

CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER, NEW YORK MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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.



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**5-Star Chapter –
2020, 2018 & 2017**

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 3, MAY-JUN 2022 // THIS ISSUE CONTAINS:

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CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

Our next luncheon meeting is **JUNE 12**, at **BARNSIDER**,
480 Sand Creek Road, Albany (Colonie)

(across from the Hannford shopping plaza)

MENU CHOICES: *Chicken Teriyaki, Top Sirloin 6oz., or Baked Haddock 7oz.*

INCLUDED: Salad, coffee and tea, and dessert—*French Vanilla ice cream*

DRINKS: Out waitress will take your drink orders and bring them to your table.

PLEASE NOTE: The per-person rate for luncheons is **\$35**. The new rate enables the Chapter to cover meal prices and a 20% gratuity. The luncheon reservation form is at the [very end](#) of this newsletter.

REMINDER: *If you plan to attend our meeting, please get your reservation and, preferably, your payment to **CHRIS COSTIGAN** NOT LATER THAN **Saturday, June 4th**. The restaurant needs a final count and meal selection in advance of our meeting. If you plan to pay "at the door," please at least send Chris your reservation by the due date. Thanks!*

PROGRAM (*It's a little different for this luncheon than for previous ones*):

1300 hrs: Mix & mingle

***1330 hrs:** We need to be seated so orders can be taken*



1345 hrs: Salad served; Welcome & Announcements

1400 -1545 hrs: Dinner served; Program

1600 hrs: We must leave so that the restaurant can prepare for another party at 1700 hrs

Guest Speaker: **Christine Rem**, Executive Director, Capital District Women Veterans, who will tell us all about her program's mission.

Chapter News and other local items of interest

Invite other officers!!

• **YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO JOIN US AT THE MOVIES ON JUNE 4!**

The new "Top Gun" movie ("Top Gun: Maverick") will be released on May 27. The producer, director, star (Tom Cruise), and cast went all the way to make the film as authentic as possible. See the review in the May issue of MOAA (p. 52) or on the MOAA website at [top-gun-maverick](#). Our plan:

- **Saturday June 4, 11:30 am:** Meet at the Applebee's Grill in Latham (Rte. 2) for lunch.
- **After lunch:** Head to Regal Cinema at Colonie Center on Wolf Rd., for the 1:20 pm show.

All members are welcome and *all are encouraged to invite other former, retired, or currently serving officers (prospective members) to join us* to remember the heroes of 6 June 1944, watch the newest military-themed movie, and maybe make new friends. So, if you want in on the action ...

- CONTACT **SKIP BEBERNITZ** (ebeberni@nycap.rr.com, h. 518-237-4738) NOT LATER THAN **THURSDAY MAY 26**. We need a head-count for lunch reservation.

Skip will keep us posted if anything comes up that requires adjustments to plans.

• **OUR LAST LUNCHEON MEETING, APRIL 3.**



We had a pretty good turn out at the Holiday Inn Express in Latham – 23 attendees – to meet and hear **MOAA’s Program Director for Council and Chapter Affairs, CAPT Frank J. “Tank” Michael, USN Ret.** Frank delivered as promised, updating us on everything of significance happening in MOAA nationwide. It was definitely NOT your typical stuffy status briefing. Frank conveyed his enthusiasm in a lively and often humorous presentation. He put special emphasis on the importance of Chapters in advancing MOAA’s mission and in recruiting and

retaining MOAA and Chapter members, and pledged MOAA’s support for us at the grassroots level. Before taking our questions, he ended his talk with a funny, yet profound story of his personal encounter with a low-key Chapter Treasurer, an old veteran who, Frank discovered, had survived being in the last aircraft shot down in Viet Nam. For Frank, this veteran exemplified the spirit of MOAA and who we are.

Frank also presented our Chapter with a MOAA certificate commemorating **our Chapter’s 50 years as a TROA/MOAA affiliate.** [See image on page 4.] He conveyed a letter of congratulations from LT GEN Atkins, President/CEO of MOAA, which **Chris Costigan**, Immediate Past President of our Chapter, read aloud to all of us.



