

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

Volume 7, Issue 1

January 2016

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4-Star Chapter - 2015 & 2009



## WELCOME OUR NEW CHAPTER OFFICERS

The NYS Council of Chapters President, Colonel **Ben Margolius** (below right), swore in newly elected Chapter Officers at the Chapter's annual business meeting on December 13. The new Chapter leaders, in the photo below from left to right, are **Fred Ames** returning as Treasurer, **Ralph Folger** returning as Secretary, **Emanuel "Manny" Biondi** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, **Chris Costigan** – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, and **Ernest "Skip" Bebernitz** – President.



Let us thank these fine officers and gentlemen for stepping up. May all of us - Chapter members, auxiliaries, and spouses - join with our new leadership team to support our Chapter as the Chapter supports MOAA, to continue to help and defend the rights of our entire military family in the Capital Region, across New York State, and wherever our troops and their families are stationed.

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Let us not forget also to thank our out-going Chapter President, **Tony Ficara**, who did a phenomenal job for *two* terms (following another "tough act", Ed Scheiber). Tony served the Chapter selflessly while he continued to practice dentistry full-time. Thanks, Tony!



COL Margolius (right) presents MOAA award to COL Ficara.

**March 18** is the deadline for submitting news articles, photos, bio's, and stories for the *next* issue. Please e-mail your input to newsletter editor Al Memole at [amemole1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:amemole1@nycap.rr.com)

## CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

**NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - FEBRUARY 7, 1300 - 1600 hours at the Edison Club, Rexford, NY** [*The luncheon reservation form is on page 5.*]

GUEST SPEAKER: Ms. Carolyn C. Adamczyk, Director, Lt Col Bryant A. Murray Veterans Center, Excelsior College, Albany

"Excelsior College's Online Veterans' Center is a place to connect with fellow veterans about education, career and life, as well as access to resources, a mentorship program, webinars and college orientation materials."

**REMINDER #1:** Please get your reservation and payment to ROCCO ACQUILANO NOT LATER THAN Wednesday morning **Feb 3**. 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!!**

**REMINDER #2:** We are still accepting soft-covered books, puzzle books, automatic pencils or markers, DVD's (with plastic cover), CD's, board games (with all pieces and directions in a box in good condition), playing cards, dice, small dictionaries, coloring books and crayons for **Books For Troops, Inc.** of southern Saratoga County.

**NEXT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING – January 30**, 1000 - 1200 hours (+/-) at the NYS Military Museum, Saratoga Springs, NY

Although only the Chapter Officers and members of the Board of Directors may vote, ALL MEMBERS are welcome to attend and participate.

### CHAPTER NEWS

- NEW CHAPTER MAILING ADDRESS :  
NYS Capital District Chapter of MOAA  
PO Box 373  
Waterford, NY 12188-373
- Thanks to all of you who sponsored 39 wreaths for **Wreaths Across America™** at the Gerald Solomon National Cemetery in Schuylerville. A large number of volunteers showed up on an unusually warm and sunny day on December 12 to lay 2,600 wreaths. After a deeply moving memorial ceremony, *Skip Bebernitz* and *Al and Mary Memole*, from our Chapter, placed wreaths on veterans' graves in section 7. One of those veterans was Mary's Dad, John J. Chenette, Sr., SSG USA, who served in combat with Co. K, 358<sup>th</sup> Inf Regt, 90<sup>th</sup> Inf Div, XII Corps, 3<sup>rd</sup> Army (Patton) in Germany, 1945.



#### R.I.P.

**Past-President Thomas C. Magliocca,  
CWO2 USCGR, Retired**

Our dear friend and comrade passed away peacefully on January 2, 2016, at St. Peter's hospital, Albany, at age 84. *We extend our deepest sympathies to Tom's family, especially, June, his loving wife for over 60 years.*

Tom was a NYS Maritime College graduate, and proud veteran of the US Navy and Coast Guard. He was part of the Saratoga National Honor Guard, and also served as our Chapter President from 2005-2007.

Several Chapter members attended memorial services for Tom on January 7, at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Delmar. Tom was laid to rest at the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery, Schuylerville. †

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Greetings! I hope that you all had an enjoyable holiday with family and friends and are experiencing a safe and prosperous New Year!

