

CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER, NEW YORK MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Volume 8, Issue 3

May 2017

Visit us at cdnymoaa.org



4-Star Chapter - 2015 & 2009



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT

My message for this newsletter will be a miscellany of different items and may seem disjointed; however I hope that you are able to get some useful information from them. These remarks are brief; there might be additional information available on specific topics elsewhere in this newsletter.

We have two of the best communicators in all of MOAA. Ralph Folger has been awarded the **COL Marvin Harris 5 Star Communication Award for the website**. The judging took place prior to the site being hacked twice. Each time, Ralph has taken the site to an even higher level of excellence. Last year Ralph received a 4 Star award. Al Memole has received the COL Marvin Harris 4 Star Communication Award for the Newsletter. This is the second year in a row. The newsletter is being prevented from the 5 Star rating by keeping it to 6 pages in order to keep costs down, which precludes him from meeting all of the award criteria in every issue. A couple of issues ago Al put the digital version of the newsletter in color. Perhaps the Chapter's newsletter will follow the lead of most major media and make additional content available on line with each issue.

The **Legislative Affairs Committee** has been busy with post "Storming the Hill" visits with local Congresspersons. [*See page 3.*]

Nick Laiacona, LTC US Army Ret. and the Chairman of the **Capital District 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Viet Nam War** Committee will be attending our Oct meeting. *He will be presenting Lapel Pins to those of us who served on active duty at any point and any place during the 1 Nov 55 through 15 May 75 timeframe.* He needs a 2-3 sentence bio sketch of those who plan to attend to receive the award.

The **annual placement of flags at the Gerald Solomon National Cemetery** will be on 27 May with the opening ceremony starting at 0800 hours.

MOAA has a new travel agency. Information is available at MOAAVacations.com. A portion of every commission earned by the agency comes back to the Chapter.

There will be a **Golf Tournament** on 31 Jul to raise funds for "Toys for Tots".

The presentation at the June meeting will be on **Terrorism Counteraction**. The speaker is a new member of the Chapter. Come out to meet him and to learn some beneficial information.

I hope to see you at the luncheon

Skip Bebernitz 🇺🇸

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, p. 1
- CHAPTER HAPPENINGS, p. 2
- LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS p. 3
- 2017 CoC CONVENTION, pp. 4-6
- LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM, p. 7
- **BONUS ARTICLES**, pp. 8-10



CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

NEXT MEETING/LUNCHEON – Sunday June 11, 1300 - 1600 hours at the Edison Club, Rexford, NY [The luncheon reservation form is on page 7.]

GUEST SPEAKER: Chapter member, Merle Schreckengost - Terrorism Counteraction

REMINDER: Please get your reservation and payment to CHRIS COSTIGAN NOT LATER THAN Wednesday morning **June 7**. 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.

HIGHLIGHTED CHARITY for this edition → BOOKS FOR TROOPS, INC.



sends "care packages for the mind" to our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq by providing a variety of books that help ease their fears, loneliness, boredom, stress and to allow them a temporary escape from the daily horrors of war. 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.

[<http://booksfortroops.org>]

- The **April 2 meeting** treated attendees to a lively historical debate pitting Joe Craig (below left) for Horatio Gates against Larry Arnold (below right) for Benedict Arnold, as to who was the better general at the battle of Saratoga. Hint: It wasn't Burgoyne – just sayin'.



General Membership Sunday Luncheons 2017 (at the Edison Club, Rexford, NY)

- Oct 15
- Dec 10 - Annual Holiday Party

- Chapter Legislative Liaison**, Pat Piccirilli, attended a special workshop for MOAA chapter liaisons given by Col. Dan Merry in Atlantic City, NJ, on May 6, 2017. Much of the training session was devoted to State matters and how to organize at the State and local level to affect change.
- JROTC news.** Our Chapter sponsored the MOAA JROTC medal and certificate for three area high school students who demonstrated outstanding leadership and academic performance. Receiving awards at their school's annual awards ceremony were:
 - **David Van Beusekom**, Christian Brothers Academy, Albany, May 3
 - **Natasha Sanchez-Rivera**, Amsterdam High School, May 11
 - **Lovell Graham**, Albany High School, May 31 (upcoming)

Chapter Board Meetings 2017

- ❖ Aug 19 (Lake George - new date)
- ❖ Nov 4 (NYS Military Museum, Saratoga Springs, NY)

CHAPTER LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Our Chapter's **Legislative Affairs Committee** (Pat Piccirilli, Chris Costigan, Dana Berntson, and Skip Bebernitz) really has been busy following up with our Congressional representatives after MOAA's annual "Storming the Hill". Our primary objective is to convince our members of Congress to protect the pay and benefits of all who served in our nation's armed forces. The specific objectives of each visit are:

- To continue a relationship with the member of Congress and the member's local staff;
- Review the three major issues on MOAA's fact sheets - eliminating sequestration, eliminating the "Widows Tax", and maintaining equitable Tricare fees;
- Discuss the possibility of cosponsoring a bill and reviewing associated issues.

