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SERVING MEMBERS AND THEIR COUNTRY * NEVER STOP SERVING *** March 2020**



PRESIDENT'S CORNER Crazy times, huh? I hope you are all healthy and doing well as we all learn to live with various aspects and impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). As you are aware, we had to cancel our March 22nd dinner and now, in light of the current and rapidly changing guidance, it is prudent that we also cancel our chapter dinner planned for Sunday April 26, 2020. It is unfortunate, but it is safer for us all to adhere with the social distancing precautions and hopefully we will all see an end to this event soon. Our next follow-on chapter dinner would be on Sunday June 7, 2020, at the Canandaigua Yacht Club. We will have to assess what the situation and guidance are in late April to see if we will host this dinner or need to cancel this dinner as well.

MOAA's website has a great Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resources and Updates page with multiple links to government and non-government resources... you can find it here:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/topic-and-landing-pages/coronavirus-resources/>

On a positive note, before the world went crazy, we submitted an application for a MOAA Community Outreach Grant to support the mission of the Veterans Outreach Center (VOC) and are excited at the prospect of possibly being awarded a grant to extend the mission of the VOC in a digital and online manner... if awarded this grant we will be looking for volunteers to assist us and the VOC in this regard. Stay tuned, more to follow!

Update from last month's newsletter on the Rosemary Luzum Honor Flight Rochester (HFR) Challenge, final donations totaled \$2,096, which is absolutely incredible!!!

MOAA Matters!

MOAA has been a leader on issues that are being exposed due to the Coronavirus pandemic, such as DoD's proposal to reduce medical capabilities (see our August 2019 newsletter) and to reduce or eliminate reliance

<http://takeaction.moaa.org>

MOAA National & the Genesee Valley Chapter are nonpartisan.

on medications manufactured in China. See the December 30, 2019 MOAA article, “Time for U.S. to End Addiction to Chinese-Made Drugs.” <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2019-news-articles/moaa-board-member-time-for-u.s.-to-end-addiction-to-chinese-made-drugs/>

When you see calls from MOAA to contact your elected officials, please don’t hesitate to use MOAA’s Legislative Take Action Center, <http://takeaction.moaa.org>, which will guide you through the issues, prepare a memo and automatically find your elected officials for the issues you select.

Help MOAA look out for your benefits; help MOAA look out for the safety and security of our nation; maintain your MOAA membership, recruit new members. And don’t forget, local chapters are where it all begins... “7 Reasons to Join Your Local MOAA Chapter,” Jan 10, 2020.

1. Make yourself heard. MOAA’s chapters provide critical grassroots support for MOAA’s national legislative agenda. Our benefits are under attack, and MOAA is in the fight to preserve them. Chapter members let their legislators know what’s on their minds and open doors for MOAA’s legislative team in Washington, D.C. In these difficult times, MOAA members need to stick together, and our chapters are the best way we know to do that.

2. Give back to the community. Chapter members are MOAA’s ambassadors in their communities, supporting countless programs that make a difference in the lives of others. These members continue their “officership” service and are giving back in the truest sense.

3. Value added to chapter members. MOAA chapters sponsor interesting programs and opportunities to interact with civic, political, military, and business leaders on issues important to members.

4. Networking with fellow officers. Chapters include second-career members in the work force and retired servicemembers who have contacts in their communities that can be valuable to transitioning officers.

5. Stay informed. Chapter newsletters, websites, and meetings provide you with the latest information on local, state, and national issues and changes to military benefits.

6. Influencing state legislation. Most states have a council of chapters that unites chapters in the state. These councils, and independent chapters in states without a council, often lobby for and pass state-level legislation that affects military members and their families, such as exempting military retired pay from state income tax or increasing funding for state veterans programs.

7. Camaraderie with a purpose. MOAA chapters unite active duty, former, and retired officers from every branch of service, including National Guard and Reserve, as well as surviving spouses. These centers of camaraderie not only give you a chance to connect with other members with similar backgrounds and interest, but to also develop close and lasting friendships.

<https://www.moaa.org/content/chapters-and-councils/7-good-reasons-to-join-your-local-moaa-chapter/>

2020 GVC Membership Dues

If you haven’t already, it’s time to pay your 2020 chapter dues. Annual dues are *STILL ONLY \$20!* Cheap, cheap!

Please send your dues payment to:

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

The chapter also offers Life Membership options, please check out GVCMOAA.ORG for Life Member rates.

Board of Directors Vacancy. We still have an opportunity to serve on our chapter board as the Legislative Chair. If you are interested, please contact me or any board member.

Surviving Spouses Resources & Information
MOAA publishes articles and brochures on many subjects. These are particularly relevant to me as the Surviving Spouse Liaison, which I will have to hand out at our next dinner:
Personal Affairs Action Guide
Survivor’s Checklist
Survivor’s Planning Guide
Help your Survivors Now

Please be aware these, and many other helpful brochures, are available free of charge from MOAA to all but Basic members. Check the MOAA website, www.moaa.org, for a complete list of publications, workbooks and articles on these subjects.

One such article by Anne Hartline, chair, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee, titled, "Planning for the Future," from March 1, 2019, where she outlines the importance of sharing financial and personal affairs with your family, loved ones and executor of your estate and insure this information is in an accessible place. <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2019-news-articles/surviving-spouse-corner-planning-for-the-future/>

If you cannot attend and wish a copy of any of these brochures, please phone me at (585) 662-5954, and I will be sure you will get them.

Marion Mench
Surviving Spouse Liaison

Spouses Club. Stay tuned for future Spouses Club activities... If you'd like to get involved or get notified of future GVC MOAA Spouse Club events, please contact Signe Zale via email sigbobzale@aol.com or (585) 594-8422.

Address Change? Have you moved? Have you changed your email address? If so, please contact Ken Carlsen or Nancy Swanson at the email address below or write us at:

GVC/MOAA
PO Box 20874
Rochester, NY 14602-0874

Your Chapter Dues at Work – We Support...

- Honor Flight Rochester
- U of R, RIT and Brockport ROTC Cadets
- Veterans Memorial Committee
- Rochester Armed Forces Day Luncheon
- National Veterans Golden Age Games
- Battlefields to Ballfields
- Batavia DAV
- Veterans Outreach Center

Upcoming Events... TBD

Jun 7, 2020: GVC/MOAA Dinner,
Canandaigua Yacht Club, 1pm/2pm

GVC/MOAA BOARD MEMBERS 2019-2021

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Remember... MOAA matters!

Tim Vaughan, Col, USAF (Retired)
MOAA GVC President
"Never Stop Serving"

**Genesee Valley Chapter
Military Officers Assn of America
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March 2020 Newsletter

First Class Mail

