

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 –
2021, 2020, 2018 & 2017

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CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

For our next luncheon meeting on **OCTOBER 9**, we return to **THE RIPE TOMATO American Grill Restaurant**, 2721 Route 9, Malta (between exits 12 & 13, I-87)



MENU CHOICES: *Yankee Pot Roast, Chicken Parmagiana, Salmon Florentine.*

INCLUDED: Salad, coffee and tea, and dessert — *Apple Crisp*

DRINKS: Pay-as-you-go bar

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 **Wednesday, October 5th**. 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!*

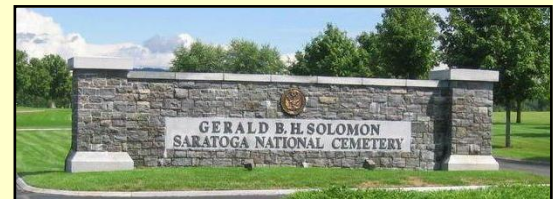
PROGRAM:

1330 hrs: Check-in; 50.50 ticket sales; Mix & mingle

1400 -1530 hrs: Welcoming remarks; Dinner served; Guest Speaker

1530-1600 hrs: 50/50 drawing; announcements

GUEST SPEAKER: **Mr. Scott Lamb, Director, Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery**. Mr. Lamb will discuss the cemetery's status, policies, and issues, and answer questions.



HIGHLIGHTED CHARITY for this issue → WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA™

And, having mentioned our nearest National Cemetery above, we segue to one of our important annual charities: Wreaths Across America™ (WAA), a 501(c)(3) corporation whose mission is to **Remember, Honor, and Teach**

Americans of all ages about the sacrifices made by those who served our nation in her Armed Forces. We can support this worthy cause in two ways:

1. **SPONSOR WREATHS.** **Please ask your families, friends, local organizations and businesses to sponsor wreaths *through our Chapter*.** The cost to sponsor a single wreath is \$15. Donors may sponsor one or more wreaths by mailing a check along with the form on pg.10 of this newsletter to WAA at their Maine address, *or, through the WAA website at <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>* following the instructions on pg.11 of this newsletter,. Our Chapter's WAA group code is **NY0087P**. Wreaths sponsored through us are designated for placement at – *you guessed it* – the *Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery*, located

Continued on next page

at 200 Duell Rd, Schuylerville, NY. For each wreath sponsored through our Chapter, WAA returns \$5 to us. *We turn this revenue back to the community by donating to other worthy local charities benefitting the community, local veterans, and historical and military-related organizations.*

- 4,955 wreaths have been sponsored as of September 20, representing 32.8% of the total number needed. *We need 10,145 more wreaths* before December's wreath laying event.
2. LAY WREATHS ON VETERANS' GRAVES. There are **15,100 veteran graves** at the Saratoga National Cemetery. *Volunteers* from our local community lay all these wreaths, pausing after placing each wreath to salute and remember the veteran, saying his or her name. *We encourage all of you to attend the ceremony and help place wreaths if you are able.* This year's wreath laying event at Saratoga will be held on **Saturday, December 17**, with a solemn ceremony **beginning at 12:00 noon** prior to laying wreaths. Those among us who have participated in the past can attest that this is a valuable and moving experience.

Chapter News and other local items of interest

- **LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT**

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



CHECK UP ON YOUR LEGISLATOR

How can I confirm that my Congressional legislator is supporting MOAA backed legislation?

This task is not that complicated thanks to the website congress.gov. You don't need an account to sign in although you can create an account for yourself. The key is using the search bar at the top of the page (the extreme right side of the bar shows a magnifying glass). In the left column select "Current Congress" and in the next column type in the bill designation which MOAA normally provides (check out the [MOAA Legislative Action Center](#)). For example the Stop CoPay Overpay Act designation is H.R. 4824. The H.R. means that it originated in the House of Representatives. A bill that originates in the Senate uses the letter S.

