

**PHILA**



**GRAM**

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

March 2013



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Hello to everyone.

Happy New Year to one and all.

Since the last newsletter we have had the pleasure of welcoming the following new members to the Chapter: CWO4 Frank DeFranco, Cpt. James Francis III, COL. Paul Karawaski, Sgt. Ralph Randles, CDR Brian Treston and LCDR Margo Villanova.

During the December 2012 general meeting Officers and Board Members were installed for 2013 and look forward to working together for the good of the Chapter.

Last year efforts opposing legalizing payday lending (HB2191) in PA were successful, however, some state legislators in the House and in the Senate are in the process of writing new legislation to legalize payday lending in 2013. Hopefully our continued participation in a state wide Coalition opposing payday lending will result in legislation of this type not being enacted.

Hope to see you at the general membership meeting March 9 at the Maris Grove Retirement Community in Glen Mills. Robert Hammond will update us on USAA's new office in Center City. Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Gladys Martin will talk about her assignments as a Navy WAVE during World War II.

The Board meets Feb. 28 at the Coast Guard Base in Philadelphia. Board meetings are open and start at 12:30pm. General membership meetings have been scheduled at various retirement facilities: June 8, at Shannondell, September 14, at White Horse Village and December 14 at Bright View Senior Living.

Thanks to all of you who continue to support the Philadelphia Chapter. Each member is important to the organization and has something to contribute. If



## LUNCHEON MEETING



you want to be more involved in activities related to carrying out the Chapter's mission please contact me at [aliciablessington@verizon.net](mailto:aliciablessington@verizon.net)

Take care.

Alicia M. Blessington, President

### Chapter Luncheon Meeting

**Date:** Saturday, March 9, 2013

**Time:** Cocktails: 11:30 – Lunch: 12:25

**Location:** Maris Grove Retirement Community  
100 Maris Grove Way  
Glen Mills, PA 19342  
610-387-4470

Cash Bar: Beer and Wine

### Buffet Menu

Tossed House Salad/Dressing  
Carved Roast Beef au jus, Horse Radish  
Chicken Marsala

Red Bliss Potatoes, Vegetable Medley  
Rolls, Butter

Assorted Cakes and Pies  
Ice Tea, Coffee, Decaf, Hot Tea, Water

Cost \$25.00 per person

**Speaker:** Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Gladys Martin

**Topic:** My Service During WWII



OFFICERS AND BOARD



MARCH



2013 Officers and Board Members

OFFICERS

- President                    CAPT Alicia M. Blessington, USPHS
- 1<sup>ST</sup> Vice President        LTC William Pfeiffer, USAF
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President        CW4 Douglas Craig, USMC
- Treasurer                 CAPT Anthony Basilio , USN
- Recording Secretary    CAPT Alicia M. Blessington, USPHS
- Chaplain                 Rev. Marianne H. Vance
- Membership Director   MAJ Richard G. Levering, USAF
- Personal Affairs Dir.   CAPT Pauline Jones-Tate, USPHS
- Publicity Director        LT Susan S. Christensen, USN
- Legislative Affairs Dir. CAPT Thomas Pendergast, USN
- Awards Director         LTC Ramon Ramos, USA
- History Director         CW4 Douglas Craig, USMC
- Tours Director            Mr. Robert B. Tate
- Registration Secretary   Ann Froehlich/Eleanor Craig
- Program Director        CW4 Augustus R. DiMino, USA
- Arrangements Director  CW4 Augustus R. DiMino, USA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- COL Saul W. LaKier, USA \* / LTC John J. Conboy, USA
- CW4 Thomas J. Scutti, USA
- CAPT Thomas Pendergast, USN
- CW4 Augustus R. DiMino, USA \*
- \* Past Chapter Presidents

2013 Chapter Membership Dues

The Philadelphia MOAA Chapter is now in our 2013 Membership Year. The annual dues are still only \$15/year which go to supporting local scholarship programs and other community support events that the Chapter participates in.

If you have not paid your dues for 2013, please write a check and mail to our Membership Director Maj Richard "Dick" Levering at:

527 Hermitage St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19128-2603  
215-483-2900  
RLevering@verizon.net

Women's History Month

American women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways. They have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of life by constituting a significant portion of the labor force, working inside and outside of the home, and by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force. Against the odds, women have earned respect and admiration from our nation.

The 2013 National Women's History Month theme, **Women Inspiring Innovation through Imagination**, honors generations of women who throughout American history have used their intelligence, imagination, sense of wonder, and tenacity to make extraordinary contributions to the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields. Congratulations to Debra Kolsrud of Johnstown, NY who created the theme!

Women in Military Service of American Memorial Foundation manages the Women's Memorial located at the Ceremonial Entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA, and is directly across Memorial Bridge from the Lincoln Memorial at the end of Memorial Drive. The Memorial houses an Exhibit Gallery, Hall of Honor, Gift Shop, Theater, Upper Terrace, Court of Valor and, the heart of the Memorial, a computerized Register containing 250,000 women's stories. Admission to the Memorial is absolutely free.

