



2010, 2011, 2012, 2013

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

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**Serving Members and Their Country**

**October 2014**



**FROM THE  
PRESIDENT**

**September Meeting Speaker.** Our sincere thanks and appreciation to David Ferris, an Estate and Trust lawyer with the firm of Harter, Secrest and

Emery. The examples and handout package should be an excellent starting point for those who need to complete documents that will ensure our material assets pass to the intended next of kin at our passing.

**October Meeting.** We are following up the topic of September's Meeting with Ms. Laura Stradley, Director of the Monroe County Veterans Service Agency, who will speak on the topic of veterans earned benefits. Her office provides information and assistance in obtaining those benefits. Laura's Bio is found later in our newsletter.

**Chapter Elections.** I have assigned Dave Szczygiel, as the Chairman of the Nominating Committee for the elections next June. Not that I am in a hurry or anything, but experience has shown that this process takes a while for members to step forward or, encouraged to do so, obtain information on the position and make a decision. We have a great organization, but it

will only remain so if members step forward and volunteer as some of our currently serving Board members and officers step aside. I ask you to seriously consider sharing your time and talent by serving the Chapter in a leadership position. Contact Dave for more information.

**Legislative issues.** The pesky Defense Budget for Fiscal Year 2015 was not passed prior to 1 October, the beginning of the fiscal year. Instead, the Congress recessed for their election campaigns and will not return until after the elections. They did pass a Continuing Resolution that keeps the federal government and Defense Department running at 2014 spending levels until December 11<sup>th</sup>. One could speculate that, with the short periods that Congress is in session after the election and holiday recesses, they may not have time to iron out the contentious issues for all the authorization and appropriation bills before the new congress is sworn in. In any event, three defense issues must (or not) be dealt with concerning our active duty and retired communities. While the House has supported our position, the Senate has not and so the issues must be dealt with in a joint committee or on the floor of the Senate. MOAA has asked the chapters to weigh in on these top three issues.

**1) Sustain a CPI Military pay raise:** The

military, serving multiple deployments in war and areas of global unrest must be protected against pay raise cutbacks. This would be the second year of a pay cap if the Pentagon budget is enacted. **Status:** The Senate Armed Services Committee endorses the Pentagon proposal to cap military pay at 1%. The House bill would protect the current statute and match the private sector pay growth according to the CPI. **Congressional Action needed:** support the House Bill and oppose the Senate pay cap.

- 2) Decrease the Basic Housing Allowance by 5% proposed by the Pentagon:** The House bill would protect the current Basic Housing Allowance while the Senate seeks to reduce it. **Congressional Action needed:** support the House Bill and oppose the Senate and Pentagon proposal.
- 3) Increase TRICARE payments and co-pays.** The House bill would allow TRICARE fees to increase according to the CPI. This is the language in the current law. **Congressional Action needed:** support the House Bill and oppose the Senate increase above the CPI.

In our representative form of government, we must voice our position on these and other issues or accept the consequences of our inaction. Contact with your Senator or Representative through their local office is a start. And, on a continuing basis, use the MOAA web site and access the ‘Take Action’ tab at the top left hand side of the page, click on the Key Bills heading and supply your zip code and a suggested letter to your senator and/or representative will be furnished for sending by email.

**Remember to vote on Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.** In our great country, we have the freedom to vote for those who represent us at various levels of government. Many countries do not have that same freedom and, as a result, have the opportunity to make choices that effect their

nation and their own well-being. That freedom has come at the high price of the servicemen and women who have died to keep our nation free. The least that we can do is show respect and gratitude for their sacrifice and become an informed voter.

**Chapter vote on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>.** Two issues have come before the Board of Directors which must be addressed by the members before the next Annual Meeting on June 14, 2015. One has to do with the status and dues for Auxiliary members and the other has to do with a dues increase for Chapter members. Please attend this meeting and make your voice heard in these two issues. Details on these two items are found in this Newsletter.

**Honor Flight.** Honor Flight Rochester has scheduled one mission for the remainder of the year.

Mission 39 – October 18-19

Please try to attend the homecoming of our WWII veterans as they return to the Rochester International Airport at approximately 11:30 AM on October 19<sup>th</sup>. It is an experience you will long remember. Donations to send a WWII veteran to Washington DC may be made in the collection box at our meetings or to our Treasurer, Russ Green.

**Welcome.** Please join me in welcoming our newest Chapter members, CW3 William O'Donnell USA and his wife Rachel, CPT Zachary Callahan USAF Reserve, and LTC Joesph Songin USA (Retired).

