



THE EAGLE



THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

www.pa-coc.org



NEWS AND VIEWS April 2013



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I'd like to thank our Lancaster, Keystone Capitol and Philadelphia Chapters for uploading their newsletters on our council website. This provides a valuable service to not just members of their Chapters but to all of us since we can now receive regular updates on Chapter activities - sharing what we do and how we do it lifts all of us up since reinventing the wheel is unproductive, time consuming and downright frustrating.

Want to welcome on board two new Chapter presidents, Mark Kaschenbach, Pocono Mountains and Joseph Gottwald, Keystone Capitol. Hope to see you at our council meetings! And congrats go to Joseph's Chapter for being the first MOAA Chapter in the country to go online with MOAA Connect! Our February 2013 issue has the details on this nationwide effort to upgrade our Chapters' lines of communications.

As a reminder, if you want to automatically post your Chapter newsletters on our council website, just add our webmaster, Art Villafane, art@gothrive.us, to your newsletter email list. We'll archive your missives and make them

available to other Chapters for ideas and information. A great way to cross fertilize ...and at no cost to you!

By next month you'll also see copies of The Affiliate posted on our website, so you'll be able to share these leadership newsletters with your Chapter members. MOAA does not post the newsletter on its website, although it provides each article separately.

This month Nancy Anderson and I will sojourn to Washington to "storm the hill" with our counterparts from all over the country. Will keep you informed of what transpires. Will be my second time around doing this, and I'm looking forward to meeting our federal legislators and/or their staffs.

Also remember to save the dates for the upcoming MOAA regional Chapter symposium being held Sept. 26-28 in Hershey. Various Chapter leaders are invited and usually you can substitute members on a case-by-case basis. They pay for your room and for your and your spouse's meals, but you have to get there on your own dime. It's an extremely

worthwhile event, so be there or be square!
And we'll have our council meeting there on
Thursday, Sept. 26, from 1-3 p.m. National
says they'll be mailing sign-up material in July.

A word about Chapter dues to the council.
This year we increased them from 25 to 50
cents a member because our Chapters'
membership has dwindled over the years and
to maintain our net worth we had to do
something since the council does not have
other means of raising funds. Chapter dues are
used to pay for our membership in the PA War
Veterans Council and to maintain our website
as well as to reimburse our legislative
committee for lobbying expenses. If we are to
have a voice in Harrisburg we've got to
support our volunteers, who walk the hallways
to support our positions without being
reimbursed for their time. This is the first time
since the council was formed that we've raised
dues, and your support of this increase is
highly appreciated.

In case you didn't see it, our state convention
got a nice article in the Feb issue of *Military
Officer Magazine* ... still looking for a Chapter
to host our 2014 confab! Volunteers, please!

Please remember that this is YOUR newsletter,
and your input is most welcome!

Regards,
Bill Harris

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VA HEALTHCARE NETWORK

Our MOAA state council has been invited to
attend the annual meetings of the VA
Healthcare Network. The Western Market
meeting will be held on May 7 from 12 to 4
p.m., at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
facility on the Heinz campus in Aspinwall, PA.
The Eastern Market meeting will be held on
May 8, same time, at the Lebanon VA Medical
Center, Lebanon, PA. Anyone interested in
representing our council should contact Bill
Harris, wthiii3@rcn.com.

JOBS FOR VETERANS

A newsletter that provides job hunting support,
called The Veteran Eagle, can be assessed by
going to website www.vetjobs.com. It's
for veterans, transitioning military and their
family members. Anyone can subscribe.

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DOLE GRANT AWARDED

The Elizabeth Dole Foundation named MOAA
as one of three non-profit organizations to
receive a grant to develop an on-line guide
aimed at assisting caregivers of wounded, ill
and injured service members with financial,
legal and other issues affecting their lives and
well-being. MOAA is working on the project
with two initial partners: USAA is providing
expertise in the area of financial information,
products and services, and the American Bar
Association is adding its expertise in legal
issues.

MOAA will provide the labor, project
management and hosting support to develop
and implement the web-based guide. The tool
will be available to the public and will
augment existing programs sponsored by the
Dole Foundation, DoD, VA and other agencies
and individuals supporting caregivers.

Topics covered in the Guide will include:

- Medical-disability insurance and benefits
programs, including DOD, VA, Medicare-
Medicaid, Social Security, caregiver support,
aid and attendance, in-home and nursing care,
and retirement and survivor programs
- Guardianship and fiduciary matters
- Powers of attorney
- Advance directives
- Legal pro-bono services and resources
- Wills
- Financial-estate planning

Delivery of the initial digital guide is planned
for the end of June 2013.

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WOMEN VETERANS SYMPOSIUM

Pennsylvania's first-ever Women Veterans Symposium was held March 8-10 in Gettysburg. National set up a table at the symposium and Marine COL (R) Nancy Anderson, our council secretary (also a member on the national board of directors and president of the General Greene Chapter) helped "man" it for national.



In this picture, Nancy is shown with Army COL (R) Julie Manta, Cumberland Valley Chapter, and Army COL (R) Harold Cooney, president of the Cumberland Valley Chapter.

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OPERATION TROOP APPRECIATION

Our Pittsburgh Chapter got an attaboy from MOAA national for supporting Operation Troop Appreciation, to which it has been donating since 2006. For more click here: <http://moablogs.org/message/2013/03/operation-troop-appreciation-on-cbs-evening-news-tonight/>

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BRAC OVERRULED

The 911th Air Wing, U.S. Air Force Reserve located at Pittsburgh International Airport has been notified by Department of Air Force officials that it would not be closed. The Base

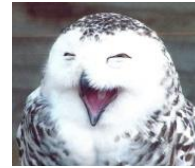
Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) had recommended closing the base. A broad coalition of community leaders, elected officials at various levels and a number of military organizations came together to lobby in support of the 911th. Several members of the Pittsburgh MOAA Chapter were a part of this effort. The news was well received by the more than 2,000 military and civilian employees who are part of the 911th team, but uncertainty lingers as the BRAC commission will give the 911th another look in 2015.

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GLORIOUS INSULTS

"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire."

- Winston Churchill



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The Eagle is published monthly by the Pennsylvania Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association of America. Its content does not reflect the official position of the DoD, any branch of the US Armed Forces, NOAA, USPHS, nor MOAA National. Please send articles and audio-visual submissions to the Editor, Bob Broyles, at pacocnewsletter@gmail.com.