



2010, 2011, 2012, 2013

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

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Serving Members and Their Country

November 2014



**FROM THE
PRESIDENT**

Returning from the State and National MOAA Annual meetings, it is sometimes difficult to determine what we got out of them. But, perhaps that is the wrong question.

What did we do during the year to make our Chapter, Council, and National organization viable to our members, our Armed Forces, and Community? One measure of that is the annual review of our Chapter that I make in the submission for the Level Of Excellence (LOE) Award. Those submissions are reviewed by a panel of three judges. Our Chapter has been chosen for the Five Star Award for the last four years. Less than 25% of the 413 Chapters receive that designation. You can be justly proud of your accomplishment, but a lot more needs to be done in our community. The LOE Awards are given on the first day of the National meeting. The second day's dinner recognized the Community Heroes Award recipients. These

ranged from Senator Elizabeth Dole, who started a foundation, Caring for Military Families, to a 25 year old former Marine Corps sergeant who has dedicated himself to increasing awareness of veteran's struggles and their incredible strength. To garner funds for his campaign he ran 3600 miles from California to Maine from Veterans Day 2012 to Veterans Day 2013, attracting some \$500,000 which he has donated to three charities that support veterans. In the group category, I was amazed at the use of technology at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center's 3D Medical Applications Center. They use 3D technology to fabricate titanium craniofacial prosthesis for those suffering from polytraumatic injuries. I mention these only as a means to give visibility to the dedication by many to our wounded heroes.

MOAA's President and CEO, VADM Ryan's annual report was again inspirational and motivational. You might ask how can such a dry subject have that effect on the audience? I'll let you be the judge of that, his address is on the MOAA web site, on the home page, click on 2014 Annual Meeting, then click on the second bullet 2014 Annual Meeting. He recounted the accomplishments for 2013-14 and the challenges that lie ahead for 2015.

Membership is at the top of the list and has two elements. The raw number of 390,000 members is key to his and his staff's access to the executive and legislative branches. This was exemplified when the Director of Government Relations, Col Mike Hayden, was unexpectedly called out of a meeting to appear and testify before the Commission studying military compensation. The second part of membership is the 'Boots on the ground' Chapter members who are engaged in meeting, calling or writing their local Federal representatives on MOAA legislative issues. This part is essential to our National leadership's work and solidifies the basis for their work. And, the Boots vote.

Sequestration is the 900 lb. gorilla in the room for 2015. While given budget relief for 2013 and 2014, it will be in force for 2015, meaning a military budget reduction of 10% (excepting for a few programs). This is all done in light of new initiatives using our All-Volunteer force. It all boils down to that force being driven by a budget number rather than an overall national strategy. Restoration of full COLA for our active duty, reversal of the proposed 5% reduction in Basic Housing Allowance, and abiding by the previous agreement on TRICARE increases round out MOAA's focus for legislative action.

ADM Ryan shared that it was getting harder and harder to develop a relationship with some of the 80% of the legislators who, as a group, have not served in the military and their young staffers. He pointed out that he expected little to be accomplished during the lame duck session before the Holiday break and, on top of that, the election may require subsequent 'run-offs' which could delay setting the legislature for the next session.

And last but certainly not least, a sincere thank you to our Vice President, Lt Col Norma Weissend for chairing the General and Board Meetings so that Rosemary and I could attend the MOAA Annual meeting and spend some time with our daughter who lives in Virginia.

Veterans Day. Please observe this day in a public venue. It is a day in which Americans honor and pay tribute to those who are serving and who have served. Be present and visible to our communities, so that our service and sacrifices are not forgotten. LTC Russ Green and I will place the GVC/MOAA wreath at the War Memorial at 11 AM on that day.

VAMC Gift Wrap. Please join the Spouses Club at 1 PM on December 11th at the Canandaigua VAMC to wrap gifts for VAMC patients. It is one way of showing our concern and holiday wish for their healing on a sometimes lonely journey. The group wraps over 1000 presents in about two and a half hours. We normally have lunch at the Rheinblick Restaurant prior to the wrap. See the Spouses Club article for details.

Dues. 2015 dues are to be paid prior to January 1st as stated in our By-Laws. They are at a bargain rate of \$15/Year prior to that date and \$20 thereafter. Pay for two years at the \$15 rate or, better yet, become a Chapter Life member at the lower rate.

Chapter Holiday Dinner. Bring a small gift, your dancing shoes and make reservations for our Annual Holiday Dinner, this year at the Burgundy Basin on December 7th. All the Army officers will not have to worry this year about your president wearing his Navy sweatshirt as the Army - Navy game isn't until December 13th.

Rosemary and I ask that you consider sharing your bountiful harvest with those not so fortunate and wish that you experience the peace, joy and blessings of the season. I would also ask that you keep our deployed troops and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Chapter Elections. (Repeat) 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, be 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.

