

CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER, NEW YORK MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Volume 8, Issue 1

January 2017

Visit us at cdnymoaa.org



4-Star Chapter - 2015 & 2009



A MESSAGE FOR THE NEW YEAR FROM OUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT

I hope that this newsletter finds you and your loved ones well and that you had a great Holiday Season. My month of December was fantastic. There were the usual great friends and family moments, but I experienced some phenomenal military related moments as well. I do not keep a diary, but if I did excerpts would look something like this:

3 December - Mary Lou and I took Juliana (9 year old niece) and Logan (5 year old neighbor) to the West Point Band's Christmas Concert at the Ike Hall. It is wonderful seeing all of those Master Musicians performing! There were two specific highlights for me though, all of the solos in "Little Drummer Boy" including the Hell Cat Snare Drummers and the looks on the faces of the children when Santa entered the stage.

4 December -I got to participate in the "Toys for Tots" train from Albany to Rouses Point. The day started early with 0600 assembly at the Rensselaer Train Station but was well worth it. The passenger car's overhead luggage area was stuffed full of boxes of "Freihofers Chocolate Chip Cookies", the 7 baggage cars were filled with toys, coats, and other warm clothing. When we were complete with our stop at Rouses Point, *we had delivered over 10,000 toys to waiting children* at the station platforms along the way, over 3,000 coats to the same children, all of the boxes of cookies to all in attendance at the platforms, and over 40.00 toys to not for profit agencies along the way.

10 December - Army beat Navy 21-17. It finally happened!

11 December - The Chapter's annual Christmas Meeting was well attended. *The drop box for "Toys for Tots" was filled to overflowing.*

17 December (noon) - We laid wreaths at the Solomon National Cemetery. The final count of our Chapter's efforts for "Wreaths Across America" was 85 wreaths. Our goal of 65 was exceeded by 141%; our total of 39 wreaths last year was exceeded by 217%. You make me proud to be your President! Last year there were a total of slightly over 2,100 wreaths for the 13,000 graves. **This year there were 7,218 wreaths.** More importantly, last year there was a large gathering of people to lay the wreaths in the 50 degree weather. This year there was a raging snow storm, cold temperatures and a blowing wind. There were at least as many people present and up to the task.

17 December (evening) - Mary Lou and I went to "WAMC's The Linda Theater" to attend the annual Christmas Concert by the West Point Band's Benny Havens Band. They are the contemporary ensemble and perform all the classics to a modern arrangement. (*Continued on page 3.*)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, pp. 1 & 3
- CHAPTER HAPPENINGS, pp. 2 & 4
- NDAA, pp. 3-4
- CHAPTER OFFICERS, p. 5
- LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM, p. 5
- LOCAL EVENTS, p. 6

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

NEXT MEETING/LUNCHEON – Sunday FEBRUARY 12, 1300 - 1600 hours at the Edison Club, Rexford, NY *[The luncheon reservation form is on page 5.]*

Guest Speaker: Mike Abrams, MAJ, USMC, Ret, Adjunct Professor at Fordham University.

Major Abrams gave such a riveting and inspiring speech at the STRIDE Snowfest Welcome Banquet last year that the Chapter officers and board members determined right then and there to invite him to one of our meetings to speak to us. **DO NOT MISS THIS!**

REMINDER: Please get your reservation and payment to CHRIS COSTIGAN NOT LATER THAN Wednesday morning **February 8**. 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.

If you haven't done so yet, please pay your **annual dues** (\$15) for 2017. You may include the dues with your dinner reservation.

Chapter Meetings for 2017

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

- Apr 2
- Jun 11
- Oct 15
- Dec 10

Chapter Board Meetings

(NYS Military Museum, Saratoga Springs, NY)

- ❖ Aug 12 *(Lake George -tentative)*
- ❖ Nov 4

Opportunities to help others, for those attending the luncheon:

- **Homeless veterans.** Please bring items as dish soap, dishwasher soap, paper towels, laundry soap, or toilet paper to donate to the Guardian House for homeless female vets as well as the *Ballston Spa house for homeless male vets*. Chris Costigan will collect all donated items and deliver them to both the houses. If you have any questions you may contact Chris at 884-2943.
- **Books for the Troops.** Please bring along 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 that will be sent to deployed service members.

