

Genesee Valley Chapter Military Officers Association of America Newsletter

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November 2013

From the President

It is with heavy heart that I again report the death of a valued member. This time it is Col Edwin "Woody" Mench, USAF (Ret) after his long and courageous struggle with illness. Woody's name and Genesee Valley Chapter are almost interchangeable. He served as Chapter President, NYS Council of Chapters President and governing Board member of both organizations. In addition, he was a 'Plank Owner' of Honor Flight Rochester, serving as Treasurer and President. He was always there to offer counsel and encouragement and willing to try something different. His mere presence at various events brought a spark that called us to do more and do it better for our membership and our service men and women in uniform. Personally, he was a mentor and the finest example of what it means to be a servant leader in our Chapter. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Marion and the family at this time of great sadness.

Federal Legislation. From the MOAA Weekly Update dated November 8, 2013.

Debt Ceiling/Sequestration. When Congress passed legislation on October 16th to raise the debt ceiling and end the government shutdown it also agreed to establish a new joint committee to work on a budget and address sequestration and deficit reduction.

The new bicameral committee's deadline is December 13 but, like many of its predecessors – including the 2011 "Super Committee" – it could fail to deliver a significant proposal.

The new joint committee is distancing itself from previous endeavors by lowering expectations. Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) stated "if we focused on doing some big grand bargain, like those prior efforts...then I don't think we'll be successful because we'll focus on our differences ...each party will demand that the other compromises a core principle, and then we'll get nothing done."

Senator Harry Reid (D-Nev.) referred to the idea of striking a grand bargain as "happy talk."

The 29 committee members met for the first time on October 30 and the conferees agreed to work towards a modest agreement that would establish discretionary spending levels for FY 2014 and secure some relief from sequester-driven spending cuts in January 2014.

The committee reconvened for a second time on November 6.

While tax rate hikes are likely off the table, the committee may look to end some tax exemptions and close loopholes.

Modest entitlement reforms and spending cuts are other topics that may emerge in the coming weeks as both sides try to hammer out an agreement.

The December 13 deadline is fast approaching. Expectations are low, but the memory of the shutdown and debt ceiling crisis of October may spur Congress to take action.

'Doc fix'.

- The House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees are working together on bipartisan legislation that aims to finally repeal and replace the flawed Medicare/TRICARE physician reimbursement rate.
- Current law calls for a 24 percent cut in Medicare/TRICARE reimbursement rates to doctors on January 1. Allowing such a large cut to take place would devastate access

- to care for beneficiaries.
- For years Congress has passed patchwork legislation to block these cuts, kicking the can from one year to the next year. The annual cycle of uncertainty wreaks havoc on physicians participating in Medicare and TRICARE, and threatens access to care for millions of beneficiaries.
 - The proposed permanent fix would repeal the Sustainable Growth Rate that drives the annual cuts. It would replace it with a ten-year freeze of physician reimbursement rates at current levels. It would also seek to boost efficiency in the health care system by incentivizing physicians to use alternative payment models that focus more on value than volume.
 - Starting in 2024 doctors participating in fee for service plans would see a negative 1 percent annual adjustment, and those using more efficient alternative payment methods would see a 2 percent increase.
 - The plan would also offer payments for care coordination, value-based reporting systems and meaningful use of electronic health records. Under the proposal, doctors would be held to accountability standards for quality and resource utilization.
 - Physician stakeholder groups have until November 12th to respond to the draft proposal.
 - The total cost of the legislation is roughly \$139 billion. Although it's far less expensive than previous proposals, the challenge for Congress is coming up with the offsets to pay for it and convincing physicians to agree to a ten year pay freeze.

It is important to 'weigh in' on these and other issues that affect our lives and the benefits that we receive that have been earned by the dedicated service to our Country. I ask that you take a few minutes to keep abreast of the current issues and make your voice heard. The following is a suggested and effective method to make your voice heard by your elected officials.

Email

Go to moaa.org, click on 'Take Action' on the Home page in the upper left hand corner. If you want to receive weekly updates on the important issues, go to '[Weekly Legislative Update](#)' and subscribe with your email address. MOAA will send you a short bulletin on active Bills on a weekly basis with the opportunity to send a scripted email to your senators and representative.

