

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

Volume 5, Issue 2

March 2014

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2009 4-Star Chapter

**Did the cold winter get you down?  
Don't despair.  
Come join us for "vittles" on April 6!**



Our upcoming meeting at the Edison Club in Rexford will feature a special treat, besides the usual excellent fare. What kind of treat? Well, during this sesquicentennial anniversary of the American civil war (that would be the War Between the States for all you Florida snowbirds), we hear a lot about battles and politics, generals and politicians. But what about the food? We all have to eat, but what did the soldier of the Union or Confederacy have in his haversack? What did a civilian enjoy before the war and what was it like during the war?



**Reenactors Robert Beebe** and his wife, **Jeannette Folger-Beebe**, members of the **28th NYVI, Co. E**, will take us back in history with their presentation, "**Variations on Vittles.**" Robert and Jeannette have been reenactors for over 20 years. They have reenacted at Manassas (that would be Bull Run for all you Yankees), Gettysburg, and various locations in NY state. So come on down!

AND, by the way, *please* get your reservation and payment to Chuck Marshall NOT LATER THAN Wednesday morning **April 2**. The Edison Club needs a final count by the Wednesday before our Sunday meeting. Chuck's address is on the reservation form on page 5 and also on our [cdnymoaa.org](http://cdnymoaa.org) web site. If you plan to attend, even if you aren't 100% sure, please pay in anticipation. Then, if for any reason you can't attend, we will refund your payment, no problem.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

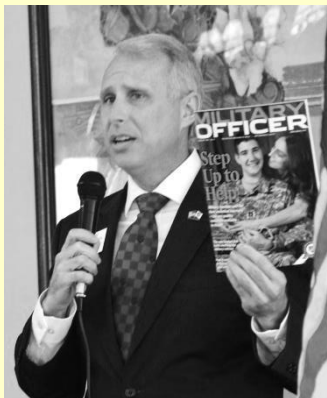
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## NEWSLETTER BUSINESS:

- *Deadline for submitting news, photos, and articles for the next issue is **May 8**.*
- **All members** are invited to send AI their bio's for future editions. *Preferred means of submission is via e-mail: MS Word, .txt, and JPEG formats are acceptable.*
- *To receive future newsletters online, rather than the usual paper copy by mail -- E-mail newsletter editor AI Memole at [amemole1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:amemole1@nycap.rr.com).*

## CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

### AT OUR LAST MEETING ON FEBRUARY 9 at the Edison Club



**Guest speaker**—We were fortunate to have Colonel Brian Anderson (at right), USAF (Ret.), the MOAA Deputy Director for Council and Chapter Affairs. Colonel Anderson explained the central role played by MOAA in defending the needs and rights, especially pay and benefits, of all military personnel, those serving and those who have served. He made it clear that the main reason MOAA has clout with Congress is due its 360,000+ members nationwide.

But members of Congress are most responsive to their own constituents. The key to reaching each of the representatives and senators lies with each of the 409 chapters with their 57,000+ members. While MOAA is always trying to attract active and veteran officers, their biggest concern is helping chapters such as ours to recruit non-chapter MOAA members - over 300,000. While MOAA national can provide incentives to chapters, it is up to us, the chapter members to reach out and bring in new members.

*And, on the topic of defending military needs and rights in Congress, our chapter is looking for members who would be interested in serving as local contacts/liaisons with our Representatives. If you always dreamed of being a no-pay lobbyist, this is your opportunity. Please contact a Chapter Officer or Board Member.*

**Other honored guests** - Attending a chapter meeting for the first time was Ben Margolius, Colonel, USA (Ret.), pictured at right, who was recently elected President of the New York Council of Chapters. Ben has been a mover and shaker in the Southern Tier Chapter, and now brings his energy to serve MOAA chapters statewide. He offered praise and encouragement to our Chapter, and announced this year's Council of Chapters convention hosted by Southern Tier in Corning in October. [We plan to provide full details in our next newsletter.]



We were thrilled also to have several first-time attendees: MOAA Life Member Dan Bradt, Dana Berntson, new members Richard & Sharon Birnbach, Guy Demers, Joseph Peck, and Dave Wickenham. [Editor's note: Apologies to anyone I missed and anyone whose name I misspelled. Please notify of corrections for the next issue.]



*Left: Colonel Brian Anderson outlines MOAA's strategy for chapter recruiting to Chapter President Tony Ficara (at left), NY Council of Chapters President Ben Margolius (center), and chapter officers and board members (not pictured).*

### UPCOMING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER MEETINGS

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

- 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*

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

## Chapter Happenings (continued)

### WOUNDED WARRIOR SNOWFEST WELCOME CEREMONY

On March 7, five members of our Chapter and their spouses attended STRIDE Adaptive Sports' welcome ceremony at Troy Hilton Garden Inn for their annual Wounded Warrior Snowfest. The Snowfest brings selected veterans wounded and/or disabled in combat, and their loved ones, for a weekend at Jiminy Peak to learn how to overcome their disabilities and enjoy skiing, snowboarding and winter fun. The intent is to build their confidence and give them hope by helping them to focus on what they CAN do rather than on what they cannot do.