Following Frank’s presentation, **Pat Piccirilli** gave us a preview of what our Chapter and Council were going to do for MOAA’s Advocacy In Action 2022. Pat, the lead “mover and shaker”, along with all members of our Chapter’s Legislative Liaison Committee, had already been working hard to set up meetings with the NY congressional representatives assigned to our Chapter and Senator Gillibrand. [Read their full after-action report on page 8 of this newsletter.]



Of course, our luncheon meetings are *not* just about listening to speakers. Besides donations collected for **Guardian House**, there were many lively conversations going on as we mingled and then sat down to eat. Cameraderie and good food are the hallmarks of our get-togethers. It was great to see all our regular attendees, but also *new Chapter members*, **Tom Bennett** and **Art Grimshaw**, and **Dr. Gerald Stulc**, who hadn’t been able to come in a while. While the socializing was great, the fare was pretty good. Our hostess and bartender were nice and so was the room (the bar was right there), although it was quite a trek through the hotel to get there.

We are still looking around at different venues, trying to find the best situation and deal.

Pictured top left: Captain Frank Michael tells it like it is. Above right: Chapter President Al Memole accepts the MOAA commemorative certificate from Capt. Michael. Bottom left: Members Rocco Acquilano and Ed Balaban having great time! [All photos courtesy of Ed Balaban]



Also from LT GEN Atkins, a link to a video to thank, personally, all MOAA members working to make a difference: [Thank-You](#)

• **MOAA ROTC & JROTC AWARDS.**

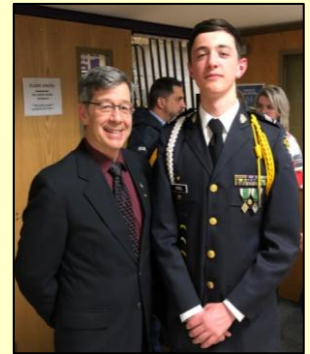
MOAA ROTC and JROTC awards (medal & certificate) recognize cadets in their junior year who have demonstrated superior scholarship and leadership.

- **ROTC Awards.** Our Chapter sponsors one award for each military service program (Army, Navy, and Air Force) in the Capital Region. These programs are administered at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) for all area colleges. This year, the Army held a private awards ceremony at the end of the semester; the Navy held a small public ceremony for invited guests; the Air Force program opted again not to hold award presentations. But, we are pleased to honor the Army and Navy recipients of the MOAA ROTC award for 2022:

- **Army: Cadet Jameson T. McDonald**
- **Navy: Midshipman 2nd Class Nicholas Morton**

- **JROTC Awards.** Each year our Chapter sponsors one award for each of four high school JROTC programs in our area. Two high schools have already held their ceremonies in person, and Chapter President/ROTC-JROTC Awards Coordinator (also editor of this newsletter) Al Memole was on hand to present the awards. Two more schools, Albany HS and Amsterdam HS, are holding ceremonies in June, which we will cover in the July-August issue. We are pleased to honor the recipients of the MOAA JROTC award for 2022:

- **Christian Brothers Academy (CBA), Albany: Cadet Michael Vogel.** Michael is an outstanding young man. His favorite subject is chemistry, as one might expect of someone whose parents are *both* engineers, and he is considering pursuing that further in some form after graduation. He is also very interested in applying to West Point. He is a track & field athlete (high jump), a member of the CBA Color Guard and the JROTC Leadership Team.
- **La Salle Institute, Troy: Cadet Seamus Camenga.** Seamus is another outstanding young man. He was promoted to the rank of Cadet Major at the Officer Promotion & Commissioning Ceremony. Looking ahead, he is seriously thinking about being an entrepreneur and owning his own business, following the example of his dad. (Some of our Troy members might be familiar with Camenga Construction, a local residential construction firm.)




