

CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER, NEW YORK MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Volume 6, Issue 5

November 2015

Visit us at cdnymoaa.org

2015 & 2009 4-Star Chapter

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA™



Wreaths Across America™ is 501(c) (3) corporation whose mission, according to their website is to **Remember, Honor, and Teach.** Their main effort involves “coordinating wreath laying ceremonies on a specified Saturday in December at Arlington, as well as veterans’ cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond.”



They also “organize a week of events including international veteran’s tributes, ceremonies at State Houses and a week-long ‘Veteran’s Parade’ between Maine and Virginia” where they spread their message about “the importance of remembering our fallen heroes, honoring those who serve, and teaching our children about the sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve our freedoms.” Thousands of volunteers organize local ceremonies, raise funds to sponsor wreaths, and participate in the events. They “also coordinate veteran services and recognition through a variety of programs, and provide schools with teaching aides for projects throughout the year.”

Wreaths Across America™ receives no funding from the government. Individual wreaths sponsors, corporate donors and volunteer truckers cover the cost of their programs.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA, pp. 1, 4
- CHAPTER ACTIVITIES, p. 2
- 4-STAR AWARD, p.3
- 2015 COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS MEETING, p3
- CHAPTER OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS, p. 5
- LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM, p. 5

Our chapter is a fundraising sponsor of Wreaths Across America. The deadline for wreaths purchased this year to be placed this year is Nov30.

You can donate at <http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org>. In the Menu on their web page, go to Store, and select Sponsor for a Specific Location. It will open a page that allows you to find our Chapter among the fundraising groups. Our group code is NY0087 (our location code is GSNS).

The price of a wreath is \$15. *If you buy 2 wreaths (\$30), the chapter donates a third.* The wreaths that we purchase will be placed at the Gerald Solomon National Cemetery in Schuylerville on Dec 12. If you would like to attend the ceremony and assist in placement of the wreaths, it starts at 1200 hrs. There are 12,000 graves. Last year there were only 2,200 wreaths.

Get Started

Find a Location

Search by your state or ZIP Code:

Select State

Enter Zip Code

SEARCH

Find a Fundraising Group

Search for a Fundraising Group:

NY0087

SEARCH

Search Results

Search by Fundraising Group or Zip code above.

NY0087- New York State Capital District Chapter MOAA
NYGSNS - Gerald B. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery, Schuylerville

DONATE

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS



ANNUAL MEETING & CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY PARTY - DECEMBER 13!

Come and celebrate with us. **1300 - 1600 hours** at the Edison Club, Rexford, NY

OPTIONAL GRAB BAG GIFT EXCHANGE! For all who would like to participate in our Chapter's tradition of fun, here are the rules:

1) To participate, you must bring a gift. Each person who brings a gift may pick a gift; those who don't may watch the fun. No heckling, but teasing allowed.

2) Gifts should be around \$10 in value, in good taste, and wrapped or bagged.

3) Let Skip or Rocco know when you arrive, and they will give you a numbered ticket. The order of participation is random, determined by drawing a ticket.

4) You keep the gift you select. "Stealing" an opened gift is not allowed this year, because it takes too long and some folks need to get home to nap and others to watch football.



BOOKS FOR TROOPS! And while you are in the gift-giving mode, why not bring a little something for our service members serving in harm's way?

- Soft-covered books: particularly Westerns, Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror, Historical fiction, History & Biography.
- Puzzle books of any kind, automatic pencils or markers for the puzzle books;
- DVD's (may be used but must have plastic cover), CD's
- Board games (may be used but must have all the pieces and directions in a box in good condition), playing cards, dice
- Small dictionaries, coloring books and crayons.

Donations will be brought to *Books For Troops, Inc. of southern Saratoga County*

REMINDER: Please get your reservation and payment to **ROCCO ACQUILANO NOT LATER THAN Wednesday morning Dec 9.** 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. **Time to pay chapter dues for 2016!!**

CHAPTER NEWS & DEVELOPMENTS

Chapter Board Meeting was held on Nov 7 at the NYS Military Museum in Saratoga Springs. The BIG news:

- We reviewed and accepted revisions to the Chapter by-laws. These are posted on our website for all members.
- We scheduled the meetings for next year, shown at right.
- Skip Bebernitz set up our Chapter as a fund-raiser for Wreaths Across America this year, as explained on Page 1. *If you are not Internet savvy, you may copy the wreath sponsorship form on Page 4 for your use.*
- The Chapter Officers and Board voted to host the 2016 Annual Council of Chapters Convention at Lake George, in October, around Columbus Day. We need volunteers to make this convention a success. Don't be shy. Let's show 'em how its done!

Schedule of Chapter Meetings for 2016

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

- Feb 7
- Apr 10
- Jun 12
- Sep 18
- Dec 11

Chapter Board Meetings

(Saturday at the NYS Military Museum, Saratoga Springs, except August meeting)

- Jan 30
- May 14
- Aug 20 (Lake George)
- Oct 1

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

OUR CHAPTER – 2015 4-STAR CHAPTER!!

The Scheibers and the Bebernitz's attended the Annual MOAA Convention in Orlando, FL, Oct 30-31.

Leaders and spouses from more than 140 councils and chapters, with members of MOAA national staff and board of directors attended the 2015 Levels of Excellence Award dinner. MOAA affiliates compete for four- or five-star Levels of Excellence Awards. The best councils and chapters receive five-star awards; above-average councils and chapters receive four-star awards. Chapter 1st VP, Skip Bebernitz (at right), accepted a MOAA Levels of Excellence *four-star* award for our Chapter presented by Charles T. Robertson, Gen USAF (Ret), the Chairman of the MOAA Board (at left in photo). *This is our Chapter's second four-star award!* Let's keep up the good work.



