

GVC ONLINE

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7 Consecutive Years of MOAA Communications Awards!

MOAA Legislative Action Center: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>

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SERVING ALL MILITARY, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

***** May 2025 *****

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The May newsletter is always a quick turn following our April dinner, but let me tell you this... If you missed the April dinner at the Rochester Yacht Club, you missed an amazing briefing by Lt Col Travis Ireson on the MQ-9A Reaper mission flown right out of the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. Very impressive! Check out the pictures later in the newsletter.

In addition, Norma Weissend gave a quick rundown of MOAA's 2025 Advocacy in Action (AiA) held April 9th in Washington DC, which Norma & I were honored to take part in, along with NY Council President Skip Bebernitz.

Our next Chapter Dinner is coming up fast on Sun 8 June 2025, and we are honored to have MOAA's Senior Director, Affiliated Chapters and Councils as our guest speaker and he will also conduct the Installation of Officers' ceremony to begin a new two-year term with some new faces taking on critical chapter roles. Please note: 3 PM Social Hr/4 PM Dinner Start.

On May 19, 2025, the chapter will take part in the "Our Community Salutes" event for Monroe County, where high school seniors will be ceremoniously sworn into the branch in which they have chosen to serve.

With each chapter dinner we target one specific charity for donations, with June's dinner we are asking for your support of the Veterans Outreach Center. Find out more about the Rochester Veterans Outreach Center: <https://veteransoutreachcenter.org/>.

Upcoming Honor Flight Rochester Missions:
Mission 89, May 31-1 Jun, 2025 (62 vets)
Mission 90, Jun 21-22, 2025 (62 vets)

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Sun 8 Jun 2025, * 3 pm / 4 pm *****

Location: Canandaigua Yacht Club

Guest Speaker: CAPT Frank Michael, MOAA

New Chapter Officers Installation Ceremony

Designated Charity: Veterans Outreach Center

MOAA National & the Genesee Valley Chapter are nonpartisan.

Sun 14 Sep 2025, 1 pm / 2 pm

Location: Canandaigua Yacht Club

Guest Speaker: TBD

Designated Charity: Honor Flight Rochester

GVC MOAA April 27, 2025 Dinner

As I noted in my opening remarks, the briefing by Lt Col Travis Ireson, was outstanding and very comprehensive... what a mission system the 107th Attack Wing operates and how it fits into the global operations picture. You do not want to be the bad guy or near the target they are looking for!



Lt Col Travis Ireson gives an overview of the 107th Operations Group, Niagara Falls ARS, and the capabilities of the MQ-9A Reaper



Special guests of the chapter were RIT Army and U of R Navy ROTC programs, left to right: Ryn Pease (Army), Priya Wingood (Navy), Samantha Ellrich (Navy/Marine), Tristan DeRyke (Army), Rachel Yorke (Navy/Marine), GVC President, Tim Vaughan, and Lt Col Travis Ireson, 107th Attack Wing, Niagara Falls

MOAA 2025 Advocacy in Action Review

This year's AiA campaign took place the week of 7-10 April 2025, with the Hill visit day on Wed 9 Apr 2025.

Members of the New York team included New York Council of Chapters members, Skip Bebernitz, President; Norma Weissend, Vice President; Tim Vaughan, Western Region Vice President; and paired with MOAA Staff and Board members, Rachel Sanks, Christine Bobbit, Erin Cardinal, and Myles Caggins.

Between scheduled office visits and drive-by issue paper drop-offs, all 28 elected officials of the New York Delegation were visited that day.



First AiA 2025 Appointment Complete!

New York AiA Team Members, Left to Right: Tim Vaughan, Norma Weissend, Erin Cardinal & Myles Caggins outside Sen Schumer's office after meeting with staff member Claudia Brady.

But the Advocacy work is not done...

You can still support MOAA's 2025 Advocacy in Action campaign; I encourage each of you to get involved through MOAA's Legislative "Take Action" page on the website noted below. If you would like some help with it, please don't hesitate to ask Norma or I for assistance.

Help MOAA put Grass Roots Advocacy efforts into action...

TAKE ACTION NOW!

<https://moaa.quorum.us/>

**NYS Council of Chapters 53rd Annual
Convention; Sun 28 Sep – Wed 1 Oct 2025**

All MOAA members are cordially invited to attend the 53rd Annual Meeting of the New York State Council of Chapters. Your Council Officers have been working very hard to schedule another memorable, educational, inspirational, and affordable NYS Convention! Because we are ever aware of individual needs and constraints on your time, we are offering “Package” options as well as “A La Carte” items.

Special Guests include:

MOAA President and CEO, Lt Gen Brian “BK” Kelly, USAF (Ret), his wife, Garrety Kelly, and Senior Director, Affiliated Councils & Chapters, CAPT Frank “Tank” Michael, USN (Ret).