This Chapter has been fortunate to have had a succession of great leaders. Tony Ficara was the most recent. I shall strive to follow in their footsteps and keep the Chapter moving in a positive direction.

We were honored to represent the Chapter at the MOAA National Conference and receive the Chapter's second 4-Star Level of Excellence Award. It was a thrill for my wife and me to meet MOAA members from around the country, especially some of the members of the Board of Directors. There are two from this area I would like to make mention. We met Walter Doran at dinner Friday evening. His last military position was CINCPAC for the Navy. He will be the MOAA Chairman of the Board in three years. He grew up in Albany and spent his summers as a deckhand at Lake George on the Mohegan. The other local person that we met was Kelly Hilland. She is currently serving in the Army Reserve as a Colonel.

We have a great chapter, but we need some help on our committees. We currently do not have a **Public Relations Chair**, a **Transition Assistance Chair**, or a **Surviving Spouse Liaison**. We also need a new **Program Committee Chair**. Moreover, we need a lot of help hosting the State Council of Chapters Convention. Maybe you have been a chapter Officer or Board member in the past and have decided to "take it easy" for a while; maybe you are a new member and are still trying to get your feet wet. NOW IS THE TIME THAT WE NEED YOU!

We have some great speakers lined up for this year's meeting. *If you haven't attended in some time, come back and take a look.*

The Armed Forces as a whole are facing a trying fiscal year. All of us need to stay current on the issues and keep hounding our Legislators to do the right thing. My personal take on MOAA's new motto, "Never Stop Serving", is that, while we were leading troops, we accomplished our mission by insuring that the troops' needs were taken care of. Now we are in an organization where taking care of the troops IS our mission!

Skip Bebernitz 

**NEVER STOP SERVING**

## OUR CHAPTER NEEDS YOU! Here's what you can do...

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR**

The Chapter needs someone – a member, an auxiliary, or a member spouse – who is imaginative, energetic, outgoing, but mostly willing and able to interact with local media – and even social media – on a regular basis to publicize Chapter contact information and events. People in the Capital District need to know who we are and what we do! *Might that person be you?*

### **TRANSITION ASSISTANCE CHAIR** (a.k.a., Transition Liaison/Networking Coordinator)

Officers, active and reserve, are continually leaving military service and moving to or returning to the Capital District, often in search of a second career or at least transitional employment to get their feet on the ground. The Chapter needs someone – a member, an auxiliary, or a member spouse – who will step up to guide transitioning officers and help them research career options and make local professional connections. *Might that person be you?* Actually, we could use a small team of volunteers here.

*Continued on page 4.*

## Chapter Needs Continued

Don't worry that you are not up to the task! MOAA's Transition Assistance Program (TAP) has a wealth of resources that you can "tap" into: The Marketing Yourself for a Second Career presentation demonstrates ways to develop self-marking techniques, LinkedIn strategies, interview skills, and resumes, and negotiate salary and benefits. TAP offers benefits and financial advice for every stage of life. The MOAA Transition Center provides career transition webinars that are open to the extended military community (<http://www.moaa.org/NewMilRetirement/>). MOAA sponsors live and virtual career fairs and other events designed to facilitate real time professional networking. MOAA also promotes American Corporate Partners (ACP), a "nationwide non-profit that connects transitioning veterans with experienced professionals for one-on-one mentorships" with ACP career coaches (<http://www.acp-usa.org/>).

### **SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON**

When military members pass away, their surviving spouses are overcome with grief and overwhelmed with various tasks and decisions they must make. They are the members of our community most in need. The Chapter needs someone – a member, an auxiliary, or even a member's spouse – willing and able to reach out to surviving spouses to comfort and assist, informing them of benefits, and letting them know that the Chapter and MOAA have not forgotten them. *Might that person be you?*

### **PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR**

This important position is like being the Ops Officer of the Chapter. We need an energetic person who will lead a small team to plan and coordinate the Chapter's program of activities, primarily, our meetings. The Program Committee handles guest speakers, dinner reservations, and meeting logistics. *Might that person be you?*

### **STATE COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS CONVENTION IN OCTOBER**

Our Chapter is hosting this important event at Lake George. To ensure everything gets done on time and everything runs smoothly so that the convention is successful, useful, and memorable, we need "all hands on deck". Even if you can do only one thing or assist others, that would be great.

