



2010, 2011, 2012

GENESEE VALLEY CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA NEWSLETTER



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Serving Members and their Country

September 2013

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's a three-peat. GVC, for the third year in a row, has been selected as a 5 Star Level of Excellence (LOE) Chapter by MOAA National. Also, Southern Tier Chapter received this designation for the fourth year in a row and Western New York Chapter was designated as a 4



Star Level of Excellence Chapter for the second year. I sent congratulatory emails to both Chapter Presidents and received the same from the Council of Chapters President, members of his staff and many other Chapter presidents. I was elated and somewhat relieved at the announcement, knowing that all the Chapter's accomplishments for 2012 were sufficient to put us among a group of less than 20% of all MOAA Chapters. The bar has been raised to perform at this level in the future. There is much more that the Chapter can and should do to fulfill its mission and I hope to continue to provide the leadership and motivation to live up to this standard. It will be a great honor to receive, on your behalf,

the 2012 LOE streamer for our GVC flag from the MOAA Board President on November 15th in Colorado Springs. Congratulations to all who work so hard to make our Chapter nationally recognized.

Chapter Elections. At the June meeting, the slate of officers recommended by the Nominating Committee were elected. Members holding new offices, or those elected to the Board for the first time, include: Norma Weissend, First Vice President, Joe Anderson, Third Vice President and Peter Ingalsbe, Member at Large. Brief biographies of these members will appear in the next three Newsletters. Returning members include; Jerry Luzum, President, Ken Carlsen, Second Vice President, Phil Tierney, Secretary, Russ Green, Treasurer, Immediate Vice President Dave Szczygiel, Past Presidents Barb Green, Woody Mench and Bob Zale and Auxiliary Liaison Carol Searing. All of us take the responsibilities of our respective offices seriously and are open to your suggestions at any time.

Membership Meeting Themes. Over a year ago, a Board Committee recommended that the six membership meetings be focused on general themes that are designed to serve the interests and social needs of our members. At the June meeting, a survey was taken to gauge the success of this approach over the past year. In order of interest of those attending the

meeting, the themes were found in this order: 1st – ROTC/NROTC Awards; 2nd - (tie) Holiday Party and Military Topic (Deployment Report of A Company ANG); 3rd – Member Topic of Interest (African Safari Travelogue by Joe Ballister); 4th – Community Connection (Adam Chodak – Channel 13 Anchorman) and 5th – Personnel Affairs and Legislative Issues. The Board discussed these results at the August meeting and decided we are on the right track and will continue to use them for this year with some minor changes. To this end, Barb Green is certainly open to your suggestions for speakers and topics that fit these broad theme categories.

2013 NYS Council of Chapters Convention. The date for the initial registration for the Convention has passed, and, as of August 22nd, 21 GVC members and spouses have registered. As the host Chapter, I feel a special obligation to provide a welcome and valuable experience to the members of the other nine Chapters as they gather for this Convention in which the new Council officers will be selected and installed. We will need the maximum number of GVC members and spouses participating to show our support for this event. Please consider joining us during all or at least some of the events on October 14-16.

We are still accepting reservations. The Convention Schedule, Registration form and other information is found on our web site www.gvcmoaa.org. A variety of registration packages have been presented, but if they do not meet your needs, contact Russ Green russgreen@aol.com for other alternatives.

And if you don't wish to be tied down to a schedule and desire to help with the tons of administrative stuff, volunteer to help and join us at the end of the day in the hospitality room for snacks and some soft or adult beverages.

Legislative issues. See my commentary on this topic in the September 2012 Newsletter, changing the budget year from 2013 to 2014 – not much has changed. The Department of Defense (DOD) submitted their 2014 budget assuming that the Sequestration law is going to be repealed. If it is not, DOD will have to cut an additional \$52 billion from their budget. The members' recess ends after Labor Day, leaving less than a month to pass all the authorization and appropriation bills prior to the beginning of the 2014 fiscal year, which begins on October 1, 2013. Added to these pieces of important legislation is the contentious issue of the debt ceiling which will be reached in mid October according to Treasury Secretary Lew. I wish that I could be more optimistic about these national issues, but past performance precludes this. MOAA has asked the chapters to weigh in on the top three issues.