Here are summaries from reports of two visits our Chapter made recently:

1. VISIT WITH CONGRESSMAN JOHN FASO, 19th DISTRICT, 24 APRIL 2017.

- Executive Summary:** This was the first meeting with freshman Congressman John Faso. All objectives were achieved. Four chapter members presented folders with the MOAA fact sheets and associated information, and discussed MOAA's three major issues, explaining the reasons behind each issue. The Congressman said he will give serious consideration to co-sponsoring the house bill dealing with eliminating the "Widows Tax". The Chapter delegates informed him of their intent to return sometime in August as a follow up to this meeting.
- Discussion and Comments:** Congressman Faso listened intently and asked a number of questions to help him understand the issues. He agreed to review the issues identified by MOAA in the folders given him, and possibly co-sponsor the bill to eliminate the "Widows Tax". He might have been visited by a MOAA rep during "Storming the Hill", but the Chapter's visit made him more aware of the number of chapters in the state and in his district. We may need to educate the Congressman on the total MOAA picture, including the alliances MOAA has with other military advocacy organizations.



2. VISIT WITH CONGRESSMAN PAUL TONKO, 20th DISTRICT, 9 MAY 2017.

- Executive Summary:** This was the Chapter's third visit in three years to Congressman Tonko's office. All objectives were achieved. Chapter President "Skip" Bebernitz and Pat Piccirilli met with the Congressman, his District Director (Ryan Horstmyer), and an intern. The Chapter reps handed out folders with MOAA fact sheets and associated information, and discussed MOAA's three major issues, explaining the reasons behind each issue. They also pushed the concept of co-sponsoring a bill.
- Discussion and Comments:** Congressman Tonko and his staff all listened intently. He opposes Sequestration and voted against the measure in 2011. Although he did not see anyone from MOAA during "Storming the Hill", he's heard concerns about the "Widows' Tax", and knew that Representative Joe Wilson initiated a bill to eliminate it. (He did not seem aware of the issue last year.) Our delegates explained the unfairness of that offset, and also explained MOAA's opposition to disproportional TRICARE fee hikes: TRICARE fee increases should not exceed the COLA for retirees' pay. This led to a discussion about calculating COLA percentage. Congressman Tonko said he would review the issues identified by MOAA and sponsor or co-sponsor a bill after review by his Defense budget adviser. He seemed to agree with MOAA's positions, but more work is required on our part and our Legislative Affairs Committee anticipates visiting him again in August.

2017 NYS COUNCIL of CHAPTERS ANNUAL CONVENTION

ATTENTION ALL MOAA MEMBERS! You are all cordially invited and encouraged to attend the 45th Annual Meeting of the New York State Council of Chapters, Tuesday, September 19th through Friday, September 22nd, at the picturesque Fort William Henry (FWH) Resort and Convention Center in the Adirondack Park. (<http://www.fortwilliamhenry.com>) The resort is located in the Village of Lake George on the southern shore of this beautiful lake. It is within walking distance of the Village and the town boardwalk along the foot of the lake. The Village of Lake George is off Exit 21 of the Adirondack Northway (I-87), just a couple of miles north on Route 9.

NYS COC 2017 CONVENTION – RESERVATIONS & PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- Prices are listed with the Reservation Form on page 5
- Convention reservation form with first payment (50% deposit) due **by June 30**
 - Deposit = 50% of the total cost. To get total cost, refer to the Convention Pricing Calculator on the Convention Reservation Form [Newsletter page 5] for room pricing.
 - Make checks payable to: **MOAA Convention 2017**
 - Mail the Reservation Form, your meal selections, and your check to:

Norma Weissend, Genesee Valley Chapter
 4587 Ridge Rd, Canandaigua, NY 14424
 (585) 727-6190
- Reservations AFTER 31 Jul 2017 accepted on space available basis.
- Final payment of the balance due **NLT August 11**
- There will be **no** cancellations accepted after 15 Aug 2017 (unless there are extenuating circumstances).



For general questions about the NYS COC 2017 convention contact:

Tim Balunis at: Balunis@roadrunner.com 716-573-5401

Ben Margolius at: benmargolius@me.com 607-341-2655

Ed Scheiber at: edmundscheiber@gmail.com 518-668-5566

Skip Bebernitz at: ebeberni@nycap.rr.com 518-237-4738



Uniform of the Day

Breakfast and Lunch	Resort casual (no jeans, tank tops)
Barbecue on Tuesday evening	Resort casual (no jeans, tank tops)
Dinner Theater on Wednesday evening	Resort casual (no jeans, tank tops)
Banquet on Thursday evening	Dinner dress/service uniform or dark suit; Ladies (as appropriate)

- To help reduce overall expenses, ***please bring your chapter name tag.***

See the list of activities planned for the convention on Page 7.

