

# The QUADRANT

February 2018



Newsletter of the MOAA Valley Forge Chapter

## In This Issue

From the President ..1
Around the Chapter .2
Liberty Bell
Competition.....2
Chapter Photos .....3
2018 Chapter
Calendar .....4
Membership Update 4
Will Conley's
Legislative Corner...4
Membership Meeting
Reservation Form.....5

## Calendar

- 3/3/18 Camaraderie Bkfst
- 3/10/18 Membership Mtg.
- 4/7/18 Camaraderie Bkfst.
- 5/5/18 Camaraderie Bkfst.
- 6/2/18 Camaraderie Bkfst.

Camaraderie Breakfasts will be held at Freedom Village until further notice.

## From the President

By John Murphy

Dear fellow members of our Valley Forge Chapter:

As the calendar year came to a close, so did the medical situation that caused me to decline another term as your President. Things got bad at Christmas and by January plans were under way for another major leg surgery. I entered the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philly on January 22 and was released on January 30th, after 3 days in ICU and a good scare during the operation. Spent 8 hours in the operating room looking for some blood pressure and finally recovered enough to come home. Slowly getting back to normal but have ignored many duties this past month, for which I am sorry.

As you might know, the following have been

Nominated and are awaiting your approval as:  
Mary Magner-President  
Will Conley-1st VP  
Don Peavy -2nd VP  
Gordon Wright -3rd VP  
Charlie McManus-Treasurer  
And Bill Matthews-Secretary  
Yours Truly will serve as Past President. Other board members will be assigned by the Incoming President.

Mary, with some help from Charlie, Jim and the Board, took the reins earlier than anyone expected and is doing a great job.

I will be sending a private memo to the new president of my vision of a course of action in the future, but it will be her choice as to how the ship is headed. I truly hope that we find the same willingness to pitch in to support activities that we plan in the future.

We had a nice turnout to Support our Veterans helping Veterans Dinner at the Texas Roadhouse in Downingtown. With a good turnout we raised \$171.00 and will be placing it in the Veterans benefit account. Thanks for your support!!!

While stepping down as President does not imply that I will not be available to continue to support the President and the Chapter. Good luck and God Speed to all!

## Around the Chapter

By Don Peavy

Since the unexpected closure of the venerable Lion's Share Restaurant, we have sampled several alternate locations for our Camaraderie Breakfasts. The November Camaraderie Breakfast was held at Isaac's in Lionville. Despite the facilities limitations, the Chapter enjoyed an

informative presentation by General Dan Allyn USA (Ret); former Army Vice Chief of Staff discussing the current state of the military. The December Camaraderie Breakfast was hosted by Freedom Village. January saw us at the US Marine Corps League in Downingtown. The net result of our travels seems to be that the best option

for the near term is to continue to meet at Freedom Village. Other options may arise and will be considered. The December General Membership Meeting was held at a Waynesborough Country Club. The program included awarding of our Chapter Scholarships (see below). Steve Moore was presented the Chapter's

Eagle award for his significant contribution to the Vets helping Vets project. Members were treated to a holiday-themed choral concert by the Phoenixville High School Chorus. It was a festive and enjoyable occasion.

## Liberty Bell Competition

By John Connelly

The Valley Forge Chapter awarded two scholarships at its December luncheon. Both winners and their instructors attended the meeting, and the winners briefly addressed the members.

**Midshipman 1/C Mike Ford**, Battalion Commander of the Villanova University Navy ROTC Unit has won the 2017 Liberty Bell ROTC Scholarship. MIDN 1/C Ford is studying mechanical engineering and carries a cumulative grade point average of 3.56. He has held NROTC positions as Squad Leader, Alumni Officer, Squad Leader for Incoming Freshmen, Drill

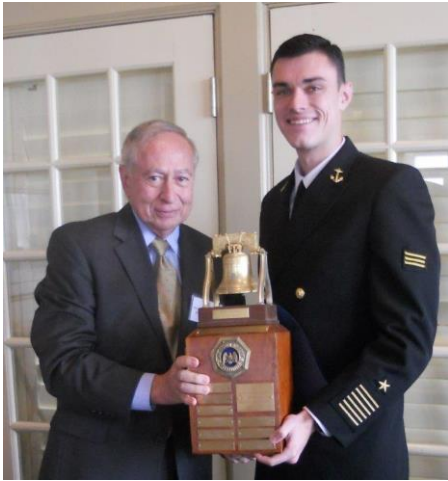
Team Executive Officer and Battalion Commander. He was responsible for planning and hosting the 2016 NROTC Gala which enjoyed record alumni attendance and raised a record \$13,000. MIDN 1/C Ford has earned multiple NROTC awards at Villanova, has participated in the Villanova Campus Ministry, has played intramural soccer, dodgeball and basketball, and has earned a Knights of Columbus Distinction Award. He has annually participated in the Villanova Day of Service, and he volunteers at the Emmanuel Dining Room when at home in Wilmington, Delaware. He expects to join the U.

S. Navy's Nuclear Power Program after commissioning. Midshipman Ford has earned the MOAA Certificate of Merit, and he has taken home a Liberty Bell ROTC Scholarship check for \$1200. The Villanova NROTC Unit will retain the Liberty Bell ROTC Trophy for another year.

