



2010, 2011, 2012, 2013

**GENESEE VALLEY CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

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Serving Members and Their Country

September 2014



**FROM THE
PRESIDENT**

Welcome back to GVC's new year. I hope that your summer vacation gave you some time to relax and feel refreshed as we journey into serving our nation's active duty service men and women, as well our retired veterans and their families in our area. There is a psychological benefit that we receive as a part of serving those who have given so much, but it also provides an opportunity to enjoy the company of those few who have experienced military service. So I ask that you take the opportunity to attend our general meetings and become involved in some fashion with the Chapter this year. And if you regularly attend, offer to accompany someone who has not attended for a while.

Along that line, I want to welcome Marion Mench to our Board of Directors as the Auxiliary Representative. And thanks to Carol

Searing for her years of service and dedication representing our Auxiliary. Our Auxiliary and Spouses Club do so much for our Chapter. Along the lines of changes in the Chapter leadership, my term as President expires on June 14, 2015. It has been an honor and privilege to serve in that capacity, but term limits do have the benefit of having others serve with new energy, motivation and perspective. Soon, I will convene a Nomination Committee to recommend members for vacant positions on the Board for 2015 – 2017. Please consider volunteering for one of the positions when the Committee is formed.

It's a four-peat. GVC, for the fourth year in a row, has been selected as a 5 Star Level of Excellence (LOE) Chapter by MOAA National. Also, Southern Tier Chapter received this designation for the fifth year in a row and the Greater Rome-Utica Chapter has been designated as a 4 Star Level of Excellence Chapter. I was elated and somewhat relieved at the announcement, knowing that all the Chapter's accomplishments for 2013 were sufficient to put us among a group of less than 20% of all MOA Chapters. It's no fun being anything but the best. There is much more that the Chapter can and should do to fulfill its

mission and I hope to continue to provide the leadership and motivation to live up to this standard. It will be a great honor to receive, on your behalf, the 2013 LOE streamer for our GVC flag from the MOAA Board President on October 29th in Alexandria, Virginia. Congratulations to all who work so hard to make our Chapter nationally recognized. Over the summer, I received MOAA's Colonel Marvin J. Harris Communications Award for Unique Communications in 2013. The Award recognized our publication of a "How to" guide to host a state convention. This guide was based on the Chapter's work hosting the NYS Council of Chapters Convention.

September Membership Meeting. Due to the closing of the Governor's Mansion in Churchville, we have had to move the venue to Johnson House (about a mile north of the Mansion). The Board thought it was important to retain our west side location so that our meetings retain the split between the west, east and central Rochester to accommodate our membership which is spread out across a nine county area. The restaurant is family owned and operated by the Naughton family, and, although not normally opened on Sunday, Peggy Naughton agreed to host our meeting at our regular Sunday time. Joe Ballister was able to obtain an excellent speaker relating to the Personal Affairs. Our guest speaker will be David Ferris, Esq., a partner at Harris Seacrest and Emory and an experienced lawyer in the area of trusts and estates. This is an area that we tend to avoid until we must deal with it, the results of which are not always to our liking. His experience brings a wealth of information explained in a manner that will be clear and engaging to non-lawyers. Please join us for an excellent meal and speaker on September 14th, 1 PM Social Hour with Dinner at 2 PM. Please

note the change of location to Johnson House, 19 South Main Street, Churchville, NY 14428.

Remember to bring your donation of personal care items for VAMC Canandaigua to the meeting and place them in the box near the check-in table

The 42nd Annual NYS Council of Chapters Convention. This year's NYS Council of Chapters Convention is being hosted by the Southern Tier Chapter in Corning. The date for the initial registration for the Convention has passed, but I am assured that registrations are still being accepted for a limited time. Please consider joining us during all or at least some of the events on October 13-15. The Convention Schedule and Registration information has been attached.

Legislative issues. New VA Secretary - Bob McDonald, a West Point graduate and former CEO of Proctor and Gamble was confirmed by the Senate on July 30th by a vote of 97 – 0 as the new Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. And, before their August recess Congress passed sweeping legislation to carry out the necessary reforms to provide the quality care our veterans deserve. Although the legislation carried a cost of \$17 Billion, members of the House and Senate were able to work out their differences in record time, indicating an awareness of the need to support the Secretary as he and his staff face the enormous task of reforming the VA in the wake of a major health care scandal.