If you don't want to subscribe, but wish to send an email on a specific issue, go to '[Key Bills](#)', find the bill number, click on it and send a scripted email to your senators and representative. You can get a 'Two for' by previewing the scripted email before sending it, copying it and pasting it on a blank Word document and send it to the local office listed below.

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
Kenneth B. Keating Federal Office Building, Room 4195, 100 State Street,
Rochester, NY 14614

Senator Charles Schumer
Kenneth B. Keating Federal Office Building, Room 3040, 100 State Street
Rochester, NY 14614

Representative Chris Collins, 27th Congressional District, 75 Main Street, Suite C,
Geneseo, NY 14454

Representative Tom Reed, 23rd Congressional District, 433 Exchange Street
Geneva, NY 14456

Representative Louise Slaughter, 25th Congressional District, 3120 Federal building,
100 State Street, Rochester, NY 14614

Personal Affairs - ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY (COE)

Effective Aug. 1, 2013, most Survivor Benefit Plan annuitants over the age of 55 are no longer required to complete and submit an annual Certificate of Eligibility to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. Annuitants should no longer expect to receive the annual COE once they reach age 55. Their eligibility to receive annuity payments will continue without submitting the COE.

The following annuitants will continue to receive annual COEs and must submit their completed forms to DFAS to continue annuity payment eligibility:

- Annuitants under 55 years of age
- Annuitants who are receiving hard copy checks in a foreign country (regardless of age)
- Annuitants who have a permanent disability (regardless of age)

If you are in any of these categories, send your annual COE to:

U. S. Military Annuitant Pay

P.O. Box 7131 London, KY 40742-7131 Fax: 800-982-8459

DFAS will send you an annual reminder when your COE is due. Please be sure to notify them if you move, so that you will continue to receive these important notices and reminders.

General Meetings. We were fortunate to have Dr Preston Pierce, Ontario County Historian, speak to us on some of the organizations that foster the study of military history and collecting of military artifacts at our meeting on October 27th. Preston is a masterful storyteller who wove the background of the historic places in our community with the organizations that are available to provide additional information. I will have some handouts on these organizations at our next meeting at the Green Lantern. For those having an e-mail account we will send the complete presentation to you.

Next Meeting. The next General Membership meeting will be at the Green Lantern on December 8th at 1 PM. This is our holiday celebration with dancing music by Bob Neusatz and Barb Green's famous gift exchange. If you want to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a wrapped \$10 gift. Send your reservation using the form below to Barbara Green NLT Monday 2 December. (noon)

Chapter Dues. Here is that pesky reminder that if you haven't paid you **2013** Chapter dues, please do so now. Russ Green has sent out letters to those whose Chapter membership dues have lapsed, along with a self-addressed return envelope to make it easy to complete this task. The Board of Directors voted last year to keep the dues at an affordable value of \$15/year. Chapter dues are used to produce the Newsletter (Postage and printing for those receiving by USPS, annual cost of Web Hosting and domain name), support the outreach to our deployed units, recognition items for the ROTC, NROTC and JROTC units in the Rochester, Honor Flight etc. It should be noted that the officers and Board members receive no payment for their service. A payment for two years would be appreciated and we would be ecstatic if more of our members would become Chapter life members. The other monetary reason is that National MOAA is offering a \$500 incentive payment if we retain 90% of our

membership. The non-monetary reason is that the degree to which our voice is heard by our elected is in direct proportion to our membership numbers. (See Treasurer's note later in newsletter regarding 2014 dues)

Rosemary and I ask that you consider sharing your bountiful harvest with those not so fortunate and wish that you experience the peace, joy and blessings of the season. I would also ask that you keep our deployed troops and their families in your prayers.

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

GVC/MOAA Spouses Club.



(Rosemary Luzum & Tillie Elder selling raffle chances.)

The November Spouse club meeting was held November 20th at the Monroe Country Club as guests of Marion Mench. The club on November 2nd participated in the American Legion craft sale and they will volunteer December 12th at 1pm for the annual Christmas gift wrapping at the Canandaigua Veterans hospital. If you would like to come early meet for lunch at Rheinblick restaurant 224 South Main Street Canandaigua at 11:30am. Contact Eileen Carlsen in advance, as reservations are required. [Email emc918@frontiernet.net](mailto:emc918@frontiernet.net) or 585-377-5665. They will also be selling baked goods and providing wine and cheese baskets to raffle at the Chapter Christmas party December 8th.