General Robertson highlighted the growth of MOAA to more than 390,000 members. He reviewed efforts of the Government Relations team to protect the earned benefits of the military, and praised the chapter and council system. “the heart and soul of what MOAA is about”.

During the convention, Admiral Ryan reviewed “several recent changes, including the MOAA logo refresh, the redesigned website, and the new tagline ‘Never Stop Serving’.” He also talked about our legislative accomplishments, but warned that we face big challenges with continued pay and health care threats. Additionally, Admiral Ryan highlighted the litany of MOAA’s member products and services, such as “the VA claims-assistance program, career transition services, caregiver support, the MOAA Scholarship Fund, the MOAA Military Family Initiative, and insurance products and offering.”

Vice Adm. Sean Pybus, USN, deputy commander, U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM), gave a talk about the evolution of special operations into the future. Pybus highlighted current special operations in more than 80 countries, including Afghanistan, advising and assisting allies. “We think [Afghanistan] is an important place,” he said. “We’re optimistic about the plans we have in place.” The anticipated timeline for SOCOM missions is 10 to 15 years. Fortunately, sequestration has had minimal effect on special operations compared to other military missions, but SOCOM isn’t getting any bigger. 📖

2015 NY COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS CONVENTION

The Council of Chapters officers hosted this year’s convention in the gorgeous Genesee Grande Hotel in Syracuse, Oct 16-18. Attending from our Chapter were Ed and Jennifer Scheiber, Ron Neaton and Carol Akots, Al and Mary Memole, Rocco and Agnes Acquilano, and Tony Ficara. Overall attendance was low, but the Council continues to support its chapters. **Jim Carman, CAPT USN (Ret), Director of the MOAA Transition Center**, gave a comprehensive presentation on MOAA at the business meeting and an inspiring talk at the dinner.



(Photo at right: the Scheibers and the Memoles having a great time.)

WreathsAcrossAmerica.org

Our Mission: Remember Honor Teach.

Wreath Sponsorship Form

*Sponsored wreaths are placed on the grave markers at state, national veterans cemeteries as well as local cemeteries each December. Wreaths may be purchased online at www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org

If you wish to make your sponsorship with a credit card please visit our website for a secure online transaction.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Please make checks payable to:
Wreaths Across America TM
 PO Box 249
 Columbia Falls, ME 04623
 Questions? Please call 877-385-9504
 Thank you for your Sponsorship and joining us in our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach!

Sponsorship	Price	Quantity	Total
Individual= 1 Wreath	\$15.00		
Mailed "In Honor" card= If you wish to send a mailed honor card telling someone of your sponsorship-see "In Honor" section below. *Card will not be mailed if the \$2 fee is not included.	\$2.00		
Family= 4 Wreaths	\$60.00		
Small Business= 10 Wreaths	\$150.00		
Corporate= 100 Wreaths	\$1500.00		
Merchandise available on WAA Website			
		Grand Total	

****SORRY- WE CAN NOT TAKE GRAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS****

In Honor of:

Please provide email of "In Honor OF" recipient, or mailing address so a card can be sent notifying them of your sponsorship in their honor. (if you have a specific message please write it on the back of this sheet and we will include it.)

Email: _____

Mailing: _____

In Memory of:

This name will be listed on our online memory wall, please provide name, rank, branch of service and state resided

Branch of Service: _____

Rank: _____

State: _____

Please note that **all** sponsorships are sent directly to the location and **no** wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.

Location ID: NY65NS Fundraising Group ID: NY5 CDC M04D NY0087

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Cash \$: _____ Total\$: _____ Date: _____
 Total # Checks: _____ Reconciled: _____
 MO \$: _____
 Entered: _____

GEN: _____

CHAPTER OFFICERS

CHAPTER OFFICE	INCUMBENT	E-MAIL
President	Anthony J. Ficara, COL USA, RET	pres@cdnymoaa.org
1 st Vice President	Ernest Bebernitz, MAJ USA, RET	1vp@cdnymoaa.org
2 nd Vice President	Christopher J. Costigan, CDR USN, Ret	2vp@cdnymoaa.org
Secretary	Ralph Folger, LCDR USNR, RET	secr@cdnymoaa.org
Treasurer	Fred Ames, CW4 USA, RET	treas@cdnymoaa.org

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: **December 13, 2015**

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

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

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

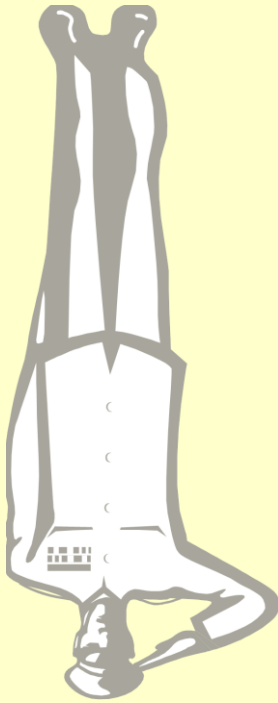
Price: \$30.00 per person *(Please make checks payable to: NYS-CDC.)*

To pay Chapter dues for 2016, please add \$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, Dec 9. East Greenbush NY 12061-2110

	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Menu Item</u>
Your name: _____	Choices:	_____ 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

