



2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

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

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**SERVING MEMBERS AND THEIR COUNTRY \*\*\* NEVER STOP SERVING \*\*\* OCTOBER 2015**



**FROM THE  
PRESIDENT**

October 1, 2015 has turned out to be a big day! It is the start of the Federal government’s new fiscal year, amidst turmoil and again without a budget in place; anticipation for increases in TRICARE premiums as well as pharmacy co-pays; and it signaled the dawning of new, grave concerns in the Middle East.

The heated budget argument on both sides of the aisle in both the Senate and the House is very disappointing, and infuriating, to many Americans. For those of us very concerned with the Armed Forces and its funding, it is looking

dismal. It seems like our legislative goals are being completely ignored.

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row, the White House, using Executive Authority, has capped the active duty

pay raise well below the 2.3% required by law. The troops’ last four raises averaged less than 1.4 percent, with FY14 and FY15 pay raises being the lowest in 50 years. Former MOAA Director of Government Relations, Col Mike Hayden, USAF (Ret) expressed his disappointment for all of us. “Past experience with capping military raises below private sector pay growth has shown that once pay raise caps begin,” he said, “they continue until they undermine retention and readiness of the all-volunteer force.”

Active duty and retiree benefits are not being protected by legislators who are not supporting changes that are more consistent with service career sacrifices. VA is a whole topic of its own, and now, especially in light of the greatly changing dynamics in Syria, Israel and the fight against ISIS in just the last few days, I believe there is real danger that the sizes and funding for active duty, Guard, and Reserve forces are not enough to meet mission requirements.

U.S. lawmakers agreed to increase pharmacy co-pays that largely affect military retirees as part of a sweeping defense bill. As of October 1, 2015, a new law requires all TRICARE beneficiaries, except active duty service members, to get select brand name maintenance

drugs through either TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery or from a military pharmacy. Beneficiaries who keep using a retail pharmacy for these drugs will have to pay the full cost. <http://www.tricare.mil/RxNewRules>  
[http://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/BenefitUpdates/Archives/10\\_01\\_15\\_PharmacyChanges.aspx](http://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/BenefitUpdates/Archives/10_01_15_PharmacyChanges.aspx)

I urge you to write to your representatives and express your opinions. With internet access, you can do this very easily on the "Take Action" tab of the MOAA website. ([www.moaa.com](http://www.moaa.com))

Did you know that many resourceful publications are available for minimal cost, and **FREE** to Premium and Life Members? These publications cover Personal Finance, Military Benefits, Transitioning to Civilian Life (and perhaps a second career), and Survivor Issues. Check them out at [www.moaa.org/publications](http://www.moaa.org/publications).

**NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:** I hope you will attend our next Chapter meeting on Sunday, 25 October 2015 at The Red Osier Landmark Restaurant in Stafford. Our program will focus on local history and our guest speaker will be Patrick R. Weissend, the former curator of the Holland Land Office Museum in Batavia. He is very well-versed in the local history of Genesee County and its environs. He has an intriguing 19<sup>th</sup> century tale of nefarious dealings, mystery, and blackmail that began right in Genesee County and later had national implications, even impacting a Presidential election! I have also invited the members of the Western New York Chapter of MOAA to join in camaraderie and fellowship. Please see the end of the newsletter for details and reservations.

Several members of the Board of Directors and I will be attending the NYS Council of Chapters Convention in Syracuse the weekend of 16-18 October 2015. I look forward to sharing Chapter ideas and goals with fellow New Yorkers.

Lastly, I am very excited to travel to Orlando at the end of October to attend the MOAA National Annual Meeting, where I will proudly accept, on behalf of GVC, our fifth consecutive 5-Star Level of Excellence Award. This is truly a testament to Past President Jerry Luzum's

outstanding leadership and passion for all veterans.

**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.

**ILLNESS:** Please continue to keep both Jerry and Rosemary Luzum in your prayers.

**MEMBERSHIP:** We have added 10 new members so far this year, for a current total of 122. Our latest addition is Chapter Auxiliary Member Elaine Vitone. Encourage other officers you know to join our Chapter. There is strength in numbers! What should you do? JUST ASK!!!!

**MORE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:** Please continue your letter/email campaigns to your legislators. 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/>

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

**SPOUSES CLUB:** Members of the Spouses Club will travel to The Batavia Veterans Home on 14 October to assist the staff with the Oktoberfest festivities, if any spouse would like to join us please contact me at [kcarlom@icloud.com](mailto:kcarlom@icloud.com). We will go to Alec's Restaurant following the Oktoberfest. Our next meeting will be at Phillips Restaurant on 21 October, please bring scratch off (lottery) tickets for a basket to be raffled off at the next MOAA dinner meeting on 25 October 2015. Contact Signe Zale at [sigbobzale@aol.com](mailto:sigbobzale@aol.com) if you are able to attend the noon Spouse Club meeting. We will continue to collect toiletries at all meetings.

**Correspondence:**

**Louise Sovocool's son's kind remarks:**

"To the members of MOAA and the Auxiliary Spouses Group. Thank you for all the cards, donations, kind words, and support in the past weeks. Your group is awesome and it was a

very important part of my Mom's life. She appreciated your friendship and valued the good works your group accomplished. Sincerely, Mark Friske.”

**Marie K. May's comments:**

“I am so pleased and touched that your organization made a contribution to the Dimitri House in honor of my husband Walter May. This was such a kind gesture and I do so appreciate it. Thank-you so much, bless you all! Sincerely Marie May.”

**AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP:** (repeat article)

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**

**INTRODUCING NANCY SWANSON – NEW BOARD MEMBER-AT-LARGE:**

I served on active duty for 24 years in the United States Navy as a Nurse Corps Officer retiring in 2004 at the rank of Captain. I helped to develop and expand the role of the Fleet Family Nurse Practitioner. During one tour in Norfolk, Virginia, I worked on 40 "small boys" ships providing medical support, training, and care coordination at the pier and during short deployments. Currently, I am the Associate Chief Nurse for Ambulatory Care at the Canandaigua VA. I supervise over 60 VA nurses, which includes staff from the Canandaigua Outpatient Clinic, Rochester Outpatient Clinic, Home Based Primary Care Program, and Home Telehealth Program. It is very important that we continue to support our veterans who put their lives on the line to keep the torch of freedom burning for all.

**GVC AUXILIARY: THE SURVIVING SPOUSES OF MOAA:**

This year, MOAA is launching a new publication, **The Survivor's Guide**. Its purpose is to assist surviving spouses after their loved one's death. Similar to a worksheet, the guide includes places to record funeral arrangements, lawyers, insurance contacts, and more. Also telephone numbers of federal agencies that can assist the survivor are listed IE. Social Security Administration, Defense and Finance and Accounting Services, etc.

It is suggested that both spouses work together to fill in the information before it is needed. Although the guide does not replace other methods of record keeping, it is different because it includes information on both military and civilian agencies.

When available, it will be in print and as a download from the MOAA website ([www.moaa.org/infoexchange](http://www.moaa.org/infoexchange)). Until it is available, MOAA members can refer to the shorter **Survivor's Checklist: First Steps to Moving On** available from MOAA.

I will continue to monitor MOAA website for the guide's availability.

**Marion Mench, Auxiliary Liaison**

**GVC/MOAA BOARDMEMBERS 2015-2017**

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Peter Ingalsbe, COL, USA (Ret) 585-749-3390 (cell)  
Email: [pingalsbe@gmail.com](mailto:pingalsbe@gmail.com)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Ken Carlsen, CDR,USN (Ret) 585-377-5665  
Email: [kcarlsen32@gmail.com](mailto:kcarlsen32@gmail.com)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President:** Russ Green, LTC, USA (Ret) 585-425-4292

Email: [russgreen@aol.com](mailto:russgreen@aol.com)

**Transition Liaison:** VACANT

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

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

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

**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)

**Past President:** Barbara Green, Col, USA (Ret) 585-330-2708  
Email: [bgreenanc@gmail.com](mailto:bgreenanc@gmail.com)

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

**Spouses Club Liaisons:**  
Karen Murphy: [kcarlom@icloud.com](mailto:kcarlom@icloud.com)  
Signe Zale: [sigbobzale@aol.com](mailto:sigbobzale@aol.com)

**FUTURE MEETING DATES:**

- 6 December 2015 – Christmas/Holiday Party – Burgundy Basin
- 6 March 2016 – ROTC / Jr ROTC Awards Dinner – Details to be announced
- 24 April 2106 – Location TBD
- 12 June 2016 – GVC Annual Meeting Dinner – Location TBD

**FROM TREASURER JIM NIELSEN**

**Dues Reminder: 2016 chapter dues of \$20.00 are payable at the beginning of the year. 2016 dues payments are being accepted now if you prefer.**

There has been some confusion in the past between chapter versus MOAA National dues. The two are separate and distinct. MOAA National mails its dues notices separately. The Chapter, on the other hand, does not bill for dues, but rather gives notice in the Chapter newsletter when dues are payable.

If you are interested, you can stop all future dues payments entirely by becoming a Life Member. Life Memberships are based on your age, according to the following schedule:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Life Dues</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Life Dues</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Life Dues</u>
<45	\$360	61-65	\$290	81-85	\$150
46-50	350	66-70	270	86-89	110
51-55	330	71-75	230	90+	No charge
56-60	310	76-80	190		

You may send your check to Jim (see below) or include your payment with your dinner reservations. Make checks out to:

**Genesee Valley Chapter MOAA**  
c/o CRD James Nielsen  
17 Woodward Drive  
Le Roy, NY 14482

If you have questions concerning your dues payments, past or present, contact Jim at 585-768-7249 or email [JimNiels@Rochester.rr.com](mailto:JimNiels@Rochester.rr.com)

**Genesee Valley Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
55th Year, Second Meeting  
Sunday, October 25th, 2015**

**Red Osier Landmark Restaurant**  
6492 Main Road, Stafford, NY 14143  
585-343-6972

**Entree Choices**

Prime Rib of Beef, au jus (10 oz)

Grilled Salmon

Fresh Chicken Almond

**Accompanying Dinner:**

Crisp garden salad with house dressing and crumbly blue cheese dressing,  
baked potato, rolls, ice cream sundae, and coffee and tea.

**Reservations due ASAP but NLT Monday, 19 October 2015**

Please clip use form provided below

***Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Thursday, October 22, 2015***

**Questions: Norma – 585.746.2904**

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**RESERVATION FORM - 25 October 2015 MEETING**

**Red Osier Landmark Restaurant  
6492 Main Road, Stafford, NY 14143**

ALL Name(s) Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate number of each meal desired:

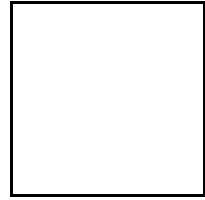
Prime Rib \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Almond \_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Salmon \_\_\_\_\_

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  
PO Box 20874  
Rochester, NY 14602-0874**



**October 2015 Newsletter**

**First Class Mail**

