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

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SERVING MEMBERS AND THEIR COUNTRY

***** NEVER STOP SERVING *****

March 2017

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



President's Corner

Welcome to 2017! It has all the potential to be a great one for veterans and their families, as well as all Americans. But we need to keep our elected officials on their toes and listening to the heartbeat of America. That's where your membership in MOAA and GVC are vital.

Our 2017 starting membership roster has been submitted to MOAA and it looks like we are in a pretty good start position. We've had a few who have moved out of the area, a couple who are new to the 2017 membership rolls, and too many who have moved on to a higher calling. Our Chapter membership starts out this year at 118, and we need the help of all of them at the National level. It pleases me that 61 of our Chapter members, over 50%, have made the Life-long commitment to MOAA and recognize the value of its voice on the Hill.

I encourage all of you to become active within the Chapter, even to consider taking up

Leadership positions. It is an amazing view of what veterans are doing for veterans. I am anticipating a roller coaster ride in keeping up with Legislative issues this year. One thing you can say about The Man is that he is delivering on his campaign promises. Already. Proposals to increase troop strength across the services, modernize equipment, ships, and aircraft, and increase a cyber-presence and counter-threat. Taking better care of our Veterans, the ability to actually fire incompetent high-level VA workers, (I just cannot understand why a government employee gets a BONUS for doing their job....), making good on veteran's health care promises. On some points, sounds almost too good to be true. For me, personally, our venture into supporting Wreaths Across America was an awesome experience. So awesome in fact, I have volunteered to be the new Coordinator between Sampson Veterans Cemetery and the Wreaths Across America organization. I thank all of you who took the time to donate wreaths...the Cemetery was beautifully adorned and the Ceremony very moving, respectful, and unforgettable. Additionally, we realized a \$340 total donation to GVC through the wreaths.

Bob Zale has everything pretty much lined up for our Chapter meeting in March to recognize the achievements and leadership of the cadets in our local ROTC programs. Unfortunately, MOAA National is not sponsoring the purchase of gold bars anymore, so GVC must now bear the cost of the gold bars, the presentation cases, and the certificate holders themselves. We will also have to order and pay for the Leadership Medals as well since MOAA won't cover that anymore either.

Speaking of our March Chapter meeting, it will be again at Whittier Party House. Besides the cadets, invitations are extended to parents, cadre, and spouses as our guests. I encourage attendance at this one particular Chapter meeting, as I believe it is incumbent on us, as interested retired and former Officers, to show our commitment to supporting these new, young Officers. We have been in their shoes. Ours may be old and very worn, but they need to know that an organization exists that has not only their own personal interests in mind as they weave their way toward whatever career path their journey takes them, but watches out for all veterans and national policies that are veteran and surviving spouse friendly; an organization that works for them no matter the stage of their career.

I would also like to take this opportunity to let you know that Past President Jerry Luzum's interment at Arlington National Cemetery has been scheduled for Thursday, 4/20/17 at 11:00 am. I plan on attending with the Luzum family. I know how proud Jerry was of his military service and how much Arlington meant to him. Please remember to keep Jerry, his family, and all other veterans in your prayers.

Besides the March ROTC Awards Dinner, we are looking forward to 2 more excellent Chapter meetings, culminating in June with the election of a new slate of Chapter Officers. Please consider attending all three!

Spouses' Club News:

Our first meeting in 2017 will be held at noon on Wednesday, March 15 at Phillips European Restaurant. All are welcome.

Introducing Board member Ken Carlsen, CDR, USNR (Ret) :

Ken was commissioned an Ensign in the USNR in 1969 at the Naval Officer Candidate School, Newport, RI. He served three years on active duty and another 17 years in the Navy Reserve. His first active duty assignment was as a Communications Watch Officer onboard the USS Hancock (CVA-19), during which time the ship made two WESTPAC deployments. Following that tour, Ken served as Communications Officer to Commander Fleet Air Whidbey, Whidbey Island, Washington.

During Ken's seventeen years in the Navy Reserve, his many assignments included: Asst. Ship Superintendent, NR Naval Shipyard Norfolk; Training Officer, NR Naval Control of Shipping; Special Ops Officer, NR Military Sealift Command Western Mediterranean; and, Executive Officer, NR LST 1194 LaMoure County.

