



2010, 2011, 2012, 2013

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

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**Serving Members and Their Country**

**April 2015**



**FROM THE  
PRESIDENT**

**What is the old adage? “March, in like a lion, out like a lamb”.** Most weather forecasters are predicting that the lamb will not show up until mid-April. But this Newsletter is not about weather, except to say that the Washington budget scene is indeed stormy.

**Federal Legislative Action.**

It is best understood by accepting the fact that the federal budget is a process of many steps that supposedly ends up with a law signed by the President BEFORE October 1<sup>st</sup>. It starts with the President submitting the executive budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 in early February. This budget was \$38 billion over the cap set by law (Sequestration) in 2012. In spite of this law, it contained the following:

- Caps active duty military pay raise at

1.3% instead of 2.3% mandated by law. It also includes 4 additional years of pay caps.

- 5% increase in out-of-pocket housing expenses.
- Continued erosion of the \$1 billion commissary subsidy which will lead to a 66% loss of purchasing power.
- Consolidate TRICARE Prime, Standard and Extra into one Plan. Working-age retirees would pay for treatment at military facilities, absorb Prime enrollment fee and pay standard co-payments and deductibles. And, adds a new means-tested, TRICARE for Life enrollment fee.

The President drew a line in the sand and said he will veto any budget that comes before him without rescinding Sequestration.

The Military Compensation and Retirement Moderation Commission (MCRMC) submitted its Report out of sequence with the budget cycle and its recommendations are NOT included in the President’s submission. The Department of

Defense is expected to comment on them in early April (Deadline is 1 April), but what action the Congress will take this year is not known. I detailed the 15 radical reforms in the last Newsletter and two require serious analysis:

- Replacing the current 20 year cliff-vesting system with a blended defined 401(k) style retirement package. The system would be optional for the current force, mandatory for new entrants. Current retirees would be unaffected.
- Elimination of TRICARE for Military families and working age retirees and replacing it with a selection of commercial insurance. TRICARE For Life would remain intact. This conflicts with the President's Budget

**The Bottom Line.** Congress must deal with the FY 2016 budget submission. They don't have to deal with the MCRMC recommendations right now. They must resist the temptation to accept proposals without serious analysis that could hurt the readiness and retention of the all-volunteer force.

**The Congress.** Has started the hearing process of the budget submission and have been reluctant to move too quickly since DOD has not submitted their recommendations. The first step is for congressional committees to submit their "views and estimates (V&E)" of spending and revenues within their respective jurisdictions to the House and Senate Budget Committees. Again, the Senate has completed their V&Es, but the House has not. The Congress has stated that they will not pass a bill that rescinds Sequestration. This sets up a test of wills between the President and Congress.

**Doc Fix.** The Senate passed a bipartisan bill funding Medicare before they adjourned for the Easter recess. The House snatched defeat from the jaws of victory by not acting on the issue. Whether the climate will still be present when they return is unknown. What is known is that

an appropriation to pay for Medicare and accompanying second payer - TFL claims submitted after April 1<sup>st</sup> does not exist. Fortunately, due to the slowness of Federal payments, this should not affect TFL for a 'little' while.

**The 2014 MOAA Storming the Hill** will take place in April. Last year over 160 MOAA Council and Chapter Presidents from all 50 states, together with members of the National MOAA Board of Directors and Headquarters Staff, plus members of MOAA's active duty, Guard, Reserve, Spouse and Auxiliary took part in this event and visit all 535 representatives and senators to support MOAA's goals for 2015. NYS Council of Chapters President, Ben Margolius, his wife Sue and Vice President Peggy Phillips will be visiting some of the members of the New York Congressional delegation. **These Goals include:**

- Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector
- Block erosion of basic Allowance for Housing and Commissary benefits.
- Reject Disproportional TRICARE Fee Hikes.
- Prevent Medicare/TRICARE cuts.
- Eliminate Sequestration Cuts.
- Protect military retirement/COLAs.
- Assure timely access to the VA and eliminate the VA claims backlog.
- Sustain wounded warrior programs and expand caregiver support.
- End disabled/survivor financial penalties.
- Fix Guard/Reserve retirement.
- Improve spouse and family support.

My plea is that you stay informed and make your voice heard by your local senator or representative, either in person or by written correspondence. The MOAA web site home page, "Take Action" icon, is an excellent source

for scripted (which may be changed to fit your needs) email messages on these and other topics.