Click on the magnifying glass symbol and it brings up the information on that bill. You'll see the word "cosponsors" usually with a number after it in parentheses; the number denotes the number of legislators who have cosponsored that bill. Click on the number and it will propagate a list of all the legislators who cosponsored the bill. Once on the results page click on New York State which will list all the New York state Congressional legislators who cosponsored the bill.


Note: At this point in time our Current Congress is 117th (2021-2022)

Here is one example where your call, email or letter can make a difference:

Please support expanding concurrent receipt. In the House concurrent receipt legislation, the "**Major Richard Starr Act**" (H.R. 1282) currently has 290 co-sponsors. House rules allow a member of Congress to file a motion with the House Clerk to place their legislation on the Consensus Calendar once their legislation has accumulated 290 cosponsors. If the legislation maintains at least 290 cosponsors for 25 legislative days, and the committee of jurisdiction does *not* report the legislation to the House floor, it will be placed on the Consensus Calendar allowing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to bring legislation to the House floor for a vote. Retired pay is for years of arduous military service paid by the Department of Defense, while disability pay is for lifelong injury paid by the VA. To reduce retirement pay because of a disability is an injustice. **Please contact your legislative representative and ask that they support H.R. 1282.** *(Thanks to Kathy Gates and Skip Bebernitz for this information)*

- **REMAINING CHAPTER MEETINGS PLANNED FOR 2022**

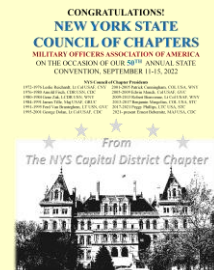
Meeting dates, times, and locations are always subject to change. Changes will be posted in newsletters.

NOVEMBER
5 – Board Meeting , 1000-1200 hrs., NYS Military Museum, Saratoga Springs
DECEMBER
11 – Annual Xmas/Holiday Party & Business Meeting , TBD


- **CHAPTER BOARD MEETING, AUGUST 20, 2022**

Ed & Jennifer Scheiber hosted the most recent meeting of our Chapter Board of Directors at their beautiful lakeside residence just north of Diamond Point on Lake George. A tasty potluck picnic followed the very l-o-o-o-o-ng meeting. Here are some of the key take-aways from the meeting:

- **MEMBERSHIP:** Chapter membership has dropped below 100 members. We are now at 90 or 91 members, including surviving spouses. We resolved to make recruitment and retention of members a top priority. *[As members, YOU are all recruiters. If you know people who are or should be MOAA members and not part of our Chapter, please invite them to join us, or give them a Chapter membership application, which you can download here: [Chapter Membership Application Form](#)]*
- **VACANT COMMITTEE POSITIONS.** We still have five roles that we'd like to fill. We decided not to make a special effort to seek candidates at this time. However, if YOU would like to support our Chapter more actively by doing ONE task, consider one of these positions:
 - Surviving Spouse Liaison (*coordinates support, as needed*)
 - Personal Affairs (*reports member deaths; identify members' various needs*)
 - Public Relations (*raises Chapter visibility in the community via local publicity*)
 - Transition Assistance Program (*provides guidance & assistance to members and prospective members leaving military service or moving to our area*)
 - Historian (*creates and maintains a chronology of all we do*)
- **VACANT BOARD POSITIONS.** We have two vacant positions. If filled, they would add depth and breadth of perspective to the Board, but we opted to wait until the next election in December 2023 to fill them – unless YOU are interested.
- **NYS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS CONVENTION PROGRAM AD.** The Board voted to expend \$100 from the Treasury to buy a full page ad in the Convention's program, to congratulate the Council on its 50th consecutive convention and support the convention financially.
- **OUR CHAPTER'S 50TH YEAR.** We will recognize our own 50th anniversary at our Annual Business Meeting in December.
- **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 2023.** [See page 5]



