

# The Quadrant

Winter 2014



## Newsletter of the MOAA Valley Forge Chapter

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### 2014 Calendar

3/8	Membership Mtg
4/28	Directors Mtg
6/14	Membership Mtg
7/21	Directors Mtg
9/13	Membership Mtg
10/20	Directors Mtg
12/5	Membership Mtg

Camaraderie Breakfasts are scheduled for **the first Saturday of every month in 2014**

### From the President

For the past three years, I have had the distinct honor of serving as President of this Chapter. I will officially step down from my post on March 8th, when our new slate of officers is installed. Words cannot describe what a great pleasure and a privilege it has been for me—to serve at the helm of such an outstanding group of former and serving officers. Needless to say, my tenure has been both enjoyable and challenging. But in the end, I can say without reservation that it has been personally rewarding.

Along the way, I have made many new friends, and have solidified relationships with numerous others. The support I have received has been

tremendous—from the general membership, and especially from those on the Board and the Committee chairs. In this limited space, I cannot recognize everyone who deserves it. But I am particularly grateful to Bill McManus for his encouraging words when things got touch; to Josi Barnes who does so much of the heavy lifting; to Dick Doherty who is my right-hand man; and to Past President George Henson for his wisdom and farsightedness. I thank you all, and remain eternally grateful for your support.



I close by reminding everyone that our Chapter's mission is twofold: to enjoy the bonds of camaraderie we have

forged, and to support the Chapter's outreach programs. It is for this reason that we take such pride in supporting our local ROTC cadets through the Liberty Bell Scholarship Appeal. In the

coming year, I ask each of our members to try to attend at least one of our functions, and to lend your support to an outreach initiative.

As for myself, I promise to remain active, and to lend whatever support I can to the outstanding officers who now take the helm. Thank you.

### Chapter supports SE Veterans Center

The Chapter is a staunch supporter of the Southeastern Veterans Center, located in Spring City. Many of you heard a pair of speakers from there a year ago, describing the facility and its operations. We want to encourage our members to visit the resi-

dents there, and also donate much needed supplies.

Founded in 1908, the Center currently provides comprehensive medical, clinical, and nursing services to over 200 veterans. To arrange individual or

group visits, or to learn more about the facility, contact Volunteer Coordinator Michele at 610-948-2412. Michele can also provide a list of priority items most needed by the residents.



Chapter Vice President Dick Doherty presented a photo of the Valley Forge Park Arch, and a book about the Park to Past President Capt. Bob Kutulis. Speaking for the Board, Doherty recognized Bob "..." for his long, tireless and faithful service to MOAA and our Chapter in particular and to his wife Carol for her understanding of all the time he took to support our organization." Both will be sorely missed!



**Frank Brown** with **Josi Barnes** at the start of last year's fall membership luncheon. Frank will step down from his tenure as Chapter President on March 8, 2014.



Civil War reenactor **Michael Kovacs** during the Fall Membership Luncheon at the Phoenixville Country Club. He is a member of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and also a member of a reenactment community in the 69th Pennsylvania Volunteers Infantry.



An Air Ambulance Pilot **John Harvey** addresses the Chapter at the December Membership Meeting, held at the Glenardie Country Club. John, who is also a chapter member, is a senior pilot with Air Methods Corporation, providing both rescue flight and critical patient transport services.





USAA Liberty Bell donation presented to **Frank Brown** by Scholarship Chair **Jack Whalen**.  
USAA became the Chapter's first corporate sponsor with their check of \$500 to the annual scholarship appeal.



## Spring Membership Luncheon on March 8th

The Valley Forge Chapter will hold its December Membership Meeting at the Glenhardie Country Club in Wayne, PA March 8th, 2014. The reception will begin at 12 Noon with lunch scheduled at 12:45PM. Cost of the luncheon is \$30 per person.

A reservation form has been included in this newsletter. Members planning to attend should **return the forms along with payment by March 1st.**

This year's luncheon will feature the presentation of the

Liberty Bell Trophies to both the winning high school and collegiate cadets. Prize money donated by our membership will also be awarded.

The Chapter will also install our new slate of officers for 2014, including a new president.

Glenhardie Country Club is located at 1399 Old Eagle School Road, Wayne PA 19087. Going East on RT 202, get off at Devon exit. Turn right at first light (West Valley Road). Pass the Post Office and then take a left on Deveon



Glenhardie County Club

Park Drive and go to the light at Old Eagle School Road. Take that to the end at the Club. If going east on Swedesford Road, turn left at intersection with Old Eagle School. The Club can be reached at 610-687-2110 or on the web at: [glenhardiecc.com](http://glenhardiecc.com)

*“Words cannot describe what a great pleasure and a privilege it has been for me—to serve at the helm of such an outstanding group of former and serving officers.”* -RFB

## Chapter Dues Policy Changes Announced

In January, the VFC Board adopted a policy change related to **dues payments**. Effective immediately, there will no longer be complimentary membership for a new member's first year in the chapter. In a return to our old policy, \$15 dues will be expected upon initial enrollment.

If dues are paid prior to July 1st, they cover only the initial

year of enrollment. Dues will again become due the following January. However, for those joining after July 1st, their dues payment will cover the balance of that year plus the entire following year.

All of which means...that 2014 dues are now due! Members can use the form on the last page to send in their remittance. The Board remains

most grateful to those life members who continue to send dues, even though they are not obligated. Contributions to chapter operations are always most welcome.

Last, but certainly not least...we are in the midst of our **Annual Scholarship Appeal**. If you did not receive an appeal letter, contact Jack Whalen at 610-420-0633.

