



2010, 2011, 2012, 2013

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

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Serving Members and Their Country

May 2015



**FROM THE
PRESIDENT**

This will be my last ‘From the President’ in the Newsletter as a new slate of officers will assume their positions on June 14th. It has been an honor to serve the Chapter, the New York Council of Chapters, our service men and women and a great national organization, MOAA. This Annual Business Meeting will be held at Burgundy Basin. Colonel Jonathan Withington, Director of Public Relations, will be the guest speaker and induction officer. Since there are over 400 Chapters, it will be a once in 3-4 years opportunity to get a glimpse of what is happening in Washington and MOAA National. One topic is sure to be the retirement of MOAA’s President, VADM Norb Ryan, USN (Ret) on January 1, 2016. He has provided superb leadership as the President for nine

years. He the greatest respect by the President, DOD, Congress and their staffs. It is also an opportunity to thank the outgoing Chapter officers and board members for their dedication and service and welcome the new leadership team. Please don’t miss this meeting event.

Federal Legislative Action.

Although the pace is painstakingly slow, the Congress did pass a Budget resolution, which is non-binding, but provides some insight into the battles that are to come in forming the Authorization and Appropriation laws. Pay Caps for active duty military pay raise at 1.3% instead of 2.3% mandated by law were left in place. Sequestration was not addressed. The commissary subsidy was left in place. TRICARE would not be disproportionately increased.

The House Armed Services Committee seems to want to fast track one item in the Military compensation and Retirement Moderation Commission (MCRMC) recommendation. That would replace the current 20 year cliff-vesting system with a blended defined

401(k) style retirement package. The system would be optional for the current force, mandatory for new entrants. Current retirees would be unaffected. Most organizations want more time to study the recommendation as it appears that the appropriations to pay for this change would come out of the 20+ year retirement system.

The White House and the DOD wants additional time to study the 15 recommendations. Their input was due April 1st.

The President drew a line in the sand and said he will veto any Defense Budget that comes before him without rescinding Sequestration. So there.

Doc Fix. The Congress finally passed a bill after 13 times kicking the can down the road so that they would not have to handle it. It changes the system of payment that should be transparent to the participant. My plea is that you stay informed of these issues and make your voice heard by your local senator or representative, either in person or by written correspondence. The MOAA web site home page, "Take Action" icon, is an excellent source for scripted (which may be changed to fit your needs) email messages on these and other topics.

State Legislative Action. A series of accusations of corruption has disrupted the Assembly and Senate to the point of slowing the pace of legislation that ends with its session in mid June.

Honor Flight Rochester.

Honor Flight Rochester (HFR) has scheduled the following five missions for this year.

Mission 41 – May 30-31 Returns about 11:30

Mission 42 – June 20 – 21 Returns about 11:30

Mission 43 – September 12-13 Returns about

11:30

Mission 44 – September 26-27 Returns about 11:30

Mission 45 – October 24-25 Returns about 11:30

Please try to attend the homecoming of our WWII and Korean War veterans as they return to the Rochester International Airport. It is an experience you will long remember. An Honor Flight donation box is located on the check-in table at all meetings.

Please don't forget to bring **Personal Care Donations for VAMC**. Place them in the box on the check in table.

Welcome. Please join me in welcoming our newest members, CAPT Norb Nobrega, USN and his spouse Marcia, LtC Ann Gallucci, USAF and her spouse Michelangelo, 1LT Antony Pedicone, USA and his spouse Jennifer.

And our **Newest Life Member** – BG Dave Szczygiel, USA (Ret)

Taps. Our sincere condolence and sympathy to the family and friends of Colonel George Brege, USA (Ret)
Gerald "Jerry" Luzum, CEC, USN (Ret),
President

Notice to the Membership of Proposed Candidates for Chapter Office. (Repeat from April Newsletter)

BG David P. Szczygiel, chairman of the nominating committee, has submitted the names of the following prospective candidates for office for the 2015-2017 term.

President: Norma Weissend, Lieutenant Colonel, USAF-Ret.

First Vice President: Peter Ingalsbe, Colonel, USA-Ret.

Second Vice President: Kenneth H. Carlsen,

Commander, USN-Ret.

Third Vice President: Russell L. Green, Lieutenant Colonel, USA-Ret.

Secretary: Joseph C. Ballister, Lieutenant Colonel, USAF-Ret.

Treasurer: James Nielsen, Commander, USN-Ret.

Board of Directors: Auxiliary Member Marion Mench. Member at Large: Nancy Swanson, Captain, USN-Ret.

Nominations may be made from the floor at the annual meeting on June 14, 2015. The election will follow the close of nominations. In accordance with Article IX of the Chapter Bylaws, notice of the candidates proposed must be sent to each member at least 20 days before the annual meeting.