- Avoid catastrophic **sequestration** cuts. Continued sequestration threatens readiness, pay, family programs and earned health care and retirement benefits for retirees and survivors. **Congressional Action needed:** pass an alternative debt reduction bill that does not put debt reduction burden on those who have served their country.
- Sustain a 1.8% Military pay raise. The military, serving multiple deployments in war and areas of global unrest must be protected against pay raise cutbacks. **Status:** The Senate Armed Services Committee endorses the Pentagon proposal to cap military pay at 1%, 0.8% below private sector wage growth. The House bill would protect the current statute and match the private sector pay growth of 1.8%. **Congressional Action**

needed: support the House Bill and oppose the Senate pay cap (Section 601 of S.1197).

- Eliminate the Widows Tax. Current federal law requires survivors of deceased military members to forfeit part or their entire Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity when they are awarded Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) by the VA. This is often referred to as the Widow's Tax. **Status:** Senate and House bills have been introduced to eliminate this current unfair offset. **Congressional Action needed:** Encourage your representative to cosponsor/pass H.R. 32 and your senators to cosponsor/pass S. 734.

In our representative form of government, we must voice our position on these and other issues or accept the consequences of our inaction. Contact with your Senator or Representative through their local office is a start. And, on a continuing basis, use the MOAA web site and access the 'Take Action' tab at the top left hand side of the page, click on the Key Bills heading and supply your zip code and a suggested letter to your senator and/or representative will be furnished for sending by email.

On State issues, I regretfully have to announce that the "Interstate Compact" bill did not make its way out of the Assembly's Education Committee. All the New York Chapters' letters and phone calls did prod the Senate to pass the bill, but lack of similar Assembly action precluded final action that would have made the bill law. I especially want to thank Rose Marie Kleinsphen for helping in our effort by making calls to the Albany offices of Assembly Majority Leader Morelle, Assemblyman Benedetto, the Bill's sponsor and Assembly Education Committee Chairwoman Cathy Nolan. We will not rest until this legislation is passed.

Program for the September 15th Meeting at the Senator's Mansion in Churchville.

Tentative, as we have not received confirmation. We have invited those involved in the National Veterans Crisis Line established at the Canandaigua Veterans Medical Center to join us and provide insight to the operations of the Center. This is an important and sobering topic as the suicide rate among active duty and veterans has reached the point of one per day. A tour of the Center is planned for the spouses and guests during the 2013 NYS MOAA Convention.

Remember to bring your donation of personal care items for VAMC Canandaigua to the meeting and place them in the box near the check-in table.

Retiree Appreciation Day. Due to the effects of sequestration, this year's RAD will be held on Wednesday instead of past events held on a Saturday. So this year the RAD will be held on Wednesday, September 25th from 9 AM to 3 PM at Clark Hall, Fort Drum. For more information go to www.drum.army.mil and click on the RETIREE Tab, or call the Fort Drum & Northeast Region RSO at 315.772.6339/6434.

Honor Flight. Honor Flight Rochester has scheduled three missions for the remainder of the year.

Mission 30 – September 14-15

Mission 32 – October 19-20

Mission 31 – September 28-29

Please try to attend the homecoming of our WWII veterans as they return to the Rochester International Airport at approximately 11:30 AM on September 15th, 29th and October 20th. It is an experience you will long remember. Donations to send a WWII veteran to Washington DC may be made in the collection box at our meetings or to our Treasurer, Russ Green.

