

CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER, NEW YORK

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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2009 4-Star Chapter

ON THE LEGISLATIVE FRONT

Recall in our last exciting issue, as we left our Chapter heroes, they were planning their approach for meeting with our elected federal and state representatives. They aimed to seek and win support on legislation of vital importance to the combat readiness of our Armed Forces and the health and welfare of past and present servicemembers [*that's us, folks!*], and our families.

Chapter members *Manny Biondi*, *Skip Bebernitz*, and *Pat Piccirilli* moved out swiftly in the early dawn - well, for Pat it was probably closer to afternoon, but, all kidding aside, all three worked diligently to get appointments, and then follow through. This is the first time in a very long time that our Chapter has reached out to meet our representatives in their offices *locally*, outside of the annual Storming the Hill effort in Washington D.C.

Chapter Objectives:

1. Meet with our elected officials personally for the first time;
2. Review the three major issues suggested by MOAA's "Visit Your Legislators in August";
3. Discuss other associated issues, time permitting;
4. Establish an on-going future relationship

Here is a summary of the results, to date, and this is just the beginning of Chapter efforts to engage our lawmakers:

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

On September 3, Pat Piccirilli met with Representative Paul Tonko and his District Director, Ryan Horstmyer. The meeting succeeded in establishing a face-to-face MOAA presence in this Congressional District. The Representative stated that he now can place a face with the organization. He found the fact sheets provided by MOAA to be very informative. For example, it appeared that the Representative Tonko was not aware of how the "Widow's tax" impacted the survivor.



Pat Piccirilli (l.) and Rep. Paul Tonko

Pat mentioned that manning levels in the Air Force were at a level not seen since the inception of the Air Force. He also spoke about the importance of the commissary in Saratoga Springs. Pat then raised the idea of co-sponsoring bills supported by MOAA and intimated that the Representative should be more active and request sponsorship on the bills MOAA is supporting.

Overall, Representative Tonko did not convey convincingly that he fully understood what MOAA is and what alliances we have. It will require more work on our part. Nevertheless, he and his District Director agreed that we should meet when appropriate. Thus, Pat achieved all of the initial objectives. [*Continued on page 3*]



↑ Check out the new MOAA logo!

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CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

MEETING OCTOBER 4! 1300 - 1600 hours at the Edison Club, Rexford, NY

REMINDER: Please get your reservation and payment to **ROCCO ACQUILANO NOT LATER THAN Wednesday morning Sep 30**. The Edison Club needs a final count by the Wednesday before our Sunday meeting. If you plan to attend, even if you aren't 100% sure, please pay in anticipation. If for any reason you can't attend, we will refund your payment, no problem. **If you have not done so - please pay chapter dues for 2015!!**

GUEST SPEAKER (Planned): Robert Volk, Program Coordinator for **Heroes at Home**

“Heroes at Home: PFC Joseph Dwyer Peer Support Program serving Veterans and their Families in Rensselaer County is a New York State funded project dedicated to ensuring a healthy and successful reintegration for all members of the military and their loved ones by addressing issues related to post traumatic stress; building resiliency, fostering hope and encouraging connectedness; and reducing stigma and preventing suicide.”

(<http://www.heroesathomerensco.com/>)

Schedule of Chapter Meetings for 2015

General Membership Sunday Luncheons
(Edison Club, Rexford, NY)

- Oct 4
- Dec 13

Chapter Board Meetings

- Nov 7 (NYS Military Museum, Saratoga Springs)

CHAPTER NEWS & DEVELOPMENTS

Chapter Board Meeting was held on Sep 12 at the Scheiber's beautiful lakeside residence, Bolton Landing. Here are just a couple of tidbits from the meeting:

- We discussed sponsoring the Military Ball, but agreed to table that proposal for now - *What do you members think about that idea?*
- We agreed to update the Chapter by-laws and look at establishing a Community Action Committee
- We voted to support WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA, a private initiative dedicated to honor deceased veterans publicly by placing wreaths on individual graves. Our Chapter will be donating to place wreaths at the Gerald B. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery, Schuylerville.

Annual Council of Chapters Convention, Oct 16-18 in Syracuse: eight from our Chapter will be attending

Annual MOAA Convention in Orlando, FL, Oct 30-31: *Skip Bebernitz is attending to accept a MOAA Levels of Excellence Award for our Chapter!* (See next newsletter for details!)

