



GENESEE VALLEY CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSN OF AMERICA NEWSLETTER



2010 AND 2011

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Serving Members and Their Country

March 2013

FROM THE PRESIDENT

If you believe Punxsutawney Phil's weather prediction on Gobbler's Knob in Pennsylvania on February 2nd, spring is right around the corner.



The Board and the NYS Council of Chapters Convention Planning Committee have not had time to hibernate. This year MOAA has put a focus on increasing Chapter membership and has created cash incentives to motivate the 413 Chapters

to increase their membership by 2000 members. Of course, to measure how everybody is doing, the first step is to make sure the Chapter and National membership lists are the same for each Chapter. Easy, the National list is in alpha order, simply print out the Chapter list in alpha order and compare. Twenty minutes max. A month later, and after many calls to National and the diligent work by Phil Tierney, Ken Carlsen, Russ Green and Bob Zale, we made the 30 January deadline and now the hard work begins. The initiative has two components: attracting National MOAA members to join a local Chapter and retaining our current members. Although National gives us a list of MOAA members in

our zip code area, letter invitations to join the Chapter have not been very productive. So a more personal approach, yet to

be designed, is the next step.

Retaining members, I think, is a function of the vibrancy of the Chapter. This component has many facets. What does the Chapter do that is 'Value Added'? We have limited the meeting venues and times to accommodate our membership. The topics of our 6 meetings during the year are varied to keep our members informed on a wide variety of issues and provide a cordial social atmosphere. We reach out to active duty units with a point of contact for information and financial support when they deploy. And, as we pass the torch to the next generation of officers, the Cadets and Midshipmen in our ROTC/NROTC units, we strive to mentor them in what VADM Norb Ryan calls 'Officership'. This is a term that embraces the values and leadership necessary to help them succeed in their military and civilian careers. We support our veterans in the VAMC in Canandaigua, the Rochester Outpatient Clinic and the Rochester Hub of Honor Flight. And, we are the grass roots proponents of legislative initiatives involving our active duty, veteran and retired military who have sacrificed much for the freedoms we all enjoy. So...we need you to 'Just Ask' prospective members to join our Chapter and share with others what is 'Value Added' in Chapter membership. And if there is something you think we should be doing that we are not, let us know.

NYS Council of Chapters Convention. As you know, we are the host Chapter of this year's State Convention. The Planning Committee has been meeting for 5 months planning this event and has made significant progress in nailing down the major elements. The Convention will

GVC Newsletter

Six issues/year distributed to chapter members.
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P.O. Box 20874 , Rochester,
NY 14902-0874

be held on October 14, 15 and 16th at the Canandaigua Inn on the Lake. A meeting is scheduled for the afternoon of the 14th with a cruise and dinner on the Canandaigua Lady. Dr. Preston Pierce, Ontario County Historian, plans to join us as our guide and narrator of the geologic, sociologic and economic aspects of the Lake. A business meeting will start the day on Tuesday, with an afternoon bus tour of the Glen Curtis Museum and a yet to be named venue for lunch. The day will conclude with a Banquet at the Inn. Please mark your calendar for these dates and plan to attend the Convention and/or offer your help in making this event a success and mirror the hospitality of our Chapter.

Nominating Committee. I have appointed Dave Szczygiel as Chairman and Barb Green, Joe Ballister, Joe Anderson and George Supple as members of that Committee. The term of office for the current slate of Chapter officers and elected Board members expires on June 9th. The Committee is seeking members who are willing to serve in these capacities for the 2013-2015 term of office. Please don't discard my plea for serious consideration of volunteering to serve. Many of our members have the capacity to serve in these leadership positions. MOAA is certainly a class leader among the Veteran Service Organizations and our Chapter has been carrying out those values and traditions for over 50 years. For these to continue for future generations of military officers, we need your 'yes'. The support of current and former officers and Board members is always available and National is truly a source of support and information. As an indication of that support, MOAA is holding a three day Leadership Symposium in late September, in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Three of our Chapter members will be invited to attend this expense paid (transportation excepted) event. Please contact one of the Committee members if your discernment leads you to say "yes". Contact information for Dave Szczygiel and Joe An-

derson can be found in this *Newsletter*; Barb Green can be reached at 585-330-2708, Joe Ballister at 585-334-9775 and George Supple at 585-554-4988.

Outreach. Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, NYARNG (Geneseo) returned from their deployment in January. Thanks to Dave Szczygiel, we have been able to keep in contact with them and their needs throughout this period with a very active Family Readiness Group. The Chapter has provided emergency financial assistance in addition to information and resources as they re-establish their lives in the community. Currently they are going through a 'reintegration' period of readjustment and plan to have a welcome home celebration in the near future. When the details are known, they will be published and I hope you will join me in showing them how much we appreciate their service and sacrifice.

