

CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER, NEW YORK MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Volume 12, Issue 3, May-June 2021



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4-Star Chapter – 2019
5-Star 2017 & 2018



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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.

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

OUR NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON MEETING IS SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 1300 - 1600 hours ...AND, WE'RE BACK AT THE EDISON CLUB!!! *All new menu items: SIRLOIN BEEF TIPS, CHICKEN MARSALA, COD FLORENTINE*

Guest Speaker: Pat Chaisson, LTC, USA (Ret), will talk about the NY Air National Guard in Viet Nam



OPORDER 6-21

1. The Edison Club needs our final count of meal selections by Sunday June 6, to order food for the 13th. To meet that deadline, if you plan to attend:
 - a. Complete the reservation form at the very end of this eNewsletter and mail it with a check to Treasurer Al Memole by June 1 for delivery on or before June 5, **OR**
 - b. Email Al at ammemole@gmail.com (or call his cell at 518-641-8664) NLT Saturday June 5, providing your name, guest's name, and meal selections and pay when you arrive at the luncheon.
2. We want all members to come, *but if you feel sick*, please stay home. Those vaccinated for COVID-19 do NOT need to wear a mask; those not vaccinated *should* wear a mask except when at table and eating; status based on honor system.

HIGHLIGHTED CHARITY for this issue → *Same as last issue!*

- We will be collecting donations for Guardian House and Vet House at our **June meeting**. Both houses need and will accept clothing, furniture, household items, cleaning supplies, personal care items (*yes, this includes highly coveted toilet paper*), pillows, twin-size comforters, twin-size sheet sets, towels and washcloths, and also financial donations, which go toward repairs and purchases of clothing and other essentials. If you prefer, you may always donate directly to the Veterans & Community Housing Coalition (VCHC). Please see the VCHC website (<http://www.vchcny.org/transitional>) for more information. Thanks!

Chapter News and other items of interest

- **MEMORIAL DAY.** Let us remember all those who died in the line of duty to defend our nation and our freedoms. Flags will be placed for Memorial Day at the Gerald B. H. Solomon National Cemetery in Saratoga over 3 days with time blocks and areas assigned to various groups. The local AUSA chapter will be there from 0800-1000 on Saturday 29 May placing flags at one of the Columbaria. The local Marine Corps League will be participating as well.
- **LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT.** (*submitted by Pat Piccirilli*)



In early April our Chapter Legislative Committee in concert with the other New York State MOAA chapter representatives began planning, and training for MOAA's annual event, this time under the moniker of "Advocacy in Action 2021" rather than "Storming the Hill", for

obvious reasons. For this event, MOAA was focusing on three issues: toxic exposure reform, TRICARE Young Adult parity, and Basic Needs Allowance. Information on the three issues can be found at [Home](http://moaa.org) (moaa.org)

Under the umbrella of the NYS Council of Chapters, NYS MOAA chapter representatives were assigned to contact each Congressional member representing New York. As you can imagine this required a reasonable amount of planning, and in some cases a quick learn of MS Teams or Zoom, since the contacts were all virtual. Our chapter team was designated to contact *Representatives Tonko, Meng, and Stefanik* and also *Senator Gillibrand*. As of this writing our team has sent a request to virtually meet with each of the four designated Congressional members in addition to attaching position papers citing the three issues mentioned above. So far our efforts have yielded meaningful conversations with the staffs of Representative Tonko and Stefanik.

- **NYS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS 2021 CONVENTION.** This year's convention will once again be *virtual*. The focus will be looking forward to *next* year and making it a Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Council. There was discussion among all present at the Council's Mid-Year meeting about holding a Convention this year that would have been similar to the abbreviated one that was planned then cancelled for last year. At the time when the meeting took place, the future of the pandemic was uncertain and new protocols had not yet been announced publicly. A motion was made and passed to err on the side of caution for this year's convention and stick with the online *virtual* format. Well, that will make attendance accessible and inexpensive. Attendees may consume adult beverages (or Bailey's) in the comfort of their own homes.

