



2010 – 2011 – 2012 – 2013 – 2014 – 2015

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

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**SERVING MEMBERS AND THEIR COUNTRY**

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

**May 2017**

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**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**



As I write my final "President's Corner," I am returning from the MOAA North East Regional Workshop for Chapter/Council

Presidents. I heard many facts, figures, procedures, and policies that make me confident that the Genesee Valley Chapter is doing many things right, and a few things we could improve on. A few things happening at the National level, in no particular order:

As always, the 3 most important things are, in this order: **Membership, Membership, and Membership**. There are about 355,000 **National** MOAA members, of whom **only** 52,000 belong to one of the 400+ Chapters in the country; 170,000 are National Life Members, and 92,000 are currently serving on Active Duty. Thirty-six members make up the national Board of Directors, each of whom serve a two year term. Of those 36 Board members, only **FIVE** (yes, **5**) are former or currently serving Council or Chapter Presidents. Please digest these numbers for just a second. While our own Chapter membership is approximately 116, we have only about six members who are

not MOAA National members. One hundred percent would be ideal, as each one costs us dearly in our Level of Excellence rating.

**Military Officer Magazine** will undergo an almost complete re-design beginning with the June issue. As you may remember, COL Jonathan Withington, USA (Ret) visited us two years ago for our last Change-of-Command ceremony. He was the "New Guy" on the National staff at the time. As the Editor-in-Chief of "MOM" and VP of Communications, his ideas are now coming to fruition. I'm anxious to see the new look. And using this resource as a Chapter Membership recruitment tool, one person had an excellent suggestion regarding a "Cover Ad" on the Magazine. Since the mailing can be sorted based on Zip Code, a top cover for the magazine could be an invitation to join the local Chapter, complete with a few details, points of contact, and the web address. I really look forward to seeing that come to fruition!

**State Report Card**: MOAA prepares an evaluation for each state in terms of taxes (income, real estate, and sales), and amenability to active duty and veterans. One thing NYS has going and is in good company with only 21 other states, is that it DOES NOT tax Social

Security, military retirement, disability, DIC, or Survivors Benefits. Contrast that to CA and only 3 other states, which DO tax Military Retirement and SBP Benefits. I still cannot figure how NYS has actually allowed this advantage for veterans and their families who have served their country. The State Report Card also describes how each state aligns or addresses at least 10 of the issues tracked by the Defense State Liaison Office. Again, NYS has a lot of company, but this time, not in a very good way. See [www.usa4militaryfamilies.dod.mil](http://www.usa4militaryfamilies.dod.mil). This chart may be a little behind because even though it reports that only 2 of the top ten state legislative issues that concern veterans are active in Albany, we know that we have had positive movement on removing certification impediments for PCS'ing and transitioning military spouses. (Details also in this past Feb issue of the Military Officer Magazine.) Our other great victory was finally becoming the 50<sup>th</sup> State in the Union to pass the Compact on Education, which did away with burdensome and unfair graduation requirements dealt to military kids.

**Finances:** The hottest topic at the Workshop was of course, MOAA's discontinuation of funding the ROTC/JROTC awards programs at the Chapter level. I came prepared to protest and complain my head off, but everyone else beat me to it and made their points eloquently. Much to EVERYONE's dismay, the National staff pretty much turned a deaf ear and only apologized about **HOW** the information was rolled out. Goldman-Sachs did their "Bottom Up Review" (new buzzword from National, or "BUR," only if you are REALLY cool.) G-S recommended a long term investment portfolio goal of \$150M to remain sustainable into the foreseeable future. Maybe I'm not that financially sophisticated, but I did not hold on to my First Communion money for 30 years. I spent it on what I needed to spend it on. So their "logical" solution in order to keep their

spending down, is to cut off the very funding which helps the most and means the most to the Chapters. The Star Spangled Banner Chapter (MD) went so far as to increase their Chapter dues from \$15 per year to \$25 in order to fund their ROTC awards program at the same level. Yet, National's mantra is still how Chapters are the "life-blood" of MOAA and they are in it to "provide RESOURCES and time to help Chapters make things work," (emphasis mine).