June 14 Guest Speaker

**COL Jonathan Withington, USA (Ret)
Director of MOAA's Communications
Department**

Withington retired from the U.S. Army in 2014 after 28 years as an armor and public affairs officer. He served as a communicator at all levels including division, Department of the Army, joint command, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Withington earned his bachelor's degree in political science from East Carolina University in 1986 and was commissioned through Army ROTC as an armor officer. He has a master's degree in mass communications from the University of South Carolina.

After successfully serving operational assignments as an armor officer, Withington transitioned into public affairs. Upon completion of the Public Affairs Officer Qualification course, he built more than 15 years of experience leading integrated

communications strategies in complex and fast-paced communications environments, both domestically and overseas.

Withington served as a public affairs officer for the U.S. Army Special Operations Command and, later, as the command public affairs officer for U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, N.C. in 2006, he deployed with the 4th Infantry Division in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and served as the division public affairs officer for Multi-National Division – Baghdad. He served in the Pentagon as a defense press officer in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) for the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy. After an assignment in Seoul, South Korea, as the director of public affairs as the U.S. Forces Korea/Combined Forces Command/United Nations Command, Withington returned to the Pentagon where he served at the Department of the Army as the director, Media Relations Division, and finally, as the director, Community Relations Division within the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs.

6 April 2015 Chapter Dinner/Meeting Guest Speaker:

By Norma Weissend

Our program featured National Warplane Museum's Naomi Wadsworth, a veteran pilot and navigator with over 30 years of flight experience, who helped fly the famously restored C-47 "Whiskey 7" from Geneseo to Normandy for the 70th Anniversary of D-Day in June 2014. Her captivating presentation on this once in a life-time experience was truly outstanding.

Although Naomi is not a veteran, she is very proud of the long line of veterans in her family. All that she ever wanted to do was fly, and at a time when women were excluded from pilot occupational codes, she went and earned her wings anyway as a civilian pilot.

Whiskey-7 was the lead airplane in the second wave of the D-Day invasion of Normandy. After having obtained her from a private citizen who had purchased her after WWII, the National Warplane Museum (NWM) took great pains to restore Whiskey-7 to her exact configuration on 6 June 1944. Naomi told of the many hops and maintenance stops from Geneseo, NY to Duxford, England. Through generous donations, the museum was able to raise the \$250,000 needed to make the trip. Their voyage to England took them by way of Presque Isle, Maine; Goose Bay, Labrador; Narsarsuag, Greenland; Reykjavik, Iceland; Prestwick, Scotland; Ramstein AB, Germany; and Cherbourg, France, with over 25 hours of flying time.



Whiskey-7 In-Flight



Whiskey-7 Aircraft Commander Naomi Wadsworth

For the 2014 D-Day re-enactment, Whiskey-7 descended on Drop Zone "O" near the French village of St. Mere Eglise, one of the first villages liberated by the Allied Forces. It transported paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division as part of Operation NEPTUNE. Flak was very heavy during the missions, but this C-47 managed to survive it all. Naomi tells of the great respect and devotion these French villagers have for those troops, especially those who found their final resting place in France. Many of the families of St. Mere Eglise, like many other French villages dotted across the countryside, make it their duty to "adopt" one of these fallen heroes and remain as caretakers of his gravesite in remembrance of their village's deep gratitude.

It was a great pleasure hearing Naomi's presentation. At the NWM, she is now responsible for aircraft airshow scheduling, safety and waiver compliance, as well as fund raising. Naomi encouraged everyone to visit the National Warplane Museum in person, as it is a local treasure.

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: **VACANT**

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

2015 Dues are now \$20.00 Please forward to the Treasurer Russell Green, LTC, USA, (RET), 2 Winding Brook Drive Fairport, NY 14450 or you may also include your dues payment with your dinner reservation.

PLEASE tell us when you change your e-mail or home address!

Future Meeting dates:

20 September 2015

25 October 2015

6 December 2015

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

Final Meeting for 2015

June 14, 2015 – Burgundy Basin – Induction of new officers

54th Year, 6th Meeting

1300: Social Hour - Cheese and Crackers w/ cash bar

1400: Dinner

Choices:

Sirloin Steak topped w/ Wild Mushroom Au Jus

Poached Salmon w/ Lemon Garnish

Stuffed Breast of Chicken w/ herbed stuffing and Peppercorn Madagascar Sauce

Program: Guest Speaker COL Jonathan Withington, USA (Ret)
MOAA National Director of Public Relations

Installation of 2015 – 2017 Chapter Officers

Reservations due ASAP but NLT Saturday, 5 June 2015.

Please use form provided below

Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Thursday, 11 June 2015.

Please use form provided.

Questions: Norma Weissend 585.746.2904

RESERVATION FOR 14 JUNE 2015 MEETING at the Burgundy Basin

Name

Guest

Guest

Guest

Please indicate number of each meal desired:

Steak _____

Chicken _____

Salmon _____

Check for _____ meal(s) at \$30.00 each

Total _____ is enclosed.

Please make checks payable to **GVC MOAA** and mail to:

GVC MOAA
c/o Norma Weissend
4587 Ridge Rd
Canandaigua, NY 14424