DATES FOR UPCOMING 2021 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON MEETINGS

Oct 3

Dec 12

- **CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DUES – NEW OPTION!** Annual Chapter dues are **\$30**. This year so far, **29** members have paid dues for 2021, up from 14 in April. Last year, 40 members paid. Our Chapter now offers *THREE* options to pay annual dues: (1) Include your payment as part of your luncheon reservation or pay at the door when you attend a luncheon; (2) Mail a check, *payable to NYS CDC MOAA*, either directly to Treasurer, Al Memole, at 8 Rose Lane, Rensselaer, NY 12144, or to our Chapter PO Box in Waterford; **and now (3) Pay by credit or debit card online through the MOAA website.** [[See instructions on page 7](#)]
- **AUSA’s CAPITAL DISTRICT OF NY CHAPTER ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT AND FUNDRAISER.** This event is set for *Monday, 14 June 2021 at the Eagle Crest Golf Course in Clifton Park, NY*. The local AUSA chapter invites all real and wants-be golfers to consider signing up as individuals or in teams. Organizations are asked to consider sponsoring a tee. There will be an auction during the event with items donated by AUSA members and friends. If you would like to make a donation for the auction, please let John Willsey know. Last year, due to following the COVID guidelines in place at that time, *no* tournament participants contracted the virus. Tournament organizers intend to again ensure the health and safety of all participants. [[See flyer on pages 4 & 5](#) for complete information on this event, including registration fees and details.]
- **HINTS TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM TELEPHONE SCAMS.** (*info provided by Skip Bebernitz from multiple sources*) We used to be able to “smell” a scam call when a 900 number would appear on our phone’s screen. Now, many scam artists are using different area codes, including 809 from the Caribbean. Some area codes appear similar to US codes, but aren’t. For example, area code 473 appears to be domestic, but is actually for the island of Grenada. You could be charged for taking a call from one of these foreign countries, in addition to falling for phony schemes and stories, including those involving iPhones and Uber. The best counter to telephone scams is to ***never answer or return a call from a number you don’t recognize***. People you actually know can always leave you a voicemail. Be especially wary of calls from the following area codes (International Area Codes with a +1 Country Code)”

232—Sierra Leone

242 — Bahamas

246 — Barbados

268 — Antigua

284 — British Virgin Islands

345 — Cayman Islands

441 — Bermuda

473 — Grenada, Carriacou, and Petite

Martinique

649 — Turks and Caicos

664 — Montserrat

721 — Sint Maarten

758 — St. Lucia

767 — Dominica

784 — St. Vincent and Grenadines

809, 829, and 849 — the Dominican Republic

868 — Trinidad and Tobago

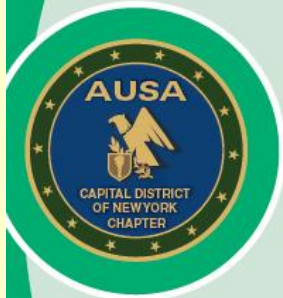
869 — St. Kitts and Nevis

876 — Jamaica

If you get charged for picking up a scam call, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recommends contacting your phone company first to try and take care of the matter. You can also file a complaint with the FCC.

**THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES
ARMY IS REOPENING ON THE ARMY’S BIRTHDAY,
JUNE 14! THE MUSEUM IS LOCATED AT 1775
LIBERTY DR, FORT BELVOIR, VA 22060**

The Association of the U.S. Army Capital District – New York Chapter



CELEBRATING
THE UNITED STATES ARMY'S
246th BIRTHDAY

GOLF

FUND RAISER

14 June 2021

Eagle Crest Golf Course, 1004 Route 146 A, Clifton Park, NY 12065

\$125.00 includes:

- Green Fees & Cart
- Continental breakfast
- Lunch (Grab and Go)
- Chicken & Rib BBQ (cash bar)
- Awards and Prizes

Non-golfers are invited to join us for the buffet at 1430 hrs for \$25.00 per person

The "Scramble, "Longest Drive" and "Closest to the Pin" contests are a fund raiser to benefit AUSA programs and support Soldiers, Veterans and their Families. Join us for a full day of golf, a Posting of the Colors by the New York Army National Guard and a cake cutting ceremony, celebrating the U.S. Army's 246th birthday.