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

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**Introducing Board member Marion Mench:** Originally from New Jersey, I have lived in Rochester off and on for thirty seven years. My first husband (deceased) and I came to Rochester with Xerox in 1966. In 1976 we were moved to Stamford CT and in 1978 moved to London England for three years. Then back to Stamford in 1981 and back to Rochester in

1987. I was so glad to be back in Rochester!

My first husband died in 1991. I met Woody in 1996 (his first wife Peggy died in 1994) and we were married in 2000. Between us, Woody and I have six children and ten grandchildren.

I have never been involved with the military but our marriage brought me into a whole new phase in my life. I am so pleased to be involved with MOAA and the friends I have made within the military environment. I continue to be involved in Woody's legacy, Honor Flight Rochester, as a volunteer.

My undergraduate degree (Douglass College, the women's college of Rutgers University) is in history and graduate degree is in library science (Southern Connecticut State University). As a librarian my career has been in both public and academic libraries. I was catalog librarian at Nazareth College and retired in 2000. I continue to work at Pittsford Public Library on an on-call basis.

Woody and I loved to travel and I plan to continue to do so whenever possible!

**Spouses Club Information:** The MOAA Spouses Club met on September 17th with 13 members present. One new member, Mary Songin, joined us. We continue to have script gift cards available through [ShopWithScrip.com](http://ShopWithScrip.com) contact Karen Murphy at 585-749-8989 or e-mail at [kcarlom@icloud.com](mailto:kcarlom@icloud.com) with any questions.

Our club will raffle off a lottery card basket at the MOAA Dinner on October 26th as a fund raiser. Members are reminded to bring "winning" lottery tickets for the raffle basket to our next meeting. Collections of toiletries, reading material, socks, etc. for our troops will be collected at all dinners and meetings.

On October 21st some of our members will assist the staff at the Batavia Veterans Home Octoberfest and we will also donate \$140.00 to their activity fund. Prior to going to the Octoberfest, we will meet at

Alex's Restaurant for lunch. Contact Karen Murphy at the above phone number or e-mail address if you plan to attend. **Our next meeting will be on October 15th at noon at the Monroe Restaurant. Contact Eileen Carlsen at [emc918@frontiernet.net](mailto:emc918@frontiernet.net) if you are able to attend.**

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

### **The Honeymoon is over**

.....at The Daisy Flour Mill

We've been benefiting from a pricing agreement between Bob Zale and The Daisy Flour Mill that has now come to an end. In October we need to adjust to the new pricing. I anticipated having to increase our price to \$30, but I didn't look in time to realize we would need to increase the price beyond that to continue to enjoy the excellent dinners we've had there over the years. We discussed the situation at the Board meeting and decided to take this opportunity to try out a buffet venue at the October meeting. I have no doubt that they prepare an excellent buffet. It will be a hot Italian Buffet including three salad selections, a hot pasta dish, a chicken breast selection, closes with bite size sweets.

The cost of that buffet comes in at just under \$30, so we will still need to increase your cost to that for this dinner at least. We felt increasing by \$10 was too much of a jump at one time. We will solicit feedback and suggestions at the meeting for preference between served dinner, buffet, and any other options identified by or at that time. The GOOD news is that you don't need to make a menu selection

### **More News!**

Norma Weissend has volunteered to take over the reservation end of the dinner planning, which I am very grateful for! So note the change in address on the reservation form She lives quite distant from the Post Office Box, so we will send our reservations to her home.

In spite of the changes, we hope to have a great turn-out to get together before the snow flies and to meet the Director of the Monroe County Veteran Service Agency. Her information is important to us all and to service men and women returning to our area. We look forward to another successful gathering at The Daisy Flour Mill! Barb

**Proposed Auxilliary membership and Dues Changes:** The Board of Directors voted at its last meeting to change the Chapter Bylaws to address Auxiliary membership, and to facilitate an increase of dues effective 1 January 2015. The Auxiliary changes are predicated on the mandate by National MOAA that Auxiliary members are to be granted full membership in MOAA. The dues increase is deemed necessary in the face of ever-increasing expenses (mailing, newsletter production), as well as the realization that Chapter donation dollars do not have the impact they once did. A \$100 donation to an organization today doesn't have nearly the value as it did twenty years ago. (Chapter dues have not increased in well over twenty years.)

(Deleted wording is struck out; added wording is in bold.)

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP, Section 1(b):  
"Widows and widowers of any ~~deceased members of the above~~ [officers in any of the uniformed services], **whether or not the deceased spouse was a member him or herself, are eligible for membership.**

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP, Section 2(b):

"Auxiliary members: Widows and widowers of any deceased members, **or of any individual eligible for membership as specified in Section 1,** are eligible for membership."