Registration & 50% Deposit Due NLT 26 Jun 2025; Balance Due NLT 11 Aug 2025.

If you are interested and need a registration package, contact Norma or me, and we’ll send you one. Contact info at end of newsletter.

Exciting Chapter News!

While at Advocacy in Action, MOAA released their awardee lists and the Genesee Valley Chapter was once again honored to receive a Five Star Levels of Excellence Award – 15th consecutive year! – and, a Five Star COL Marvin J. Harris Communications Award for both Print Newsletter and Website. Congratulations to Russ Green and all those who contribute to making this possible!

Our Community Salutes – Upstate New York
<https://www.ourcommunitysalutes.org/>
www.moaa.org

As mentioned on the first page in this newsletter, the chapter will be participating in this year’s Our Community Salutes event at Innovative Field on Monday 19 May 2025.

If you haven’t seen or read the article in the Military Officer Magazine (MOM), there is a great story beginning on page 38 by Kathie Rowell that tells the story of how the program

got its start in 2009 by Dr. Kenneth Hartman, a MOAA Life Member.

MOAA’s president and CEO, Lt Gen Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), notes, “MOAA is honored to work with OCS to recognize and celebrate our nation’s newest and youngest service-members. These new enlistees need to know and understand that organizations like MOAA and OCS are there to support them as they enter and navigate their military career and beyond.”

MOAA began its partnership with Our Community Salutes in 2024 and is proud to be among veterans service organizations who work with OCS. This support builds a connection between experienced veterans and new enlistees, benefiting all generations of service-members.

And your Genesee Valley Chapter is honored to be taking an active role in this program... one of only three in New York State.

New Slate of Chapter Officers Nominated!

COL Peter Ingalsbe, USA, (Ret), chairman of the nominating committee, has submitted the names of the following prospective candidates for the office term 2025-2027:

President, Timothy Vaughan, Col, USAF (Ret)
First Vice President, Keith Harris, CDR, USN (Ret)

Second Vice President, Paul (Keely) Costello, CAPT, USN (Ret)

Third Vice President, Russell Green, LTC, USA (Ret)

Secretary, Jean M Vaughan

Treasurer, Ashley Coldwell, CWO3, USMC (Ret)

Board of Director Surviving Spouse, Kathy Green

Board of Director Chapter Member-at-Large, Paul Cannon, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

I am very grateful for the work the nominating committee, Peter Ingalsbe, Norma Weissend and Barb Green has put forth in this effort; a great list of nominees to continue on the path of excellence this chapter has demonstrated, and been awarded by MOAA, for the past 15 years!

Did You Know MOAA Has Seven Virtual Chapters? They Are:

Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates;
Surviving Spouse;
Public Health Service;
Chaplains;
Judge Advocate;
Advocacy for Servicewomen and Military Families; and
MOAA Public Affairs and Communication Professional

Virtual chapters are intended to increase awareness of the MOAA brand by accessing previously untapped networks. Because virtual chapter membership requires national membership, and because virtual chapters encourage their members to also join their local geographic chapter, the potential effect is increased membership at all levels. MOAA, in fact, is seeing that effect from these virtual chapters.

By creating these groups, MOAA can attract potential chapter members who are not otherwise able or inclined to attend physical meetings.

A virtual chapter should be bound together by a shared affinity (e.g., warfare specialty) and/or mission (e.g., health care advocacy).

Check out www.moaa.org for more about MOAA Virtual Chapters and how to join one that aligns with your affinity/circumstances.

Farmington AMVETS 2025 Women Veterans Dinner Schedule

Farmington AMVETS Post 332 hosts a women veterans' dinner several times a year on select Wednesdays... 16 Jul & 19 Nov 2025
Check: <https://amvetsny332.org/>
POC: Tammy Bresette, (262) 384-1302, or bresettetammy178@gamil.com

CompeerCORPS Male Veterans Dinner

CompeerCORPS Rochester hosts a male veterans group dinner each month...
First Wednesday of each month. Check: www.compeerrochester.org/compeercorps
POC: RYoung@compeerrochester.org

GVC Support Coordinators: Need Help?

Nancy Swanson, (585) 944-5637, or
Tim Vaughan, (585) 412-6425

GVC Chapter Dues

Have you paid your 2025 chapter dues? If you are not sure of your status, please reach out to Norma Weissend at nweissend@gvcmoaa.org. GVC annual dues are \$25/year. If you've paid already, we are sincerely grateful for that! If you haven't, use Cheddar Up, it's fast & easy!

Tired of paying Chapter dues? Consider Chapter Life Membership... Cost is based on member's age.

Cheddar Up Chapter Dues & Events Payment Portal

<https://gvc-payments.mycheddarup.com>

or,



Note: GVC only sees the last four digits of your credit card when using Cheddar Up.