POC:

John Willsey

518.496.2669

jwillsfc@aol.com



0730-0830 registration and continental breakfast
 0900 shot gun start
 1400 turn in scorecard
 1430 buffet (cash bar), prizes, awards and auction results

**TEAM
ENTRY FORM**

Team Name: _____

Player 1: _____
(Team CPT or individual registration)

Player 2: _____

Player 3: _____





Player 4: _____

**Make checks payable to:
CD-NY Chapter-AUSA
and mail no later than
8 June 2021 to:
John Willsey
48 McDonald Drive
Cohoes, NY 12047**

The Association of the U.S. Army
Capital District – New York Chapter

SPONSOR FORM

Register my business/agency/family at the following support level:

	Corps Commander <small>(includes foursome)</small>	\$1,000.00 and above
	Commanding General	\$500.00 to \$999.00
	Deputy Commander	\$250.00 to \$499.00
	Command Sergeant Major	\$150.00 to \$249.00

In lieu of a monetary donation I would like to provide an auction item. Description:

Sponsorships at the CORPS, CG, DC and CSM level will be publicly recognized in print and on the Capital District NY Chapter-AUSA Facebook page as well as having a tee sponsorship sign. In addition, CORPS and CG levels receive special golf pricing.



Sponsor Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Contact Person: _____

Make checks payable to: CD-NY Chapter-AUSA and mail no later than **8 June 2021** to:
John Willsey, 48 McDonald Drive, Cohoes, NY 12047

BOOK REVIEW – Eisenhower and Berlin 1945; The Decision to Halt at the Elbe

Author: Stephen E. Ambrose, © 2000; 111 Pages

Reviewed by: *Vincent Memole Jr., LTC, Infantry, USAR Retired*

Ambrose, a popular historian and writer ([Band of Brothers](#) and many other works), is admittedly a great fan of General Eisenhower, which he has mentioned in many of his other books. So it is no coincidence that he takes a stand in support of General Eisenhower's decision to let Russian forces capture Berlin and to halt American (and British) forces at the Elbe River and wait on Russian forces to meet up in April 1945.

Even though this is probably Ambrose's shortest book ever written, he always includes plenty of facts about the situation that was occurring on the ground at the time. He uses a great deal of declassified historical information, as well as interviews and news articles.

As a historian, Ambrose always had many books and research projects under way. For example; in this book published in 2000, he mentions attending a military history conference 12 years earlier in 1988 where a guest speaker, a Russia Infantry Company Commander during the assault on Berlin; openly, angrily and bitterly curses Joseph Stalin's decision to take Berlin by force, saying that the estimated 100,000 lives that were lost (both sides) could have been drastically reduced had the city just been surrounded.

Stephen Ambrose, always the historian, states his case why he strongly agrees with General Eisenhower decision, by discussing the military situation in Berlin as the Russian Army approached the city. In the end Ambrose concludes, just like then-candidate Eisenhower said at a Labor Day speech in Detroit at the beginning of his Presidential Campaign: "None of these brave men of 1952 have yet offered to go out and pick the ten thousand American mothers whose sons would have made the [ultimate] sacrifice to capture a worthless objective".