**Retirement of Senator Reid.** Senator Reid, Senate Minority Leader, has announced his retirement after his current term. The heir apparent is Senator Schumer. This would be a real bonus for New York State, having a high level member in the Senate.

**State Legislative Action.** Russ Green has taken the lead and joined with other Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) in support of the Veterans Equality Act. This legislation allows veterans to apply up to 3 years of military service towards the NYS Public Service Retirement. Although this provision was in the Governor's Budget, it is not known if it stayed in during the last minute negotiations.

**The March 8<sup>th</sup> General Business Meeting** was well attended by over 65 interested in hearing the ROTC and JROTC unit commanders and the cadets and midshipmen who received the MOAA medal. This medal is given to those who exhibit leadership and academic achievement in their programs. Members were impressed by the dedication of these young men and women who have chosen to serve their country as members of an all-volunteer force. Our guest's thoughts that afternoon are perhaps best characterized in thank you emails sent by a number of Cadre and Cadets/Midshipmen. The Chapter owes its thanks and appreciation to Bob Zale for his work as a liaison with the ROTC/NROTC and JROTC units and for bringing their stories to the Chapter. A note of thanks also goes to USAA who provided a substantial grant that enabled us to honor our future leaders.

**The next Chapter Meeting** will be at the Canandaigua Yacht Club on April 26th at 1300. The program will feature Naomi Wadsworth, a veteran pilot and navigator with over 30 years of flight experience, who flew the famous restored

C-47 from Geneseo to Normandy for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D Day in June 2014. She is now responsible for aircraft airshow scheduling, safety and waiver compliance, as well as fund raising. Please join other Chapter members as Naomi shares her once in a life-time experience.

**Visit by the Deputy Secretary of Veteran Affairs.** Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson visited the VAMC Canandaigua to get a boots-on-the-ground view of operations, meeting with several groups. He was especially impressed by the Crisis Call Center.

The Center takes over 1000 calls each day. The documentary "Crisis Line: Veterans" recently received an Emmy for Best Short Documentary. Having viewed it, I was impressed with the responders passion shown our veterans in crisis shown. If you have a chance, view it and get an untarnished glimpse of this operation. Deputy Secretary Gibson disclosed the VAs intention of expanding the number of staff and providing additional space and state-of-the-art equipment needed to serve this growing need.

**Annual Business Meeting** will be held June 14<sup>th</sup> at Burgundy Basin. Colonel Jim O'Brien, Chief Financial Officer and Director of MOAA's Educational Assistance Program, will be the guest speaker and induction officer. Every three to four years the Chapter is visited by a MOAA National Officer or Board Member, so it is a somewhat rare opportunity to get a glimpse of what is happening in Washington and MOAA National. It is also an opportunity to thank the outgoing officers and board members for their dedication and service and welcome the new leadership team. Please mark your calendars as a "don't miss" event.

**Honor Flight Rochester.**

The GVC Board of Directors has voted to sponsor a golf hole in honor of Woody Mench, past president of Honor Flight Rochester. The golf tournament to benefit HFR will be held at the Victor Hills Golf Course on Sunday, May

24<sup>th</sup>. Details are found on the HFR web site.  
Honor Flight Rochester (HFR) has scheduled the following six missions for this year.  
Mission 40 – May 2-3 Returns about 11:30  
Mission 41 – May 30-31 Returns about 11:30  
Mission 42 – June 20 – 21 Returns about 11:30  
Mission 43 – September 12-13 Returns about 11:30  
Mission 44 – September 26-27 Returns about 11:30  
Mission 45 – October 24-25 Returns about 11:30  
Please try to attend the homecoming of our WWII and Korean War veterans as they return to the Rochester International Airport. It is an experience you will long remember. An Honor Flight donation box is located on the check-in table at all meetings.

The value of **Personal Care Donations for VAMC** last year totaled nearly \$200. Thank you and don't forget to bring these items to our general meetings and place them in the box on the check in table.

**Welcome.** Please join me in welcoming our newest Chapter member Colonel Nancy Bird, USA (Ret).

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

### **Notice to the Membership of Proposed Candidates for Chapter Office.**

BG David P. Szczygiel, chairman of the nominating committee, has submitted the names of the following prospective candidates for office for the 2015-2017 term.

President: Norma Weissend, Lieutenant Colonel, USAF-Ret.

First Vice President: Peter Ingalsbe, Colonel, USA-Ret.

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

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

Secretary: Joseph C. Ballister, Lieutenant

Colonel, USAF-Ret.