**Chapter Membership Demographics:** Every Chapter is experiencing an aging membership. It is very important for us to decide on and develop a Chapter mission and vision. Just what is our purpose? Why would new members want to join? Why do members stay? Why do they leave? Do we want our Chapter to be a social organization with our military camaraderie the common glue that holds us together? Do we want to be a veterans service organization, doing projects that support our local veterans? A combination? What is the age of our target market? As we have no local military installations, perhaps it's that 40-60 year-old, just transitioning from AD to retirement, with or without further employment. How do we reach them? Each one of us is a Chapter Recruiter. To do that, we need to decide, articulate, advertise, and re-state this purpose in all of our forms of communications: newsletters, webpage, and conversations with our friends, neighbors, and colleagues. We need members who are active and engaged in whatever activity appeals to them.

**Grass Roots Advocacy:** Just as MOAA National advocates veterans' issues on Capitol Hill, we have the power to do the same things in our State Legislature, in addition to holding our US Congress members' feet to the fire. Get to know your US Representative in their home office. Knock on doors and write letters or emails to your State Senator and Assembly Representative. Someone at the Workshop suggested a letter writing campaign/tool, like CAPWIZ, to easily help ANY citizen fire off a

meaningful letter to request (or DEMAND?) support or opposition to a bill on the floor, or just to GET the bill on the floor. Of course the answer came back as “Too Expensive” to duplicate CAPWIZ for 50 states. But we can work to keep each informed and be “Ambassadors” in your community. Be ready to answer the question, “So, just what is MOAA?” or “What does your Chapter do?” Elevator speeches are great to have in the back of your mind to call on when needed. (I know, the back of my mind seems to be getting further and further behind these days...). We should be prepared to do a presentation about MOAA and our Chapter to other civic organizations (Rotary, Kiwanas, Lions, Elks, Moose) and partner with them in our common interests.

The Board of Directors would like you to really consider these questions and give us some feedback on developing a stated purpose for our Chapter. What “kind” of meetings do you want? Social? Or meetings with topics of things that are interesting to you? What are those topics?

I have so enjoyed every minute of serving this Chapter for the last four years, as First Vice and then as President. I have met so many concerned and passionate people who really CARE about assisting other veterans and their families, working tirelessly to promote patriotism, national defense and ensuring that those who give so much to our country are properly compensated and looked after, as they were promised by a grateful nation. So for me, this is not goodbye at all. I will very enthusiastically continue to serve Genesee Valley Chapter and the MOAA organization in many other ways.

**NYS Council of Chapters 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**: 19 – 22 September 2017 at Fort William Henry Hotel and Conference Center, at beautiful Lake George, NY. The Full Package includes all meals from Tuesday evening until checkout Friday morning, including a luncheon cruise aboard the Lac du Saint Sacrement, the Lake George Dinner-Theater performance, and

the Banquet for the Installation of new CoC officers, our own Daily Hospitality Suite, complete access to all FWH facilities and a tour of the Historic Fort William Henry. There will be Thursday morning business meetings and in the afternoon, a modified Chapter Management Training seminar given by COL Terri Coles, USA (Ret) the new Senior Director for Council and Chapter Affairs. This full package for a couple is \$810, for a single is \$550. We are also offering a Thursday night only package for the Banquet, room, and Friday Breakfast for only \$245 (couple) and \$176 (single). Please contact Norma or any other Board member for more details. Hurry though: your 50% deposit is due by 30 June and final payment NLT 11 August. To our knowledge, NYS is the ONLY Council in the Nation to have had an Annual Convention each year since its inception!

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

20 May 2017: Armed Forces Day Luncheon at the Diplomat Party House

21 May 2017: With Veterans Memorial & Executive Council – Wreath Laying Ceremony at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery

4 June 2017: GVC Chapter Meeting at Canandaigua Yacht Club – Change of Command Ceremony

19-22 September 2017: NYS Council of Chapters Annual Conference at Ft William Henry Hotel, Lake George, NY

TAPS: This Chapter regretfully announces the passing of Member Richard Fitz Harris, Maj, USA – Ret, He was 96 years young last month.

**GVC/MOAA BOARD MEMBERS 2015-2017**

**President:** Norma Weissend, Lt Col,  
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**Honor Flight Dates:**

**May 13 and 14 Mission 53**

**June 17 and 18 (Father's Day weekend)**

**Mission 54**

## **Events that might interest you:**

### **Armed Forces Day**

At the Veterans Memorial & Executive Committee meeting this month, the Armed Forces Day Committee was soliciting our participation in the Armed Forces Day Luncheon, this year to be held on Saturday, May 20, 2017 at the Diplomat Party House, 1956 Lyell Avenue in Gates. The doors will open at 10:30 AM, with lunch being served at noon. The 198<sup>th</sup> Army Band will provide music before lunch, and there will be numerous military displays around the perimeter of the hall. The keynote speaker this year is Rear Admiral Richard Porterfield, USN, Retired, former Director of the Office of Naval Intelligence. Genesee Valley Chapter has again purchased a table at the luncheon. Thus far we have commitments for 8 of the 10 seats at the table. If you would like to attend, please contact me ASAP and let me know. If we fill the table, we can add additional seats at another table. The cost is \$25 per person. Please make your check payable to GVC MOAA and send it to me at 2 Winding Brook Dr, Fairport, NY by April 20.