Ken was born and raised in Long Island, New York and graduated from C. W. Post College of Long Island University in 1969. He is also a graduate of the Stonier Graduate School of Finance and Banking at Rutgers University.

Ken is a retiree from J. P. Morgan Chase Co. having worked for several of its predecessor banks: Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co.; Chemical Bank; and, Chase Manhattan Bank. His 32 year career included a variety of assignments in Consumer and Business Banking. He retired as Vice President and Business Manager, Government Banking Division.

Ken is married to the former Eileen Maier, his high school sweetheart and wife of 48 years. They have three children: Christopher, who lives in Raleigh, NC; Scott, who is married to Amanda and lives here in Rochester; and, Megan, who lives in Clay, NY. They have one grandchild, Miles, an amazing 2 ½ year old toddler who they have the pleasure of babysitting three days each week during the school year.

News from the Veterans Memorial and Executive Council:

For those who are not aware, GVC is a member of the Veterans Memorial and Executive Council (VM&EC). This group is a loose association of all veterans groups in the Greater Rochester area, such as American Legion, VFW, DAV, Vietnam Vets of America, Korean War Vets as well as a multitude of smaller veterans units, and of course GVC-MOAA. The group can trace its roots back to the post-Civil War era. We meet once a month to discuss items of mutual interest to ALL veterans and legislative issues affecting vets. It is also an avenue to coordinate and publicize our various activities with other veterans groups. A few local events are directly sponsored by the VM&EC, such as the Rochester Memorial Day Parade, The Memorial Day Service at the Community War Memorial (aka “Blue Cross Arena”), the placement of large (9 ft) flags in the Veterans Sections of local cemeteries, and the Legislative Breakfast in January or February. VM&EC is also directly responsible for the actual “War Memorial” located at the northeast corner of the War Memorial building, with its Eternal Flame, and which lists by name all Monroe County residents lost in all wars since World War I.

Among the recent efforts of the VM&EC has been a letter-writing campaign to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with regard to continuing

delays in the construction of new Outpatient Clinic to replace the existing on Westfall Rd, and the inadequacy of its design. We realized partial success recently with the announcement that a contract had been signed for the construction of a new 84,000 sq ft facility on a 15 acre parcel near the intersection of I-390 and Caulkins Rd. Although this about doubles the size of the existing facility, and allows for more parking, there are still some areas that need to be addressed. And so we march on.

Another project VM&EC has taken on is the restoration of the Rapids Cemetery, also known as the Congress Ave Cemetery. This cemetery has been sorely neglected in the past, and many Civil War veterans graves are located there. Much has already been done to locate graves and headstones, clear overgrowth (thereby revealing additional graves) and generally clean up the site. At our last meeting, Christine Ridarsky, City Historian, addressed the group and outlined some of the restoration efforts the city anticipates. Some fencing still exists, and they will provide needed repair. They will also provide additional fencing, and some landscaping. They will study the feasibility of providing lighting for a future flagpole, and on-site water for landscape and flower maintenance. In the late spring, they will also provide a class on grave stone restoration, which will be open to anyone interested in aiding the restoration efforts.

These are just a couple of highlights of recent VM&EC activities. As your designated representative from GVC to this group, I anticipate keeping you apprised of their activities in future newsletters. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please let me know.

- LTC Russ Green, USA (Ret)

The Surviving Spouses Of MoAA

DATE: February 28, 2017
TO: Chapter and
Council Surviving Spouse
Liaisons
FROM: Surviving
Spouse Advisory Committee
(SSAC)
SUBJECT: 'Military Health Care Update'

By Sharon DeVaney, Surviving Spouse
Advisory Committee member

When servicemembers and dependents turn 65 and they enroll in Medicare, they also will become eligible for **TRICARE For Life** (TFL). No fees are associated with TFL, however, beneficiaries must pay the Medicare Part B premiums to stay enrolled in TFL. TFL works as the secondary payer to Medicare; Medicare pays 80 percent of covered services, and TFL pays the remaining 20 percent. TFL also pays the Medicare deductible. Generally, beneficiaries should not have any out-of-pocket costs for Medicare and TRICARE-covered services.

