



THE EAGLE



THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

www.pa-coc.org



NEWS AND VIEWS July 2013



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

My visit to our French Creek Valley Chapter (FCV) on May 28 was too late for our June issue, so here it goes: the dinner meeting was held at the Venango Valley Inn in Venango, about 90 minutes or so north of Pittsburgh - it's closer to Erie - and the motif and meeting room were perfect, as were the food and service. Susan and I were warmly greeted by Chapter president Jack Walter and wife Susan and former president Gran Goza and his better half Barbara (who I learned later was an Army nurse when they met). Some 20 members and their spouses attended, including several members of the Oliver Hazard Perry Chapter and their president, Ben Mosier. If we had a few more Chapter presidents there we could have had a council meeting! Hah!

The Chapter reported that they netted approximately \$6,000 at their Walk for Warriors fundraiser event held on May 18 in nearby Saegertown; some 300 participated in the event. I mentioned that one of the reasons we have a state council is so we can exchange information about what we are doing right and what we are doing that is not so right. Huge

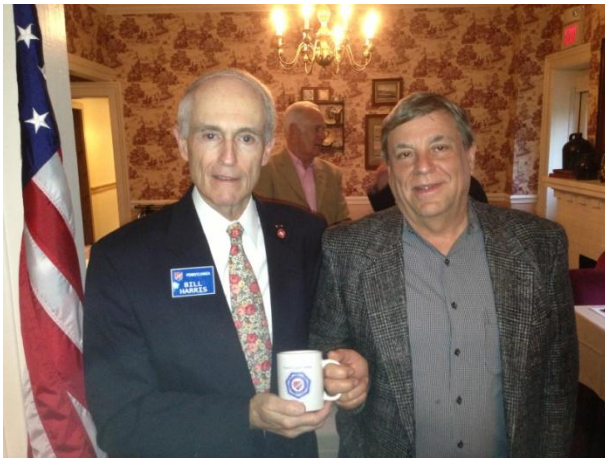
congrats to the Chapter for raising so much money for such a good cause.

The Chapter is interested in filing for state non-profit status so I emailed them the forms including the Lehigh Valley Chapter application, which as I reported earlier, had to request reconsideration after being initially turned down. Anyone else who wants the successful reclama please let me know - with the proviso that each Chapter must report specifically on what they are doing, so what the LV Chapter did is not as important as how it wrote it up.

The FCV is also looking for new leadership, which should come as no surprise to anyone - it's a common malady especially with our smaller Chapters. Jack agreed to stay on for an additional year, and I jokingly cautioned him not to do too good of a job or he may occupy the position longer than he planned ... speaking of membership, some informal discussion ensued about the quality of MOAA National's list of area members who belong to National but not to their Chapter. It seems that our HQ needs to continue to scrub those lists.

Common thread comments were "too many widows on list, who have no interest in attending," and "addresses and other contact info are incorrect."

We were invited to attend the Erie Tall Ships Festival being held Sept. 5-8, and from what I saw online, it will be quite the festival. Unfortunately Lehigh opens its football season on that Saturday (7th) and we've got Phillies-Braves tickets on Sunday (8th), but we'll rain check it for next year! Photo below proves we attended!



Council president Bill Harris gets French Creek Valley Chapter mug from Chapter president Jack Walter.

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NOMINEES WANTED!

Past council president Bob Kutulis is seeking nominees for our 2014-15 PA state council term. Anyone interested should contact Bob (see the officer contact list elsewhere in this newsletter). The officer positions that we know will be coming open are 2nd VP and treasurer, and there may be at-large council positions open as well. We will discuss nominations at our Sept. 26 meeting and at the end of the Nov. 9 meeting new officers and council members will be elected, their terms beginning on Jan. 1, 2014. Any member in good standing with both MOAA national and a PA MOAA Chapter is eligible – AND ENCOURAGED - to serve!

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REMAINING COUNCIL MEETING DATES

July 20, State College (date corrected!)
September 26, Hershey
November 9, State College (Officer Elections)

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FOR WOMEN VETERANS

The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched a new hotline — 1-855-VA-WOMEN — to receive and respond to questions from veterans, their families and caregivers about the many VA services and resources available to women veterans. The service began accepting calls on April 23, 2013.

The hotline provides information about benefits including health care services for women. Callers can be linked to information on claims, education or health care appointments as well as information about VA cemeteries and memorial benefits. The hotline will also answer urgent questions and provide referrals to homeless and mental health services.

Women Veterans are entitled to apply for the same benefits as their male counterparts, which include health care and pharmacy benefits as well as education benefits, disability compensation, home loans, employment assistance and more. Veterans can also receive information and apply for benefits online at VA's www.eBenefits.va.gov and manage their health care at MyHealtheVet.va.gov.

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BECOME A MOAA STAR MEMBER

Time to Share Your Story With Others.

What does it mean to be a star, to stand out from the crowd? Whether you served on a naval ship or received a decorated medal as a symbol of duty, as an officer, you led the way for others.

MOAA National invites you to share your story, and we have the perfect vehicle for you!

By now, you should have received the annual letter in the mail or through the President's Message. This colorful booklet demonstrates how individual and family MOAA members have used our services, how our legislative victories have benefited our members with CRSC refunds, and how our career counselors have helped member land great jobs. Check out the [story on John Kane](#).

If you have an enticing story, we invite you to join the discussion.