PLEASE RETURN THIS ENTIRE FORM WITH YOUR DEPOSIT

NYS COC 2017 ANNUAL CONVENTION RESERVATION FORM

Name:	
Rank:	Service:
How you want your name to appear on your nametag:	
Chapter &/or Council Position (if applicable):	
Mailing Address:	
City:	State: ZIP:
Home Phone:	Cell:
Email:	
Name(s) of other person(s) who will be staying in your room:	How their names should appear on nametag:
<p>Please describe any special accommodation considerations? (Examples: handicap access, bed type or number, dietary needs, etc.) There is no guarantee on bed type however.</p>	
<p>Choose one: <input type="checkbox"/> I would like a room with a view of the Lake; <input type="checkbox"/> I have no room preference</p>	

- Please note: **first come – first served for lake-view rooms**
- **If you wish to come early or stay after the convention**, you must make your own arrangements with the hotel. The hotel will honor the room rate on a space-A basis.

PLEASE SEE PAGE 6 FOR CONVENTION PRICING & MEAL SELECTIONS

CONVENTION PRICING CALCULATOR

(A) Package Option	(B) Price per couple/person*	(C) Number of couples/singles	(D) TOTAL PRICE = (B) x (C)	(E) DEPOSIT= (D) x .5 (50%)	(F) \$ AMOUNT ENCLOSED
FULL, Tue-Fri, Couple	\$810				
FULL, Tue-Fri, One person	\$550				
ONE Night, Thu, Couple	\$245				
ONE Night, Thu, One person	\$176				
				TOTAL	

* These prices are for a standard air conditioned, no smoking room.

- The total room price in the Convention Pricing Calculator includes all of the following:
 - Welcome Package
 - Daily Happy Hour in our own hospitality suite
 - Three buffet breakfasts and one buffet lunch
 - Barbecue on Tuesday evening
 - Luncheon Cruise on Lake George on Wednesday aboard the Lac du Saint Sacrement
 - The Lake George Dinner Theater on Wednesday evening
 - Free tour of historic Fort William Henry
 - Annual Banquet with hors d'oeuvres on Thursday evening
 - Complete access to all the FWH facilities
 - All tips and taxes
- Make checks payable to: **MOAA Convention 2017**
- Mail the Reservation Form with your meal selections and payment to:

Norma Weissend, Genesee Valley Chapter
4587 Ridge Rd, Canandaigua, NY 14424 (585) 727-6190

CONVENTION MEAL SELECTIONS

For each event below, write next to a meal option the number of people in your party who want that option. Please make sure that you mark the correct number of choices per event. And please – only one option per person per event – even if you think you could eat two!

LAKE GEORGE DINNER THEATER (Wed. Sep 20)	BANQUET DINNER (Thu. Sep 21)
Medallions of Beef _____	Chicken Picatta _____
Oven Baked Chicken Breast _____	Baked Salmon _____
Broiled Atlantic Salmon _____	Prime Rib _____
Vegetarian Pasta _____	

NYS COC 2017 CONVENTION – PLANNED SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Tuesday, September 19th

- Registration in the lobby of the FWH Hotel (between 2 & 4 PM)
- Distribution of Tickets and Schedules
- Barbecue Dinner

Wednesday, September 20th

- Buffet Breakfast in the White Lion Room
- Luncheon Cruise aboard the luxurious Lac du Saint Sacrement
- Dinner & Show at the Lake George Dinner Theater



** "Hospitality Room" each evening before and after dinner

Thursday, September 21st

- Buffet Breakfast in the White Lion Room
- Convention Business Meeting (spouses & friends have free time to explore)
- Council of Chapters Business and Reports
- Lunch on your own
- Tour of the historic Fort William Henry
- NYS CoC Annual Memorial Service
- NYS CoC Officer Installation Banquet
Guest Speaker from MOAA National
****** NEW*** Presentation of MOAA's Level Of Excellence Awards**

Friday, September 22nd

- Farewell Buffet Breakfast in the White Lion
- Room Checkout and good-byes
- Optional visit to the Viet Nam Moving Wall display at Bolton Landing (12 miles north)

Luncheon Reservation Form

Date: **June 11, 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, June 7.

Your name: _____

Choices:

Number of persons attending: _____

- | Qty | Menu Item |
|-------|------------------------|
| _____ | 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.



