

The QUADRANT

April 2017



Newsletter of the MOAA Valley Forge Chapter

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Calendar

5/6/17 Camaraderie Bkfst.
5/17/17 Membership Mtg.
6/3/17 Camaraderie Bkfst.
7/8/17 Camaraderie Bkfst.
8/5/17 Camaraderie Bkfst.
9/9/17 Camaraderie Bkfst.
9/16/17 Membership Mtg.
Camaraderie Breakfasts
are held at the Lion's
Share Diner in Exton, PA
610-363-6664

From the President

While the first quarter of the year 2017 may have appeared to be somewhat of a quiet period, nothing could be further from the truth. The Service Committee, under Steve Moore's guidance, has made some fantastic strides forward.

To raise funds allowing our chapter to take REAL VETS to the REAL (Philadelphia) PHILLIES game (or more than one), we started with a Dine and Donate program at Pizza Uno in Exton which raised \$114.20 - thanks to all those who participated and enjoyed good food. Next, and even more exciting (and profitable), is a Veterans helping Veterans dining discount program in combination with the Sly Fox Brewhouse & Eatery in Kimberton. This program has netted over \$800 to date and is just getting started. IF each of our 120 + members

bought or sold one voucher at the cost of \$25, we would raise \$3000 - enough for several games. Please do your fair share.

Recently, the K of P Rotary Club asked our chapter to make a presentation, appealing for funds, should we wish to seek a donation. Sure, it was a good idea, but no presentation existed and the meeting was 4 weeks away. I appealed to Charlie McManus who came through with a 23 slide PowerPoint presentation that wowed them on March 13th. They are currently contemplating a donation of about \$1,000. GREAT work, Charlie!

Now, thanks to Charlie's hard work, the chapter has a presentation available to be presented to other Rotary or service clubs in the area seeking to support charities.

Now, to help disperse our newfound funds, we have Gordon Wright and Bob Beavins heading the action at the Coatesville VA and Fred Magner is doing the same at the PA Spring City Veterans home. Fred Schiller will oversee the clean-up of the Freedoms Foundation's MEDAL of HONOR GROVE on April 22 and later if necessary. Thanks to all who have volunteered so far.

We have been honored to accept Bill Belknap's installation as the Membership Chairman and Howard Crawford's installation as the Survivors and Veteran Benefits Advisor, also. While we have several members, who will serve on our Member RECRUITING committee, we have yet to find a person willing to Chair that Unit and work with Frank Brown

as it's advisor. Please speak up and help us kick off another successful membership drive in 2017. Finally, John Connelly and Gil Lapparo have made

appeals to the JROTC unit in the area so that we can present the national MOAA Medals to each school or college's winner.

We still need funds to help in the Fall Scholarship Program. These funds cannot be taken from the Veterans Programs, so it's up to

our chapter to fund these scholarships. Keep up the great work everyone!

Around the Chapter

On February 11, approximately 45 members and guests attended the General Membership luncheon at the Desmond Hotel. There was a reception from 1200 to 1230 prior to the luncheon.

The meeting was called to order by the President, John Murphy. John led the Pledge of Allegiance and invited attendees to introduce themselves. Several new members provided information about their military service experience.

John advised the group of activities and initiatives underway. He will be addressing a local Rotary Club at their invitation to discuss the mission of MOAA and objectives of the Valley Forge chapter. Fundraising arrangements have been made with Pizzeria Uno in Exton and Sly Fox Brewhouse & Eatery in Phoenixville. Coupons were available on the tables which could be used at Pizzeria Uno on March 26th. The chapter received 20% of the

proceeds from the use of the coupons. For \$25, a discount card for the Sly Fox can be purchased. The card is good for a 20% discount off your bill for five visits. The card expires 12/31/2018. Cards can be purchased from Steve Moore.

Arrangements are being made with the Phillies to purchase several discounted tickets so that the chapter can take patients from the Veterans Medical Center to a game during the upcoming season. John reminded members that we will be doing the spring cleanup at our two sites in the Medal of Honor Grove at a date to be determined in April.

After lunch was served, Jim McGrath introduced the speaker, Ross Kershey. He taught for 42 years in the Coatesville school system. Subsequently, he has taught at Widener University and is currently an instructor at Immaculata University. His topic was

Controversial Presidential Elections in U.S. History which was well received.

After the 50/50 drawing the meeting adjourned about 1430.

The Chapter held the first of two Officer's Calls for 2017 on Monday night, 10 April. This informal gathering started at 6:00 PM, and was held at McKenzie's Brew House on Swedesford Rd, in the Valley Fair Shopping Ctr. President John Murphy and chapter members had several tables ringing the bar area and enjoyed food and drink, while socializing for more than two hours. Two new, prospective chapter members joined us for the Officer's Call. The program speaker for the Sept 2017 luncheon, Alvan 'Cappy' Markle, was there as well. Appreciation goes to chapter member Dick Doherty for setting up this enjoyable, informal event. The next chapter Officer's Call will be held in October.

