



2010, 2011, 2012, 2013.2014

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

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Serving Members and Their Country

September 2015



**FROM THE
PRESIDENT**

Welcome to a “new year” for the Genesee Valley Chapter of MOAA. I am very honored and humbled to assume the responsibilities of the president’s office and will do my best to live up to your expectations. I have BIG shoes to fill!

My first announcement to you gives me great joy and pleasure! Under the exceptional leadership of Immediate Past GVC President CAPT Jerry Luzum, USN, and his Board of Directors, GVC has been awarded the 5-Star Level of Excellence from MOAA National for

the 2014 competition year. This award is given to the best of the best chapters nationwide and is scored on both subjective and objective criteria, and attaining a minimum of 220 out of 240 possible points. This is the Chapter’s **FIFTH CONSECUTIVE** 5-Star LOE. It is also worth noting that Jerry has been the Chapter’s President for four of those years. It is truly a testament to his leadership, commitment, and dedication to our great nation and those who serve it. I am looking forward to attending the MOAA National Convention at the end of October to accept this award on behalf of our Chapter.

Additionally, Past GVC President Col Bob Zale received a special recognition from MOAA in the category of Best Practices for ROTC Programs for his four-step Gold Bar Program. Bob has worked very diligently for many years to initiate and maintain contact with each University/College’s cadre personnel to keep active on their radar screens and get some classroom time with tomorrow’s Junior Officers and eventual leaders. We appreciate your hard work, Bob! Congratulations!

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES: Please continue your letter/email campaigns to your legislators, even visit them at their home offices during this recess if you can. Our key issues coming up are: 1) Reject Military Pay and Benefits Cuts; 2) Support Full Concurrent Receipt; and 3) Eliminate the “Widow’s Tax.” You can find details on these and a host of other issues at <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/>

HONOR FLIGHT ROCHESTER: HFR had several very successful fundraisers this summer, featuring a golf tournament with a very special dedication in memory of HFR Co-Founder and Past GVC President “Woody” Mench. There are just three missions remaining for this season. If you have not experienced a “Welcome Home” at the Rochester Airport, you really should put this amazing event on your calendar. Your donations, support, and participation would be greatly appreciated! For each Mission, the arrival back to Rochester is approximately 11:30 on the Sundays of the following weekends:

Mission 43: Sep 12-13

Mission 44: Sep 26-27

Mission 45: Oct 24-25

VAMC DONATIONS: Please do not forget to bring Personal Care items for our vets. There will be a donation box at the check-in table at every Chapter meeting.

WELCOME: Please join me in welcoming our newest Chapter members: LCDR Ronald Damrath, USCG; LTC Thomas Schoenwetter, USA; CPT James Delaney, USA; and MOAA Life Members: COL Larry Feasel, USA and Mrs. Marie May. We hope to meet soon at an upcoming Chapter meeting.

ILLNESS: Please keep both Jerry and Rosemary Luzum in your prayers as they each face their own major health issues. Tom Murphy will also appreciate your thoughts and prayers as he makes occasional hospital visits.

TAPS: Our sincere condolences and sympathy to the family and friends of COL Walter May, USA (3 Mar 2015), and our dear friend, Louise Sovocool, (3 Jul 2015).

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING: Sunday, 20 September 2015 at the Canandaigua Yacht Club (details on last page). Our guest speaker will be Mr. Brian Westlake, Chief of Clinical Operations at the Canandaigua VAMC. His topic will be the “Veteran’s Choice” card and the latest developments concerning it and other selected VA matters. I hope to see you there!

Norma E. Weissend, LtCol, USAF (Ret),
President

Spouses Club: The GVC MOAA Spouses Club will meet at noon on September 16th at Richardson's Canal House, please contact Signe Zale at 594-8422 or sigbobzale@aol.com if you are able to attend. We welcome all spouses to join our luncheon meetings and work towards supporting our troops and veterans.

Auxiliary Membership: There still may be some confusion regarding the membership status of Auxiliary members. Let us start out by defining some terms.

