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**SERVING MEMBERS AND THEIR COUNTRY \*\*\* NEVER STOP SERVING \*\*\* Mar 2021**

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**PRESIDENT'S CORNER** Well, we have just entered Daylight Saving Time, which means spring is just around the corner. Although experience tells me I don't think we've seen our last snowfall for this season... darn it! And if you are not a fan of Daylight Saving Time, you only have until November 7, 2021 before the clocks are rolled back to Standard Time.

As more and more people become vaccinated for COVID-19, we are starting to see a trend in things moving toward some sort of normalcy; may not be the "old" normal, but it certainly feels like it is moving in the right direction. As I said in the last newsletter, think positive!

So, on a positive note, we are planning to have a chapter dinner on Sunday, June 6, 2021, at Nolan's on Canandaigua Lake, in Canandaigua. This will also be the venue for

the new chapter officer installation ceremony. Specifics for the dinner will be published in the next newsletter, which will also have a flyer and sign-up sheet.

### **Chapter Officers Needed!**

We're coming up on the end of two-year terms for several chapter officer positions and are looking for volunteers to serve the chapter from June 2021 thru June 2023. If you are interested in serving as a chapter officer, please contact any one of the following nominating committee members: Pete Ingalsbe, Barb Green or Norma Weissend. Their contact information is listed in the Board of Directors section of this newsletter. ***Your chapter needs you!***

### **2021 GVC Membership Dues**

Yes, it's that time of year again... If you haven't already, it's time to pay your 2021 chapter dues.

Annual dues are *STILL ONLY* \$20!

The chapter also offers Life Membership options, please check out [GVCMOAA.ORG](http://GVCMOAA.ORG) for Life Member rates.

Please send your dues payment to the chapter address on the last page.

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<http://takeaction.moaa.org>

MOAA National & the Genesee Valley Chapter are nonpartisan.

## **MOAA's "Advocacy in Action" 2021**

MOAA's annual legislative push on Capitol Hill is now called "Advocacy in Action." This year's program will again be virtual due to COVID-19, with a target month of May. Norma Weissend, Jim Nielsen and I will be the chapter's contact team for several New York Congressional Representatives within the chapter's geographic area, as well as downstate representatives. This is due to there being no MOAA chapters in those congressional districts

## **Surviving Spouses Resources & Information SBP-DIC (Survivor Benefit Plan-Dependency and Indemnity Compensation) Offset Phased Elimination News**

DFAS has a new Survivor SBP Newsletter! Check out the first issue, with lots of news and helpful info for survivors/SBP annuitants. Learn all about the upcoming changes to the SBP-DIC offset, when you'll get your tax statements, the new School Cert process, our helpful form tools and more! Get it here:

<https://go.usa.gov/x7eMc>

## **DFAS Survivor SBP Newsletter**

It's Here! The first issue of the new twice-yearly newsletter for military survivors and Survivor Benefit Plan annuitants. [Survivor SBP Newsletter \(dfas.mil\)](https://www.dfas.mil/survivor-sbp-newsletter) At this link you can click on links to view the various sections of the newsletter or click on a link to download a PDF version of the newsletter.

## **VA News**

### **Premium reductions coming to enrollees of Veterans' Group Life Insurance**

WASHINGTON, March 1, 2021. All Veterans insured under Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) will receive a reduction in premiums effective April 1, ensuring that VGLI remains a cost-effective option for Veterans and transitioning uniform service members who choose Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) insurance products.

Premiums for VGLI will be reduced by an average of 7% across all age groups — allowing separating service members to continue their Servicemembers' Group Life

Insurance coverage level as a renewable term insurance policy after leaving service.

"The reduction in VGLI premiums will make life insurance even more affordable for Veterans," said Acting Under Secretary for Benefits Thomas Murphy. "Offering our Veterans better rates for their life insurance as they transition to civilian life is just one effort the department is taking to address the needs of our customers."

[Premium reductions coming to enrollees of Veterans' Group Life Insurance \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov/vetaffairs/press-releases/2021/03/01/030121-01)

### **VA to increase participation of women Veterans in genetic research to aid in improving women's health**

WASHINGTON, March 1, 2021. On this first day of Women's History Month, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) launched efforts to increase women Veteran participation in VA's Million Veteran Program (MVP) to aid in genetic research focused on women health issues.

