

The QUADRANT

February 2017



Newsletter of the MOAA Valley Forge Chapter

In This Issue

From the President 1
Around the Chapter2
Awards Working Group Update3
Will Conley's Legislative Corner .4
Chapter Photos5
Membership Director's Report...6

Calendar

3/4/17 Camaraderie Bkfst.

3/11/17 Membership Mtg.

4/1/17 Camaraderie Bkfst.

4/10/17 Officer's Call @ McKenzies, VF.

Camaraderie Breakfasts are held at the Lion's Share Diner in Exton, PA
610-363-6664

From the President

Since the election of new officers at the December General membership meeting, the Board of Directors has been struggling with several major items.

Our ROTC/JROTC Scholarship Program and the methods of funding the program. In the past, it has always been funded by contributions from the membership. Last year it became a financial liability that was poorly managed. John Connelly has volunteered to run the program this year and he could use a few volunteer helpers as the year go forward. Please see John or myself.

We did manage to hit the tip of the Coatesville VA iceberg with the Putting Contest last fall, with special thanks to Bob Beavins and his Freedom Village neighbors. Earl S. Johnson, Chief, Voluntary Services wrote:

“On Behalf of the Coatesville VA Medical Center patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your sponsorship of putting and lunch on October 18, 2016 for the benefit of hospitalized Veterans. Your thoughtfulness reflects the concern that you feel for our Veterans and for the service they provided to all of us while in service to our country. Without your support, we could not provide for activities like this that make hospitalization more bearable. Your thoughtfulness also reflects the concern and compassion that our community feels for our Veterans.

Thank you for your continued support.”

Under Steve Moore's guidance we plan to raise more funds in 2017 and do some items that the

veterans need and appreciate. Again, Ask Steve how you can help!

Frank Brown, Bill McManus and their Membership/Recruiting committee members did a fabulous job in convincing 23 new members to join our chapter in 2016. That should bring some National MOAA Rewards \$ to our chapter. Thanks to all who participated.

Jim McGrath and CT Alexander are planning the quarterly and breakfast programs respectively. Should you have a suggestion for a speaker or presenter, please bring it up to those two. We want to schedule meaningful and worthwhile programs that everyone can enjoy. The members of the Executive Committee will be seeking to fill openings in various

committee positions in the month of February. Please listen and respond positively to any REASONABLE request to help. Many hands make light work. There is a need for somebody with experience and knowledge in EXCEL Programing to maintain the membership roster and Keep data current on all members. ANY Skills

in this area will be a great asset and not demand very much time. Please contact me ASAP at 610-384-1358 If you or your spouse can help here, even if only for a few months. Several programs are being developed to raise funds to help cover the costs of assisting our wounded and damaged veterans. These will fall under Steve Moore's care

and anybody with experience or ideas in Fund raising would be welcomed as a planner and provider. This will be a new and exciting adventure for our Chapter.

At our April meeting 9th district Representative Killion, plans to present Lapel Pins for members of the military service

who served on Active duty between November 1,1955 and May 15, 1975 during the Vietnam Conflict. (You did NOT have to be in country to qualify for this pin.)

Any member who qualifies should contact me, John T. Murphy @ 610-384-1358 or john.murphy.moaa@gmail.com

Around the Chapter

2017 officers elected and installed at the 12/3/16 general membership luncheon: President John Murphy; 1st VP Will Conley; 2nd VP Charlie Ables; 3rd VP Steve Moore; Corresponding Secretary Bill Matthews; Treasurer Charles McManus. Will Conley was presented the chapter's Eagle Award (trophy) at the luncheon, in recognition for his proactive contributions as legislative liaison. The Phoenixville choral group gave a fine performance. The Executive Committee of the Board met 1/24/17 to review the chapter Constitution and Bylaws to determine whether changes will be recommended to enhance chapter operations and management and will have an opportunity later this