The fiscal year 2015 Authorization and Appropriations Bills are not faring as well. There is a wide disparity between the House and Senate versions which were not resolved before the recess. The House has taken a position supporting our active duty service men and women with an increase in basic pay based on the CPI contained in the current law. It has also supported the current Basic Allowance for Quarters (BAQ) and Commissary subsidy. The Senate has proposed that the base pay be limited to 1%, a reduction in BAQ by 5% and a

reduction in the Commissary subsidy. Members will deal with these two issues after the recess which ends after Labor Day, leaving less than a month to pass all the authorization and appropriation bills prior to the beginning of the 2015 fiscal year, which begins on October 1, 2014. MOAA has asked the chapters to weigh in on these top three issues by contacting our elected representatives while they visit their home districts during the recess and when they return with phone calls or by email. Scripted emails on these and other topics can be found on the MOAA web site under the "Take Action" icon. MOAA has "One Powerful Voice" representing the 380, 000 members, but what good is it if we don't use it?

Intrastate Compact on the Educational Opportunities for Military Families. After six long years, the NYS Assembly and Senate passed identical Bills on the last day of the legislative session. Although not yet signed by the Governor, he was responsible for brokering the agreement that contains other provisions supporting our active duty personnel and veterans.

- The bill allows the family of service members from New York who were wounded in combat but died from their wounds outside the combat zone to qualify for the supplemental burial allowance..
- The bill would ease the burden of relocation on family members who hold certain Licenses or Certificates in other states to practice in New York.

I want to thank all our Chapter members who have supported this legislation over the many years. You have made a difference in the lives of our active duty families who have school aged children who are reassigned to stations in different states. Now all states, the District of Columbia and the DOD School System belong

to the Compact. I will not dwell on the fact that New York was the last state to join the Compact. **Congratulations** to Captain Jeff Bartkoski, USN (Retired) who received the Genesee Chapter of the Reserve Officers Association (ROA) American Spirit Award at a recent Heroes Award Dinner. I was also delighted to learn of his selection as the President/CEO of Mercy Flight Central. Prior to this transition, he served on active duty as the Commanding Officer of the NROTC Unit at the University of Rochester.

Passing of GVC members. It is with deepest sympathy that I report the deaths of LCDR Graydon Swanson, SC, USN (Retired), Lt Col Phil Serafine, USAF (Retired), LCDR Douglas Borden, USN (Retired), 1LT Anthony Cotroneo, USA (Retired) and Auxiliary member Carolyn Humphreys. Our thoughts, prayers and condolences go out to their families and friends.

Welcome. Please join me in welcoming our newest Chapter members, COL Daniel Maney, USA (Retired) and his wife Karen, LT Erich Melcher, USNR and his wife Nichol and Reverend Paul Freemesser, LTC, USA (Retired)

New Life Member. COL Akiko Masakawa, USA (Ret). Thank you for dedication and service to the Chapter.

Honor Flight. Honor Flight Rochester has scheduled three missions for the remainder of the year.

Mission 37 – September 6-7

Mission 38 – September 27-28

Mission 39 – October 18-19

Please try to attend the homecoming of our WWII and Korean War veterans as they return to the Rochester International Airport at approximately 11:30 AM on September 7th, 28th and October 19th. It is an experience you will long remember. Donations to send a WWII or Korean War veteran to Washington DC may be

made in the collection box at our meetings or to our Treasurer, Russ Green.

Gerald 'Jerry' Luzum, CAPT, CEC, USN (Ret),
President, GVC/MOAA

Introducing Board member Peter Ingalsbe:

Peter received his Bachelor Degree in Business Administration from Rochester Institute of Technology in 1972. In December, Peter joined the New York Army National Guard as a wheel vehicle mechanic and in 1976 he graduated from the New York State Empire State Military Academy (ESMA) as a 2nd Lieutenant. His assignments include Shop Officer, Maintenance Company Commander, Support Group S-1, Executive Officer and Battalion Commander of the 342nd Forward Support Battalion, 42nd Infantry Division and a second command of the 427th Support Battalion, 27th Infantry Brigade. Peter's final assignment was OIC&C of the Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site (MATES) Fort Drum from 1999-2006 retiring at the rank of Colonel. Peter's civilian career included sales of construction and municipal equipment, 21 years as a Federal employee for the NYS Division of Military Affairs as well as serving his home town as Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals and currently as Town Councilman for the Town of Farmington. He is a 13-year volunteer for the Wegmans LPGA and a Board member with Victor Hiking Trails. He is married to Cindy (Wagner) Ingalsbe. They have two grown children and five grandsons.