NEVER STOP SERVING

2021 Board of Directors Meetings (times & locations TBD)

Aug TBD Nov 13

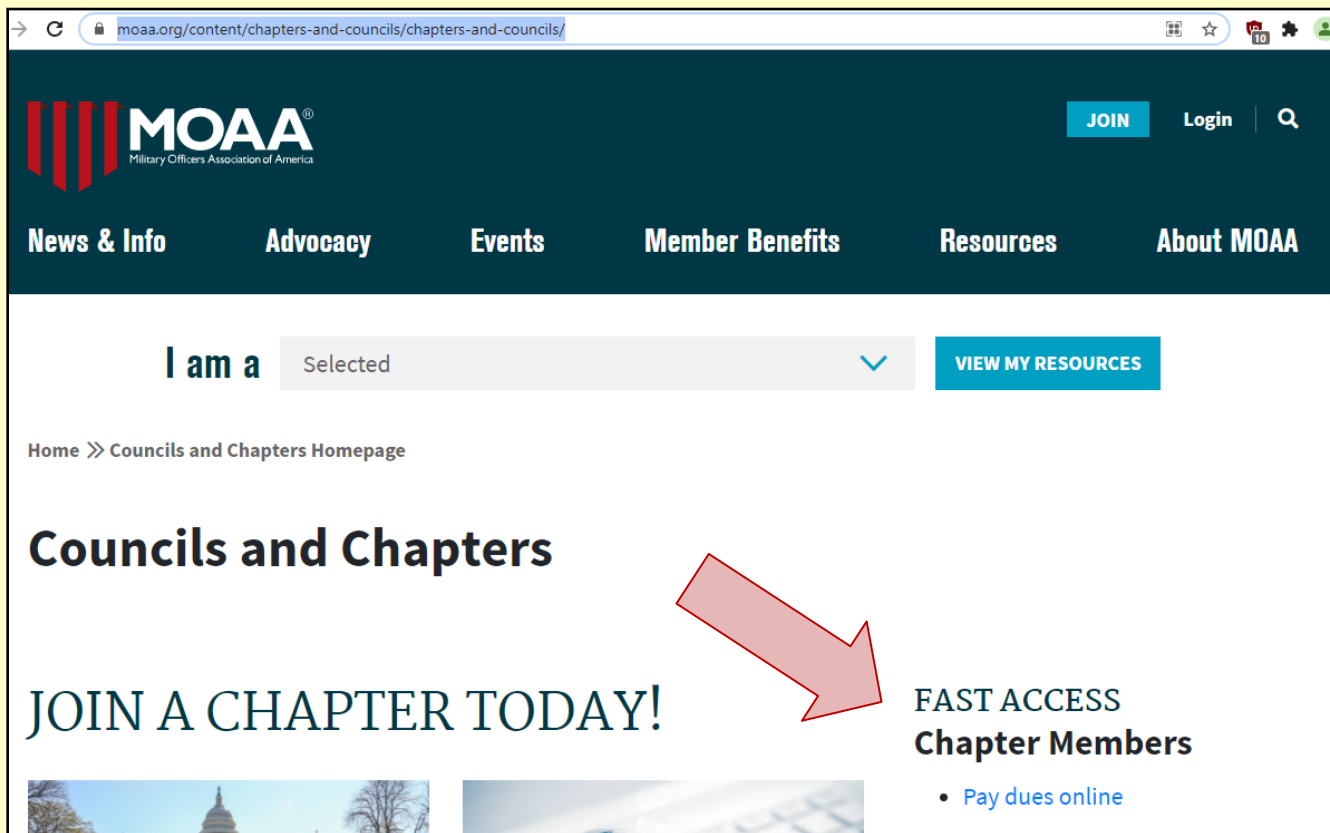
We are not 100% sure if we will be able meet in person and might have to continue to meet online via WebEx.

July 27 is the deadline for submitting **news articles, photos, bio's, book reviews, or stories** for the *next* issue. If you know of a military or veteran event in our area, have a "war story" to tell, a "shout-out" for a volunteer helping veterans, or a review praising or panning a military-themed movie or book, please e-mail your input to newsletter editor Al Memole at ammmemole@gmail.com. THANKS!