Above: Snowfest 2014

The Snowfest may seem like pure fun to most of us, but to the disabled and dispirited, it can be very intimidating. It's also very expensive. So, the welcome ceremony serves a dual function: to raise funds to pay for their weekend and to show the wounded warriors support and encouragement from our community. Marty Leukhardt and Ed Scheiber made generous personal donations, and our Chapter voted to make a contribution, which reserved a table for 10 at the ceremony. Representing the Chapter were Tony Ficara and his wife, Elizabeth, Marty and Milena Leukhardt, Ralph and Vicki Folger, Al and Mary Memole, and Skip and Mary Lou Bebernitz. *Skip, in fact, was one of the STRIDE event organizers.*

The 2014 ceremony, emceed by Phil Bayly of WNYT News Channel 13, was well attended by veteran groups, local military members, and elected officials from all levels of government. MG Rutherford US Army Chief of Chaplains, and a Capital District native son, was there to give the invocation. Several State legislators were present, as well as officials from Albany and Rensselaer Counties, and even staff of our US Congressional Representatives - Chris Gibson actually made it to the Garden Inn at the end of the festivities and shook hands with several of us.

But the most honored guests of the night were the wounded veterans and their loved ones:

- Sergeant Jennifer Cabrera, US Army
- Lance Corporal Leoncio Diaz, USMC
- Sergeant Gonzolo Duran, USMC
- Staff Sergeant Kevin Flike, US Army, who gave the keynote address
- Sergeant Earl Fontenot, US Army
- Corporal Michael Kelsey, USMC
- Staff Sergeant Ryan Mathis, US Army
- Specialist Nate Oncea, US Army
- Sergeant Erich Spader, US Army National Guard
- Lance Corporal Chelsea Valente, USMC

This is an annual event, so let's consider giving this worthy cause our continued support. What do you think?

Five STRIDE Wounded Warrior alumni also attended to support their comrades. One of them was Corporal Jeremy Walton, USMC, who spoke at our luncheon in October. The ceremony was deeply moving. It was truly a privilege to be part of the welcome and to witness the reactions of these heroes to the warm and rousing welcome they received. SSG Flike's keynote address was riveting. While serving with US Army Special Forces in Afghanistan, he was seriously wounded by a bullet in the abdomen during a sweep of a valley. He recounted his experiences from the battlefield, to the hospital in Germany, and through his difficult recovery.

## ODDS & ENDS

### DUES FOR 2014

Chapter operating expenses are very modest: Printing and mailing this newsletter is one of the biggest budget items. Maintaining our web page is another recurring cost. The Officers and Board of Directors make every effort to contain costs. But our Chapter also needs to DO things to fulfill our mission, such as making targeted charitable donations. And that's why we members need to support the Chapter by paying our annual dues - unless members would prefer to run fundraising events. (Nahhh!)

**Show your dedication to the MOAA mission** and consideration for the other members who have paid dues faithfully every year, by paying what you owe, even if you cannot, or do not wish to attend Chapter events. If you can't participate, you can still support our cause.

*So, if you are not paid up through 2014, please pay for each year you are in arrears.* We include on the mailing label of this newsletter the year through which you have paid. Those who have not paid dues in over three years and those who joined the Chapter but never paid are at risk of being dropped from Chapter membership rolls. This is the third posted notice.



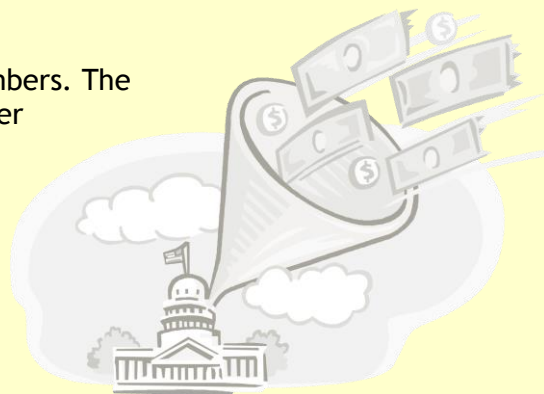
### STORMING THE HILL

From **April 7 to 11**, right after our Chapter meeting, MOAA officials with Chapter and Council leaders will assemble in Washington D.C. to "storm the Hill" (talk to members of Congress and their staffs) about military needs. Budget cuts of various types seem to be constantly threatening military retired pay and benefits. MOAA will be fighting to protect our interests, and the interests of the nation. Stay tuned!

### JROTC

Christian Brothers Academy (CBA) of Albany is having its annual **Military Leadership Awards Night** on **24 April 2014 at 7:00pm**. A deserving cadet to be named soon will be receiving a MOAA award and certificate sponsored by our Chapter. A Chapter officer or board member will present the award. *Any Chapter member who is CBA alumnus, whose children attended CBA, or who simply wants to support the youth of our community, and is interested in helping to present the award, please contact the newsletter editor, Al Memole before April 10.*

**MOAA's 2014 TAX GUIDE** is available through the MOAA website (<http://www.moaa.org/taxguide/>) for all Premium and Life Members. The MOAA Tax Guide provides state-by-state tax information and other general info for military servicemembers, veterans and their families, including the latest tax forms, personal income tax rates, property taxes, and other information.



*Cheer up! Spring is here!*

*Even if April 15th is looming ☹*

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: **April 6, 2014**

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: **Chuck Marshall**    (phone: 235-1713)

*Please make your reservation Not*

5 Sunset Ln

*Later Than Wednesday, April 2.*

Troy NY 12182-1030

Qty    Menu Item

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Choices:    \_\_\_\_\_ 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