Under provisions of the FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), TRICARE benefit plans for servicemembers and dependents under age 65 will be streamlined from three plan types to two. TRICARE Select is the new preferred provider option; it will replace TRICARE Standard. The new TRICARE Select will have an Extra-like network of TRICARE providers who will have agreed to accept a pre-negotiated rate of payment. The other option is TRICARE Prime. It will be modernized so the majority of referrals to specialists from primary care managers will no longer be required to through a pre-authorization process.

TRICARE also has new preventive care coverage, including the [Cologuard](#) colorectal cancer screening exam and BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene testing for breast cancer. For children and families, TRICARE's benefit coverage will be consistent with the American Academy of Pediatrics' standards of care of well children over age 6. Beneficiaries using TRICARE Standard no longer will pay cost shares for well-child screening and preventive visits. Learn more about the new preventive care coverage on [MOAA's website](#).

Regarding pharmacy changes, TRICARE Pharmacy contractor, Express Scripts, announced CVS pharmacies no longer would process prescriptions as of Dec. 1, 2016. Instead, Walgreens pharmacies returned to the TRICARE network. Beneficiaries who had been using CVS should have been notified how they could transfer their prescriptions to a nearby network pharmacy. You can find your closest TRICARE network pharmacy using the [Express Scripts website](#).

The FY 2017 NDAA also included a provision that would allow dependents of retired members to purchase hearing aids at-cost. MOAA is working closely with DoD's TRICARE department on the details of this benefit and likely will have updates in a few months.

Wreaths across America Sampson Park



GVC/MOAA BOARD MEMBERS 2015-2017

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Signe Zale: sigbobzale@aol.com

December Holiday Party



GVC MOAA chapter dues payment for this year (2017) .

Chapter dues are \$20.00 per year, and are payable at the beginning of each calendar year.

There has been some confusion in the past between chapter versus MOAA National dues. Perhaps this is the case in this instance. The two are separate and distinct, and 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.

Won't you take a moment now to send in your payment? Don't risk being dropped from our rolls. Better yet why not include your payment for 2018 as well, for a total of \$40.00?

Make a check out to GVC MOAA and sent to the following address:

GVC MOAA

c/o Jim Nielsen

17 Woodward Drive

Le Roy, NY 14482

Please include your email address with your payment.

You may pay online with a debt/credit card at the following address:

<http://www.MOAA.org/OnlineChapterDuesPayment>

Consider eliminating paying your dues annually – pay a one time Life Membership fee as set forth in the table below.

Age	Life dues	Age	Life Dues	Age	Life Dues
<45	\$360	61-65	270	81-85	55
46-50	350	66-70	210	86-89	35
51-55	330	71-75	160	90+	Life – no charge
56-60	310	76-80	110		

One final note: If your non-payment is due to poor health or incapacitated, *please* let us know. The Chapter recently voted to waive dues for those so affected. If you have moved from the area and/or no longer wish to maintain your Chapter membership, please let us know that also.

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

Sunday 26 March

Whittier Party House

88 Whittier Road 585-594-4500

1300 - Social Hour - cash bar

1400 - Dinner

ENTRÉE CHOICES

Prime Rib with baked potato

Chickem French with rice

Broiled halibut with rice

Entrees served with vegetables, salad, rolls and butter

Reservations due ASAP but NLT Monday, 20 March

Please clip use form provided below

Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Thursday, 23 March 2017

Questions: Norma – 585.727.6190

CLIP HERE AND SEND

**RESERVATION FORM FOR 26 March MEETING at
Whittier Party House**

ALL Name(s) Attending:

Please indicate number of each meal desired:

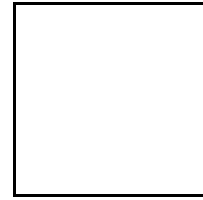
Prime Rib _____ Chicken Frence _____ Broiled Halibut _____

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**

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Military Officers Assn of America
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March 2017 Newsletter

First Class Mail