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS!

SEPTEMBER 19 (Saturday): **Patriot Ruckmarch and Pig Roast** sponsored by **Heroes at Home**. It's too late to sign up for the ruckmarch if you haven't done so already, but you might be able to make the pig roast to welcome back all marchers if you are reading this on or before the 19th. Location/time: Poestenkill VFW from 4 to 6 pm; \$20 for pork, hamburgers, hot dogs, 2 sides and drink; \$10 for vegetarian option; children under 12 pay \$10

NOVEMBER 21 (Saturday): **A Tribute to Vietnam War Era Veterans**, at the Saratoga Springs City Center, 522 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY, from 7 to 10 PM; featuring DJ Gary Ferris and Vietnam era music, plus representatives from Veterans Support Agencies

Attention! Deadline for submitting news, photos, bio's, and stories for the next issue is **Nov 14**. Please e-mail your input to newsletter editor Al Memole at amemole1@nycap.rr.com

ON THE LEGISLATIVE FRONT (CONTINUED)

On September 4, Manny Biondi and Skip Bebernitz met with **Representative Chris Gibson** (COL USA, Ret.). Representative Gibson promised to work to his utmost to protect military pay, Tricare, and the Commissary System. He pointed out that the House has been very supportive and active on behalf of the military. He co-sponsored the bills to prevent the expiration of the protection against "The Widow's Tax" and relief of the Concurrent Receipt provision. He directed his assistant to make sure that he was still on the bills. The Representative said that he has found out from an active duty person that the children of active duty personnel lose their medical coverage *at the age of 23, not 26* as all other American youth. He brought that to the attention of the head of the House Armed Services Committee. As Skip and Manny were leaving, Representative Gibson "coined" each of them.

(*Ed Scheiber* has also been working to set up a meeting with **Representative Elise Stefanik**.)

Here are some ideas that Pat Piccirilli put forth for our Chapter to consider for future actions:

1. Meet with the representatives and/or their staff as appropriate;
2. Maintain a list of bills that each should consider co-sponsoring;
3. Explain in minute detail how sequestration is diminishing the ability of our services to respond to threats, and advocate for a better process;
4. Consider forming a local alliance with other veteran organizations to increase the impact on this Congressional District office.

WHAT IDEAS DO YOU HAVE?

NEW YORK STATE GOVERNMENT *The military spouses stationed in NY State need our help.*

On May 27 this year, the State Senate passed bill **S2947** to amend the education law, the general business law, the insurance law and the real property law, to provide for the licensing of the spouses of military personnel with out-of-state professional licenses so that they can find suitable employment in a more timely manner. The problems now is that the bill is stuck in committee in the Assembly (bill A4394). Assembly Representative **Glick**, chair of the Higher Education Committee, has little interest in moving it in her committee.



SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS: This bill proposes that the spouse of a member of the armed forces of the United States, national guard or reserves may submit evidence of licensure or a signed affidavit to provide satisfactory verifying evidence of licensure issued by any other state, territory, protectorate, or dependency of the United States to practice an equivalent occupation in NY, in lieu of the submissions (education, experience, examination) normally required. It also provides for specific residency matters pertaining to real estate licenses of military spouses. The secretary has the authority to issue a license or find reasonable cause that the applicant falsely affirmed verification and suspend or revoke said license.

JUSTIFICATION: Many occupations require a state license, often with state-specific conditions and processes, which can cause lengthy reemployment delays for military spouses moving between states. These delays and the expense of re-licensure prevent many military spouses from practicing their professions. Through collaborative efforts with 27 states, the Department of Defense collected best practices to reduce the time required for a military spouse to transfer a current license when entering a new state. **These practices do not impact the standards of the state, still require military spouses to fully qualify within their occupations, and can be implemented at little or no cost to the state.** This legislation allows New York State to modify licensing requirements and processes, which would otherwise impede qualified military spouses from becoming employed following a military move to a new state.

[Continued on page 4]

WHAT CAN I DO? Chapter VP Skip Bebernitz has already reached out to State Senator Marchione and Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin about this issue. But you should also make your voice heard by contacting your Assembly representative. When writing, here are some sample points that you can use:

Sample greeting: “As a [spouse of a] [serving or former] military officer and a member of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), I am writing on behalf of the 20,000 military spouses living in New York State to voice my strong support for A4394/S2947, an act to amend our laws to provide for the licensing of military spouses who possess out-of-state professional licenses.”

