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



PRESIDENT'S CORNER All COVID-19, all the time... as we go to print on this newsletter, we are seeing discussions of transition plans to open the economy, and essentially society, back up, but it appears New York has a way to go yet. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I hope you are all staying healthy and doing well with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unfortunately, any plans and timelines to open back up are not completely clear and less than definitive, which has led us to make another difficult decision; we are cancelling the next chapter dinner scheduled for Sun June 7, 2020. Frustrating? You bet! But there are too many unknowns to move forward on it, as well as concern for the health and wellbeing of attendees. Let's face it, the majority of us are in that enhanced risk pool for this thing. Therefore, our next chapter dinner is planned for

September 2020, exact date to be determined, at the Canandaigua Yacht Club. We will keep our fingers crossed that things will have returned to normal... you can keep what many are calling the "new normal!"

If you are looking for a good place to start looking for COVID-19 resources and updates, check MOAA's website. It has multiple links to government and non-government resources... you can find it here:

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

Important GVC Dues Reminder...!

If you have not paid your 2020 chapter dues, please do so now by sending a check to Norma Weissend as soon as you can. 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

Also please remember to renew your MOAA National Annual or Basic memberships.

<http://takeaction.moaa.org>

MOAA National & the Genesee Valley Chapter are nonpartisan.

Cyber Pandemic?

In light of the threat of all things COVID-19, there is another persistent threat you need to be on constant vigilance for, Cyber Crime and Identity Theft. With all this social distancing, staying at home and self-isolation activity, or should I say, inactivity, it is highly likely you are spending more and more time on your mobile devices, computer, the internet and social media. You really need to keep your threat radar on high throughout all of your communication medium, from internet sessions, email, social media and even phone calls, because the bad guys are out there looking to steal your money and/or ID at every turn, especially through this period of donation requests to help your fellow man and government financial stimulus and relief.

You may have seen these in your MOAA Military Officer magazine, but MOAA published a three-part series titled, “Don’t Be Scammed,” by Shane Ostrom.

I will include the links below, but here is a brief summary of what to watch for...

Part I... Be Alert

- Everything is a threat
- Never share any personal information
- Never click on a link or attachment
- No one is coming to arrest you

Part II,, If You are the Victim

- Report the incident immediately
- Call you financial institutions
 - Debit Cards are a greater threat than Credit Cards
- Change passwords ASAP
(Check the article for more tips...)

Part III... Prevention

- Create complex passwords
- Change passwords regularly
- Use PC antivirus & security protection
- Careful what you share on social media
- Shred papers
- Always assume a crook
(Check the article for more tips...)

Bottom line... **TRUST NO ONE!**

Don’t Be Scammed, Part 1: Be Alert

JANURY 29, 2020

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2020-news-articles/dont-be-scammed—part-1-be-alert/>

Don’t Be Scammed, Part 2: You’re the Victim

FEBRUARY 03, 2020

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2020-news-articles/dont-be-scammed-part-2-youre-the-victim/>

Don’t Be Scammed, Part 3: Prevention

FEBRUARY 10, 2020

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2020-news-articles/dont-be-scammed-part-3-prevention/>

When it comes to “social media” you may want to use your search engine of choice for additional research, but friendly and seemingly innocent requests on social media to “copy and paste” requests of any kind can lead, and leave a trail, to your account particulars and maybe more importantly, lead yourself to unknowingly provide personal details that could be used maliciously. Think of ones you have seen... how much of the information could possibly be used for answers in personal security questions? How much of that seemingly harmless information, when put all together, could enable someone to steal your identity? Treat the information and data you post on the internet and social media as being there, in the “cloud,” forever. Somebody somewhere is collecting it... ALL OF IT.

Before the world went COVID-19 crazy, we submitted an application for a MOAA Community Outreach Grant to support the mission of the Veterans Outreach Center (VOC) to extend their mission in a digital and online manner. We were just recently notified by MOAA National that we were 1 of 49 submissions for a grant, but unfortunately fell below the funding cutoff. The number of applicants is increasing each year and so is the competition. We plan to keep trying!

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 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/>

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 ensure 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 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 signebobzale@aol.com or (585) 594-8422.

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

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

GVC Support Coordinators

Need Extra Help or Someone to Listen? Although COVID-19 has impacted us in many ways and while it may affect our ability to help in person, we are only a phone call away. If you need help contact Nancy Swanson (585-905-0346) or myself, Tim Vaughan (585-412-6425). We may not be able to help you directly, but we both have "been around the block" so-to-speak and may be able to coordinate the help, support or information you are looking for or need.

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...

Sep TBD, 2020: GVC/MOAA Dinner, Canandaigua Yacht Club, 1pm/2pm

Sep TBD 2020: NYS Council of Chapters State Conference, location TBD

Oct 23-24, 2020: MOAA National Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO

GVC/MOAA BOARD MEMBERS 2019-2021

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Spouses Club Liaison:

Email: Signe Zale: sigbobzale@aol.com

MOAA ROTC/JROTC Awards Program

On a final note, although we have had to cancel numerous dinner functions, we'd like to recognize our GVC MOAA ROTC and JROTC Award winners for 2020, which were to be presented at our March 22, 2020 dinner.

The MOAA ROTC/JROTC awards are used to recognize an outstanding cadet or midshipman in his or her next-to-last year in the program who has demonstrated exceptional potential for military leadership.

ROTC Awardees

University of Rochester Navy ROTC,
Midshipman James W. Kane

Rochester Institute of Technology Army ROTC,
Cadet Marilyn J. Hess

Rochester Institute of Technology Air Force ROTC,
Cadet Jacob Warner

State University of New York Brockport Army ROTC,
Cadet Jesse DePrez

JROTC Awardees

Rochester Early College International High School JROTC,
Cadet Jade Rodriguez

Rochester Leadership Academy for Young Men JROTC,
Cadet Edwardo Aros

Greece Athena High School JROTC,
Cadet Hannah Harris

Congratulations to all!

Remember... MOAA matters!

Tim Vaughan, Col, USAF (Retired)

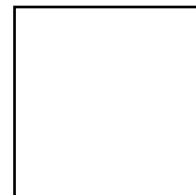
MOAA GVC President

"Never Stop Serving"

**MOAA ROTC/JROTC Awards
Sponsored by:**



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May 2020 Newsletter

First Class Mail



**Now and Always
We'll be There.**



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