year to participate in a regional **training workshop hosted by MOAA**, in order to enhance chapter operations and management. Camaraderie breakfasts continue to be popular; state Representative Stephen Barrar (160th District) spoke at the 11/5/16 breakfast. **Program Chairman Jim McGrath** is coordinating with C.T. Alexander to arrange 5 or 6 breakfast speakers annually, including Veterans Service Officer, Lawrence Davidson of Chester County Department of Veterans Affairs; *VSOs can help any member of the military community with veterans' benefits eligibility and claims* (There are nearly 1 million veterans in Pennsylvania). State Senator Tom Killion

plans to present at the April breakfast. COL Terri Coles, USA (Ret) relieved COL Brian Anderson, USAF (Ret) as MOAA Director of Council and Chapter Affairs. After serving 15 of the last 16 years on the Board, contributing in various capacities (Legislative Liaison, 1st VP, Recruiting Chair, Corresponding Secretary, Membership Director), I (Bill McManus) am stepping down, at least for a while, to focus on other priorities. I am grateful to all of you who have striven to serve the military community and to promote a strong defense through chapter participation. **If you are interested in serving as Membership Director and/or as Recruiting Director**, please let

anyone on the Executive Committee know.

Officers Call Mon., April 10 at 1800 we will gather at McKenzie's Brew House for an Officers Call. It is located at 324 West Swedesford Rd. (Rte. 252) in the Valley Fair Shopping Center. Phone 610-407-4300. Come on out and enjoy a beer and a burger or whatever floats your boat. Beer is brewed on site and is great. Get together and share your stories – no set seating or table.

Larry Liss was awarded the Bronze Medallion of the Order St George on December 21, 2016. Awarded to "exceptional" Armor/Cavalry Commanders. First awarded in the mid 1700's by Catherine The Great of Russia to honor her Cavalry Officers.

Awards Working Group Update

ROTC & JROTC AWARDS PROGRAM:

A working group (Dick Doherty, Jim McGrath, Bill McManus) early in 2016 developed a redesigned, streamlined, and re-vitalized awards program, which was approved by the Board in May (reducing time to administer from 600 man-hours to about 60, without sacrificing effectiveness). MOAA Medals were awarded to deserving cadets and midshipmen in the Spring by a number volunteer chapter members to 5 local universities and 7 high schools. Todd Sowinski assumed the chairmanship in September, and was most ably assisted in interviews by Jim McGrath and John Connelly. Jim McGrath superbly lead the Liberty Bell Scholarship/Grant awards annual banquet in December. Todd's experience will be missed, as he steps down to accord priority to his family and employment. Thanks to John Connelly who will serve as Chairman ROTC & JROTC Awards Program in 2017.

ROTC and JROTC Liberty Bell 2016 Awards

The Valley Forge Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America

(MOAA) recently held its annual Liberty Bell Awards Ceremony as a part of the chapter holiday luncheon, on 3 December 2016 at Waynesborough Country Club.

The Liberty Bell Awards program, done in partnership with USAA, recognizes the best ROTC and JROTC cadets and midshipmen from those area universities, military colleges, and high schools within the purview of the Valley Forge MOAA chapter. This includes the following ROTC programs: St Joseph's University Air Force ROTC, University of Pennsylvania Navy ROTC, Valley Forge Military College Army ROTC, Villanova University Navy ROTC, and Widener University Army ROTC. The JROTC programs considered include the following: Boyertown High School Navy JROTC, Coatesville High School Air Force JROTC, Owen J Roberts High School Navy JROTC/NNDCC, Phoenixville High School Air Force JROTC, Pottstown High School Air Force JROTC, Reading High School Marine Corps JROTC, and Sun Valley High School Marine Corps JROTC.

The ROTC/JROTC departments within these area institutions selected their top candidates to apply by written format to Valley Forge MOAA. Additionally, the ROTC candidates were interviewed by members of our chapter. This year, a top awardee and runner-up were chosen in each of the ROTC and JROTC programs.