Treasurer: James Nielsen, Commander, USN-Ret.

Board of Directors: Auxiliary Member Marion Mench. Member at Large: Nancy Swanson, Captain, USN-Ret.

Nominations may be made from the floor at the annual meeting on June 14, 2015. The election will follow the close of nominations. In accordance with Article IX of the Chapter Bylaws, notice of the candidates proposed must be sent to each member at least 20 days before the annual meeting.

Joseph C. Ballister Lt. Col., USAF-Ret.  
Secretary

**BIO Ms. Naomi Wadsworth;** Graduated from the Harley School in 1977, attending the University of Northern Colorado with a BA in Anthropology in 1981 and received an MBA from Mary Mount University in 1987. After returning home to help my father restructure his business, I branched out into designing ballroom costumes for professional and amateur ballroom dancers and wedding gowns. This job has allowed me to stay in Geneseo and fly for the museum.

She started flying lessons in 1976, attaining a Private Pilots license in June of 1981, then helping to form the National Warplane Museum in 1982. She started flying smaller aircraft to airshows, adding an instrument rating. She has logged hours in a Beech 18, Piper Aztec as well as B-17 rating. She has had the opportunity to fly many great aircraft in her 30 plus years of promoting the museum and flying airshows. 2003 saw completion of her commercial multi-engine Certificate and experience in a Lear 31, then rating in the DC-3 and DC-3S.

After the museum split, she took on a larger role with the airshow and museum, expanding to aircraft scheduling, contract negotiation, oversight of the Airboss, responsibility for airshow safety and waiver compliance, as well as fund raising.

Today she flies many of the museum aircraft, but the C-47 "W-7" is her favorite where she spends most of her time with her friends two adopted black and white Siberian Huskies.

## GVC/MOAA BOARDMEMBERS 2013-2015

**President:** Gerald (Jerry) Luzum, CAPT, CEC, USN (Ret)  
(H) 585-396-1406, cell 585-355-0562 Email: [roni39@earthlink.net](mailto:roni39@earthlink.net)

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Norma Weissend, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)  
585-746-2904 Email: [normaweis@roadrunner.com](mailto:normaweis@roadrunner.com)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Ken Carlsen, CDR, USN, (Ret)  
585-377-5665, Email: [kcarlsen@frontiernet.net](mailto:kcarlsen@frontiernet.net)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President/Transition Liaison:** VACANT

**Member at Large:** Peter Ingalsbe, COL, USA (Ret)  
585-749-3390, (cell) Email: [pingalsbe@gmail.com](mailto:pingalsbe@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Joseph Ballister, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)  
585-334-9775 Email: [ballister@earthlink.net](mailto:ballister@earthlink.net)

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

**Immediate Past President:** Dave Szczygiel, BG, USA (Ret)  
585-346-3736 Email: [mszczygiel@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mszczygiel@rochester.rr.com)

**Past President:** Robert Zale, Col, USAF (Ret)  
585-594-8422 Email: [sigbobzale@aol.com](mailto:sigbobzale@aol.com)

**Past president:** Barbara Green, Col, USA (Ret)  
585-330-2708 Email: [bgreenanc@gmail.com](mailto:bgreenanc@gmail.com)

**Auxiliary Liaison:** Marion Mench  
585-217-1779, Email: [mosimpli@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mosimpli@rochester.rr.com)

**President Luzum with 2015 Awarded Cadets and Leadership**



**Genesee Valley Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America**

54th Year, Third Meeting

Sunday, 26 April 2015

**CANANDAIGUA YACHT CLUB**

3524 West Lake Road

Canandaigua, NY 14424

(585) 396-9200

1300 - Cocktails and Cheese and Crackers

1400 - Dinner

Entrees: 1. Prime Rib of Beef Au Jus

2. Chicken Oscar

3. Crab Meat, Asparagus, Hollandaise Sauce

4. Pecan Crusted Salmon - Pan Seared, Honey Dijon

**Reservations due ASAP but NLT Monday, 4/20/15.**  
Please use form provided.

Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Friday, 4/24/15.

Final Meeting for 2015

June 14, 1300 – Burgundy Basin – Induction of new officers

**RESERVATION FOR 26 APRIL 2015 MEETING**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

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Guest \_\_\_\_\_ Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Crab \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_\_

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

Dues Payment Enclosed:

1 year \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00

Total Dinner & Dues; \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

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

**GVC MOAA**

**c/o Norma Weissend**  
**4587 Ridge Rd**  
**Canandaigua, NY 14424**