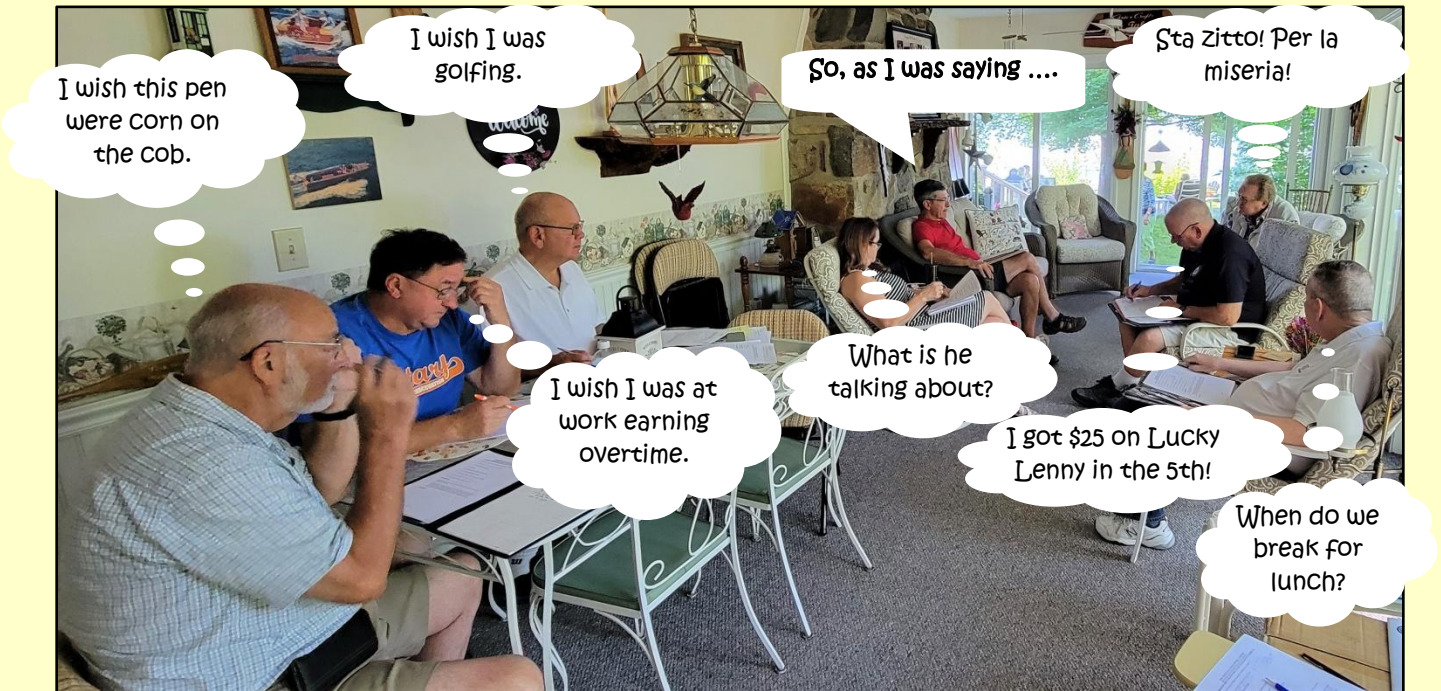
- SURVEY QUESTIONS FOR MEMBERS ABOUT MEETINGS. We want to know:

Would you be interested in trying something **different** for one of our meetings in 2023, such as ...

- ... AN INFORMAL BREAKFAST OR BRUNCH?
- ... A PICNIC?
- ... MEETING ON A DAY/NIGHT OTHER THAN SUNDAY AFTERNOON?

Please let the President or any Chapter Officer or Board member know your thoughts.

Ed Scheiber captured the spirit of our Board (Bored?) Meetings with this iconic photo, below, of the Board in action (inaction?). Pictured below from left to right: Ralph Folger, Vince Memole, Pat Piccirilli, Kathy Gates, Al Memole, Chris Costigan, Tony Ficara, and Skip Bebernitz.