The Board has decided to support another unit that has been activated and will deploy in the spring. Dave Szczygiel identified this unit as the 222nd MP Company based in Auburn, with detachments in Rochester and Hornell. The Chapter has provided financial support for their deployment ceremony on February 22nd. This MP Company was deployed to Iraq in 2008 – 2009. We will keep you informed of this unit's progress, deployment and special needs over the next year.

The VAMC Canandaigua Voluntary Services Program Manager has expressed her appreciation for the personal care items donated at our meetings. Keep up the good work and continue to bring these items to our general meetings and place them in the box near the check-in table.

March meeting. We will again feature the local College and University ROTC/NROTC programs in the Rochester area. The Chapter will honor the outstanding ROTC/NROTC Cadets

and Midshipmen from the University of Rochester, Rochester Institute of Technology and SUNY Brockport with the MOAA medal. Several Chapter members commented last year on the vibrant enthusiasm of these young men and women who have shown a strong sense of dedication, patriotism and commitment to serve our great nation as a part of the All-Volunteer Force. On the other hand, the Cadets and Midshipmen commented on the feeling of acceptance and camaraderie of an organization that continues to serve the new generation of officers long after they have left the active service. The Cadre at these Units appreciates the contact with the diversity of the Military Services and specialties represented in the Chapter. The Cadre and honored Cadets from the two JROTC programs will be included. This year the Chapter was successful in receiving a grant from USAA to host this meeting. This is a unique opportunity to mix and mingle with our future military leaders. Don't miss it. The dinner will be held at the Senator's Mansion in Churchville on March 10, 1 PM social hour followed by dinner at 2 PM.

New Chapter Members. Please join me in welcoming CAPT Nancy Swanson, NC, USN - Ret, LCDR Graydon Swanson, SC, USN-Ret and MAJ Preston Pierce, USAR -Ret. as the newest members of the Genesee Valley Chapter. All are Life Members of MOAA. Nancy is employed at the VAMC in Canandaigua and recently received the Administration Award for Excellence in Nursing. Preston is the Past President of the former Finger Lakes Chapter of MOAA and has served as the Ontario County Historian for a number of years.

Honor Flight. Honor Flight Rochester (HFR) has scheduled three missions for the first part of this year.

Mission 27 – April 20-21

Mission 28 – May 18-19

Mission 29 – June 15-16

Please try to attend the homecoming of our WWII and Korean War veterans as they return to the Rochester International Airport at approximately 11:30 AM on the day of return. It is an experience you will long remember.

A recent HFR News Release stated that applications from men and women who served during the Korean War (1950-1953) are now being accepted. This is the 60th year of the Armistice that ended the fighting, but not the hostilities, in that country.

The two-day trip is free to all WWII, Korean or Vietnam veterans and to veterans of any era who suffer from terminal illness.

Donations to HFR to send veterans to Washington DC may be made in the collection box at our meetings or to our Treasurer, Russ Green.

New York State Legislation. We continue to focus our efforts to the passage of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children. This legislation would make the State a member of a Compact focused on alleviating many of the academic challenges posed by different state educational systems that the children in military families face when moving from state to state. Between 1/3 and 1/2 of the 14,000 school-age children of active duty military families who reside in NY because of military orders transfer in and out of our state every year. This is disruptive enough without having to deal with overly bureaucratic barriers to their successful transition and fulfillment of educational goals. New York State now has the largest population of school aged children of active duty service members in the 7 states that are NOT members of this Compact. While the Senate has passed their version unanimously for the last two years, the Assembly version has sat in the Education Committee since 2008 without so much as a hearing. The Bill has been reintroduced in the

Senate as S 1213 for the legislative session 2013-14. A companion Assembly bill has not been sponsored. This issue was briefed and discussed during a recent Legislative Breakfast that I attended with local State Senators, Assemblymen and their staffs. There seemed to be real interest and support, before, during and after the session, but we'll have to see if someone in the Assembly Sponsors a bill and provides the leadership to get it to the floor for an up or down vote.

Federal Legislative Sessions. If any of you have seen the movie *Groundhog Day*, you may be comparing it to the lack of progress on important Federal legislation dealing with the 2013 budget and debt reduction. First the good news, the 2013 Defense Authorization Act was signed into law in early January. This limits the Tricare for Life prescription cost increases to the same percentage increase in the retirement pay. It does, however, require maintenance drugs be purchased by mail order for a period of one year. The mail order provision has yet to be defined with a start date. The wolf closest to the sled is Sequestration. This law requires a budget reduction of 1.2 trillion over the next 10 years, half of this amount to come out of the Department of Defense (DoD), starting March 1st. So DoD is now dealing with an approximately \$45 billion budget reduction in the next 7 months. The only way to achieve this reduction is to drastically reduce personnel costs along with 'flying hours', 'steaming hours', ship, aircraft and base maintenance, along with delaying deployments. DoD has also proposed cutting service members' pay raises for 2014 from 1.7% to 1%. With Congress in recess until February 28th, they have some heavy lifting to do before the time is up. Expect proposals to be flying fast and furious during the last week in February and we must make our voices heard when they see the light of day. Please check the MOAA web site for legislative alerts and take the time to contact your

representatives via pre-scripted emails found on that site.