Facts supporting passage of this bill that you may cite:

- Roughly 85% of military spouses work or desire to work outside the home.
- Almost 35% of these military spouses in the labor force require full licensure or certification to work in their chosen career field.
- Mandatory reassignments force military families to relocate frequently: 14.5% of the military spouse population moves across state lines compared to 1.1% of civilian spouses.
- Complicated state licensing requirements impose significant administrative and financial burdens on military spouse professionals.
- **49 of the 50 U.S. states** have passed legislation or issued executive orders to either expedite licensing or recognize professional licenses/certifications issued by other states as a way of helping military spouses find professional employment. **New York State is the lone holdout!**

Sample closing: “I am grateful to the New York General Assembly which has historically been very supportive of our military service members and their families. I also thank Assemblyman Felix Ortiz for sponsoring this legislation. I hope that our military spouses can count on your support as well.” ☞

MILITARY DISCOUNTS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

MOAA and other military and veterans associations offer many bennies, but many retailers and businesses also offer discounts to active and retired military who have a military ID. Check out all the discounts catalogued on this website: <http://www.bradsdeals.com/blog/military-discounts>

Bradsdeals advises that:

- some stores offer discounts only at the owner's discretion and other discounts vary by state;
- many stores that give a military discount don't advertise it. It is always worth asking a store whether they have one or not and to have your military ID on you;
- veterans of Iraq or Afghanistan should also check out IAVA (iava.org). Members there are offered vouchers to retail stores, such as JCPenney.

Here is just a tiny sampling (a teaser) of the discounts listed:

- **Advance Auto Parts:** 10% off with military ID
- **Boscov's:** 15% off in-store purchases with military ID everyday.
- **Cracker Barrel:** 10-15% off, at manager's discretion.
- **Denny's:** Discount varies, simply ask and have a valid military ID with you.
- **Friendly's Ice Cream Stores:** Discount varies, simply ask and have a valid military ID with you.
- **Kohl's:** 15% off at participating locations.
- **Lowe's:** 10% off year round to active duty, active reserve, retired military, and immediate family. Just bring in a valid military ID. (Discount cannot be combined with other coupons)
- **Sears:** 20% off regularly priced tools and an extra 5% off on-sale tools with a valid military ID.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

CHAPTER OFFICE	INCUMBENT	E-MAIL
President	Anthony J. Ficara, COL USA, RET	pres@cdnymoaa.org
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BOARD MEMBERS

Rocco D. Acquilano, CDR, USNR, RET	Thomas Magliocca, CWO2 USCGR, RET
Martin Leukhardt, RDML USNR, RET	Alfred M. Memole, LTC USA, RET
Charles Marshall, CWO4 USNR, RET	William Potts, CW4 USA, RET
Ronald Neaton, CAPT USNR, RET	Edmund M. Scheiber, Jr., Lt Col USAF, RET

Luncheon Reservation Form

Date: **October 4, 2015** Location: **Edison Club, Rexford, NY**

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

Menu Choices: FLAT IRON STEAK CHICKEN ALEXANDER PECAN-ENCRUSTED SALMON

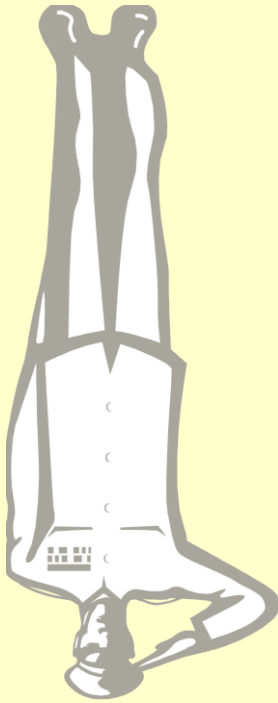
Price: \$30.00 per person *(Please make checks payable to: NYS-CDC.)*

If you still owe Chapter dues for 2015, you may pay 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: **Rocco Acquilano** (phone: 477-5435)
Please make your reservation Not 14 Rugby Road
Later Than Wednesday, Sep 30. East Greenbush NY 12061-2110

	Qty	Menu Item
Your name: _____	_____	Flat Iron Steak
Number of persons attending: _____	_____	Chicken Alexander
	_____	PECAN-ENCRUSTED SALMON



NEVER STOP SERVING



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