CHAPTER NEWS & EVENTS

- STRIDE Adaptive Sports' **12th Annual Snowfest for Wounded Warriors** will be held at Jiminy Peak March 4-5. Since 2009, STRIDE has provided sports opportunities to help restore shattered lives of recently injured military personnel returning home from battle ("Wounded Warriors"). *Our Chapter has been a sponsor over the past three years.*
- **All Chapter members are invited to attend the Welcome Banquet** to honor past and present participants on **Friday, March 3, at the Hilton Garden Inn, Troy, from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm.** Cost is \$40 per person, which helps to support the event. Our Chapter will have a reserved table, so if you plan to attend please tell Skip Bebernitz. Or, if you wish to purchase tickets directly see <http://www.stride.org/>. Let them know that you want to sit at our table.
- STRIDE also accepts sponsor donations from \$100-499, \$500, \$1,000, and up, so the veterans may participate at no charge – Total cost for the entire four-day event for everyone is \$40,000.

(Continued on page 4)

(President's Message continued from page 1.)

27 December - Army defeated the University of North Texas 38-31 in overtime at the Greater Texas Bowl. Hey, it was the year of sports anomalies: The Cavaliers won the NBA Championship, the Cubs won the World Series, and the Cleveland Browns did *not* lose every game!

During the month, both houses of Congress agreed on a generous version of the NDAA (summarized below). It passed with a veto proof majority and the President signed it into law. *This would not have happened without the efforts of you and the members of all of the MOAA Chapters contacting their Congressperson!*

Many of these events were listed on the Chapter's List of Interesting Events page of the website. If you have not looked at the website (www.cdnymoaa.org) in a while, take a fresh look. You will be impressed!

Let's look forward to a GREAT YEAR! *Skip Bebernitz* 🇺🇸

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Below is a partial list of key provisions from the 2017 NDAA copied from the MOAA website.

Affecting currently serving military members and families

- Raises military pay by 2.1% in 2017 (matching the average American's), vs. 1.6% proposed by DoD.
- Increases end strength of all services significantly above the Pentagon proposals.
- Rejects housing allowance cuts of tens of thousands of dollars a year for dual-service member couples.
- Eliminates 2-year eligibility limitation (after PCS) for noncompetitive appointment of military spouses to federal civilian positions.

Affecting Survivor Benefits

- Extends the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance this allowance for SBP-DIC widows through May 2018 at the current \$310 monthly rate *(This will give MOAA an opportunity to push Congress next year to increase and further extend the allowance, or eliminate the offset in its entirety).*
- Upgrades Survivor Benefit Plan formula for Reserve Component members who die while on inactive duty for training to equal SBP benefits for those who die on active duty.

Affecting TRICARE Benefits and Fees

- **No changes to TFL.** The bill rejects the Pentagon proposal to impose an annual TFL enrollment fee of up to 2% of military retired pay.
- Rejects a DoD proposal to roughly double TRICARE pharmacy copays over 10 years.
- Imposes significantly increased fees and copays *only for those who will enter service on or after January 1, 2018.*
- Grandfathers currently serving and currently retired members and families against most increases.
- EXCEPT current retirees and family members enrolled in TRICARE Standard (to be renamed TRICARE Select) will pay a new enrollment fee of \$150/\$300 (single/family) per year, starting in 2020 (NOTE: Chapter 61 (medical) retirees and survivors of members who died on active duty will be exempt from this enrollment fee).
- Establishes a new requirement for retired members and families (except TFL) to execute a formal annual enrollment in either TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select, starting in 2017 (IMPORTANT: this means they will have to physically sign a piece of paper to enroll; enrollment will be required for TRICARE coverage). *(Continued on the next page.)*

- Eliminates a requirement to get pre-authorization for urgent care, and requires all military medical facilities to maintain urgent care hours until 11 p.m.
- Authorizes DoD to provide hearing aids to family members of retirees at DoD cost.
- Authorizes a pilot program of offering commercial insurance coverage to Reserve component members and families on the same basis as federal civilians.
- Requires implementation of standard appointment system at all military facilities no later than Jan. 1, 2018, including issuance of appointment on first call and 24/7 online service availability.
- Authorizes retired members and families to participate in federal civilian dental and vision plan (the current retiree dental program will go away).
- Restores provider payments for treatment of autism to higher rates that were in effect before April 2016.