● **CHAPTER MEETINGS PLANNED FOR 2023**

FEBRUARY – 4TH Board of Directors	12th LUNCHEON MEETING
APRIL – 16TH LUNCHEON MEETING	
JUNE – 11TH LUNCHEON MEETING	
AUGUST – TBD Board of Directors	
OCTOBER – 15TH LUNCHEON MEETING	
NOVEMBER – 4TH Board of Directors	
DECEMBER – 10TH ANNUAL XMAS/HOLIDAY PARTY & BUSINESS MEETING	

NOVEMBER 17th is the deadline for submitting news articles, photos, bio's, stories, or reviews of books, movies, food, or wine for the *next* issue! Please e-mail your input to newsletter editor Al Memole at ammmemole@gmail.com.

- **LOCAL EVENTS/ITEMS OF INTEREST**

- VETERANS DAY ACTIVITIES (as advertised)
 - **November 6: 7th Annual Veterans Ball, 5 – 9 PM, The Hall of Springs, 108 Avenue of the Pines Saratoga Springs, NY 12866, Cost: \$100 per person, Phone:518-885-0091 x119**
 - **November 11 (Veterans Day): Albany Veterans Day Parade**, starts at the corner of Central Ave and Ontario Street at **11 AM**.
 - **November 13: Stockade-athon 15K Road Race**, 8:30 AM, Veterans Park, 185 Lafayette Street Schenectady, NY 12305.

NYS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS 50TH CONVENTION

***** AFTER ACTION REPORT *****

(Written and compiled by Al Memole)

By all accounts the 50th Annual Meeting of the New York State Council of Chapters held 11 – 15 September, 2022, at the Riveredge Resort Hotel, Alexandria Bay, NY, was a **resounding success!** (*Huge thanks to **Lt Col Norma Weissend**, Council VP, the organizer!*) The resort was very nice, situated in one of our State's most beautiful locales. We had around 50 attendees, varying by day and event, including reps from MOAA headquarters, the *Massachusetts* Council of Chapters, and *Oklahoma!* This convention, like its 49 predecessors, had two major components: MOAA Business and Social (FUN).



1. Business Highlights:

- MOAA NATIONAL.** The Council was honored by the presence of four key members from MOAA national headquarters. On Monday, 9/12, MOAA Staff Members presented seminars on key three key topics. **CAPT Frank “Tank” Michael USN (Ret.)**, Program Director, Council and Chapter Affairs, who visited our Chapter back in April, discussed MOAA news and ideas for Chapter Management, highlighting the assistance that MOAA provides to build and maintain healthy Chapters. **Karen Ruedisueli**, Director, Health Affairs, gave us a complete run-down on MOAA advocacy activities with emphasis on the important role of Chapters. Finally, **Tony Lombardo**, Director, Audience Engagement, talked about developments in the area of MOAA public relations communications, and gave a great

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF MOAA

[See answers on page 9.]

1. How many members does MOAA have nationally?
2. How many MOAA members are members of Chapters?
3. What is the average age of MOAA members?
4. What is the average age of MOAA Chapter members?

overview on and tips for using social media. On Tuesday, 9/13, at the 50th Annual Banquet, **CAPT Jim Carman USN (Ret.)**, Vice President, Council/Chapter and Member Support, gave an energetic and heartfelt keynote address that stressed the importance of MOAA Councils and Chapters.

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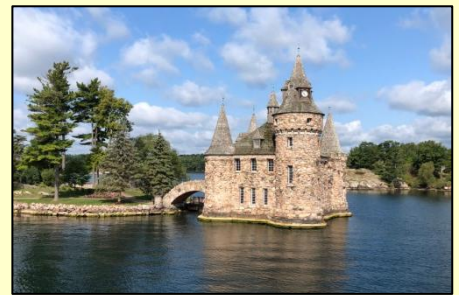
b. NYS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS. On Tuesday, 9/13, the Council held its Annual Business Meeting. Council Officers, which include our own *Skip Bebernitz* (President) and *Chris Costigan* (East Region VP), summarized their Chapter visits and observations. The Council is active and financially healthy. Chapter Presidents also presented their Chapter’s accomplishments and discussed issues. All Chapters are facing member recruiting and retention problems, so it was a great forum for exchanging ideas.