- An Auxiliary member is the surviving spouse of a deceased MOAA and/or Genesee Valley Chapter member. (In fact, MOAA National, for whatever reason, has chosen to stop using the term “Auxiliary” in favor of “Surviving Spouses”.)
- A “Life Member” can be either a Life Member with MOAA National or Genesee Valley Chapter or both. (Most GVC PAID Life Members are also MOAA National Life Members, however the reverse is not necessarily true.)

With the above definitions in mind, let’s recall that a couple years ago, MOAA National directed that Auxiliary members be eligible for full membership in MOAA National as well as all chapters. Full membership includes the right to vote and the right to hold any chapter office. Furthermore, they said that any Auxiliary member whose spouse was a Life Member, inherits that Life Membership. We instituted that same policy here at the chapter level as well. Any Auxiliary member whose spouse was a Life Member of either MOAA National OR GVC is considered a Life Member of the Chapter. So what if your spouse was not a life member of either MOAA National or GVC?

Here are your options:

- You can become a dues-paying member of the chapter. GVC membership dues are \$20 per year, which entitles you to all the rights of membership, to include voting rights, and the right to be elected to an office and the Board of Directors.
- You can forgo full chapter membership and join the Spouses' Club. Their dues are currently \$10 per year, which entitles you to take part in their activities and hold an office in the Spouses' Club.
- You can choose not to join EITHER organization, but continue to receive our newsletters and attend our dinners as long as you wish. This is a courtesy we've always extended to surviving spouses, and we see no reason to change that policy.
- Finally, you can decide you no longer wish to belong, and no longer wish to receive our newsletter. We certainly

hope none of you choose this option. We don't want to lose you.

Ken Carlsen 2nd Vice President and Membership Chair

Russell Green 3rd Vice President

GVC/MOAA BOARDMEMBERS 2015-2017

President: Norma Weissend, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
585-746-2904 Email: normaweis@roadrunner.com

1st Vice President: Peter Ingalsbe, COL, USA (Ret)
585-749-3390, (cell) Email: pingalsbe@gmail.com

2nd Vice President: Ken Carlsen, CDR, USN (Ret)
585-377-5665, Email: kcarlsen@frontiernet.net

3rd Vice President: Russ Green, LTC, USA (Ret)
585-425-4292, Email: russgreen@aol.com

Transition Liaison: **VACANT**

Member at Large: Nancy Swanson, Captain, USN (Ret)
585-394-1732 Email: gns92649@hotmail.com

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

Treasurer: James Nielsen, Commander, USN (Ret)
585-768-7249 Email: jimniels@rochester.rr.com

Immediate Past President: Gerald (Jerry) Luzum, CAPT, CEC, USN (Ret)
(H) 585-396-1406, cell 585-355-0562 Email: roni39@earthlink.net

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

Future Meeting dates:

20 September 2015 – Canandaigua Yacht Club

25 October 2015 – Red Osier- Stafford (Between Batavia and LeRoy)

6 December 2015 – Christmas/Holiday Party – Burgunday Basin

**GENESEE VALLEY CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Sunday 20 September 2015
CANANDAIGUA YACHT CLUB
3524 CO RD 16, CANANDAIGUA, NY 14424
55TH YEAR, 1ST MEETING**

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

1400: Dinner

ENTRÉE CHOICES

Steak Au poivre (Pepper Steak)

Cedar Plank Salmon

Grilled fresh Faroe Island Salmon served on aromatic cedar plank

Chicken Madeira

Pan seared chicken breast topped with black olives, tomatoes, fresh herbs and a madeira wine reduction.
Served with Yukon gold potatoes and Vegetable du jour

Reservations due ASAP but NLT Friday, 11 September 2015

Please clip use form provided below

Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Thursday, 17 June 2015.

Questions: Norma – 585.746.2904

**RESERVATION FORM FOR 20 SEP 2015 MEETING at
Canandaigua Yacht Club**

ALL Name(s) Attending: _____

Please indicate number of each meal desired:

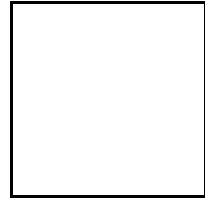
Steak _____ Chicken _____ Salmon _____

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

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

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

**Genesee Valley Chapter
Military Officers Assn of America
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Rochester, NY 14602-0874**



September 2015 Newsletter

First Class Mail

