



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

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SERVING MEMBERS AND THEIR COUNTRY

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

August 2017

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Time does fly by, it was September of 2011 when then Chapter President CAPT. (RET) USN, Jerry Luzum introduced me as the newest Board member holding the Member – at – large position. Now another Presidents term has passed and here I am as your next President. First, I want to thank Immediate Past President Norma Weissend, for her dedication to this Chapter and the Council. Many hours were spent by Norma to make this Chapter what it is today. Thanks to our other Board members who all play a part in the planning of events or as a contributor to our newsletter. Some new Board changes for the next two years has Col (RET) Timothy Vaughan as your 1st Vice President, CAPT. (RET) Nancy Swanson taking on the duties of Chapter Secretary and CW3 (RET) William O'Donnell as your Member-At-Large. Thank-you for stepping up to serve this Chapter.

I promised our membership in June that I will try my best to not disappoint you while being your President, to also work on getting new members and to get our message out to those potential members. In the near future, we will have a Facebook page for our Chapter with the hope of reaching more Officers in the greater Rochester area. I also raised the question for discussion “Do we need to make a change in the day or time that we meet”? Should we just have one meeting a year that is very informal and more like a social hour where members can meet and enjoy conversations? I am again asking for your input. My e-mail address is pingalsbe@gmail.com

2016 Level of Excellence; Great news our GVC Chapter has again been awarded the five-star honor. This is the seventh year in a row and we were one of only three Chapters in New York State to earn the five-star award. It is a team effort so let’s keep up the great work and try to make it eight years in a row!

NYS Council of Chapters; The 45th Annual MOAA Convention registration period time has passed for the September 19th – 22nd at the Fort William Henry Hotel in Lake George. There are 8 chapter members attending so we will be sure to bring back new information for our membership.

MOAA Magazine; Probably one of the most discussed topics the past ten months is what is the DOD budget going to look like for military members and family's health care in the new fiscal year? Well the August 4th MOAA article titled "Senate Propose funding DOD Programs on the back of Beneficiaries" is not what was expected, especially for retirees. I have listed nine of the paragraphs in the article for your review....

What is the reward beneficiaries receive for a career of service and sacrifice? They get to pay more for their health benefit while also funding DoD's other programs! Sounds unbelievable, but sadly it is true - if the Senate gains traction with its proposed defense authorization bill.

The Senate, unlike the House, has proposed legislation to raise all TRICARE beneficiaries' health care fees and intends to use the funds to pay for other legislative fixes, such as the continuation of the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance.

The practice of finding offsets by taxing beneficiaries to subsidize other budgetary items has become a familiar behavior by Congress. For example, a provision in the FY 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) raised TRICARE pharmacy copayments to fund lump-sum retirement payments for future entrants under the military's new retirement system.

Increasing the retail generic copayment for military beneficiaries to \$10 results in beneficiaries paying more than twice as much as civilians without health insurance pay for generic drugs at Walmart.

What does all this mean for beneficiaries? The Senate Armed Services Committee's draft bill telegraphs its intentions to continue to extract more money from you. This money would come directly through the repeal of the grandfathering of TRICARE fees for currently serving troops

and through exorbitant increases in pharmacy fees.

Historically, DoD and some in Congress continue to assert TRICARE fee increases are needed based on concerns about potential health care cost growth and a desire to shift a greater share of DoD health care costs to beneficiaries.

MOAA believes the FY 2018 budget-proposed reversal of the TRICARE fee grandfathering and the additional pharmacy increase provisions in the FY 2018 NDAA are inappropriate for many reasons.

The bottom line is this: Congressional intent in last year's NDAA legislation was to pave the way for sweeping changes to the Military Health System and the TRICARE program. The reforms focused on improving the beneficiary experience, ranging from access to care to streamlining TRICARE benefit options. Part of MOAA's accepting this package of improvements meant acceptance of some fee increases.

However, central to this package of sweeping TRICARE reforms was that all who had entered service prior to Jan. 1, 2018, would be grandfathered into the existing pharmacy fee structures. New entrants into the services after that date would be subject to higher fees in the future.

Now the Senate's proposed legislation wants to roll this back and have you pay not just more, but much more. Send your elected officials a **MOAA-suggested message** to prevent these steep increases.

So, there you have it, we all have some more work to do to turn this around. Please do as the article says and contact your elected federal representatives.

COL Peter Ingalsbe, USA Retired,
President

UPCOMING EVENTS:

10 September 2017: GVC/MOAA Dinner, Canandaigua Yacht Club

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

22 October 2017; GVC/MOAA Dinner, Red Osier

3 December 2017 – GVC Holiday dinner
Location TBD

16 December – Wreaths Across America

Honor Flight Dates:

Mission 55 September 9-10

Spouses Club: The Spouses Club of GVC MOAA will be meeting on Wednesday, September 20th at noon, location Phillip's European Restaurant.

More Legislative Issues:

August is recess month for the Senate and House of Representatives. Have you contacted your Senator or Representative yet? If not, it's not too late. I urge you to visit their local offices and/or write to them concerning the veterans' issues that concern you the most. Another way to contact them is via the MOAA website (www.moaa.org). Follow the link below to the "Take Action" page:

<http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/Top-Issues/Top-Issues.aspx>

Here you'll find legislative issues pertaining to Currently Serving members, Retirees, Former Officers, and military Family issues. Choose a category, then chose the issue of most concern to you and click "Take Action". If congressional action is appropriate to your issue, you will be prompted for your demographic information, and an email will be sent to your representatives in your name. Please use this capability at your earliest convenience.

LTC Russ Green, USA(Ret)
Legislative Liaison

Sick Call; We have been informed that LtCol Jack Bradbury is ill and would appreciate well wishes. His address is 7096 Randall Rd. LeRoy, New York 14482

GVC/MOAA BOARD MEMBERS 2017-2019

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

September 10th 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 Parmesan

Cedar Plank Salmon

Entrees served with vegetables, salad, rolls and butter

Dessert Key Lime pie

Reservations due ASAP but NLT Wednesday August 30th

Please clip use form provided below

Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Thursday, September 7th

Questions: Norma – 585.727.6190

CLIP HERE AND SEND

**RESERVATION FORM FOR September 10h MEETING at
Canandaigua Yacht Club**

ALL Name(s) Attending:

Please indicate number of each meal desired:

Steak Au Poivre_____ Chicken Parmesan_____ Cedar Plank 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
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First Class Mail