2. Social Highlights:

a. Welcome Buffet. On Monday, 9/12, attendees gathered in an elegant banquet hall for a meal, fellowship, and an deeply personal and inspiring address by the Chief of Staff of the nearby 10th Mountain Division, **COL Erin C. Miller**, US Army Quartermaster Corps [*photo at right*], a veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan.



b. “Uncle Sam 2-Nation Boat Tour” and Tour of Boldt Castle. Wednesday the 14th was a beautiful sunny day and perfect for a boat tour of Thousand Islands and Boldt Castle on Heart Island. The pictures describe it best:



Photos. *Top Row:* Heart Island at sunset; Boldt Castle’s “play fort”; Boldt Castle’s power plant; *2nd Row:* the Boldt Castle play fort from shore; view from the “fort”; Skip & Mary Lou Bebernitz with Laurie & Kathy Gates on the top deck of the tour boat; *3rd Row:* Rockport, Canada up close; Mary & Al Memole on the top deck; *Bottom:* Heart Island panorama

Continued on next page

- c. **Free time.** We had a lot of free time to do things on our own. Many convention attendees walked around the picturesque villages of Alexandria Bay and nearby Clayton. Clayton boasts the Antique Boat Museum, which was really interesting and worth a visit. Others visited Fort Drum and its PX and Commissary. *Chris Costigan* and *Mary & Al Memole* hiked a well maintained trail along Eel Bay in the Wellesley Island State Park. (It was a wonderful hike, even though it poured rain on us before the end.)



A hopeful sign on 9/11 – a rainbow at St. Cyril's Church near the hotel.



Al Memole at Scenic View Park, Alexandria Bay



Chris Costigan & Al Memole on the shore of Eel Bay, Wellesley Island SP.



Council Officers recognized for their achievements – Norma Weissend; Skip Bebernitz, Tim Vaughn, Chris Costigan

- d. **The Hospitality Room & the Raffles.** We have no pictures of all the fun we had mingling and getting to know better our MOAA comrades from the upstate Chapters – What happens in the Hospitality Room STAYS in the Hospitality Room! Kudos to West Region VP, **Tim Vaughn** of the Genesee Valley Chapter and his lovely wife **Jeanne** who set up and maintained the room full of snacks, water, soft drinks, and “adult” beverages (gallons!). Attendees from the various Chapters donated a variety of items and gift baskets for the raffle. [See photos below.] **Mary Memole** managed and ran the 50/50 raffle and raffle of the baskets. Fittingly, *Norma* won the 50/50! All agreed that she deserved it. We had a lot of happy basket winners. The main thing was that we enjoyed the camaraderie.



NOT RAFFLED (sigh), but seen at a car show near our resort

FOR MORE GREAT PHOTOS OF THIS YEAR'S CONVENTION – CHECK OUT THE COUNCIL'S [FACEBOOK](#) PAGE, The New York State Council of Chapters – MOAA.

Continued on next page

COMMENTS FROM TWO OF OUR CHAPTER’S ATTENDEES:

It was great that people who had never been to a convention attended this one. I always enjoy attending MOAA events whether they are Chapter, Council, or national events, meeting new people and hearing their stories and experiences. I spoke with many of the first timers who said that they thoroughly enjoyed the event and will be back next year.

The participation of the people from MOAA Headquarters greatly enhanced the convention. MOAA routinely conducts Leadership Workshops for key chapter members, at which a lot of knowledge is shared, having the MOAA representatives at the convention allowed for that type of information and guidance to be shared with a wider audience. When they return to their chapters, this should result in making already strong chapters even better.

I was proud that all Past Presidents of the Council were honored and that Jim Tille, the council's fifth president was able to attend and be recognized.

I enjoyed the inspirational speeches given by both speakers, COL Erin Miller the Chief of Staff of the 10th Mountain (LI) Division and Retired Navy Captain Jim Carman the MOAA Vice President for Council, Chapter, and Member Support.

I liked the Uncle Sam Boat Tour of the Thousand Islands and the walking tour of the Boldt Castle.