The 2016 ROTC Liberty Bell winner is Midshipman 1/C Alfred Hwang, who was awarded a \$1200 scholarship, and he accepted the ROTC Liberty Bell Trophy for the year on behalf of Villanova University, where he will earn a commission in the Marine Corps. The Liberty Bell Scholarship recipient, MIDN Hwang wrote a letter of appreciation upon his selection: "I am very honored and excited to be receiving the Liberty Bell Trophy on behalf of the Villanova NROTC unit. I really do believe that it is a testament to the training that the unit officers have given us and the support that each of my peers gives each other..." The ROTC runner-up is Midshipman 1/C Stephanie Radzinski. She was awarded a \$100 scholarship, and will be commissioned in the US

Navy from the Univ. of Pennsylvania. The 2016 JROTC Liberty Bell winner is Cadet Rylee McBride, who was awarded a \$300 grant, and she accepted the JROTC Liberty Bell Trophy for the year on behalf of Coatesville Area High School, where she is in the Air Force JROTC program. The JROTC runner-up is Cadet Karolyn Batista, who was awarded a \$100 grant. She attends Reading High School and is in the Marine Corps JROTC program. Each of the four honorees also received The Valley Forge MOAA Certificate of Merit at the luncheon. Our congratulations and best wishes to them.

MOAA Medals:

Every year during the spring semester our chapter awards one MOAA medal to an outstanding cadet or midshipman from each of the ROTC/JROTC units within our area. The medal recognizes outstanding achievement and outstanding leadership potential demonstrated by a unit member. The award consists of a bronze pendant supported by a red, white and blue ribbon, as well as a matching service ribbon, a

certificate of presentation and a certificate holder. The candidates must be in their next-to-final year, and the winning candidates are selected by

their unit commanders. The Valley Forge Chapter of MOAA provides the MOAA Medals and the certificates. The chapter also provides a member to

attend the award ceremony and to present the medal. The awards committee will be recruiting volunteers to present the

medals at local schools during the April/May timeframe.

Will Conley's Legislative Corner

FY2017 National Defense Authorization Act

In late December 2016, President Obama signed into law the FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). MOAA was pleased with the final bill. The active duty pay raise was established at 2.1 %, not the 1.6% increase initially recommended by the Administration. (The 2.1 % is consistent with the established policy of keeping military pay raises comparable to private sector salary increases). Disproportionate TRICARE fee increases were scrubbed from the original bill and an attempt to reduce basic housing allowances for service members was dropped. Also, the Act extended the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance until May 2018 and authorized a total end strength increase of 23,000. No doubt that MOAA lobbying contributed significantly to these favorable outcomes and no doubt that your assistance in contacting State and

National legislators played a key role.

The Future

With the signing of the FY17 NDAA, attention turns to FY2018 and a new and different administration. In the January 2017 issue of Military Officer the chairman of MOAA's Board of Directors, Gen John J. Sheehan, USMC (Ret), writes that "While 2016 was an important legislative year, 2017 likely will prove even more contentious. Look for vigorous debate." Per the Army Times (December 26, 2016), "A big question is whether Trump tries to buck fiscal conservatives with a costly military build-up or, instead, scales back his campaign promises in favor of more modest spending." Also, looming on the horizon is the threat of sequestration. Per MOAA, the current Budget Control Act expires in 2017 and without a new one, the return of sequestration potentially could cut the next Defense Budget by \$20 billion, creating pressure for force cuts, pay and allowance

cutbacks, significant TRICARE fee increases, and more. Accordingly, MOAA has made removal of the sequester its top goal for 2017. You can support MOAA's efforts by going to: "www.capwiz.com/moaa/home" and send the prepared email regarding sequestration to Senators Casey and Toomey and your Representative. In addition, the February 2017 Military Officer contains letters to Senate and House leaders requesting that they exert their leadership to avert sequestration. They are also requested to exert their leadership to identify nondefense offsets to further increase The Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) and continue phasing out the unfair SBP/DIC offset. Please sign, seal, stamp, and mail these letters. The remainder of MOAA's 2017 goals are listed on page 36 of the January 2017 edition of Military Officer.