WEST
POINT
BAND

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	PROGRAM
Jun 17 (Sat.)	7:30 p.m.	Trophy Point Amphitheater, West Point	March Along, Sing our Song - Army Birthday Celebration
Jun 21 (Wed.)	6:30 p.m.	Trophy Point Amphitheater, West Point	Strike Up the Band!
Jun 24 (Sat.)	7:30 p.m.	Trophy Point Amphitheater, West Point	Steel Band: Music of the Caribbean
Jul 1 (Sat.)	7:30 p.m.	Trophy Point Amphitheater, West Point	Benny Havens Band West Point Block Party
Jul 8 (Sat.) <i>Rain date Jul 9</i>	7:30 p.m.	Trophy Point Amphitheater, West Point	Independence Day Celebration
Jul 15 (Sat.)	7:00 p.m.	Boonton, NJ	Patriotic Showcase
Jul 22 (Sat.)	7:00 p.m.	Trophy Point Amphitheater, West Point	Kids Night: Road Trip Across America
Aug 9 (Wed.)	7:30 p.m.	Clifton, NJ	Clifton Centennial
Aug 12 (Sat.)	7:30 p.m.	Trophy Point Amphitheater, West Point	All American!
Aug 16 (Wed.) <i>Rain date Aug 17</i>	6:30 p.m.	Vanderbilt Mansion, Hyde Park, NY	Music in the Parks
Sep 3 (Sun.) <i>Rain date Sep 4</i>	7:30 p.m.	Trophy Point Amphitheater, West Point	Trophy Point Amphitheater, West Point



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

Monday, May 29 - Memorial Day Observance

Saturday, June 3 - Battle of Midway 75th Anniversary

Monday, August 7 - Battle of Guadalcanal 75th Anniversary Commemoration

Saturday, September 2 - V-J Day Observance



Join us for the 2017 Capital Region Toys for Tots Golf Invitational!

Featuring:

18 Holes of Golf on the scenic, private course at The Edison Club in Rexford, NY.

Delicious Lunch, Dinner, and Cocktails.

Awards, Raffles, Prizes and Giveaways!

Shotgun start: 12:00pm

Foursome: \$650.00 or Single Player \$165.00 – All Inclusive

★ To Register: Email shelby@toysfortotsalbany.com ★

Sponsorships Available!

We were able to touch the lives of 135,000 children in the Capital Region in 2016. Let's make 2017 bigger and better!

Please Join us for a fun filled day while supporting an important cause within our local community!



About Toys for Tots

The mission of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.

www.toysfortotsalbany.com

MOAA FEATURED LEGISLATIVE ALERT (From the MOAA Website)

<http://capwiz.com/moaa/home/>

BE CAUTIOUS WITH COMPENSATION REFORM

In a 2015 report, the Military Compensation and Modernization Commission noted modernization might benefit individual compensation programs, but “the overall structure of the current compensation system is fundamentally sound and does not require sweeping overhaul.” The commission also recommended keeping the basic pay table in its current form and continuing the basic allowances for housing and subsistence (BAH and BAS).



We need legislators to reflect on the potential derailment of a system that is currently working. Altering regular military compensation could have significant impacts on recruitment and retention.

OTHER LEGISLATIVE ALERTS AND UPDATES

- [Fix Call Up Orders for Guard and Reserve](#) [Take Action](#)
- [Act now to help military survivors](#)
MOAA and the House and Senate Armed Services Committees are trying to help military widows who are penalized up to \$15,000 a year under current law. ...
[Take Action](#)
- [Fix Call Up Orders for Guard and Reserve](#)
- [Top 10 solutions for wounded, ill, and injured veterans.](#)
- [Repeal Sequestration](#)
- [Raise SSIA for Military Widows](#)

Currently on Exhibit at the NEW YORK STATE MILITARY MUSEUM

CIVIL WAR PAINTINGS NOW ON DISPLAY: This exhibit highlights some of the finest Civil War artwork from the collection of the Military Museum on a rotating basis. The first installment includes works by Thure de Thulstrup, including Thulstrup’s vivid paintings that were used to create a set of chromolithograph prints in 1886 that became the most popular and best-selling prints ever produced. The exhibit will later include James Walker’s twelve-foot long painting of the Battle of Resaca that had been believed to be lost since 1959 but was recently discovered and restored.

FIERY TRIAL AND SACRIFICE: New York and the First World War.

Fiery Trial and Sacrifice chronicles America’s road to war and the contributions made by New York State’s military forces such as the 27th Division—proudly known as “New York’s Own;” the “Fighting 69th”—New York City’s famed Irish regiment; the 77th Division - known as “The Melting Pot Division”, and New York’s first African-American regiment which achieved wide acclaim and later became known as the “Harlem Hellfighters.” A recreated trench features display cases filled with firearms and bayonets, gas masks and grenades, trench art, personal items and medical instruments.