Members may participate in the Medal of Honor Grove cleanup in the Valley Forge Freedoms Foundation on Saturday, April 22 from 0900 to 1300.

The chapter constitution and bylaws have been updated by the executive committee. They will be distributed to all members prior to an approval vote to be held at the next general membership meeting.

The Coatesville VA Medical Center will host a Veteran Town Hall meeting at West Chester VFW Post 106, 837 Lincoln Avenue, West Chester, PA 19380, on May 10, 2017 at 5:30pm. The meeting is a forum designed to obtain feedback from Veterans, family members and stakeholders as part of the Veterans Affairs mission to improve services. VA leadership will plan to discuss and respond to questions on a variety of issues regarding VA health care. Questions or comments concerning the

Veteran Town Hall should be directed to Kirk Fernitz, Director of Community & Congressional Affairs, 610-384-7711, ext. 4348 or by email at Kirk.Fernitz@va.gov.

We have been experiencing problems with the nametags generously provided by Steve Moore. A new procedure is being implemented. Beginning with the next meeting,

members will be provided their nametags and will henceforth be responsible for bringing their nametags to future meetings. As an incentive, members who forget their nametags will

be provided with temporary nametags for the nominal fee of \$1. Lost nametags will be replaced for \$2.00.

Chapter Photos



Members and Guests Enjoying the March 11 General Membership Meeting.



Jim McGrath introduces the Guest Speaker.



Chapter Members Dick Doherty, Charlie McManus and Lee Curry Attended.



Guest Speaker, Ross Kershey Makes a Point.



VF Chapter President John Murphy Presents Ross Kershey a Certificate of Appreciation.



Ross Kershey and His Certificate.

Awards Working Group Update

ROTC & JROTC AWARDS PROGRAM:

Two activities are ongoing. The first activity is the current campaign to replenish The Valley Forge Chapter's treasury with new scholarship monies. As of the first week in April this year's fund raising effort has received contributions from 26 members. Their donations total about fifteen hundred dollars. And those who have contributed can deduct

their contributions from taxable federal income next year. Of course, the chapter is still hoping to receive checks from about 90 other members. Most of those other members will need to contribute, too, if VFC, MOAA is to continue enticing talented local cadets and midshipmen to participate in the Liberty Bell competition.

The second activity under way in the Awards and Scholarships arena is the presentation of the MOAA

Medal at seven local high school JROTC units and five local college ROTC units. Again, as of the first week in April, 11 out of the 12 area schools have nominated awardees for the medals. The chapter will send members to award the medals at ceremonies scheduled by the schools between mid-April to early June.

Presenters are still needed for awards ceremonies at Sun Valley High School in Aston on Friday, 2 June, and at Boyertown High

School on Wednesday, 17 May. The Boyertown event will immediately follow our chapter luncheon on that same day. Ironically, there is already a volunteer presenter for the one school which has not yet nominated a cadet and told us when their ceremony will take place. Members who would like to seize one of the two remaining opportunities to represent the chapter may contact John Connelly by email at krtss2000@gmail.com.

Membership Director's Report

WELCOME ABOARD!

Welcome to new members: CAPT. Harry G. Dittman, USN; LCDR Fred Park, USN; CAPT Edmund Pinto, USNR; and Maj Robert H. Glisson, USMC.

Will Conley's Legislative Corner

Recently, a copy of the MOAA PA Council of Chapters Eagle Newsletter was sent to all Valley Forge Chapter members who have e-mail. It focused exclusively on legislative matters of interest to MOAA members at the state and national level. I urge you to look it over. It provides an extensive list of pending state legislation. On the national scene, a recent highlight was MOAA's April 5th "Storming the Hill" initiative. Over 165 MOAA members were involved to include

council and chapter members and members of the national board of directors and MOAA headquarters staff. Nearly all 535 senators and representatives were visited.

The focus of this effort was to persuade Congress to:

- Eliminate the SBP-DIC offset (There is an excellent related article in the April 2017 **Military Officer** magazine)
- Eliminate harmful sequestration

- Prevent disproportional TRICARE fees

As an example of what efforts like this can achieve, MOAA Headquarters reports that 23 additional Representatives became co-sponsors of legislation to repeal the "widows tax".

Sequestration remains an issue and one with potentially dire consequences. There is a very good discussion of the issue on the inside of the front cover of the April 2017 **Military**

Officer. In the discussion, Jim Mattis, the Secretary of Defense, is quoted as testifying to Congress that "no foe in the field can wreak such havoc on our security (as) mindless sequestration is achieving today." I strongly urge you to read the article and then mail the related post cards on the back cover of the magazine to your legislators. Sequestration requires our close scrutiny and action in order to eliminate it before the readiness of our Armed Forces takes

a serious hit. And keep in mind that stress on the military budget traditionally results in the reduction of benefits for service members, retirees, veterans, and their families.