**Cadet Vincent Tenore**, Cadet Group Commander for the Air Force Junior ROTC Unit at Coatesville Area Senior High School, has won the 2017 Liberty Bell JROTC Scholarship Grant. Cadet Tenore has held AFJROTC positions as Flight Commander, Logistics OIC, Logistics

Squadron Commander, Operations Commander and Corps Commander. He has earned the Purple Heart Leadership Award and ribbons in Drill and Ceremonies, Community Service and Physical Fitness. Cadet Tenore holds trophies and plaques from soccer, outdoor track and field, a baseball all-stars league and varsity baseball. The Valley Forge Chapter has awarded Cadet Vincent Tenore a MOAA Certificate of Merit and a Liberty Bell JROTC Scholarship Grant of \$300. Coatesville Area Senior High School will proudly display the Liberty Bell JROTC Trophy for another year.

## Chapter Photos



Gil Lappano with ROTC MIDN Micheal Ford.



John Connelly with JROTC Cadet Vincent Tenore.



President John Murphy presents the Eagle award to Steve Moore.



General (Ret) Dan Allyn; former Army Vice Chief of Staff discusses the state of the military at the November Camaraderie Breakfast.



Phoenixville High School Choir providing entertainment at the December General Membership Meeting.



Jim McGrath presents a certificate of appreciation to the Phoenixville Choir.

## 2018 Chapter Calendar

By Jim McGrath

### Luncheon / Membership Meeting Dates:

- 1) Saturday, March 10th - The Desmond Hotel - Program speaker: General (Ret) Dan Allyn, USA
- 2) Saturday, May 19th -

3) Saturday, Sept 15th -  
4) Saturday, Dec 8th -  
Holiday program, ROTC awards, selection of chapter officers.

**Camaraderie Breakfast Dates:**  
3) Mar 3rd

- 4) April 7th
- 5) May 5th
- 6) June 2nd
- 7) July 7th
- 8) Aug 4th
- 9) Sept 8th
- 10) Oct 6th
- 11) Nov 3rd
- 12) Dec 1st

### Officer's Call Dates:

- 1) Monday, April 16th
- 2) Tuesday, Oct 16<sup>th</sup>.

## Membership Update

by Bill Bellknap

### Welcome aboard to:

Joseph Russella, CPT, USA; Edmund Pinto, CAPT, USN

**Farewell:** Jarrle Rokke passed away in November and we will miss his

company as we go forward.

## Will Conley's Legislative Corner

MOAA Chairman, Gen. John J. Sheehan, USMC(Ret), recently reported that MOAA advocacy efforts have been recognized by The Hill newspaper for the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive year and MOAA was the only veteran or military organization so honored. This is a significant and important achievement at a time when the Armed Forces face increasing demands and challenges while operating in an environment of constrained and unpredictable resources. According to the Wall Street Journal, the Air force is short around 2000 pilots (and those pilots still serving are experiencing limited and insufficient flying time), only 5 of 58 Brigade

Combat Teams in the Army are reportedly prepared to "fight tonight" (so says the House Armed Services Committee), and the Navy investigation into the tragic collisions at sea that took 17 lives revealed that training practices failed- for instance, "crew members were not familiar with basic radar fundamentals". The Military Times also made reference to the Navy Investigation cited above stating that "...ships were so busy meeting operational needs in the Pacific that they did not have enough time to train." A lot is being asked of the troops and we owe it to them to insure they are provided adequate resources to accomplish the mission while

simultaneously fighting to protecting their benefits. In 2017, MOAA efforts helped to convince Congress to give service members a 2.4% pay raise. White House and Pentagon officials had wanted a smaller raise. These same officials wanted to make sweeping changes to housing allowances for military families and these changes were not favorable to service members. Again, MOAA helped in the effort to convince lawmakers to reject the proposal. In all likelihood, these issues will surface again and once again MOAA members will be asked to intervene with their legislators. General Sheehan has recently stated that "Our efforts in the days ahead

will remain focused on protecting regular military compensation and DOD and VA Health Care and repealing the Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation widows tax. This year we will focus on Chapter 61 retirees-people who were medically retired with disabilities who do not receive their pay concurrently because their injuries precluded a full career." He calls for our support. A final note: General Sheehan has invited all members to provide input to the biennial review of MOAA's resolutions. (See p 72 of the January 2018 edition of "Military Officer" for details)

## Membership Meeting Reservation Form

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

**Location:** The Desmond Hotel & Conference Center  
1 Liberty Blvd.  
Malvern, PA 19355

[www.desmondgv.com/](http://www.desmondgv.com/)

**Date: SATURDAY, March 10, 2018**

Gather at **11:30 AM**; Cash Bar  
Call-to-Order begins ~ 12:00 PM

### Luncheon Menu:

Soup du Jour  
Roll and Butter

**Main course** – Choice of:

Chicken Picatta w/ Garlic, Capers, White Wine.  
Parsley and Butter

Garganelli Pasta w/Wild Mushrooms, Cream, Fresh  
Thyme, and Parmeggiano

Sautéed Salmon Filet w/Champagne-Ginger Sauce

**Dessert** – New York Style Cheese Cake w/Strawberry  
Coulis

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

**Program:** Speaker: General (Ret) Dan Allyn, USA  
National Security Challenges and the Role of the Army

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

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken, Pasta or Salmon

Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken, Pasta or Salmon

Guest(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken, Pasta or Salmon

Special Request: \_\_\_\_\_

(gluten-free, etc.)

TOTAL RESERVATIONS

\$25/pp \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Chapter Dues (For 2018; \$15) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**(If not yet paid)**

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**. All reservations / payments should be received  
NLT **23 Feb 2018**, but please do not wait for this  
deadline.

**If necessary, cancel NLT Mar 2.**

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

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

**Contact:** Charlie McManus

[charles.mcmanus@gmail.com](mailto:charles.mcmanus@gmail.com), 610-909-4431



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

Bill Belknap  
610-517-0242

williambelknap1@comcast.net  
VFC/MOAA National Website:

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