ARTICLE V - DUES, Section 1:

"The annual dues for each member for the next calendar year shall be determined by the membership at ~~the annual meeting~~ **a general membership meeting**, after receiving the recommendation of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V - DUES, add Section 6:

**"Auxiliary members whose deceased spouse was either a Life member of National MOAA or a Life member of Genesee Valley Chapter will be entitled to Life Membership in the Chapter."**

ARTLICE VI - MEETINGS, Section 1:

"There shall be an annual meeting of the organization during the month of May or June for ~~the determination of annual dues~~; the receipt of annual reports, the transaction of other business..."

ARTICLE VIII - OFFICERS, Section 1:

**"Any Regular or Auxiliary member in good standing shall be eligible for elective office.** The elective positions for the organization will be President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer"

In addition to voting on the above bylaws changes, we will need to vote on the aforementioned dues increase from fifteen dollars per calendar year to twenty dollars, effective 1 January 2015. This will also necessitate adjusting the Life Member dues structure. as outlined below:

Existing Life Dues		Proposed Life Dues		
Age	Life Dues	Comment	Life Dues	Comment
<45	\$270	18 x annual dues @ \$15	\$360	18 x annual dues @ \$20
46-50	\$265	- \$5	\$350	-\$10
51-55	\$250	-\$15 or 1 yr dues	\$330	- \$20 or 1 yr dues
56-60	\$235	-\$15 or 1 yr dues	\$310	- \$20 or 1 yr dues
61-65	\$220	-\$15 or 1 yr dues	\$290	- \$20 or 1 yr dues
66-70	\$200	- \$20	\$270	- \$20 or 1 yr dues
71-75	\$170	- \$30 or 2 yr dues	\$230	- \$40 or 2 yr dues
76-80	\$140	- \$30 or 2 yr dues	\$190	- \$40 or 2 yr dues
81-85	\$110	- \$30 or 2 yr dues	\$150	- \$40 or 2 yr dues
86-90	\$80	- \$30 or 2 yr dues	\$110	- \$40 or 2 yr dues
>90	Free		Free	

If the above dues increase is approved by the general membership at the next chapter meeting on October 26, then the Board of Directors agreed that any member wishing to take advantage of the present dues may pay 2015 (or beyond) dues at the present dues rate, **if paid before 1 January 2015.** The same would apply to Life Dues. Questions contact Russ Green.

**Future GVC/MOAA Meetings:**

**December 7, Burgundy Basin**

**2015**

**March 8, 1300 – Valicia's Ristorante**

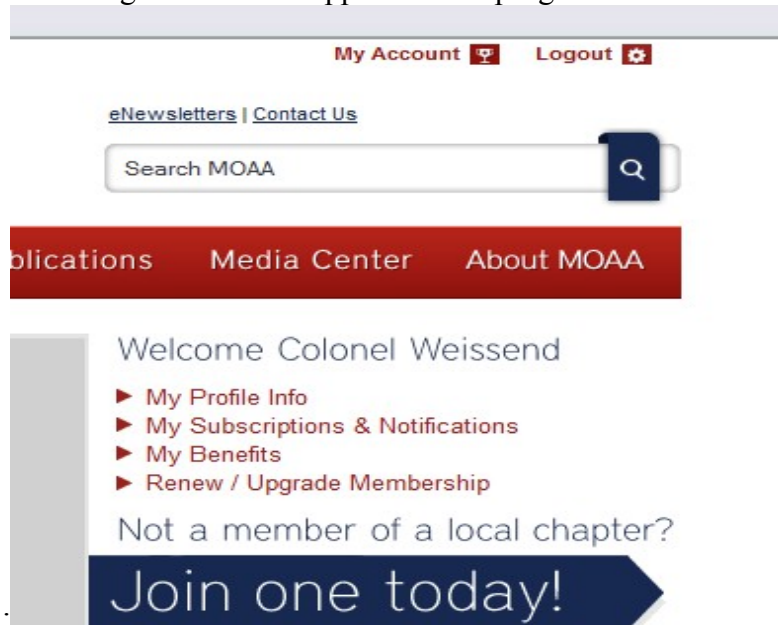
**April 26, 1300 – Canandaigua Yacht Club**

**June 14, 1300 – Burgundy Basin**

## **KEEP UP WITH ISSUES THAT AFFECT YOU:**

MOAA invites you to receive News, Legislative Updates, and much more automatically! **This tool is an easy way to stay informed and become a more active member in the Chapter and at the National level.** You can easily send an email to your own Senators and Congressperson using MOAA's formatted message, or edit it and make one up yourself. To get started, you must be registered on MOAA's website.