Photos, clockwise from top right: Al Memole with Cadet Michael Vogel; Seamus Camenga with parents Devon and Emily; 1st Sgt Paul Peters of La Salle reads the accomplishments of newly promoted Cadet Majors (Seamus at the far left); Michael Vogel (right) and classmates proudly show off their awards.



- **CHAPTER MEETINGS PLANNED FOR 2022**

Meeting dates, times, and locations are always subject to change. Changes will be posted in newsletters.

JULY – none	NOVEMBER
AUGUST	5 – Board Meeting , 1000-1200 hrs., NYS Military Museum, Saratoga Springs
TBD– Board Meeting , tentatively at Scheiber’s house on Lake George	DECEMBER
SEPTEMBER – none	11 – Annual Xmas/Holiday Party & Business Meeting , TBD
OCTOBER	
9 – Chapter Luncheon Meeting , TBD	

- **LOCAL EVENTS/ITEMS OF INTEREST**

- MEMORIAL DAY EVENT – GERALD B.H. SOLOMON NATIONAL CEMETERY, SARATOGA, **MAY 28TH, 11:00 AM**: Flags – AUSA; Color Guard - NYS Troopers; Flyover - 109th Air Wing; Written Essay and Flanders Field reading; Ringing of the USS Saratoga Bell; Keynote Speaker; Music - Ballston Spa Community Band and LtCol Paul Breton (USAF Retired); Saratoga National Cemetery Honor Guard Association; Cannon Salute - NYS 3rd Light Artillery, CO H, NYS 123rd Volunteers & Middlesex Battery ANV; Taps - Ballston Spa Community Band
- MEMORIAL DAY PARADES/EVENTS IN *RENSSELAER COUNTY*:
 - **May 26th**: Melrose, Schaghticoke, Valley Falls, & Johnsonville Parade in Valley Falls line-up at 6:15pm, at Charles Street in the Village of Valley Falls, step-off at 7pm
 - **May 27th – 30th**: Field of Honor in Schaghticoke, NY
 - **May 28th**:
 - ❖ East Greenbush Parade, line-up (Bowling Green) at 9am – step-off at 10am ending at East Greenbush VFW #7338
 - ❖ Veterans of Lansingburgh Ceremony at Oakwood Chapel at 9am, then Soldier’s Plot, proceed to wreath ceremonies: St. Peter’s Cemetery, St. John’s Cemetery, Lansingburgh Village Cemetery (107th Street), and then to Guenette Apartments (115th Street)
 - **May 29th**: Rensselaer Parade, meet near Doane Stuart School parking lot (Forbes Ave. & Washington Ave.) 1pm ceremony – step-off at 2pm
 - **May 30th**:
 - ❖ Sand Lake Parade, line-up at 9am (Averill Avenue) – step-off at 10am, proceed east on NY 43 to the Sand Lake Veteran’s Memorial Park, where ceremony will be conducted.
 - ❖ Hoosick Falls Parade, line up at 9:30am in Wood Park, step-off at 10am
 - ❖ Castleton Parade, line-up at 9am, step-off at 10am at Boltwood Ave. and Seaman Ave.
 - ❖ Berlin Parade, line-up at 10:30am step-off at 11am at Maple Avenue
 - ❖ Poestenkill Parade, line-up 10am at Sullivan-Jones VFW, step-off at 11am
 - ❖ North Greenbush Parade, line-up 12:45pm at Town Hall, step-off 1:30pm
 - ❖ Nassau Memorial Day Ceremony at the Chandler Young VFW at 2pm
 - ❖ Rensselaer Elks Lodge #2073 Memorial Day Ceremony at 2pm