LTC Russ Green, USA (Ret)

### **Memorial Day Remembrances**

Once again, GVC will take part in the Veterans Memorial & Executive Council's (VM&E) wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial (corner of Broad and Exchange Streets in Rochester). The event is scheduled for 1500 hours on Sunday, May 21, 2017 and should last about an hour. All the local veterans organizations will be represented. If you can spare an hour that afternoon, please consider attending. It is a moving ceremony and a fitting way to honor the memory of those gave their last full measure of devotion to our country.

The following weekend, on the Sunday before Memorial Day, members of GVC will be placing flags at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. These are tall 9 ft flags that will line the walkway leading to the flag pole in Veterans Section 13. It is anticipated that this will take place about 1500 hours. This is also an annual event sponsored by the VM&E. Other vet organizations will be placing flags in other vet sections at this cemetery, as well as other major area cemeteries. Contact LTC Russ Green if you are interested in participating.

Finally, on Memorial Day itself, May 29, the Rochester Memorial Day Parade will be held on East Ave and Main St in the city. This is also a VM&E sponsored event, with a subsidy from the City of Rochester. The parade will kick off around East Ave & Alexander St at 10:30 Am and end on Main St at Plymouth Ave. Come and show your patriotism as we honor our fallen heroes.

LTC Russ Green  
GVC 3<sup>rd</sup> VP.



# GENESEE VALLEY CHAPTER

## MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**P.O. Box 20874, Rochester, NY 14902-0874**

May 1, 2017

To: Joseph Ballister, Lt Col, USAF-Ret., Secretary GVC MOAA / Rosemary Luzum Acting Secretary

Subject: GVC Nominating Committee Nominations

On behalf of the GVC/MOAA Nominating Committee, I present the names of the following prospective candidates for the office term 2017-2019.

President, Peter Ingalsbe, Colonel, USA-Ret.

First Vice President, Timothy Vaughan, Colonel, USAF-Ret.

Second Vice President, Kenneth H. Carlsen, Commander, USN-Ret.

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

Secretary, Nancy Swanson, CAPT, USN-Ret.

Treasurer, James Nielsen, Commander, USN-Ret.

Board of Director Auxiliary member, Marion Mench

Board of Director Chapter Member at Large, William O'Donnell, CW3, USA-Ret.

Successful candidates will be sworn in June 4, 2017 and serve for the office term 2017-2019 in accordance with GVC/MOAA By-laws, ARTICLE VIII.

/s/ David P. Szczygiel

David P. Szczygiel, BG, USA-Ret.

CHAIRMAN, GVC/MOAA Nominations Committee

Cc. Committee Members, Board members, Chairwoman Spouses Club,  
1ea. Prospective Candidate

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

**June 4<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**Canandaigua Yacht Club**

**3524 County Road 16 (West Lake Road)**

**585-396-9200**

**1300 - Social Hour - cash bar**

**1400 - Dinner**

**ENTRÉE CHOICES**

Steak Au poivre

Chicken Oscar

Grilled Salmon Piccata

(fresh faro island salmon, topped with lemon, white wine and caper sauce)

Entrees served with vegetables, salad, rolls and butter

**Reservations due ASAP but NLT Friday May 26th**

Please clip use form provided below

***Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Thursday, 1 June***

**Questions: Norma – 585.727.6190**

**CLIP HERE AND SEND**

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**RESERVATION FORM FOR 4 June MEETING at  
Canandaigua Yacht Club**

ALL Name(s) Attending:

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Please indicate number of each meal desired:

Steak \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Oscar \_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Salmon \_\_\_\_\_

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

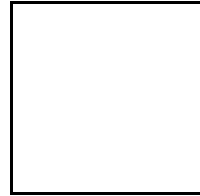
Please make checks payable to **GVC MOAA** and mail to:

**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**



**May 2017 Newsletter**

**First Class Mail**