Spouses Club Information:

The Spouses Club elected new officers at the May 21st meeting. Karen Murphy and Kathy Green will be co-president for 2014-15 and Karen and Signe Zale will be co-presidents for 2015-16. Vivian Kennely was elected Secretary, Rosemary Luzum, Treasurer, and Marinn Mench, MOAA Board Auxiliary representative. Thank you to Carol Searing who has represented us on the board for many years.

The Spouses Club had a successful beer cooler raffle at the June 9 MOAA dinner with Barb Green winning (again).

Sick call: If you are aware of anyone who is ill or in need of help, please contact Eileen Carlsen at emc918@frontiernet.net.

The next meeting of the Spouses Club will be September 17 at Monroe's Restaurant in Pittsford at noon. All spouses and auxiliary members are welcome to attend. Dues of \$10 for the new year will be collected at the meeting.

WANTED! GVC MOAA Dinner Program Coordinator

Seeking an individual or team to make dinner program arrangements and coordinate reservations for GVC dinner programs. The collective planning skills among the members and spouses are formidable! Put those skills to work to make a real difference to the organization. **For details, give Barb Green a call at 585-330-2708.**

Future GVC/MOAA Meetings:

October 26, Daisy Flour Mill

December 7, Burgundy Basin

GVC/MOAA BOARDMEMBERS 2013-2015

- President:** Gerald (Jerry) Luzum, CAPT, CEC, USN (Ret)
(H) 585-396-1406, cell 585-355-0562 Email: roni39@earthlink.net
- 1st Vice President:** Norma Weissend, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
585-746-2904 Email: normaweis@roadrunner.com
- 2nd Vice President:** Ken Carlsen, CDR, USN, (Ret)
585-377-5665, Email: kcarlsen@frontiernet.net
- 3rd Vice President/Transition Liaison:** Joe Anderson, LTC, USA (Ret)
585-381-7738, Email: andersonresources@yahoo.com
- Member at Large:** Peter Ingalsbe, COL, USA (Ret)
585-749-3390, (cell) Email: pingalsbe@gmail.com
- Secretary:** Joseph Ballister, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
585-334-9775 Email: ballister@earthlink.net
- Treasurer:** Russ Green, LTC, USA (Ret)
585-425-4292, Email: russgreen@aol.com
- Immediate Past President:** Dave Szczygiel, BG, USA (Ret)
585-346-3736 Email: mszczygiel@rochester.rr.com
- Past president: Robert Zale,** Col, USAF (Ret)
585-594-8422 Email: sigbobzale@aol.com
- Auxiliary Liaison:** Marion Mench
585-217-1779, Email: mosimpli@rochester.rr.com

**Genesee Valley Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
54th Year, First Meeting
Sunday, September 14, 2014**

NAUGHTON'S JOHNSON HOUSE

**19 South Main Street
Churchville, New York 14428
585-293-1111**

1300 Cocktails and Cheese and Crackers

1400 Dinner

Guest Speaker

David R. Ferris, Esq., a partner in the law firm of Harter Secrest & Emery, will address the MOAA members at the September dinner meeting. Mr. Ferris specializes in the practice area of wills, trusts and estates. He will discuss, among other subjects, wills and living trusts, retirement benefits planning and asset protection planning. A question and answer session will follow his presentation.

Entrees

**Charbroiled New York Strip Steak
Broiled Salmon with Sesame Bourbon Glaze
Chicken French**

Vegetable

Green Beans Almondine

Dessert

Rainbow Sherbet

Reservations due (ASAP) but NLT Noon Saturday, September 6.

Please use form provided.

Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Wednesday, September 10.

If you know reservation won't reach PO Box by Saturday, September 6

call Barbara Green @ 585-330-2708.

Please make every attempt to make reservations early, to minimize confusion.

If vacation/absence causes delay,

it would be better to respond late than be absent from the dinner!

Reservation for September 14th Meeting

Name _____ **Spouse** _____

Guest _____ **Guest** _____

Beef _____ **Chicken** _____ **Salmon** _____

Make check for _____ meal(s) at \$25.00 each totaling _____ is enclosed.

Please make checks payable to GVC MOAA and mail to the following address:

**GVC MOAA
PO Box 20874
Rochester, NY 14602-0874**