- MILITARY MATRIARCHS: THE WORKS OF *SPC ABIGAIL ROSE JENKS*. ART EXHIBIT, FOOD, DRINK AND ENTERTAINMENT
 - **Friday, 10 June 2022**, 6:00 – 9:00 PM EDT at the Eden Café 269 Osborne Road Loudonville, NY 12211
 - SPC Abigail Rose Jenks was an artist and paratrooper who tragically lost her life serving in the Army while on duty at Ft. Bragg, NC. Abby was the first female from the capital region to enlist as a paratrooper in a combat role. Growing up she had a love for art and drawing.
- CAPITAL DISTRICT AUSA OF NEW YORK CHAPTER ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
 - **Monday, 13 June 2022** at the Eagle Crest Golf Course in Clifton Park, NY:
 - ❖ 0730-0830 registration and continental breakfast
 - ❖ 0900 shot gun start
 - ❖ 1400 turn in scorecard
 - ❖ 1500 buffet (cash bar), prizes, awards and auction results
 - \$130.00 per player includes: Green Fees & Cart, Continental breakfast, Lunch (Grab and Go), Italian Buffet (cash bar), Awards and Prizes
 - Non-golfers are invited to the buffet at 1500 hrs for \$25.00 per person
 - **POC:** John Willsey, 518.496.2669, jwillsfc@aol.com
- RETIREE SPOUSE ID CARDS WITH AN INDEFINITE EXPIRATION DATE: Ft. Drum RAPIDS ID office now has the capability to issue retiree spousal ID cards with an *indefinite* expiration date for spouses 65 years of age or older. This means spouses will no longer have to renew their ID card periodically. You do not have to wait until their current ID card expires to take advantage of this process.
 - FOR AN APPOINTMENT, CALL 315-772-5149
 - LOCATION: 10720 Mt. Belvedere Blvd. (Clark Hall) Ft. Drum, NY 13602
 - SPONSOR MUST BE PRESENT FOR ALL TRANSACTIONS. If the sponsor is not able to accompany you to DEERS you can use a Valid Power of Attorney
 - ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF ID: Passport/Passport card, Permanent Resident card (form 1-551), Foreign Passport, Form I- Drivers license or identification (ID) card issued by a State or US possession provided it contains a photograph, U.S. Military ID card, U.S Military dependent ID card, Personal Identity Verification (PIV) card. Secondary Identity Documents: Social security card, Original or certified copy of a birth certificate, ID card issued by a federal, state or local government agency or entity, provided it contains a photo, Voter registration card, U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner card, Certificate of U.S. Citizenship, Certificate of Naturalization, U.S. Citizen ID card, Form 1-179, Certificate of birth abroad, Form 1-688, Form 1-688A, Form 1-327, Form 1-571, Employment Authorization document, Foreign ID with photo, Canadian drivers license, Native Am tribal document. Please check each title to make sure you have all the correct documents that you need for your situation. If you don't see a title for you situation, please call our office at 315-772-5149 Ext. 9.

July 25th is the deadline for submitting **news articles, photos, bio's, stories, or book, movie, food, or wine reviews** for the *next* issue! Please e-mail your input to newsletter editor Al Memole at ammemole@gmail.com. THANKS!

ADVOCACY IN ACTION 2022: A REPORT

(Submitted by Pat Piccirilli and the Chapter's Legislative Affairs Committee)

After hundreds of meetings and thousands of letters sent throughout April, MOAA recently concluded its spring advocacy campaign, [Advocacy in Action 2022](#), on a successful note. To adapt to ongoing pandemic restrictions and security measures on Capitol Hill, MOAA conducted a hybrid model for this year's event. MOAA council and chapter leaders from across the country held meetings with member of Congress and staffers in their home districts throughout April; teams conducted virtual meetings when an in-person meeting was not possible. Despite not being able to convene on Capitol Hill, *the campaign contacted all 535 members of Congress thanks to more than 235 meetings and over 7,500 letters to Congress during the month of April.*

Your chapter's legislative team of *Skip Bebernitz, Chris Costigan, Kathy Gates and Pat Piccirilli* successfully contacted the offices of **Congresswomen Meng and Stefanik, Congressman Tonko, and Senator Gillibrand**. Here is an overview of this year's three topics and what we can expect for each of them this year:



Major Richard Star Act

The Major Richard Star Act ([H.R. 1282](#) | [S. 344](#)), which would allow combat-injured veterans to receive both DoD retirement pay and VA disability pay without a dollar-for-dollar offset, had grown to 227 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives and 58 in the Senate as of May 10. Reaching 290 in the House remains the goal. Your continued advocacy is needed to push this legislation over the tipping point to ensure it is included in this year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

Stop Copay Overpay Act

MOAA's spring campaign built awareness and support for the Stop Copay Overpay Act ([H.R. 4824](#)), a bill that would reduce TRICARE mental health copays. We are still seeking an office to introduce a Senate companion bill and are addressing legitimate concerns about direct spending impacts. MOAA will not support a solution that raises any other TRICARE fees to fund a mental health copay fix. Senator Gillibrand's legislative representative stated that the Senator is asking GAO to do a detailed study of the problem.

Military Pay Raise

Ensuring a 4.6% pay raise for all unformed service members – a figure in line with federal statute and included in the president's budget – has seen strong support from members of Congress for this year. While that figure is tied to the Employment Cost Index (ECI), it has fallen significantly behind [inflation rates](#). Continued advocacy is needed to ask lawmakers to ensure the pay raise keeps up with inflation and to close the "pay gap" – the 2.6% gap between the raise and the ECI created over three years (FY 2014-16) of shortfalls.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Although MOAA members have contacted every Capitol Hill office regarding these advocacy topics, we will continue to engage with Congress to build support for including these important issues in this year's

Continued on next page

NDAA. Work on the NDAA and the FY 2023 Budget will [pick up in late June](#), which means MOAA must continue to work with lawmakers from both sides of the aisle on key issues important to service members, their families, retirees, veterans, caregivers, and survivors.

Here are a few ways you can engage with members of Congress to keep MOAA's priorities on their radar:

- Utilize MOAA's [Legislative Action Center](#) to send pre-written letters to Capitol Hill. You can even customize these letters to share a personal story.
- Use MOAA's Capitol Switchboard to call your lawmakers. Call toll-free via MOAA's direct line to the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (866) 272-6622.
- Engage with congressional offices via social media. This is also a great way to stay informed about what your lawmakers are doing on Capitol Hill.
- Stay up to date with the latest news on our spring advocacy campaign topics, the NDAA, and the FY 2023 budget by subscribing to *The MOAA Newsletter*. You can check your MOAA newsletter subscription preferences [at this link](#).

Thanks for your continued support and help with our advocacy initiatives.

NYS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS 50TH CONVENTION

11 – 15 September, 2022

Riveredge Resort Hotel – Alexandria Bay, NY

ALL MOAA members are cordially invited to attend this landmark 50th Annual Meeting of the New York State Council of Chapters.

Council Officers have been working very hard to make this a memorable, educational, inspirational, and affordable experience for all of us! Chapter and Council members pay special low prices, *so treat yourself to a mini-vacation on the breathtaking shores of the St. Lawrence River!*

All the information you need about the convention, including the prices and the registration form can be viewed and downloaded from our Chapter website here: [2022-CoC-Registration-Packet](#), but we are including a brief summary of key points, below, for your convenience (and to pique your interest).

The Council is offering an unprecedented variety of options to accommodate members' diverse circumstances and encourage broad participation. The options include three "packages" and "a la carte" selections:

SUPER DELUXE PACKAGE: 4 Nights lodging, 3 Nights Hospitality Room, 2 Dinners, 4 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, St Lawrence River Boat Tour and Boldt Castle Tour.

DELUXE PACKAGE: 3 Nights lodging, 3 Nights Hospitality Room, 2 Dinners, 3 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, St Lawrence River Boat Tour and Boldt Castle Tour.