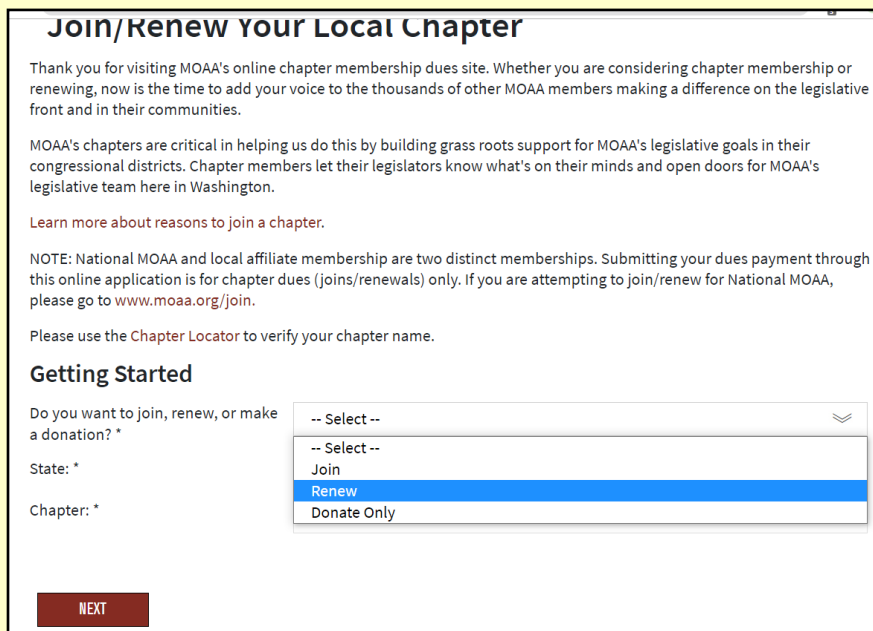
HOW TO PAY CHAPTER DUES ONLINE

This is so easy that even a [pick one: Grunt, Squid, Jarhead, Zoomie] can do it!

1. Go to the MOAA website (<https://www.moaa.org/content/chapters-and-councils/chapters-and-councils/>). Click on the heading “About MOAA” and select “Chapters and Councils”. When the Councils and Chapters homepage opens up, you will see “Fast Access”, “Chapter Members” and “Pay dues online” on the right side. Click on “Pay dues online”.



2. After the “Join/Renew Your Local Chapter” page opens, under the heading “Getting Started”, select “Renew” from the “Do you want to join, renew, or make a donation?” drop-down box. Pick NY for the state (duh!), and then our Chapter name will appear among the NYS chapters in the last drop-down box (select it). Then click the “Next” button.



- The “Renew your membership with the local chapter” page will open, specifically for our Chapter, you will note. Answer all of the prompts that have an asterisk. Our Membership Category is “Regular”. After you’ve provided all of the required information, click the “Next” button.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER

Thank you for your interest in renewing with the **NYS Capital Dist Chapter of the MOAA** chapter. Please fill out the information below.

* Fields marked with an asterisk are required.

Membership Category: *	<input type="text" value="Regular Member"/>
Member's First Name: *	<input type="text"/>
Member's Middle Initial:	<input type="text"/>
Member's Last Name: *	<input type="text"/>
Service: *	<input type="text" value="-- Select --"/>
Rank: *	<input type="text" value="-- Select --"/>
Component: *	<input type="text" value="-- Select --"/>
Status: *	<input type="text" value="-- Select --"/>
National MOAA Member Number:	<input type="text"/>
Mailing Address: *	<input type="text"/>

City: *	<input type="text"/>
State: *	<input type="text" value="New York"/>
Zip Code: *	<input type="text"/>
Email: *	<input type="text"/>
Email (again): *	<input type="text"/>
Phone: *	<input type="text"/>

[PREVIOUS](#)[NEXT](#)

- When the “Payment for NYS Capital Dist Chapter of the MOAA” page opens, select the Renewal Term (1, 2, or 3 years). **[NOTE: We recommend that you pay for only ONE year, for two reasons: It’s easier for us to keep track of who has paid if everyone pays only for the current year, and it will be easier for you to remember how to pay online, if you do this once every year and not once every two or three years.]** Have your credit or debit card handy to fill in the payment info, and click the “Finish” button to submit the transaction.