Problem number two. Although the governmental agencies have authorization to spend money on certain things, they don't have an Appropriation for 2013 for the actual money. We have been limping along under a 'Continuing Resolution' (CR) for 5 months, which allows spending at the previous year's rate without authority to execute new contracts. At this late date, Congress may not pass an Appropriations bill this year, but will finish operating under a CR. The budget folks must be pulling their hair out since the fiscal year 2014 budget is now due to be presented to the Congress and the 2013 budget is a long way from resolution.

Problem number three. The can labeled 'Debt Ceiling' has been kicked forward to May 18th. By that date, Congress must vote to raise the debt ceiling so the government can borrow money to pay its bills.

I hate to bore you with all these gory details, but we must stay informed of the important issues of the day and make our 'One Powerful Voice' heard by our elected officials. We have a representative form of government, and must fulfill our obligation to voice our concerns to those we have chosen to represent us.

Gerald (Jerry) Luzum, CAPT, CEC, USN (Ret)
President

GVC/MOAA Spouses Club

The GVC MOAA Spouses Club enjoyed a casual luncheon as guests of Marion Mench at the Monroe Golf Club on February 6th. No business was conducted at that time. We simply enjoyed visiting with each other and catching up on news since our last outing in December.



Our next meeting will be March 20 at 12:00 pm at Phillips European Restaurant. On the agenda will be planning for the Spouses Club involvement with the state convention, hosted by our MOAA chapter, in October 2013. Donations for our red, white, and blue basket raffles are always accepted. Plans are to have a booth at the Fairport Canal Days in June to continue our fund-raising efforts.

The dates for future meetings are April 17 and May 15 at Phillips European Restaurant. All MOAA spouses and auxiliary members are invited to attend our meetings. Please call Eileen Carlsen at 585-377-5665 or email her at emc918@frontiernet.net to make reservations. Co-presidents, Eileen Carlsen and Kathleen Green

Military Outreach Report

A Company, 2-108th Infantry returned home with the final increment arriving Christmas eve. They are going through a 90 day reintegration period at this time. Once they return to their armory and normal drill schedule, a ceremony will be conducted. Our chapter will support this event.

We have committed to support another local NY Army National Guard unit. The 222nd Military Police Company, located in Rochester, Hornell and Auburn. A deployment ceremony will be held at the Hornell Armory on February 22nd. A Company has invited me to attend as the GVC representative. Our chapter has provided funds to the 222nd Family Support Group (FSG) toward the cost of refreshments for this event.

Anyone wishing to support our military outreach program can send or give donations to our treasurer:

Russ Green, LTC, USA-Ret.
2 Winding Brook Drive
Fairport, NY 14450

Dave Szczygiel, BG, USA-Ret.
Military Outreach Liaison

Veterans' Property Tax Exemptions

In addition to property Tax exemptions for veterans of WW II, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf, New York State provides a Cold War Veterans' Exemption. The benefit provides a 10 or 15 percent exemption of the assessed value, depending on the community. Veterans who served on active duty, other than for training, between September 2, 1945 and December 26, 1991 are eligible. If you already claim another veterans' exemption, you cannot claim a Cold War exemption.

In most communities applications must be filed by the taxable status date, March 1.

Ask your assessor or town clerk for further information or download NYS Publication 1093 at www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/publications/orpta/veterans.pdf

Auxiliary News

Hope fully everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and you are again ready to join us at GVC dinner meetings. At our next meeting we will be voting on by law changes that allow Auxiliary members voting privileges. At our annual June meeting you will be able to vote for a new slate of GVC officer for 2013-2015. If you a chapter Auxiliary member and not a MOAA member, I would encourage you to join MOAA. Ken Carlsen is our membership chair and he can help you sign up.

Carol Searing,

Auxiliary Liaison/ Board of Directors

GVC Bylaws

E mail recipients received a copy the chapter bylaws with amendments approved by the GVC Board. Members will vote at the March 10, 2013 meeting. A special thanks to Kathy Green for her professional skills in setting up the format in a clear, readable product.

