am, and a 2010 Ford Fusion – the daily driver); Army Football; drum corps competitions; and Military History;
- Member of the following organizations, besides MOAA:
  - AUSA
  - NGAUS
  - MANY
  - NAUS
  - US Army Museum, NYS Military Museum, Fort Ticonderoga Museum, Saratoga Auto Museum,
  - USS Slater, The Mighty Mo
  - Lansingburgh Historical Society.

## 2013 NYS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS MEETING AT CANANDAIGUA

We salute the Genesee Valley Chapter for doing a **SUPERB** job hosting the 42nd annual New York State Council of Chapters convention. The convention was held in Canandaigua, NY, at the Inn on the Lake, from 15-17 October. Unlike previous conventions, this one took place over two days instead of three, the first day being the Columbus Day holiday. The idea was to try to attract more members who are still employed. While that worked very well for a few of us, the schedule was ... well ... ambitious. Attending from our Chapter were Rocco and Agnes Acquilano, John and Connie Foley, Marty and Milena Leukhardt, Al and Mary Memole, Ron Neaton and Carole Akots, Ed and Jennifer Scheiber, and Alex and Dolores Yvars.

**BUSINESS (National):** Mike Hayden, Director of Legislative Affairs at national MOAA, covered the top legislative issues before Congress that affect military pay and benefits. He also explained the impacts of the sequester and the “shutdown”, which was ongoing during the convention. Barry Wright, the new Director of Chapter and Council Affairs, hammered home the important role played by the MOAA-affiliated Chapters in engaging both Federal and State politicians. He urged Chapters to establish close ties with their Representatives whose districts fall within or encompass Chapter boundaries.

### CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES in the Capital District Chapter:

- 19<sup>th</sup> District - Chris Gibson
- 20<sup>th</sup> District - Paul Tonko
- 21<sup>st</sup> District - Bill Owens

**BUSINESS (Council):** Reps from USAA, a dedicated sponsor of the Convention and MOAA, gave a very informative presentation about estate and financial planning. Their services are free to USAA members. We heard reports from Council Officers and Chapters. Chapters are doing some excellent work in support of veterans and deployed troops. New Officers were elected:

- President: Ben Margolius, Southern Tier Chapter
- Vice-President: Peggy Phillips, Southern Tier Chapter
- Secretary: Suzanne Hensley, Central New York Chapter
- Treasurer: Jaime Scotland, Western New York Chapter
- Regional Vice Presidents: *our own Ed Scheiber*, Capital District Chapter, and Jerry Luzum: Genesee Valley Chapter

The new Officers were sworn in at the Installation Banquet, which was preceded by a solemn Memorial Service for deceased MOAA members. The Convention also paid tribute to outgoing President Bob Bienvenue for his dedication, excellent service and leadership.



**FUN:** Besides the fellowship and camaraderie, the convention offered a variety of enjoyable outings and activities. These included a display of a beautiful “Liberty” quilt handmade by a local woman, and dinner cruise with wine tasting aboard the paddle boat Canandaigua Lady on a cool but pleasant Monday evening. Tuesday featured a tour of the

Glen Curtiss Museum that housed a *mind-blowing* collection of antique aero planes, cars, motorcycles, bicycles, boats, dollhouses, and you-name-it. What a gem! From there, the tour took us through beautiful autumn countryside to the Bully Hill Winery for wine tasting and laughs with the wild and whacky winery staff. On check-out day, some attendees also participated in a cooking class at the New York Culinary School next door to the convention.



Ed Scheiber signs the Quilt



Two sailors (Marty & Rocky) enjoying the cruise.

**NEXT YEAR:** Southern Tier Chapter will host the 2014 convention in Corning also on Columbus Day weekend. We will provide more information in future newsletters.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

CHAPTER OFFICE	INCUMBENT	E-MAIL
President	Anthony J. Ficara, COL USA, RET	pres@cdnymoaa.org
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Patrick Piccirilli, LTC USA, RET	1vp@cdnymoaa.org
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Thomas W. Lenahan, Capt USAF, RET	2vp@cdnymoaa.org
Secretary	Ralph Folger, Lt Cmdr USNR, RET	secr@cdnymoaa.org
Treasurer	Fred Ames, CW4 AUS, RET	treas@cdnymoaa.org

BOARD MEMBERS

Rocco D. Acquilano, Cmdr, USNR, RET	Ernest Bebernitz, MAJ USA, RET
Martin Leukhardt, RAdm USNR, RET	Thomas Magliocca, CWO2 USCGR, RET
Charles Marshall, CWO4 USNR, RET	Alfred M. Memole, LTC USA, RET
Ronald Neaton, Capt USNR, RET	William Potts, CW4 AUS, RET
Edmund M. Scheiber, Jr., Lt Col USAF, RET	

Luncheon Reservation Form

Date: **December 8, 2013**

Location: **Edison Club, Rexford, NY**

Time: 1:00PM – Social Hour  
2:00PM – Dinner

Menu Choices: Flat Iron Steak    Chicken Alexander    Stuffed Sole

Price: \$30.00 per person    *(Please make checks payable to: NYS-CDC.)*

***If you wish to pay Chapter dues for 2014, you may pay dues by adding \$15.00 to your total.***

*If you not up to date with your dues, please add \$15 for each year you owe.*

Send reservation form and check to: Charles Marshall (phone: 235-1713)  
Please make your reservation Not 5 Sunset Lane  
Later Than Wednesday, Dec 4. Troy, NY 12182

	Qty	Menu Item
Your name: _____	_____	Flat Iron Steak
Number of persons attending: _____	_____	Chicken Alexander
	_____	Stuffed Sole



New York State Capital District Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
PO Box 293  
Guilderland, NY 12084