The United States Army Women's Museum is located in Fort Lee, Virginia and is the only museum in the world dedicated to Army women. The Museum honors women's contributions to the Army from the Revolutionary War to the present, telling their stories with interactive exhibits and videos throughout the gallery, as well as film presentations in our theater. The museum also has an extensive research and learning center, and memorial garden.



## **LEGISLATIVE NEWS**



## **IN THE LOCAL AREA**



### **PENNSYLVANIA Council of Chapters**

The purpose of this Council shall be to:

- promote the aims of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), as stated in the preamble to the by-laws of that association;
- further the legislative and other objectives of MOAA;
- foster fraternal relationships among retired, active and former officers of the uniformed services and their reserve components;
- protect the rights and interests of retired, active, and reserve component personnel of the uniformed services and their families and survivors;
- provide useful services for service members and their families and survivors;
- serve the community and the nation;
- protect the rights and interests of service retirees, veterans and active duty, Guard and Reserve military members in matters of state legislation; and
- provide the assistance necessary to member chapters to enable them to effectively serve their members, their communities, and the nation.

Please visit the Philadelphia Chapter of the MOAA's website at [www.MOAAPhiladelphia.com](http://www.MOAAPhiladelphia.com) to view the Chapter Point of Contact listing in its entirety for the state of Pennsylvania.

### **Military Leaders Warn Congress of "Hollow" Force**

The nation's top military leaders warned Congress in unusually stark terms that its failure to pass a 2013 budget - coupled with the threat of automatic budget cuts - has pushed the Pentagon to the brink of a crisis. They wrote in a joint letter to congressional leaders that the readiness of U.S. armed forces is at a "tipping point." The military leaders said that troops in combat and those who are being treated for wounds will get the funds needed. But the rest of the force will be severely compromised if the Pentagon has to continue operating on last year's budget. "We are on the brink of creating a hollow force."

March 8-10, 2013, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, in cooperation with the PA Veterans Foundation, will conduct the first-ever PA Women Veterans Symposium. The Symposium will be held at the Wyndham Gettysburg, Gettysburg, PA. The Symposium welcomes all PA women veterans from any period of service. It will provide women veterans with the information they need about VA benefits and healthcare. This event is free of charge for meals and lodging for PA women veterans and caregivers. The only cost is a small registration fee to reserve your place at the Symposium. Additional information about the Symposium can be found at [www.pawomenvets.org](http://www.pawomenvets.org)

On Saturday, March 2, Valley Forge National Historic park invites children ages 6-12 are invited to "enlist" in the Continental Army and experience a day in the life of the continental soldier. Recruits will be mustered in by receiving enlistment papers and continental currency. Recruits will be issued wooden (dummy) muskets and learn how to stand, march, and carry their musket as one of Washington's soldiers would have done. Officers, park rangers dressed in continental uniform, will train the recruits in a full musket drill. No reservations necessary. Meet at the Visitor Center to sign in.

Philadelphia Veteran Job Fair will be held at the Lincoln Financial Field, 1020 Pattison Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19148 on March 14, 2013 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Featured Exhibitors include Union Institute & University, The Home Depot, Aviation Institute of Maintenance, Lockheed Martin, C.R. England Inc. For more information, visit the event's website at <https://recruitmilitary.com/>

Digital copy of the newsletter and additional information about Philadelphia Chapter of the MOAA can be found on the Chapter's website at [www.MOAAPhiladelphia.com](http://www.MOAAPhiladelphia.com)

To contribute to the PHILAGRAM or the website, please contact the editor, CPT Robin Islam at [robin.islam@us.army.mil](mailto:robin.islam@us.army.mil) or mail to 522 Lombardy Road Drexel Hill, PA 19026



Philadelphia Chapter MOAA  
527 Hermitage Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19128-2603

\*Address Corrections Required \*



**Philadelphia Chapter Military Officers Association of America**

Please Note: Reservations, with payment, must be received no later than March 6th. For cancellations (48 hours prior to the event) or late reservations, please call Mrs. Ann Froehlich at 610-728-5412. Return the reservation form to Mrs. Ann Froehlich, 12204 Shannondell Dr, Audubon, PA 19403.

**Directions to Maris Grove From I-76:** -  
US 1/Baltimore Pike (Exit 5) toward Lima. Go approximately 10 miles and turn left onto Evergreen Drive. Gatehouse is on your right.

**Directions to Maris Grove From Route 202:** -  
Turn onto US 1 (Baltimore Pike North). Go approximately ½ mile and turn right at the third light onto Evergreen Drive.

**Directions to Maris Grove From I-95 South:**-  
Merge onto US-322 (Exit 3) toward West Chester. Go approximately 7 miles. Merge left onto US 1/Baltimore Pike South. At the first light turn left onto Evergreen Drive.

Remove and Return by mail

**Luncheon Reservation**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_ places for Saturday, March 9, 2013 Buffet Luncheon at Maris Grove at \$25.00 per person.

Name(s) of Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_, payable to MOAA Philadelphia Chapter.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (please print); Rank/Grade; Telephone Number