

CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER, NEW YORK MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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4-Star Chapter - 2015 & 2009



REPORT: 44th NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS CONVENTION at Lake George

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First, this issue of the Chapter newsletter simply must recognize and applaud the tremendous effort that Chapter and Council leaders put in to make the 44th Annual CoC Convention a *huge* success. The primary movers were former President (and Bolton Landing resident) Ed Scheiber and his wife Jennifer, current President Skip Bebernitz and his wife Mary Lou, Ben and Sue Margolius from Council, "Mr. Hospitality" Tom Lenahan who kept the party roaring, Mary Memole (raffle-rouser), Chris and Mary Lou Costigan, and Fred Ames who wrote the checks. Many others also pitched in when needed.

The ultimate tribute was the unanimous opinion of the attendees that this was the best convention in a long while (and there have been some great ones in the recent past). The other chapters strongly recommended that we hold next year's convention at Lake George, but with assistance from the other chapters. Ben and our Chapter leaders are actively looking into this – We'll keep you posted.

So, why was this convention such a hit? Well, in no order of priority...

- ✓ The well-stocked hospitality suite – Thank you, Tom!!
- ✓ The sheer beauty of Lake George and the posh hotel overlooking the lake
- ✓ Fun events – the cruise on Lake George, the Dinner Theater, and the tour of Fort William Henry
- ✓ The meals at the hotel, the luncheon cruise, and the dinner theater
- ✓ The warm camaraderie with so many wonderful and interesting MOAA people from seven NY chapters – and next year, all of you should really join us!



ADM Walt Doran & his wife
Ginny having a good time

We were greatly honored to have four guests from MOAA National: **COL Barry Wright**, USA Ret, and his wife Barbara, and **ADM Walter Doran**, USN Ret, and his wife Ginny. COL Wright is MOAA's Director of Chapter and Council Affairs. He drove home the message that Chapters are vital to MOAA's success and gave us all a much needed pep talk. Admiral Doran is on MOAA's Board of Directors, but is also a native of Albany. He grew up in north Albany, graduated from Vincentian Institute, and – get this – *spent his summers working on the Lake George cruise boats!* Our convention was a homecoming for him.

Continued on page 3

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – Sunday OCT 16, 1300 - 1600 hours at the Edison Club, Rexford, NY [The luncheon reservation form is on page 5.]

GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Kevin Kiley, MG US Army (Ret), 41st Army Surgeon General, and Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Albany Medical Center

REMINDER #1: Please get your reservation and payment to CHRIS COSTIGAN NOT LATER THAN Wednesday morning **October 12**. The Edison Club needs a final count by the Wednesday before our 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. Include 2016 chapter dues, if you have not yet paid.

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.

LAST MEETING OF 2016: Annual Meeting and Christmas/Holiday Party, Sunday, **December 11**, at the Edison Club, Rexford

CHAPTER NEWS

- Let's give a warm welcome to two new Chapter members:
 - **Kathy Gates**, COL USA, Ret.
 - **Merle Schreckengost**, Maj USAF Reserve
- At our **June meeting**, Ray Misiewicz, an engineer for nuclear propulsion systems for the U.S. Navy at the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory gave a very engaging presentation on the four submarines named "Seawolf" and Seawolf-class submarines that served the U.S. Navy from 1911 to present.
- **JROTC:** Great news! The Army agreed to officially recognize/sponsor the JROTC program at **Albany High School**, thanks to the efforts of NY Senator Charles Schumer, who was highly impressed with the program and the cadets he met there on a visit last school year. Big-time kudos to the program's founder and fellow Chapter member **Dave Erickson**, MAJ USA Ret. On June 23, Chapter Board Member, Al Memole, joined MAJ Erickson at their end of year awards ceremony and presented a MOAA medal and certificate to **Cadet Seth Montojo**.
- **December 17:** Our Chapter is a sponsor for **Wreaths Across America™** at the Gerald B. Solomon National Cemetery, Schuylerville. This is a 501(c)(3) corporation whose mission 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." **See Details on p. 5.**
- **"Why MOAA":** Go to the MOAA website at <http://www.moaa.org/> and check out the video. Share it with officers you know.