Account sign-up is NOT required! Questions? Contact Norma, nweissend@gvcmoaa.org.

Your Chapter Dues at Work...

GVC donates to Honor Flight Rochester, the Veterans Outreach Center, Wreaths Across America and The MOAA Foundation. Additionally, we conduct MOAA ROTC/JROTC awards programs each spring for cadets and midshipmen. We are grateful for membership support of these programs.

Surviving Spouse Liaison

Kathy Green is the chapter's Surviving Spouse Liaison (SSL). You may contact Kathy at, kgreen@gvcmoaa.org regarding Surviving Spouse issues and MOAA membership.

Check out MOAA's Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter by emailing mssvc02@gmail.com or go online at: [MOAA - Surviving Spouse Corner](#).

Surviving Spouse Corner: Resources for Caregivers (Abbrev. Extract)

By: Cheryl Toland, April 25, 2025

[MOAA - Surviving Spouse Corner: Resources for Caregivers](#)

If you find there is a need for a caregiver in your life or if you become a caregiver, know that caregivers are not alone. Many organizations offer information, guidance, and resources. Here are some to consider:

MOAA

Stay in the know about legislation and news affecting the caregiver community by reading the latest articles from MOAA. You can also take action on legislation pertaining to caregivers through MOAA's Legislative Action Center. (<https://moaa.quorum.us/>)

MOAA also partners with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation to provide *Tips for Lifelong Caregiving*.

Elizabeth Dole Foundation

www.elizabethdolefoundation.org

The Elizabeth Dole Foundation addresses "the obstacles our military and veteran caregivers face regularly, from providing access to essential resources and support networks to calling for policy changes." Their initiatives also include the Dole Caregiver Fellowship program and the Hidden Heroes Campaign.

VA Programs

The VA's Caregiver Support Program offers clinical services to caregivers of eligible and covered veterans enrolled in the VA health care system. www.caregiver.va.gov

VA Aid and Attendance, or housebound benefits, provides monthly payments added to the amount of a monthly VA pension for qualified veterans and survivors.

www.va.gov/pension/aid-attendance-housebound/

MOAA Strengthens Ties With Pentagon Officials to Advance State-Level Advocacy

By: Jen Goodale, April 29, 2025

[MOAA - MOAA Strengthens Ties With Pentagon Officials to Advance State-Level Advocacy](#)

MOAA council and chapter leaders met with key DoD representatives recently to explore ways to deepen coordination on issues affecting servicemembers and their families.

Members of MOAA's State Legislative Exchange Forum spoke with Lee Kelley, acting deputy assistant secretary of defense for Military Community and Family Policy (MC&FP), and Geraldine Valentino-Smith, director of the Defense-State Liaison Office (DSLO). Discussions focused on how MOAA's 400-plus nationwide councils and chapters could enhance MC&FP's advocacy impact — particularly as DSLO continues to advance key legislative goals in all 50 states.

Valentino-Smith praised MOAA state leaders: "Who's influencing the legislators? MOAA members have relationships with state lawmakers who trust their expertise," she said. "This should complement our efforts."

Each year, DSLO publishes a list of [10 state legislative initiatives](#) that serve as focal areas for the regional liaisons. In turn, legislative leaders within MOAA's councils and chapters are empowered to work these initiatives at the local level. This engagement helps expand the reach of DSLO, which has just eight [regional liaisons](#) who each cover no less than five states each.

MOAA forum leaders expressed appreciation for MC&FP's efforts and shared concerns about potential cuts to quality-of-life programs that support military families. Kelley highlighted the

direct ties between MC&FP programs and readiness of the total force – along with DSLO, MC&FP oversees child and youth programs; morale, welfare, and recreation efforts; and casualty and mortuary affairs.

Shaping Longer-Term Priorities Valentino-Smith acknowledged the challenges presented by DSLO's battle rhythm, which involves identifying legislative priorities for each calendar year. While many priorities are retained in follow-on years, approximately four new priorities are added annually.

DSLO is working on a process to identify priorities that will span a two-year period to allow regional liaisons and supporting organizations, like MOAA, to achieve more progress, Valentino-Smith indicated.

This proposed change was well-received by MOAA leaders, as new issues typically may require nearly a full year worth of research and lawmaker-education efforts. MOAA leaders also stressed the desire to be proactive rather than reactive, which a two-year cycle would enable.

Get Involved

Bringing MOAA State Legislative Exchange Forum leaders to the Pentagon signals an enhanced effort to find opportunities for our councils and chapters to engage with all levels of the process. We appreciate all those who have worked tirelessly on behalf of MOAA and the greater military and veteran community to advocate for changes and improvements at federal and state levels.