I appreciated the dedication and expertise of Norma Weissend for creating such a fantastic event!

Skip

I had a wonderful time at the 2022 NY COC Convention in Alexandria Bay, NY. This was my first convention and I plan to attend many more in the future. My participation was limited as I selected the mini package, Tuesday thru Thursday. I thoroughly enjoyed Tuesday evening’s events as I was able to meet many members at the Banquet Dinner. The military dinner brought back many fond memories of my active duty days attending military functions. It was great to see so many wearing their military uniforms. The hospitality room was a great way to socialize and make new friends. I enjoyed the Uncle Sam Boat Tour on Wednesday along with the walking tour of Boldt Castle. Alexandria Bay is beautiful, and I am so happy I took time to attend this year’s convention. Great location, great food, and a great group of patriotic Americans.

COL Kathy Gates

HEADS UP FOR NEXT YEAR

Council and the Southern Tier Chapter are looking at holding the 2023 convention at **Tioga Downs Casino Resort, possibly September 17-21**. It’s likely they will offer 4, 3, and single night packages to accommodate different levels of availability and affordability. That seemed to go over well this year.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF MOAA

[ANSWERS]

1. 355,000
2. 40,000
3. 63 years old
4. 75 years old





WREATHS *across* AMERICA

Wreath Sponsorship Form

Sponsored wreaths are placed on grave markers at state and national veterans' cemeteries, as well as at local, community cemeteries each December. Wreaths may also be sponsored online at www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org. If you wish to make your sponsorship with a credit card, please visit our website for a secure online transaction.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Please make checks payable to:
Wreaths Across America
 PO Box 249
 Columbia Falls, ME 04623

Call 877-385-9504 with any questions.
 Thank you for your sponsorship and joining us in our mission
 to Remember, Honor and Teach!

Sponsorship Type	Price	Quantity	Total
Individual = 1 Wreath	\$15.00		
Mailed "In Honor" card = If you wish to send a physical honor card telling someone of your sponsorship, please see "In Honor" section below. The \$2 fee is required for this mailing.	\$2.00		
Family = 4 Wreaths	\$60.00		
Small Business = 10 Wreaths	\$150.00		
Corporate = 100 Wreaths	\$1,500.00		
		Grand Total	

GRAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED ON THIS FORM

In Honor of:

Below, please provide email or mailing address of "In Honor of" recipient so we can notify them of your sponsorship in their honor. If you have a specific message please write it on the back of this sheet.

Email address: _____
 Mailing address: _____

In Memory of:

This name will be listed on our online memory wall. Below, please provide name, rank, branch of service and state resided.

Branch of Service: _____
 Rank: _____
 State: _____

Please note, ALL sponsored wreaths are shipped directly to the location and NO wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.