222nd MP Company. Dave Szczygiel reports that the Company deployment is going well and he asks that everyone keep the soldiers and their families in our thoughts and prayers especially during this holiday season. Donations for the Chapter military outreach program can be sent to Russ Green.

Pentagon Federal Credit Union (PenFed): One of the ways that MOAA works to support its members is through strategic partnerships that make world-class products and services available to its membership. One such partnership is with the Pentagon Federal Credit Union, otherwise known as PenFed. PenFed has more than 1.2 million members, over \$17 Billion in assets, and has been in business for 75 years. More information about the products and services available from PenFed can be obtained at PenFed.org/MOAA or by calling 1-800-616-6600. Membership kits, including applications for the American Express "Defender" credit card, will also be available at our Holiday Party on December 8th.

2014 Dues !!

The Chapter does not mail statements. If your mailing label indicates 2013 or later, your 2014 dues are now due. Dues are \$15.00 payable to GVC/MOAA. Colonel Green would be happy to receive your check for \$30.00 which is 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

Age	Life dues	Age	Life Dues	Age	Life Dues
<45	\$270	61-65	220	81-85	110
46-50	265	66-70	200	86-89	80
51-55	250	71-75	170	90+	No
charge					
56-60	235	76-80	140		

For your convenience, you may also add your dues payment to your dinner reservation.

GVC/MOAA Board Members 2013-2015

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

(H) 585-396-1406, cell 585-355-0562 Email: roni39@earthlink.net

1st Vice President: Norma Weissend, Lt Col, USAF (Ret) 585-746-2904

Email: normaweis@roadrunner.com

2nd Vice President: Ken Carlsen, CDR,USN,(Ret) 585-377-5665,

Email: kcarlsen@frontiernet.net

3rd Vice President/Transition Liaison: Joe Anderson, LTC, USA (Ret),

585-381-7738, Email: andersonresources@yahoo.com

Member at Large: Peter Ingalsbe, COL, USA (Ret) (H) 315-986-3136,

cell 585-749-3390, Email: pingalsbe@gmail.com

Secretary: Joseph Ballister, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), 585-334-9775

Email: ballister@earthlink.net

Treasurer: Russ Green, LTC, USA (Ret), 585-425-4292, Email: russgreen@aol.com

Immediate Past President: Dave Szczygiel, BG,USA (Ret), 585-346-3736

Email: mszczygiel@rochester.rr.com

Past president: Robert Zale, Col, USAF (Ret), 585-594-8422

Email: sigbobzale@aol.com

Auxiliary Liaison: Carol Searing, 585-586-8993, Email: cws1@usadatanet.net

Genesee Valley Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
53rd Year, Third Meeting
Sunday, December 8, 2013

Green Lantern Inn
One East Church Street
Fairport, New York 14450
585-223-0556

1300 (1 pm.) Get Acquainted Hour (Cash Bar)
Cheese and Crackers

Spouses' Club sale/raffle

1400 (2 pm) Dinner

All dinners include:

Garden Salad

Selections:

Roast Pork Loin w/ spiced apricot dressing

Shrimp Scampi: sautéed in lemon butter and garlic, over pasta

Chicken Parmesan w/ pasta

Dessert

Vanilla Ice Cream w/ Crème De Menthe

Program

Music by Bob Neusatz

Gift exchange (\$10 limit)

Those wishing to participate bring a gift and take a gift home!

Reservations due Monday, December 2nd at 1200 hours (Noon). Please use form provided.
Cancellations NLT 1200 hours (Noon), Wednesday, December 4th.

Future Meetings:

March 9, 2014 – Daisy Flour Mill

April 27, 2014 – Daisy Flour Mill

June 8, 2014 – Burgundy Basin

Reservations for December 8th Meeting

Name	Spouse
<hr/>	
Guest	Guest
<hr/>	
_____ Beef _____ Chicken _____ Shrimp	

Payment is enclosed for the following:

_____ meal(s) at \$25.00 each, totaling _____

_____ years dues at \$15.00/year, totaling _____

Lifetime dues for age _____, totaling _____

=====

Check enclosed for a total of: _____

For more information/questions, or if your reservation may be late in arriving at the PO Box, call Barbara Green at 585-330-2708.

Please make checks payable to GVC MOAA and mail to the following address:

GVC MOAA
PO Box 2087
Rochester, NY 14602-0874