Miscellaneous

The number of veterans in Congress continues to decline. There are

currently 73 veterans in the House (down from 81 in the last session) and 21 in the Senate. Per the Army Times (12.12.16), a recent survey conducted by the Military Times and the Syracuse University Institute for Military and Veterans Families, almost two thirds of enlisted personnel who responded said addressing pay should be President Trump's top priority. Among military officers, 52 percent said the top priority should be reducing waste in the Department of Defense. From the Pennsylvania Council of Chapters MOAA, comes word that the final report of the Joint State Government Commission on veterans benefits and programs in Pennsylvania has been released. The report looked at available veteran benefits across the state by county as well as statewide benefits. It also addressed state veteran homes. You can find a copy of the report at <http://jsg.legis.state.us.pa>

Chapter Photos



VF MOAA President John Murphy, JROTC Cadet Rylee McBride, JROTC Cadet Karolyn Batista, ROTC Midshipman 1/C Alfred Hwang, ROTC Midshipman 1/C Stephanie Radzinski, and Jim McGrath.



ROTC Midshipman 1/C Alfred Hwang receives the Liberty Bell from Jim McGrath



ROTC Midshipman 1/C Stephanie Radzinski receives the Liberty Bell Second Place Certificate from Jim McGrath



JROTC Cadet Rylee McBride receives the Liberty Bell from Jim McGrath



JROTC Cadet Karolyn Batista receives the Liberty Bell Second Place Certificate from Jim McGrath



Lew Neuman presents flowers to Katherine Nice, director of the Phoenixville High School Choral Group.



Attendees at the December Members Meeting



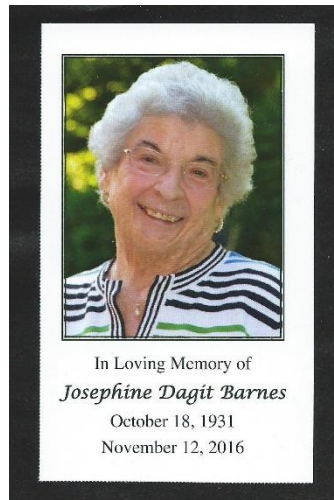
More Attendees at the December Meeting

Membership Director's Report

WELCOME ABOARD!

To the 5 newest chapter members: **CDR David L. Koch**, USNR (Ret), who served 1974 to 1996, and his wife **Donna**; **LTC Mary Magner**, USAR (Ret), who served 1969 to 1996; also, her husband **LTC Frederick Magner**, USAR, who served in the medical corps 1969 to 1997; **MAJ David M. Short**, USAF (Ret), who served 1979 to 1995, and his wife **Heidi**; and **CAPT Edmund Pinto**, USNR (Ret), who served 1960-1992, and his wife **Dorothy**. The chapter appreciates their willingness to serve in activities they identified, including: Recruiting, Programs, Service Activities, Public Relations, Newsletter, Scholarship Awards, Legislative Affairs, and Auditing. Members have enjoyed meeting you at recent camaraderie breakfasts.

TAPS: The chapter will greatly miss Valley Forge Chapter member, **Josephine Dagit Barnes**, who passed 11/12/16 at Daylesford Crossing Assisted Living in Paoli, age 85. A member of MOAA since 1999, she served faithfully for many years by registering and welcoming members to



quarterly general membership luncheons, and represented Auxiliary members (surviving spouses) on the chapter Board for much of that time. She was the widow of CAPT James Peter Barnes, USN, and the devoted mother of Diane Barnes Pancoast, Paul Richard Barnes, and Peter Dagit Barnes, as well as six grandchildren. A graduate of Lower Merion High School and Pierce School of Business, she worked as a legal secretary and arbitration specialist in Philadelphia and New York. She was on-site coordinator of construction (Joe Donovan Construction Co.) for the John F. Kennedy gravesite at Arlington National Cemetery, and for the Lyndon B. Johnson presidential inauguration stand. She later worked as a sales representative and