Gerald 'Jerry' Luzum, CAPT,CEC, USN (Ret), President, GVC/MOAA

GVC/MOAA Spouses Club

The Spouses Club continues their fund raising efforts to support our veteran's projects. In



August, the spouses successfully worked a booth at the Webster Village Days selling chances on two gift baskets: a red, white and blue themed basket and a coffee and tea basket filled with a variety of teas, coffees, a teapot and some tea snacks. The spouses will again work a booth at Hang Around Victor Days on September 7 from 9:00 till 4:00 pm. Please stop by if you are in Victor to take a chance on two more gift baskets with the same themes. Contributions to

Honor Flight are also being collected at the craft booth.

We are collecting items for two gift baskets that will be raffled at the MOAA State Convention in October. If you have items that can be put into a Gardener's basket, please bring them to our next meeting on September 18 at Monroe's Restaurant (the old Springhouse) at noon. Eileen Carlsen will take your reservations at 377-5665 or emc918@frontiernet.net.

Don't forget our gift card project through Shopwithscrip.com. The Spouses Club receives a percentage from each card that is purchased. Go to shopwithscrip.com. Choose the gift cards you want to purchase. Use the enrollment code: D5CLFDBF3L831. Send a check for your cards to Karen Murphy along with a copy of your order. Karen's address is 1463 Camborn Drive, Macedon, NY 14502. Call Karen at 315-986-4769 if you have any questions.

Wounded Warrior Banquet

COL Clement J. Stahl US Army-Ret 585 730-8300, clems@rochester.rr.com provided this information:

WOUNDED WARRIOR DINNER,FRIDAY 13TH SEPT COCKTAILS 6PM DINNER 7PM. A TRULY OUTSTANDING SEA FOOD BUFFET. WE EXPECT SEVEN TO NINE WOUNDED WARRIORS. GOLDEN PONDS REST.500 LONG POND RD. RESERVATIONS WITH CHECK FOR 17 DOLLARS EACH PAYABLE TO CHAP40 R.O.A. TO LTC.PAUL CANNON AT 149 BEECH HILL CRESCENT PITTSFORD N.Y.14534. ALLSO JUST A REMINDER THAT THE AMERICAN CANADIAN MILITARY BALL IS OCT 5 AT THE MARRIOTT ROCHESTER DETAILS SOON.

News from our Deployed Unit.

BG David Szczygiel,, our liaison to to the local unit currently deployed proved this information.

To the families and Soldiers of the 222 Military Police Company,

Four months down and we are still standing strong despite the intense heat and humidity here on CAS. The Soldiers continue to conduct the mission at hand, to and above the standard and not letting the heat hinder they're performance. The heat is no match for the Triple Deuce – Hooah!

Liberty trips have slowed down this month due the Islamic holiday called Ramadan which began on July 8th and will end on August 7th. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. It is a time of fasting for the Islamic people. Each day during this month, Muslims all over the world abstain from eating, drinking, smoking, as well as participating in anything that is ill-natured or excessive; from dawn until the sun sets. Fasting is intended to educate the Muslim in spirituality, humility and patience. It is a time to cleanse the soul, focus attention on God, and put into practice selflessness. Ramadan is a time for Muslims to fast for the sake of God and to put forward more prayer than is customary. Due to the holiday, Soldiers are only allowed to explore Doha after sun set each day so that we do not interfere or disrespect the participants of the holiday.

Despite the minimal off post travel our morale has never been higher due to the sportsmanship and competition on and off post. Once again we crushed the FA in the Red Leg Cup 4th of July 5K, taking yet another first place trophy. We are also dominating in the Red Leg Cup basketball tournament and there is no doubt we will be victorious. SPC Watson and SPC Dean made the Doha soccer team and got a chance to play against the Qatari Military teams. They're team won second place and each member of the team was given gift bag and trophies by the Qataris. In each gift bag was an iPad Mini. Not only were they given a trophy and an iPad Mini, they will also be awarded the Army Achievement Medal! SGT Miah took home the gold in the CAS badminton tournament. Go SGT Miah!