Open your browser and go to [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org) . You will find a lot of valuable information right on the Home Page. Here is a snippet of the top right corner



If you have not already registered with the website, follow the instructions to do so. When you have logged in, click on “My Subscriptions & Notifications” and then make sure your email address is entered in the top box. There are several categories from which to choose to receive updates. Just check the box!

**MOAA News Exchange:** Receive information on everything from second career and personal finance advice to legislative issues affecting you and your family. Get your news all in one place with this bi-weekly e-newsletter!

**MOAA Legislative Update:** Stay posted weekly on MOAA's legislative efforts to protect your interests and receive occasional special alerts on Congressional votes affecting you and your family.

**MOAA President's Message:** Get the latest insights on MOAA's affairs from MOAA's President. These timely alerts will help you stay connected to relevant news and information that thousands of military officers have come to rely on.

**MOAA Messages:** Be the first to know about new or updated MOAA discounts on products and services, MOAA-sponsored events, and more.

**MOAA Council and Chapter Affairs Update:** Keep up-to-date with the latest information on important events in MOAA's chapter system in this monthly e-newsletter. Find out what councils and chapters are doing around the country, and access The Affiliate print newsletter online.

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**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](mailto:roni39@earthlink.net)

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Norma Weissend, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)  
585-746-2904 Email: [normaweis@roadrunner.com](mailto:normaweis@roadrunner.com)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Ken Carlsen, CDR, USN, (Ret)  
585-377-5665, Email: [kcarlsen@frontiernet.net](mailto:kcarlsen@frontiernet.net)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President/Transition Liaison:** Joe Anderson, LTC, USA (Ret)  
585-381-7738, Email: [andersonresources@yahoo.com](mailto:andersonresources@yahoo.com)

**Member at Large:** Peter Ingalsbe, COL, USA (Ret)  
585-749-3390, (cell) Email: [pingalsbe@gmail.com](mailto:pingalsbe@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Joseph Ballister, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)  
585-334-9775 Email: [ballister@earthlink.net](mailto:ballister@earthlink.net)

**Treasurer:** Russ Green, LTC, USA (Ret)  
585-425-4292, Email: [russgreen@aol.com](mailto:russgreen@aol.com)

**Immediate Past President:** Dave Szczygiel, BG, USA (Ret)  
585-346-3736 Email: [mszczygiel@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mszczygiel@rochester.rr.com)

**Past president: Robert Zale,** Col, USAF (Ret)  
585-594-8422 Email: [sigbobzale@aol.com](mailto:sigbobzale@aol.com)

**Auxiliary Liaison:** Marion Mench  
585-217-1779, Email: [mosimpli@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mosimpli@rochester.rr.com)

**Genesee Valley Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
54<sup>th</sup> Year, Second Meeting  
Sunday, October 26, 2014**

**Daisy Flower Mill  
1880 Blossom Road  
Rochester, New York  
585-381-0180**

**1300 Cocktails and Cheese and Crackers  
1400 Dinner Italian Buffet**

## Guest Speaker

### **Laura Stradley Director Monroe County Veterans Service Agency**

Laura Stradley is an Army veteran who spent eight years on active duty, during which time she was stationed in Korea, Fort Benning, Fort Rucker and Germany. While in Germany, she was deployed to Bosnia in support of Operation Stabilization Force. Just before leaving the service, Laura earned her Master of Science in Business Administration from Baker College.

Since the military, Laura has worked with veterans in a number of capacities, including transition assistance counseling, higher education, and helping veterans at risk for or experiencing homelessness. In July of 2012, Laura assumed the role of Director for the Monroe County Veterans Service Agency.

Laura is actively involved with a number of professional organizations. She serves on the Board of Directors for two local non-profit organizations: the Veterans Outreach Center and the Rochester Regional Veterans Business Council.

In addition, Laura has co-authored two books – The Pocket Idiot's Guide to the ASVAB and The Complete Idiot's Guide to the ASVAB.\*

*\*ASVAB stands for Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, which is essentially the military's entrance exam. It is also used as a high school career exploration tool.*

**Daisy Flower Mill Reservations due (ASAP) but NLT Noon Friday, October 17.**

**Please use form provided below.**

**Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Wednesday, October 22.**

**If you know reservation will be late by mail, call Norma Weissend at 585-746-2904**

Please make every attempt to make reservations early, to minimize confusion. If vacation/absence causes delay, however, it would be better to respond late than be absent from the dinner!☺



**Reservation form October 26 Meeting Daisy Flower Mill**

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Name

Spouse

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Guest

Guest

Make check for \_\_\_\_\_ meal(s) at \$30.00 each totaling \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

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

**GVC MOAA  
C/O Norma Weissend  
4587 Ridge Rd  
Canandaigua 14424**