Here are 4 simple steps:

1. Go to: connect.moaa.org.
2. Go to "Login" in the top right corner, and enter your MOAA.org username and password.
3. Join the [Awe-Inspiring Views discussion page](#).
4. Share your story.

It's that simple. Share your experience with other MOAA members. Your story might spark an interest for another member! You never know how you might inspire others. Become a Star MOAA Member. Share your story with fellow MOAA members today!

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RECRUITING HELP

As a reminder, MOAA National has a new direct reporting mechanism to report new Chapter members. The form is located on the web site

at: https://fs20.formsite.com/moaaweb/2013ChapterRecruiting/secure_index.html

This year's gold bar incentive is linked to MOAA's BASIC membership. A BASIC membership requires an individual's email address, since all communication between MOAA and the member is done via email. If the Chapter recruiter is unable to acquire a valid email address for the newly commissioned officer, then the BASIC membership application cannot be processed.

A valid email address is defined as a personal email account for the individual that follows the newly commissioned officer through their next duty assignment.

Please note that as a general rule, the newly commissioned officer's ".edu" email address may not qualify as a valid email address. In many cases, once the newly commissioned officer graduates and departs the school or university for their first duty assignment, the email address is no longer accessible and national MOAA would not be able to communicate with the member. Gold bar applications that cannot be processed will not count towards the 10 member "minimum" needed to qualify for the gold bar recruiting incentive, which is \$250.

Need help promoting your Chapter events and recruiting messages? MOAA will send out Chapter email electronic recruiting messages - up to two messages a year per chapter. These messages are sent out to non-Chapter MOAA members who live within local Chapter zip code areas and who have opted to receive emails from MOAA. Please email the information to chapters@moaa.org and allow at least 45 days lead time so the message can be sent in a timely manner. Click here for detailed instructions:

http://www.moaa.org/main_article.aspx?id=673

To help you track the progress of your Chapter's recruiting efforts, MOAA began posting a weekly Chapter recruiting 2013 update on its website. Check out your results at:

http://www.moaa.org/uploadedFiles/MOAA_Main/Main_Menu/Chapters_and_Councils/Chapter_Recruiting/Chapter%20Recruitment%20Report_5-3-13.pdf

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FEEDBACK SOUGHT ABOUT THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS OF OLDER ADULT VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The Pennsylvania Behavioral Health and Aging Coalition, funded by the PA Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, is conducting three surveys to try to understand the behavioral health needs of older adult veterans and their families.

We are collecting this information so we can inform the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania about where older adult veterans (around age 60+) and their family members access health care, the quality of that care, and the kinds of condition for which they seek assistance.

We estimate that each of these surveys can be completed in less than 5 minutes and is completely confidential.

How can you participate?

For older adult veterans and family members - you can either complete the survey online at the appropriate link below, or you can call us and we will ask you the questions over the phone. 866-588-0223 ext. 200 - Please leave a message and we will call you back as soon as possible.

Older Adult

Veterans: www.research.net/s/oavet

Family Members of Older Adult

Veterans: www.research.net/s/famvet

For providers - please complete the online survey at www.research.net/s/oavprovider

Please share or forward this information with/to as many older adult veterans, family members and providers as possible. The more information we gather, the better able we will be to provide much needed assistance to these valued individuals! You can download a flyer to share with others by clicking [here](#).

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SCOTLAND SCHOOL MARKER

An historical marker will be placed at the Scotland School site at 2 p.m. on July 13. Flyer follows:



*The Scotland School for Veterans' Children
Alumni Association,
Together with the
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission*

*And the
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs,
Cordially Invite You to a
Dedication Ceremony
For an Official State*

Historical Marker

*Recognizing the Historical Significance of
Scotland School for Veterans' Children*

*Saturday, July 13, 2013,
2 p.m.*

*Scotland School Auditorium
3583 Scotland Road
Scotland, PA 17254*

*RSVP by July 8, 2013
Kara Kintzel
kkintzel@pa.gov
717-861-8503*

The Scotland School Alumni Association gratefully acknowledges the Winebrenner Theological Seminary for its cooperation and assistance with this event.

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A CHAPTER REPORTS

What does our Valley Forge Chapter do? Here's a report from Chapter president Frank Brown:

ROTC and JROTC Programs -- \$ 2,400 awarded last year to cadets and midshipmen at local high schools and universities. We also take part in their Award Ceremonies and participate in their "Gold Bar" programs.

Keep track of legislation and regulations affecting the military, report significant developments to the membership

via newsletters and at meetings; participate in "Storming the Hill" programs to personally alert legislators in Washington and Harrisburg to our concerns

Volunteer work by members at Medal of Honor Grove, at Veterans Homes and hospitals, interview scholarship candidates and make Vets Day presentations at schools.

Sponsor Chapter excursions, including ones to Gettysburg, American Helicopter Museum, Sikorsky's plant, and Reading Phillies.

Outreach to members who are ill or grieving.

Contribute funds to USO and "Tickets for Troops"

Participate (and even host) PA Council of Chapters.

Send representatives to MOAA's Hershey Symposium to learn additional ways to serve members.

Hold quarterly membership meetings and monthly "Camaraderie Breakfasts."

Publish quarterly newsletter with meeting notices, other items of interest and "News About Members."

Board Members and others donate time and efforts (without reimbursed expenses) to carry on all of the above.



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2012-2013 Term**

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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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