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

Introducing Board member Karen Murphy:

I was born in Buffalo, New York and came to Rochester to attend The School of Nursing and to marry my late husband who died in 1999. I worked at the Genesee Hospital from 1964 until 1991 when my career direction changed to Hospice. After I obtained a certification in Hospice Nursing, I began working at The Visiting Nurse Service, and continued to work there until 2003. I met Tom and we started dating in 2002. We married in 2004. Tom and I have 6 children and 12 grandchildren between us. My son has been in the reserves for 19 years, but I only became involved with the military after my marriage to Tom. I have been a member of the MOAA Spouses club for a number of years and have been chairperson of the Shop with Script gift cards, one of our club's fund raising activities. I enjoy travel, especially my yearly trip to Florida, gardening, reading, visiting with friends and family, playing Mah Jongg and being involved in several ministries at my parish.

Spouses Club Information:The MOAA Spouses club met on October 15th with nine members present. We donated scratch-off tickets for the lottery basket which was raffled off at the last MOAA dinner meeting. On October 21st five of our members traveled to the Batavia Veterans Home to assist the staff in

celebrating Oktoberfest with the veterans. It was a very rewarding experience and the staff appreciated our presence. Our next fundraiser will be a wine and cheese basket to be raffled off at the next MOAA dinner meeting on December 7th.

The Canandaigua V.A. has invited us and our spouses to attend the annual Christmas gift-wrapping on December 11th at 1:00PM. Prior to the wrapping fest, we will meet at the Rheinblick Resturant in Canandaigua for lunch. Contact **Eileen Carlsen** at emc918@frontiernet.net or 585-377-5665 if you are able to attend. We will bring the donated toiletries, reading material, etc along with our donation of \$300 for their activity fund.

Gift cards are available online at www.shopwithscrip.com using the GVC MOAA code: DSCLFDBF3L831. Once you have entered your order, send a copy of the order and check to Karen Murphy, 1463 Camborn Dr. Macedon, NY 14502. Our club earns from 2 – 15% for each card ordered and there are over 300 retailers from which to choose. If you have any questions contact Karen at kcarlom@icloud.com or phone 585-749-8989.

Our next Spouses meeting will be at **Monroe's Restaurant** on November 19th. Contact **Eileen Carlsen** at the above address.

Sick call: if you are aware of anyone who is ill or in need of help please contact Eileen Carlsen at the above address.

Dues Increase: The Chapter membership approved a dues increase effective January 1st, 2015. 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 (\$15), **if paid before 1 January 2015.** The same would apply to Life Dues. On January 1, 2015 annual dues increase to \$20 per year and life membership increases as listed on the chart below. Questions contact Russ Green.



President Jerry Luzum receiving the new Streamer from General John Tilelli, Jr. (USA Ret.) MOAA's Chairman of the board.

Existing Life Dues		Life Dues Jan 1, 2015		
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	

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

Past president: Barbara Green, Col, USA (Ret)
585-330-2708 Email: bgreenanc@gmail.com

Auxiliary Liaison: Marion Mench
585-217-1779, Email: mosimpli@rochester.rr.com

Genesee Valley Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
54th Year, Third Meeting
Sunday, December 7, 2014

Burgundy Basin
1361 Marsh Road
Pittsford, NY 14534
(Exit 26 off I 490 toward Pittsford, turn on Marsh Rd. toward Post Office on corner)

1300 Cocktails and Cheese and Crackers

1400 Dinner

Entrees

Sirloin Steak w/ Wild Mushroom Aus Jus

Poached Salmon w/ Lemon Garnish

Chicken Marsala

Dessert

Vanilla Ice Cream w/ Crème De Menthe

Program

Music by Bob Neusatz

Gift exchange (\$10 limit)

Those wishing to participate bring a gift and take a gift home!

Reservations due ASAP but NLT Friday, 11/28/14.

Please use form provided.

Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Friday, 12/5/14.

Future Meetings

2015

March 8, 1300 – Valicia's Ristorante

April 26, 1300 – Canandaigua Yacht Club

June 14, 1300 – Burgundy Basin

Reservation for December 7, 2014, Chapter Meeting and Christmas Party

Name _____ Spouse _____

Guest _____

Beef _____ Chicken _____ Salmon _____

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, NY 14424**

585.746.2904

Dues Payment Enclosed:

1 year _____ \$15.00

2 years _____ \$30.00

Lifetime \$ _____ as indicated on Treasurer's spreadsheet for age group _____

Dinner Meeting Survey

In an effort to provide dinner programs that reflect the preferences of the membership at the most affordable price, we are asking that everyone complete this survey. You may mail this with your dinner reservation or bring the survey to the December meeting. Thank you for taking the time to respond.

Preferred venue: Served Dinner Buffet
 Either

Would you like to continue served dinners at the Daisy Flour Mill if the cost per person for that dinner is \$35.00? Yes No

Would you like to continue cheese and crackers during the cocktail hour (\$35-\$57 charge for the group)?

Yes No No Preference

Please provide comment/suggestions about likes or dislikes, i.e. type of restaurant/food etc., related to dinner meetings _____

_____.

Would you be interested in becoming involved in dinner planning? Yes No

Name (optional): _____