MINI PACKAGE: 1 Night lodging, 1 Night Hospitality Room, 1 Dinner/Lunch, 1 Breakfast, NO BOAT TOUR. You pick YOUR OWN Check-In & Check-Out Date(s); if you want to stay 2 nights, you can get *TWO* Mini Packages and indicate your custom check-in and check-out dates.

Continued on next page

All Packages offer a choice of an air conditioned, no-smoking room, daily “Hospitality Room” privileges [alcoholic beverages & snacks], meals, and all gratuities. You may choose your own room configuration, but the availability of each is limited so – FIRST COME FIRST SERVED. (Please visit www.riveredge.com for pictures and details.) Room configurations:

Standard w/2 Double Beds

Jacuzzi Room w/2 Double Beds

Standard w/1 King Bed

Jacuzzi Room w/1 King Bed

Loft Room w/1 Double Bed

Loft Jacuzzi w/1 Queen Bed

Queen Loft w/ 2 Queen Beds

A La Carte Options are offered mainly for those of you who want to attend but can’t find a Package option that fits into your busy schedule. *So, if you have only enough time to “drop in”, you may choose to attend any of these events:*

1. **Monday, 9/12** – Seminars presented by MOAA Staff Members (Chapter Management, Advocacy, Communications, and more) followed by a Welcome Buffet Dinner – Guest Speaker TBD
2. **Tuesday, 9/13**– New York Council of Chapters Annual Business Meeting (morning) and 50th Annual Banquet and Awards Dinner – Guest Speaker from MOAA HQ TBD
3. **Wednesday, 9/14** – “Uncle Sam 2-Nation Boat Tour” and Tour of Boldt Castle (*photo at right, from the Boldt Castle website*)



And anyone who wants to stay *longer* may choose the Thursday night stay option:

4. **Thursday, 9/15** – Extra Night’s Stay to make it a mini-vacation to remember!

Registration for a “Package” with a 50% deposit is due by 30 June 2022. The balance is due by 5 August 2022.

Registration and full payment for A La Carte options are due by 5 August 2022.

If you know officers who are *not* MOAA members or who are members of MOAA, but not members of our Chapter, please invite them to join, or at least attend a meeting to check us out. Share the MOAA website or give them a Chapter membership application, which you can download here: [Chapter Membership Application Form](#)

Still haven’t paid your 2022 Chapter membership dues?

Remember, you can pay by credit or debit card online through the MOAA website. Instructions for paying online are in our May-June 2021 issue, page 7, here: [Pay dues online](#)

CHAPTER OFFICERS

CHAPTER OFFICE	INCUMBENT	E-MAIL
President	Alfred M. Memole, LTC USA, RET	pres@cdnymoaa.org
1 st Vice President	Kathy E. Gates, COL USA, RET	1vp@cdnymoaa.org
2 nd Vice President	VACANT	2vp@cdnymoaa.org
Secretary	Ralph Folger, LCDR USNR, RET	secr@cdnymoaa.org
Treasurer	Patrick J. Piccirilli, LTC USAR RET	treas@cdnymoaa.org

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VACANT	VACANT

* Immediate Past-President ** Former President

LUNCHEON RESERVATION INFORMATION

Date: **June 12, 2022** Location: **BARNSIDER, (Colonie) Albany, NY**

Time: **1:00 PM** - Social Mixer; 1:30 PM – Be Seated; 1:45 PM – Salad Served/Welcome
2:00 – 3:45 PM – Dinner

Price: \$35 per person (Please make checks payable to: **NYS-CDC MOAA.**)

Those who still need to pay Chapter dues for **2022** may add **\$30** to your total.

Please make your reservation **Not Later Than Saturday, June 4**

Send reservation form and check to: **Chris Costigan**
153 Paisley Road
Ballston Spa, NY 12020
OR call Chris at: 518- 884-2943 (h) or 518-755-5697 (c)

Luncheon Reservation Form

Qty/ Menu Choices

Your name: _____ / Chicken Teriyaki
Number of persons attending: _____ / Top Sirloin 6oz.
 _____ / Baked Haddock