2013 Dues !!

The Chapter does not mail statements. If your mailing label indicates 2012, your 2013 dues are now due. Email recipients received a notice if your 2013 dues are due. Dues are \$15.00 payable to GVC/MOAA. Colonel Green would be happy to receive your check for \$30.00 for two year's dues simplifying your checkbook and his accounts. Please mail your check to the chapter treasurer:

LTC Russell L. Green
2 Winding Brook Drive
Fairport, New York 14450

Please consider Life Membership

<u>Age</u>	<u>Life dues</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Life Dues</u>
<45	\$270	46-50	265
51-55	250	55-60	235
61-65	220	66-70	200
71-75	170	76-80	140
81-85	110	90+	No charge

In Memoriam



It is with deepest sympathy that we report the following deaths:

GVC/MOAA member, David G. Eng, LTC, U.S. Army-Ret., Nov.23, 2012, spouse of Julia

Michael A. Weissend, Jan. 14, 2013, son of GVC member Norma Weissend, LtCol, U.S. Air Force-Ret.

Chapter Officers

President: Gerald "Jerry" Luzum, CAPT, USN-Ret., 585 396-1406, roni39@earthlink.net
1st VP: Robert J. Zale, Col, USAF-Ret., 585 594-8422, sigbobzale@aol.com
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Member at large: Joe L. Anderson, LTC, USA-Ret., 585 381-7738, andersonresources@yahoo.com
Secretary/Newsletter: Philip Tierney, Col, USAF-Ret., 585 367-8469, ptierney@frontiernet.net
Treasurer: Russell L. Green, LTC, USA-Ret., 585 425-4292, russgreen@aol.com



**GENESEE VALLEY CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
NEWS BULLETIN #2
SUBJECT: CONVENTION SITE**



VISIT US AT GVCMOAA.ORG

Serving Members and Their Country

March 2013

Our convention site for October 14, 15 and 16 will be the Inn on the Lake in Canandaigua. The attachment has a photograph of the front elevation of the building. It is not a glamorous photo but now that you have seen it, you will know you are at the right place when you arrive. The resort is situated right on the waterfront of a beautiful scenic area. Canandaigua Lake is referred to as the Jewel of the Finger Lakes. If this will be your first visit to Canandaigua, you will soon agree with the many others who think so. If you would like a preview, enter “Inn on the Lake, Canandaigua, NY” on Google. It will take you to several websites offering photographs of scenes around the north end of the lake where the Inn is located.

The second photograph is inside the ballroom. This is where we will have our Tuesday night banquet and convention program. Monday will begin with registration and lunch. The Council and Chapter officers will meet at about 1300.. The Hospitality Room opens at 1600. We will board the sternwheeler, Canandaigua Lady, for a dinner cruise at 1700, returning at about 1900. The Ontario County historian, Dr. Preston Pierce, will join us on the cruise as our guide providing a commentary on the history, geologic significance and economic impact of the lake. The Hospitality Room will reopen until about 2300.

Tuesday will begin with breakfast at 0730 and a business meeting will follow. We will board a bus at 1115 for a scenic drive along Keuka Lake on the way to Hammondsport for a tour of the Glenn Curtiss Aviation Museum, returning in time for more “hospitality” at 1700. The lunch venue and menu are still in the planning stages. Further details will be forthcoming in the next two bulletins for the dinner cruise and the museum tour, both of which promise to be five-star events.

Joseph Ballister (jballister@earthlink.net)
Public Relations Chair, 2013 CoC Convention Planning Committee



**Genesee Valley Chapter Military Officers Association of America
52nd Year, Fourth Meeting**

Sunday, March 10, 2013

**Gatherings at the Daisy Flour Mill
1880 Blossom Road
Rochester, NY 14625**

1300 Social Hour (Cash Bar)

1400 Dinner

Salad

Selections:

Roast Pork Loin
With Fruit Chutney

Chicken -Mediterranean

Baked Salmon
With Crème Frêche

Dessert

Chocolate Raspberry Cake

Program

Annual NROTC, ROTC and JrROTC Recognition Dinner

Sponsored in part by a grant from US Automobile Association

Future Meetings:

2013

**April 21, 1300, Gatherings at the Daisy Flour Mill
June 9, 1300, Burgundy Basin**

Reservations for March 10th 2013 Dinner

**Due no later than Friday, March 1, 2013
Cancellations NLT Wednesday, March 6, 2013**

Name	Spouse
<hr/>	
Guest	Guest

Pork _____ Chicken _____ Salmon _____

Make check for _____ meal(s) at \$25.00 each and dues for _____ totaling _____ is enclosed.

Make checks payable to GVC/MOAA and send this form with your check to:

**COL Barbara Green, USA-Ret
P.O. Box 20874
Rochester, NY 14902-0874**

You may also include your dues payment.

Dues Payments: ___ 1 year \$15 ___ 2 years \$30