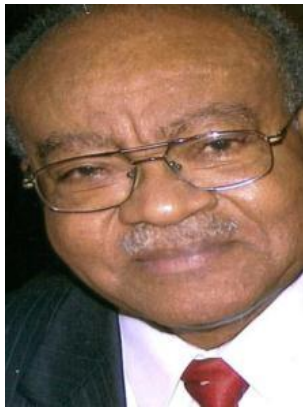
Outside of sports, the MWR has offered open water scuba diving classes for anyone interested in getting scuba certified. The certification consists of completing and online course, two pool sessions, and four open water dives. A few of the Soldiers have taken advantage of that offer and have already completed their pool sessions and will be on their way to completing the certification in the beautiful Arabian Golf.

Don't worry we are not having too much fun over here. The reality is that 90 % of the Soldier's time they are hard at work maintaining force protection for CAS, and the other 10% is getting out of the sun and away from the ECP's to relax and recharge. You all know that we cannot talk much of our duties and responsibilities here and CAS and why would I want to bore you with that since I know by now you have heard it all from your service member. They are doing a fantastic job and you should be as proud of them as I am. Once again we would all like to thank the family members and friends for all the support you continuously show us. Always remember to keep in touch with your Soldier. Until next month friends and family, take care and be safe.

June Board Election Here is the first of three bios for newly elected board members. Peter Ingalsbe and Norma Weissend will follow in subsequent issues.

Joe L. Anderson, Lieutenant Colonel US Army,-Ret., 3rd Vice President

Joe L. Anderson, Sr. received a BS degree in Economics from North Carolina A&T State



University in Greensboro, N.C. He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army in 1970 and served on active duty from 1971-73, during the Vietnam Era. His active duty assignment was as Adjutant, United States Army Infantry Center, Ft. Benning, Ga.

After leaving active duty, he continued in the Army Reserves, serving in several different assignments, including Labor Relations Officer, 401st Civil Affairs Company and Strength Management Officer, 98th Division (TNG). He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1996.

Joe worked for Eastman Kodak Company for 32 years, serving in several different positions, including Manager, Diversity and Regional Manager, Human Resources, Western Region. He retired from Kodak in 2002 as a Senior Human Resources Manager. While at Kodak, he also served as President of the Veterans Network of Kodak Employees (VETNET), one of seven employee networks at Kodak where approximately 4000 veterans were employed. He also served at Chair, Board of Directors of Network North Star, Kodak's network of African-American employees.

He has been active in community activities, serving as Chair, Board of Directors, Fairport Baptist Homes Caring Ministries, a continuing care retirement community for seniors. Joe has also served as President, William Warfield Scholarship Fund; Member, Board of Directors, Theta Omicron Scholarship Foundation; and President, Rochester Chapter, N.C. A&T State University Alumni Association. He is a past recipient of the university's Distinguished Service Award and currently serves on the Board of Visitors of NC A&T State University.

He is the Chaplain of Theta Omicron Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and past recipient of the fraternity's Omega Man of the Year Award.

He is married to Angeles Webb Anderson, a registered nurse, and they have three children and 9 grandchildren.

In Memoriam

It is with deepest sympathy we report the following death:

Marilyn A. (Roessel) Wagner, July 17, 2013,

Wife of Frederick J. Wagner, Colonel, US Air Force-Ret, 12 Meadowland Trail, Hilton, NY 14466

Chapter Officers

President: Gerald "Jerry" Luzum, CAPT, USN-Ret.,

585 396-1406, roni39@earthlink.net

1st VP: Norma Weissend, LtCol, USAF-Ret., 585 394-7852, normaweis@roadrunner.com

2nd VP: Kenneth H. Carlsen, CDR, USN-Ret., 585 377-5665,

kcarlsen@frontiernet.net

3rd VP: Joe L. Anderson, LTC, US Army-Ret., 585 381-7738, andersonresources@yahoo.com

Member at large: Peter Ingallsbe, COL, US Army-Ret, 315-986-3136, pingallsbe@gmail.com

Secretary: Philip Tierney, Col, USAF-Ret., 585 367-8469,

ptierney@frontiernet.net

Treasurer: Russell L. Green, LTC, USA-Ret., 585 425-4292, russgreen@aol.com