Another budget issue to be aware of is the fact that the Services are operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR) and have been for some time and doing so is a very challenging and ineffective way to do business. When a partisan Congress over the years cannot agree on a budget and relies on a succession of CRs,

readiness of the military suffers and the defense of the nation is weakened. There is a very informative article on this problem in the April 7 **MOAA**

Legislative Update (a weekly report distributed via email that I hope you all subscribe to) By Tom Philpott, a syndicated columnist and freelance writer. Philpott points out that “CRs freeze defense spending at prior year levels, block the start of new programs, delay expiration of old programs, and drive up procurement costs by billions of dollars by

dismantling the efficiency of multiyear weapons programs.” During a recent House Armed Services Committee meeting, Army Chief of Staff General Mark A. Milley reportedly made the comment that “...failure to pass a budget in my view as an American citizen and chief of staff of the United States Army, constitutes professional malpractice.” Right on general!

FYI: Arlington National Cemetery is running out of space and according to an article in the April

2017 **Military Officer**, “The maximum capacity date could arrive as soon as 2050”. I recommend you read the article.

Visit www.capwiz.com/moaa/home to send your legislators a MOAA-suggested message on key issues effecting the military community. To read articles in the **Military Officer magazine**, go to moaa.org and click on Military Officer under Publications and Media.

Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Seeks Photos

The following notice appeared in the recent *Community Courier*:

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) wants to pay tribute to all the men and women from Pennsylvania whose names appear on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, commonly referred to as the Wall. The DMVA is seeking help from the

public. For the past two years, the DMVA has partnered with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) in Washington, D.C. to find a photo of every Pennsylvanian whose name is on the Wall. The VVMF is posting the photos on a virtual Wall of Faces in order to put a face and a story to every name allowing the veterans to be honored by family, friends and others around the world.

Though great progress has been made to find all 3151 photos of service members from Pennsylvania whose names are on the Wall, there are still 105 missing. The DMVA continues to search for the remaining photos but help from the community is needed.

A complete list of Pennsylvania Vietnam Veterans whose photos are still needed is

available by visiting www.veterans.pa.gov and clicking on “Wall of Faces”. Instructions on how to submit a photo can be found at www.vvmf.org/how-to-submit. To view the virtual Wall of Faces readers may visit www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces. March 29 is Vietnam Veterans Day and March 30 is Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day

Now and Always
We'll be There.

★

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

With more than 390,000 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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Valley Forge Chapter
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VFC/MOAA National Website:

<https://www.moaa.org/chapter/valleyforge>

Membership Meeting Reservation Form

(If you are interested in attending, please print this form, fill it out and send it in.)

Location: Downingtown Country Club
610 873-0800
<http://golfdowningtowntown.com/directions/>

Date: WEDNESDAY, May 17, 2017
Gather at **12:00 PM** (Tavern Bar is available);
Lunch begins 12:30 PM; presentation begins approx.
1:20 PM.

Luncheon Menu:

First course - Downingtown House Salad, rolls and butter

Main course - choice of entrée served with Seasonal Vegetable and Potato

1. Chicken Marsala
2. Baked Tilapia with Citrus Beurre Blanc

Dessert - Traditional Cheesecake

Beverages - Iced Tea, Lemonade, Coffee and Hot Tea Included

Should any dietary restrictions require a modified meal, please provide ALL specific requests and limitations on your reservation below in order that complete and accurate information can be provided to the kitchen staff.

Program: Army LTC (Ret) Eric W Stetson, a member of Valley Forge Chapter – MOAA, will present on the following topic: **Training Junior Leaders for the Contemporary Operating Environment.”**

Key Points for Audience Interest:

- Nature of the modern battlefield and the spectrum of conflict
- Creating resilient, critical thinking and creative leaders
- Evolution in Army officer preparation and accessions process
- Challenges facing officer preparation
- How can we support officer development?

Member Name: _____

chicken or tilapia

Spouse Name: _____

chicken or tilapia

Guest(s) Name: _____

chicken or tilapia

Special Request: _____

(gluten-free, etc.)

TOTAL RESERVATIONS

\$27/pp \$ _____

ROTC/JROTC Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Chapter Dues (For 2017 if not yet paid; \$15)
\$ _____

Chapter Operations \$ _____

Check Total \$ _____

NOTE:

Please help make this Luncheon a success for the Valley Forge Chapter. To ensure that your requests are honored and that proper arrangements and courtesy can be extended to all concerned, it is **MOST IMPORTANT** that you assist your chapter planning members by **MAILING** your reservation and payment now - immediately. All reservations / payments should be received **NLT May 2, 2017**, but please do not wait for this deadline.

If necessary, cancel NLT May 9th.

Please return this form and make checks payable to:

Valley Forge Chapter, MOAA
P.O. Box 254
Valley Forge, PA 19481

Contact: Jim McGrath 610-280-7485