MVP is currently researching genetic and clinical markers to predict breast cancer risk in women Veterans.

"While there are roughly 2 million living women Veterans, only 75,000 are currently enrolled in MVP representing only 9% of the MVP cohort," said VA Assistant Secretary Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Kayla Williams, who is also an MVP participant. "If more women Veterans consider joining, VA researchers would have a larger gene pool to be able to study women's health in greater detail and offer women the specialized care they need and deserve."

With increased participation, research could focus on investigating treatments and preventions of diseases that affect women Veterans including depression, hypertension, heart disease, osteoarthritis and others.

Since 2011 more than 830,000 Veterans have joined MVP, allowing researchers to learn how differences in genes, lifestyle and military experiences affect Veterans' health and illnesses.

Participation in MVP is entirely voluntary and Veterans go through an informed consent process to ensure MVP is right for them.

Learn more about enrolling in MVP [on their website](#) or by calling 866-441-6075. For more information about VA research, including MVP research program, visit VA's [Office of Research and Development](#).

[VA to increase participation of women Veterans in genetic research to aid in improving women's health](#)

### **Finger Lakes Veterans Advisory Council**

Chapter Secretary, Nancy Swanson, mentioned that as of February 1, the Rochester VA Outpatient Clinic (ROPC) is doing colonoscopies, about 4 per day, and hoping to ramp up in the next few months. She also mentioned that an MOU has been signed by the VA and the Office of Suicide Prevention for Monroe County to provide service-connected veterans with more suicide prevention outreach services. As of March 3, the VA at Canandaigua/ROPC had given over 8500 COVID vaccines to veterans. They will continue to give vaccines to over 65 and veterans with certain conditions.

**Spouses Club.** Spouses Club activities are on hold due to the COVID-19 situation.

**GVC Support Coordinators.** Have you been impacted by COVID-19? 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 or in person, but we both have "been around the block" so-to-speak and may be able to coordinate help, support or information you are looking for or may 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...**

Sun Jun 6, 2021: GVC/MOAA Dinner, Nolan's on Canandaigua Lake, 726 South Main St, Canandaigua, 12:30 pm / 1 pm.  
New Chapter Officer Installations.

### **GVC/MOAA BOARD MEMBERS 2019-2021**

**President:** Tim Vaughan, Col, USAF (Ret)  
(585) 412-6425

Email: [tvaughan@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:tvaughan@gvcmoaa.org)

**1st VP:** James Nielsen, CDR, USN (Ret)  
(585) 768-7249

Email: [jnielsen@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:jnielsen@gvcmoaa.org)

**2nd VP / Membership Chair:**  
Ken Carlsen, CDR, USN (Ret)  
(585) 377-5665

Email: [kcarlsen@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:kcarlsen@gvcmoaa.org)

**3rd VP:** Willard Brown, COL, USA (Ret)  
(585) 442-8996

Email: [wbrown@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:wbrown@gvcmoaa.org)

**Secretary:** Nancy Swanson, CAPT, USN (Ret)  
(585) 905-0346

Email: [nswanson@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:nswanson@gvcmoaa.org)

**Treasurer / Legislative Chair /**

**Past President:** Norma Weissend, Lt Col, USAF (Ret) (585) 727-6190

Email: [nweissend@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:nweissend@gvcmoaa.org)

**Member-at-Large:** VACANT

**Past President:** Peter Ingalsbe, COL, USA (Ret) (585) 749-3390 (Cell)

Email: [pingalsbe@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:pingalsbe@gvcmoaa.org)

**Past President:** Barbara Green, COL, USA (Ret) (585) 330-2708

Email: [bgreen@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:bgreen@gvcmoaa.org)

**Surviving Spouse Liaison:** Marion Mench  
(585) 217-1779

Email: [mmench@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:mmench@gvcmoaa.org)

**Spouses Club Liaison:**

Email: Signe Zale: [szale@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:szale@gvcmoaa.org)

**TOPS Liaison:** Tim Vaughan, Col, USAF (Ret) (585) 412-6425

Email: [tvaughan@gvcmoaa.org](mailto:tvaughan@gvcmoaa.org)

**Remember... MOAA matters and to  
Never Stop Serving!**

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

**Genesee Valley Chapter  
Military Officers Assn of America  
PO Box 20874  
Rochester, NY 14602-0874**



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