as a real estate agent. She was a member of the Glenhardie Country Club, which hosted several chapter luncheons. A number of chapter members attended a funeral mass for her. In lieu of flowers, the family requested "take a friend to lunch and think of Josi." The chapter expresses deepest condolences to CAPT Lee Curry, his wife Yvonne and their children (Thom, Mary, Michael, Brian, Shannon; preceded in death by Colleen) on the loss of their son **Christopher Condon Curry**, age 46, who passed 12/5/16 following a recent battle with cancer. Born in Virginia Beach, he graduated from Henderson High School in West Chester, and studied at Radford University and West Chester University. A three-sport athlete, he played lacrosse with passion at the high school and collegiate levels; he also coached, winning two high school state championships in California. He resided in Temecula, California. A number of chapter members attended a funeral mass for him at Saints Phillip and James Church in Exton. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in memory of

Chris to Loma Linda University Health-Murietta Office of Philanthropy, PO Box 2000, Loma Linda, CA. **Fair winds and following seas** are wished for individuals who have left the chapter due mainly to relocations: **LCOL Lew Parry**, USAF (Ret), a veteran of WW II, and his wife **Betty** (State College); **Susan Simmons** (relocated out-of-state); **Barbara Roumaya** (Limerick); **Frank Zazzali** (Louisiana). Also, farewell to LTC **Todd Sowinski** and his wife **Christine**; **LT Tom Abbott**, USNR, and his wife **Rosamond**.

RECRUITING & RETENTION

PROGRAMS: Thanks to the fine recruiting efforts of 19 members who volunteered to work in the telephone campaign, the chapter welcomed a *record 23 new members* in 2016 (versus 8 for all of 2015), with *16 incentive-qualified new members (with \$10, \$15, or \$30 being awarded by MOAA for Basic, Premium and Life members)*. The chapter will be receiving a \$50 monetary incentive award from MOAA for having submitted our roster by the 1/15/17

deadline. Co-leaders Frank Brown and Bill McManus are stepping down from leading the Recruiting Committee; **anyone interested in**

serving as Chairman of the Recruiting Committee should contact any member of the Executive Committee (i.e., the six elected

chapter officers). Current total membership is now 136 (excluding 3 Honorary members). Chapter (& National) membership applications

are available at all chapter events (the form includes a list/survey of areas where volunteers can serve).



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

Military Officers Association of America
Valley Forge Chapter
P.O. Box 254
Valley Forge, PA 19481

President
John Murphy
610-384-1358

John.murphy.moaa@gmail.com
Membership Chairman
Open

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: The Desmond – Great Valley

610 296-9800

<http://www.desmondgv.com/contact-us/driving-directions/>

Date: SATURDAY, March 11, 2017

Time: Gather at **12:00 PM** (cash bar is available);
Lunch begins 12:30 PM; presentation begins approx.
1:20 PM.

Luncheon Menu:

First course;

Soup du Jour.

Warm rolls and butter.

Main course; choice of entrée

- 1) Grilled Skinless Chicken Breast with Crushed Tomatoes, Garlic, Basil and Balsamic Vinegar.
- 2) Herb-Crusted Tilapia Fillet with Tropical Fruit Salsa.
Served with a chef selected starch and vegetable du jour

Dessert; New York Style Cheesecake with Strawberry Coulis

Beverages; Iced Tea, 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.

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 **24 Feb 2017**, but please do not wait for this deadline.

If necessary, cancel NLT March 2nd.

Member Name: _____ chicken or tilapia

Spouse Name: _____ chicken or tilapia

Guest(s) Name: _____ chicken or tilapia

Special Request: _____ (gluten-free, etc.)

TOTAL RESERVATIONS

\$25/pp \$_____

ROTC/JROTC Scholarship Fund \$_____

Chapter Dues \$_____

(For 2017 if not yet paid; \$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

Contact: Jim McGrath 610-280-7485

Program: Mr. Ross Kershey will speak to our chapter on “Controversial Elections in US History.”

Key Points for Audience Interest:

- How the Electoral College works
- Why the Electoral College process was established
- Why the Electoral College process has become so important