Location ID: NYGSNS Fundraising Group ID: NY0087P

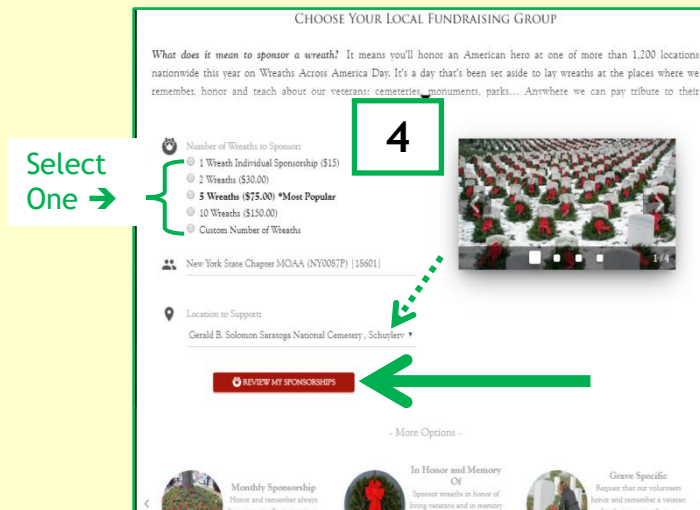
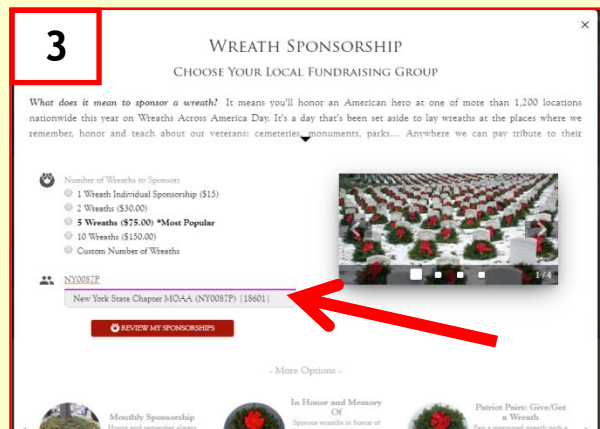
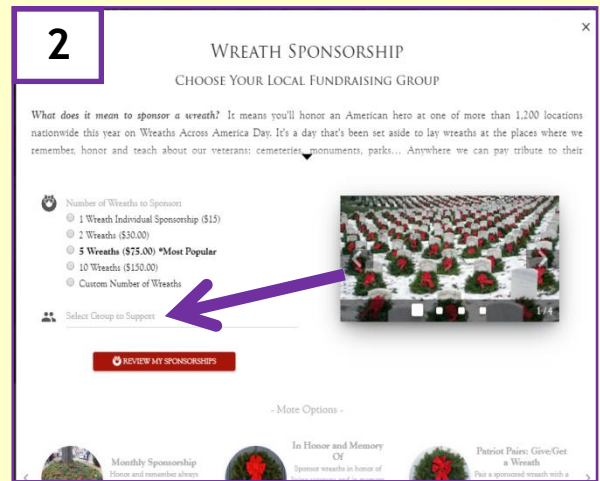
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Cash: _____ Total: _____ Date Received: _____
 Total No. Checks: _____ Reconciled: _____
 MO: _____
 Entered: _____

GEN: _____

Wreaths Across America™ - Guidance for Sponsoring Wreaths Online

1. On the home page, under the red “SPONSOR WREATHS” button, find and click on the tiny heading labeled “or Local Fundraising Group”. That opens a box titled “Wreath Sponsorship; Choose Your Local Fundraising Group”
2. Click on the button for the number of wreaths you wish to sponsor. Then, in the box just above the red button labeled “Review of Sponsorships”, click on the space to the right of the icon of two people labeled faintly “Select Group to Support.”
3. With your cursor in the space, type in our group code **NY0087P**. The entry “New York State Chapter MOAA (NY0087P) (18601)” will appear *below* the space.
4. Click on “New York State Chapter MOAA (NY0087P) (18601)” The location “Gerald B. Solomon National Cemetery, Schuylerville” will appear below, to confirm you have the correct fundraising organization. *Select the number of wreaths you wish to sponsor*, and click on the red “Review of Sponsorships” button to be able to complete the transaction.



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rocco D. Acquilano, CDR USNR RET	Ernest "Skip" Beberntz**, MAJ USA RET
Christopher J. Costigan*, CDR USN RET	Anthony J. Ficara**, COL USA RET
Vincent A. Memole, Jr., LTC USAR RET	Edmund M. Scheiber, Jr.**, Lt Col USAF RET
VACANT	VACANT

* Immediate Past-President ** Former President

LUNCHEON RESERVATION INFORMATION

Date: **October 9, 2022**

Location: **THE RIPE TOMATO AMERICAN GRILL RESTAURANT, Malta, NY**

Time: **1:30 PM** – Check-in; Social Mixer // 2:00 – 4:00 PM – Dinner & Guest Speaker

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 **Wednesday, October 5**

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

Your name: _____ Qty/ Menu Choices _____ / Yankee Pot Roast

Number of persons attending: _____ _____ / Chicken Parm.

_____ / Salmon Florentine