Affecting Military Health Care Reform

- Places all military hospitals and clinics under the authority of the Defense Health Agency for purposes of budgeting, health care policy, and health care administration.
- Requires pilot program of value-based care, which would reimburse providers at higher rate for providing top-quality care and reduce or eliminate copays for high-value medications and medical services.
- Requires new TRICARE contracts to improve beneficiary access, improve medical outcomes, improve quality of care, enhance beneficiary experiences, and reduce DoD health care costs.
- By mid-2017, incorporate into annual performance review of all military and civilian health care leaders' measures of accountability for patient access to care, quality of care, improvement in health care outcomes, and patient safety.
- By January 2018, implement productivity standards (e.g., patients seen per day) for all providers in military treatment facilities (this is intended to improve patient access to timely care).

Other Matters

- Rejected the Senate's proposal mandating female Selective Service registration, and instead included a requirement to review the continuing need for Selective Service System registration and the potential for a national service program.
- Requires a DoD report on travel costs incurred by Reserve Component members.

Chapter News & Events continued from page 2.

- Our Chapter will be hosting the **2017 NYS Council of Chapters Annual Convention** again at Lake George. Other chapters will be helping, but we still need volunteers to repeat (or exceed) the success we had last September. *Please contact one of the Chapter leaders to let us know if you can help.*
- We **still need volunteers** to lead or help our efforts in *Public Relations, Transition Assistance, and Surviving Spouse Liaison*. Spouses are welcome to participate.

Watch for upcoming events in 2017 related to ...

- The Bicentennial of the West Point Band
- The Centennial of the 82nd Airborne Division and other units created for WWI and still exist
- The Centennial of American involvement in WWI
- The 75th anniversary of WWII
- The 70th Anniversary of the USAF
- The 50th Anniversary of the Viet Nam conflict.

February 25 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

CHAPTER OFFICERS

CHAPTER OFFICE	INCUMBENT	E-MAIL
President	Ernest "Skip" Bebernitz, MAJ USA, RET	pres@cdnymoaa.org
1 st Vice President	Christopher J. Costigan, CDR USN, RET	1vp@cdnymoaa.org
2 nd 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	Edmund M. Scheiber, Jr.**, Lt Col USAF, RET
Rocco D. Acquilano, CDR, USNR, RET	Thomas W. Lenahan, Capt USAF, RET
Martin Leukhardt**, RADM USNR, RET	Charles Marshall, CWO4 USNR, RET
Alfred M. Memole, LTC USA, RET	Ronald Neaton**, CAPT USNR, RET

* Immediate Past-President

** Former President

Luncheon Reservation Form

Date: **February 12, 2017**

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 **2017**, 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, Feb 8.

Your name: _____ Choices:

Number of persons attending: _____

<u>Qty</u>	<u>Menu Item</u>
_____	Flat Iron Steak
_____	Chicken Alexander
_____	Pecan-Encrusted Salmon



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.

UPCOMING EVENTS at the NEW YORK STATE MILITARY MUSEUM

FEB 4, 2:00pm: War on the Middleline [FREE]

A local historian, Jim Richmond, describes the 1780 raid by British soldiers, Loyalists, and Mohawk warriors on new settlements along Middleline Road in Ball's Town.

FEB 11, 2:00pm: Saipan - The Friction of War [FREE]

Pat Chaisson, retired National Guard officer and historian, discusses this WWII battle - the largest military operation in the Central Pacific Theater. From June 15 to July 8, 1944, 49,000 US Marines and soldiers fought over 30,000 well-armed and entrenched Japanese troops in one of the bloodiest battles of the war.

FEB 25, 1:00-4:00pm: American Bombshells USO Show [\$30 in advance; \$35 at the door, \$25 for active military with ID]

The American Bombshells from New York City pay tribute to US military veterans with a USO-type show of the kind that entertained military personnel during the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

MAR 11, 2:00pm: The War of 1812 from President Madison's Perspective [FREE]

Kyle Jenks, a professional historical interpreter, portrays President Madison discussing the war from the attack on Fort McHenry in Baltimore, to the battle of Plattsburgh to the treaty of Ghent.

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

Tuesday, April 18: Doolittle Raid 75th Anniversary Commemoration at the WWII Memorial

Thursday, May 4: Battle of the Coral Sea 75th Anniversary Commemoration at the WWII Memorial

Monday, May 8: V-E Day Observance at the WWII Memorial

Monday, May 29 Memorial Day Observance at the WWII Memorial