FYI: GVC Legislative Liaison, Barb Green and I “Zoom” into these meetings each quarter when they are held. Typically, a MOAA State Council will present issues that are pertinent to their state and may have crossover issues with other states.

I can report that many of the issues relate to tax exempt status of military retired pay and New York is way ahead in that regard, as some states are pleased to be getting increases in the neighborhood of up to \$25,000 per year... total.

This is why Grass Roots Advocacy is critically important; somebody or some veteran group, at some time in the past, advocated for the military retired pay tax exemption we enjoy in New York. We need to continue that legacy of advocating for the earned benefits of ALL servicemembers. ***Take Action Now!***

<https://moaa.quorum.us/>

GVC/MOAA BOARD MEMBERS 2023-2025

President: Tim Vaughan, Col, USAF (Ret)

Email: tvaughan@gvcmoaa.org

1st VP: Preston Pierce, MAJ, USA (Ret)

Email: ppierce@gvcmoaa.org

2nd VP: Paul (Keely) Costello, CAPT, USN

Email: pcostello@gvcmoaa.org

3rd VP: Russ Green, LTC, USA (Ret)

Email: rgreen@gvcmoaa.org

Secretary: Jean Vaughan

Email: jvaughan@gvcmoaa.org

Treasurer & Past President:

Norma Weissend, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

Email: nweissend@gvcmoaa.org

Member-at-Large & Past President:

Bob Zale, Col, USAF (Ret)

Email: rzale@gvcmoaa.org

Legislative Chair & Past President:

Barbara Green, COL, USA (Ret)

Email: bgreen@gvcmoaa.org

Membership/Recruiting Chair:

Norma Weissend, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

Email: nweissend@gvcmoaa.org

Past President:

James Nielsen, CDR, USN (Ret)

Email: jnielsen@gvcmoaa.org

Past President:

Peter Ingalsbe, COL, USA (Ret)

Email: pingalsbe@gvcmoaa.org

Surviving Spouse Liaison: Kathy Green

Email: kgreen@gvcmoaa.org

Transition Liaison:

Tim Vaughan, Col, USAF (Ret)

Email: tvaughan@gvcmoaa.org

Your MOAA & GVC Membership Matters!

Tim Vaughan, Col, USAF (Retired)

MOAA GVC President

Never Stop Serving®

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

Sunday, June 8, 2025

Canandaigua Yacht Club

3524 County Road 16 (West Lake Rd), Canandaigua, NY 14424

1500 - Social Hour (Cash Bar) / 1600 – Dinner → → NOTE TIME!!!

ENTRÉE CHOICES

Delmonico Steak & Baked Potato **(\$43)**

Chicken Artichoke French & Rice **(\$36)**

Grilled Salmon Bruschetta & Rice **(\$40)**

Vegan Entrée **(\$30)**

All meals come with:

Salad, Vegetable &

Strawberry Shortcake

Coffee, Tea and Cash Bar

GVC MOAA

Officer Installation Dinner

MOAA National Guest Speaker

CAPT Frank "Tank" Michael, USN (Ret)

Senior Director, Affiliated Councils & Chapters

Please RSVP & Pay Here:

<https://gvc-payments.mycheddarup.com>

Reservations due ASAP, but NLT Wednesday May 28, 2025

Cancellations NLT 1200 hours, Friday, May 30, 2025

Questions: Norma (585) 727-6190; nweissend@gvcmoaa.org

PLEASE CLIP AND SEND FORM BELOW ***** DRESS: BUSINESS *****

Participants may be photographed or recorded for MOAA chapter products.



**RESERVATION FORM FOR SUNDAY June 8, 2025 GVC MEETING at
Canandaigua Yacht Club, 3524 County Rd 16, Canandaigua, NY 14424**

ALL Name(s) Attending: _____

Phone # _____ Email: _____

Please indicate number of each meal desired:

Delmonico Steak & Baked Potato \$43 ea x _____ or

Chicken Artichoke French & Rice \$36 ea x _____ or

Grilled Salmon Bruschetta & Rice \$40 ea x _____ or

Vegan Entrée \$30 ea x _____

Check included for (#) _____ Meal(s); Total \$ _____

Make a Veterans Outreach Center Donation \$ _____ Grand Total \$ _____

Preferred RSVP & Pay via Cheddar Up: <https://gvc-payments.mycheddarup.com>

Or, RSVP and pay by mail; please make checks payable to **GVC MOAA** and mail to:

GVC MOAA

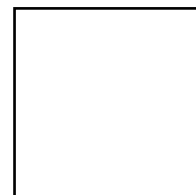
c/o Norma Weissend

4587 Ridge Rd

Canandaigua, NY 14424

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



May 2025 Newsletter

First Class Mail



Wegmans **MRB** | *group*



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