PAYMENT FOR NYS CAPITAL DIST CHAPTER OF THE MOAA

Thank you for providing your chapter membership information. Please complete the payment information.

NOTE: National MOAA and local affiliate membership are two distinct memberships. Submitting your dues payment through this online application is for chapter dues (joins/renewals) only. If you are attempting to join/renew for National MOAA, please go to www.moaa.org/join.

Please note the amount of your annual chapter dues is contingent upon the rates set by the local chapter based upon chapter program and activities.

The annual dues cycle is established by each individual chapter. Each chapter is unique. Most chapters have an annual dues cycle of Jan-Dec while others may use an alternative schedule (i.e. fiscal year calendar of Oct-Sep).

As a renewing member, you are required to pay a full year of annual dues, regardless of the date you submit your dues payment. Your local chapter membership expiration date will be the last day on the final month your chapter's dues cycle.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Chapter: NYS Capital Dist Chapter of the MOAA

Membership Cycle: January through December

Membership Type: Regular Membership

Renewal Term: * 1 year (\$30.00) ▾

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Total Due \$30.00

Cardholder's First Name: *

Cardholder's Last Name: *

Credit Card Number: *

Expiration Date: * -- ▾ / -- ▾

Security Code: *

BILLING INFORMATION

Billing Address: * Same as mailing address
 Use different address

Billing Address: *

City: *

State: * ▾

Zip Code: *

PREVIOUS
FINISH

CHAPTER OFFICERS

CHAPTER OFFICE	INCUMBENT	E-MAIL
President	Christopher J. Costigan, CDR USN, RET	pres@cdnymoaa.org
1 st Vice President	VACANT	1vp@cdnymoaa.org
2 nd Vice President	VACANT	2vp@cdnymoaa.org
Secretary	Ralph Folger, LCDR USNR, RET	secr@cdnymoaa.org
Treasurer	Alfred M. Memole, LTC USA, RET	treas@cdnymoaa.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rocco D. Acquilano, CDR, USNR, RET	Ernest "Skip" Bebernitz*, MAJ USA, RET
Anthony J. Ficara**, COL USA, RET	Kathy E. Gates, COL USA, RET
VACANT	Martin Leukhardt**, RADM USNR, RET
VACANT	Edmund M. Scheiber, Jr.**, Lt Col USAF, RET

* Immediate Past-President

** Former President

Luncheon Reservation Form

Date: **JUNE 13, 2021**

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

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

Menu Choices: *SIRLOIN BEEF TIPS* *CHICKEN MARSALA* *COD FLORENTINE*

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

*If you still need to pay Chapter dues for **2021**, you may add **\$30.00** to your total.*

Send reservation form and check to: **Al Memole** (cell phone: 518-641-8664)
8 Rose Lane
Rensselaer, NY 12144

*We must **receive** your reservation NLT **Saturday, June 5***

Your name: _____ Number of persons attending: _____	Choices:	<table style="border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 5px;">Qty</td> <td style="text-align: left; padding-left: 5px;">Menu Item</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 5px;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: left; padding-left: 5px;"><i>SIRLOIN BEEF TIPS</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 5px;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: left; padding-left: 5px;"><i>CHICKEN MARSALA</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 5px;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: left; padding-left: 5px;"><i>COD FLORENTINE</i></td> </tr> </table>	Qty	Menu Item	_____	<i>SIRLOIN BEEF TIPS</i>	_____	<i>CHICKEN MARSALA</i>	_____	<i>COD FLORENTINE</i>
Qty	Menu Item									
_____	<i>SIRLOIN BEEF TIPS</i>									
_____	<i>CHICKEN MARSALA</i>									
_____	<i>COD FLORENTINE</i>									