*If you want to step up to help us with any (or all) of the needs above, or others, or if you want more information about Chapter needs, please contact any Chapter Officers and Directors. (See list on page 5.)*

## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST FOR 2016

**March 3:** Navy Concert Band performing at 259 Genesee Street, Utica, NY, 7 PM

**March 4:** Welcome Ceremony/Banquet, 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Wounded Warrior Snowfest presented by Stride Adaptive Sports, Hilton Garden Inn, Troy

Navy Concert Band performing at 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie, NY, 7 PM;

**March 5:** Navy Concert Band performing at 34 Court Street, Springfield, MA, 7 PM

**April 30:** Cadet parade at West Point

**June 11-12:** Blue Angels airshow in Syracuse

**September 3-4:** Thunderbirds airshow in New Windsor, CT

**October (Columbus Day weekend): NYS Council of Chapters Convention, Lake George**

**December 17:** Wreaths Across America™ at the Gerald Solomon National Cemetery, Schuylerville

**CHAPTER OFFICERS**

<b>CHAPTER OFFICE</b>	<b>INCUMBENT</b>	<b>E-MAIL</b>
President	Ernest "Skip" Bebernitz, MAJ USA, RET	pres@cdnymoaa.org
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Christopher J. Costigan, CDR USN, RET	1vp@cdnymoaa.org
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Emanuel "Manny" Biondi, MAJ USA, RET	2vp@cdnymoaa.org
Secretary	Ralph Folger, LCDR USNR, RET	secr@cdnymoaa.org
Treasurer	Fred Ames, CW4 USA, RET	treas@cdnymoaa.org

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Anthony J. Ficara*, COL USA, RET	
Rocco D. Acquilano, CDR, USNR, RET	Thomas W. Lenahan, Capt USAF, RET
Martin Leukhardt**, RDML USNR, RET	Charles Marshall, CWO4 USNR, RET
Alfred M. Memole, LTC USA, RET	Ronald Neaton**, CAPT USNR, RET
William Potts, CW4 USA, RET	Edmund M. Scheiber, Jr.**, Lt Col USAF, RET

\* Immediate Past-President

\*\* Former President

## Luncheon Reservation Form

Date: **February 7, 2016**

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)  
14 Rugby Road

*Please make your reservation Not*  
*Later Than Wednesday, Feb 3.*        East Greenbush NY 12061-2110

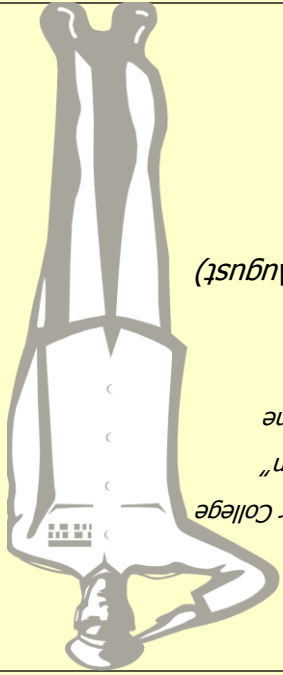
Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Choices:

Number of persons attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Qty	Menu Item
_____	Flat Iron Steak
_____	Chicken Alexander
_____	Pecan-Encrusted Salmon

KEEP THIS HALF OF THE PAGE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE



**Chapter Board Meetings (NYS Military Museum, Saratoga Springs, except in August)**

- Oct 1
- Aug 20 (Lake George)
- May 14
- Jan 30
- Dec 11
- Sep 18
- Jun 12 Guest Speaker - Mr. Ray Mickiewicz, KAPL: Four Generations of the Sea Wolf Submarine
- Apr 10 Guest Speaker - TBA, Grant Cottage; "The friendship of General Grant and Mark Twain"
- Feb 7 Guest Speaker - Ms. Carolyn C. Adamczyk, Director, Murray Veterans Center, Excelsior College

**Upcoming Chapter Meetings for 2016**  
**General Membership Sunday Lunches (Edison Club, Rexford, NY)**

The NYS Capital District Chapter and the Military Officers Association of America are non-partisan member organizations that honor, assist, and advocate for all who serve and have served honorably in the uniformed services of the United States of America.



New York State Capital District Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
PO Box 373  
Waterford, NY 12188-373