WWII 75TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION EVENTS at the World War II Memorial

Wednesday, December 7 - Pearl Harbor
75th Anniversary Remembrance Day
Observance

Saturday, January 7 - Battle of Bataan
75th Anniversary Commemoration

Friday, January 13 - Battle of the
Atlantic 75th Anniversary
Commemoration



November 14 is the deadline for submitting news articles, photos, bio's, or stories for the *next* issue. Please e-mail your input to newsletter editor Al Memole at amemole1@nycap.rr.com

44th NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS CONVENTION

Continued from page 1

Yet the Admiral's trip to Lake George was not just a trip down memory lane. Admiral Doran, like Colonel Wright, tries to get out to Chapters and state Councils to meet MOAA members and listen to our concerns. He and Colonel Wright shared with the NYS Council that MOAA is doing a comprehensive *bottom-up review* (BUR) of MOAA. The BUR is being undertaken in light of MOAA priorities, trying to identify those programs, policies, and activities that align with and best support those priorities. Conversely, the BUR also seeks to identify and either reform or eliminate those programs, policies, etc., that are not aligned with the organizations' priorities or are failing to promote them sufficiently. MOAA's leaders are committed to exercising good stewardship over the resources and funds entrusted to the organization by its members. Their fiscal goal is to "live off our interest, not our principal." Members should expect a few changes – all for the good of the organization, its goals, and us, its members, which, in turn, will benefit the Armed Forces, veterans, and our nation.

ON THE LEGISLATIVE HOME FRONT

On August 5, Chapter president Skip Bebernitz and Legislative Affairs Committee member Pat Piccirilli met with **U.S. Congressman Chris Gibson**, who gave his best estimate on the survivability of key MOAA legislative goals. He expects that the proposed goals for **force end strength, pay raise**, and sustaining **current levels of housing allowance** will survive intact. But, he also expects that a modest increase in Tricare costs will be conceded to win support for the previously mentioned goals. He cautioned that the Widows Tax may get a permanent fix, but it may be at the expense of end strength levels. The congressman has authored a 16-page document in support of all four MOAA positions in which he specifies the need for each and a way to fully fund them. In early August, he was preparing for a briefing in front of the 50-member Freedom Caucus. He was hoping to win their support to avert push back from the Senate and prepare for the possibility of over-riding a Presidential veto. Our Chapter leaders presented the congressman with a MOAA Certificate of Appreciation, which he deeply appreciated and will place in his Kinderhook, NY office.



From l. to r.: Pat Piccirilli, Rep. Chris Gibson, and Skip Bebernitz

On August 25, Chapter Legislative Affairs Committee member Pat Piccirilli held his second annual meeting with **U.S. Congressman Paul Tonko**, his District Scheduler Dan Peluso, and a political science major intern. Pat handed out folders with MOAA fact sheets and associated information. Then, he identified the four major issues that MOAA is advocating, explained the reasons for MOAA's position on each issue, and raised the idea of co-sponsoring bills pertaining to those issues.

Congressman Tonko, the intern, and his District Scheduler listened intently. The Congressman made the point that he did not think much was going to get done until after the elections. ON the topic of "Force Levels", he was particularly concerned about the Senate version which severely cut force end-year numbers for all services.

Congressman Tonko stated that he would review the issues identified by MOAA (as outlined in the August edition of Military Officer) and either sponsor or co-sponsor a bill, after review by his Defense Department budget advisor, Mr. Brendan Larkin. He seemed to agree with the MOAA perspective, but our Chapter must continue to work to maintain Congressman Tonko's interest in supporting MOAA's legislative objectives.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Summer has gone. I hope that you had an enjoyable period. I know some of our members have had health issues. Hopefully those are either fully resolved or are well on their way to resolution.

Several of us had a fantastic time at the NYS Council of Chapters sponsored by our Chapter. Ed and Jen did a Great Job of planning, organizing and recruiting helpers to make it a huge success. There were a lot of spectacular events and even better meals. Everyone in attendance had rave reviews for every facet of the program!

Now that we have had a chance to enjoy both the summer and also the social aspects of membership, rest, relax, and recharge ourselves, we need to address the Legislative Issues still facing MOAA. There were attacks in this country that have started wars, the British march on Lexington, MA, on 19 April 1775, the attack on Pearl Harbor, HI, on 7 December 1941, and the attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on 11 September 2001. There have been wars started in other locations throughout the world. The perceived successful conclusion of previous conflicts have lead the leadership of our country to act on a supposed "Peace Dividend" and gut and debone the military and related benefits in an effort to balance the Federal budget or fund social programs. Both are enviable goals, but leave the country's defense in a vulnerable position and those who serve or have served in a bad financial situation.