## Membership Roundup

A big “attaboy” goes out this month to **John Murphy** and to outstanding performance he shepherded this month as Chair of the Membership Committee. Through their hard work, the Chapter signed five new members off of the list generated each month by MOAA. Our new members are:

Colonel **Joseph A. Bartasius** USA (ret) of Kennett

Square, PA

Major **Jack W. Clevesy** USAF (ret) of Gilbertsville, PA

LCDR **Robert DePaol** USN (ret) of Chester Springs, PA

LCDR **Kenneth Easterday** USN(ret) of Exton, PA

Captain **Richard Locke** USN (ret) of Paoli, PA

As was pointed out by the presenters at last year's regional symposium, membership is

now Job One for all of our affiliated chapters. But active participation by all our members is certainly just as important. If you know of any former officers who might be interested in joining us at Valley Forge, give John a call at 610-827-7999 or email him at: [jtmsrtbod@aol.com](mailto:jtmsrtbod@aol.com). Keep in mind that MOAA membership is open to all the uniformed services including the NHS and the NOAA!



## The Legislative Corner: COLA ALERT

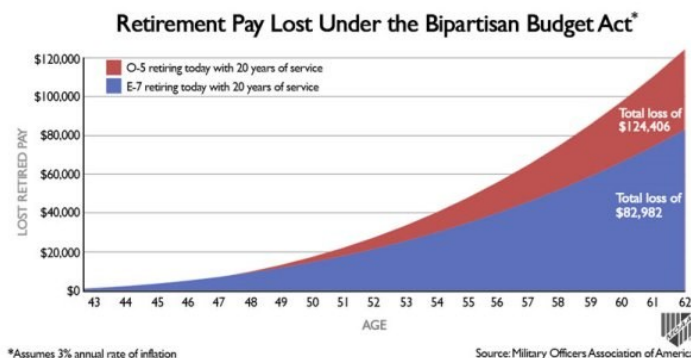
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The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 contains a provision that **decreases the cost of living adjustment by 1%** annually until a retiree reaches the age of 62. The budget act moved so quickly through Congress that many members did not even know the bill contained such a provision.

Yet the effect on military retirees is nothing less than devastating. As the graphic shows, assuming a 3% annual rate of inflation, an O-5 retiring at 42 can expect to see a \$124,406 reduction in retirement pay. An E-7 can expect a total loss of \$82,982.

MOAA National poses this simple question to its membership: If Congress and the Pentagon can break faith on promises made, how can service members trust what their leadership says about health care, pay, and retire-

ment? The answer will have a profound effect on the future of our nation's Armed Forces. Lend your voice today as MOAA joins the Military Coalition to eliminate the COLA reduction.



*“The budget act moved so quickly through Congress that many members did not even know the bill contained such a provision.”*

## Coatesville HS fights back with military club

Many of our members were very dismayed when the longstanding Air Force Junior ROTC unit at Coatesville High School closed last year. The unit, which has a 36 year history, was shuttered as part of a budgetary decision by the Coatesville School Board. Despite the dedicated efforts of many Chester County veterans organizations—including

the Valley Forge Chapter—the School Board went ahead with the units closure in September.

That did not deter either the parents or the students interested in continuing military changes. They opted to form the Joint Military Services Club, which provides instruction in drill, physical training, leadership application, and military history. The club immediately

had 43 students sign on.

The club has met with great support from the faculty at Coatesville, including a current Air Force reservist. Quoted in the Daily Local News, biology teacher Denim Kurtzhal added: “It is a great way to use my knowledge and give something back to the community.”

## Frank Audino named to Vets Home Council

Our very own **Frank Audino** was named to the Advisory Committee of the Delaware Valley Veterans' Home in Northeast Philadelphia. In a citation issued by Governor

Corbett, he was cited for superlative contributions to the well-being of veterans throughout the Keystone State.

“This is quite an honor for me,” noted Audino, who

served previously on a state commission for veterans affairs. “I was involved with the original site selection of the Home. I guess you might say

this is kind of a homecoming for me.”

The Delaware Valley Veterans Home is part of a network of facilities throughout the Keystone State, operated by the DMVA. The Home provides excellent quality of life in a beautiful setting. As a council member, Frank will represent our chapter on key issues related to facility management and veterans well-being.

*“I guess you might say this is kind of a homecoming for me.”*

*- Frank Audino*



Delaware Valley Veterans Home



MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.

With more than 380,000 members from every branch of service - including active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retired, former officers, and their families - we are a powerful force speaking for a strong national defense and representing the interests of military officers at every stage of their careers.

MOAA's highest priority is providing first-class service to our members. We are the leading voice on compensation and benefit matters for all members of the military community.

### Newsletter of the MOAA Valley Forge Chapter

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pages/Valley-Forge-Chapter-of-](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Valley-Forge-Chapter-of-)

## Spring Membership Meeting Reservation Form

### RESERVATION FORM

GLENHARDIE COUNTRY CLUB 610-687-2110

**SATURDAY, March 8, 2014**

Reception -- 12:00 NOON. --- Lunch -- 12:45 p.m.

Entry Choice: Chicken Marsala (**CKM**) Crab Cake (**CC**)

Member name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s) names: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Reservations

**CKM** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 27/pp \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**CC** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$33/ pp \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ROTC/JROTC Scholarship Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dues (2014 Dues now due \$15 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter operations \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form and make checks payable to:**

Valley Forge Chapter, MOAA

P.O. Box 254

Valley Forge, PA 19481

**Contacts:** Frank Brown 610-687-6448

Josi Barnes 610-648-0951

**Important : Submit reservations by Sat, March 1st.**

**Cancellations must be received by December 4th.**

### Menu

**Caesar Salad**

**Jumbo Lump Crab Cakes**

**Chicken Marsala**

**Red Bliss Potatoes**

**California Vegetable Medley**

**Chocolate Chip Cheesecake**