We are fortunate in our Chapter's area to have a Congressional delegation that supports the military and military personnel. It is imperative for us to show them how strongly we back them so that they will feel confident in dealing with their peers in Congress. Write, call, and email your Congressional Representative and both Senators to let them know how you feel!

There is strength in numbers to these goals. Therefore please redouble your efforts to find new members for the Chapter.

Skip Bebernitz 🐾



Ben & Sue Margolius enjoying the luncheon cruise aboard the Lac du Saint Sacrement

Lake George
2016



COL Barry Wright telling it like it is!



Barry & the "Rafflettes" - Jennifer Scheiber & Mary Memole

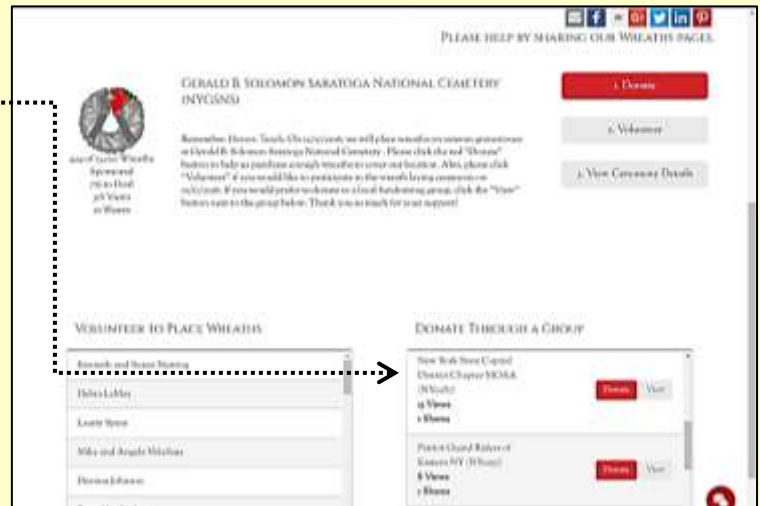
NEVER STOP SERVING

Wreaths Across America™

Our chapter is a fundraising sponsor of Wreaths Across America.

You can donate at <http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org>. Their main web page opens with a video and two red buttons – Donate and Volunteer. Click **Donate** and a box will open. Choose the link to “Sponsor a wreath at my local cemetery” and it will open a page where you can search for the Gerald B. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery (NYGSNS) page. Or, you can type this URL into your browser: <https://wreaths.fastport.com/donateLocation.html?page=16650> and go directly to the cemetery page, which allows you to find our Chapter among the fundraising groups. Our group code is **NY0087**.

The price of a wreath is **\$15**. The wreaths that we purchase will be placed at the Gerald B. Solomon National Cemetery in Schuylerville on **Dec 17**. If you would like to attend the ceremony and assist in placement of the wreaths, it starts at 1200 hrs. There are 13,100 graves, but only 929 wreaths and 50 volunteers as of September 30. Last December only two Chapter members and one spouse volunteered. Let’s do better this year!



Luncheon Reservation Form

Date: **October 16, 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.

Send reservation form and check to: **Chris Costigan** (phone: 518-884-2943)
153 Paisley Road
Ballston Spa, NY 12020-2109

Please make your reservation Not Later Than Wednesday, Oct 12.

Your name: _____ Number of persons attending: _____	Choices:	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Qty</th> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Menu Item</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">_____</td> <td>Flat Iron Steak</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">_____</td> <td>Chicken Alexander</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">_____</td> <td>Pecan-Encrusted Salmon</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Qty	Menu Item	_____	Flat Iron Steak	_____	Chicken Alexander	_____	Pecan-Encrusted Salmon
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New York State Capital District Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
PO Box 373
Waterford, NY 12188-0373

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.

More Lake George 2016



Ron Neaton still laughs at Jim Tille's jokes!



A more somber Ron Neaton leads the prayer at the Memorial Service



Honor Guard at the NYS Council of Chapters Memorial Service, September 15, Fort William Henry



Chris Costigan rings the bell in remembrance as Ben Margolius and Ed Scheiber read the names of the deceased.



After the formal banquet, Al & Mary Memole pose for Ralph Folger and his fancy camera.