



# THE EAGLE



## THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

[www.pa-coc.org](http://www.pa-coc.org)



### NEWS AND VIEWS March 2013



#### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Council members - we're working with The Eagle editor, Bob Broyles, and our webmaster, Art Villafane, to integrate their functions by using the newsletter to announce the posting of various material on our website. We want to keep the newsletter lean and mean so forwarding it to your members, if you so choose, will not bombard them with a multitude of attachments and long articles.

Two new features will appear on our website: a place for you to upload your Chapter newsletters, and copies of The Affiliate. To upload your newsletter, simply email your newsletter to our webmaster, Art Villafane, at [art@gothrive.us](mailto:art@gothrive.us)

Your newsletter should be in pdf format and should read, for example, PhilaMar13.pdf (for the Philadelphia Chapter's March 2013 newsletter), or PittApr13.pdf, for Pittsburgh's April 2013 newsletter. If you have a quarterly or other issue dates, just use the closest month to your mailing dates so the issue can be easily identified.

We continue to seek ways to make our council

useful and your ideas and comments are always welcome.

Regards,  
Bill Harris  
President, PA COC

\* \* \* \* \*



#### PA Council of Chapters

#### MOAA Connect Interactive Website Established for PA Council of Chapters

The PA Council of Chapters of the Military Officers Association of America now has an interactive website established for its Chapter members.

The website is designed to provide an interactive means to communicate among and provide information to Chapter and council members. It contains the ability to establish member profiles and several means to stay in touch including a Communities section for those with similar interests; a Contacts section where you can invite individual members to become a part of your contacts list; a Subscriptions section for news from the Communities; and a Favorites section to establish a list of documents.

The Discussions section of the website provides a means to post on topics of interest, give comments, ask questions, reply to the sender directly, view the threads of the discussion or forward a message.

The Blogs section is a way to post your individual expressions of opinion on military topics of concern. It is your “voice,” out front, on the issues that affect us.

The Library section gives you the ability to share a file of a document, photo, or even a YouTube video of interest to Chapter members.

There is a Directory section of chapter members. The section includes an Advanced Search to detail specific areas such as by location, status, rank, or military service.

The Events section provides a listing of upcoming events such as chapter meetings.

The site can be viewed at:  
<http://connect.moaa.org/PennsylvaniaCouncilofChaptersMOAA/Home/>

Login must be established to view member content. Establish or use your MOAA login for the national web site. You must be a member of MOAA national to establish a login and listed as a PA Council of Chapters member in national's data base. See Instructions below.

Once on the MOAA Connect PA Council of Chapters page, click on the link above, you will be able to see on the top right side the

request to Login to see members only content. The only information you can see without logging in is the Council Announcements for upcoming meetings. Click on the words Login to see members only content. You are now on the MOAA web login page. If you have not created a MOAA login account go to “Already a member, but new to our web site” and click on the red words create a web login. Follow the instructions to create your login and password. If you already have a MOAA web login enter the user name and password. Once logged in you will return to the PA Council of Chapters site with more information showing on the page. Some items say Chapter as the council site is set up on the Chapter framework.

You will now see on the right side “Getting Started” that asks you to login and customize your profile. You have already logged in so it will take you to the Privacy settings. Default settings are already entered but you can change them to suit your desires for protecting your information. At the bottom of the page, click **Save** your entries. Then go to the upper left hand part of the page and click **Profile** at the top of the list of options. Complete the information you want and click **Save** at the bottom.

Along the upper part of the page is a green bar, click on Chapter Home on the left side. You have returned to the PA Council of Chapters home page. You can now see on the right side the “Most active chapter members”, council members that have replied to discussions on their Council sites. Below that section at the bottom you will see Upcoming Events. This currently lists council meeting dates but can reflect other information for events. In the middle of the page you will find “Chapter Announcements.” The section currently announces meeting dates and can be seen by any non-council member looking at the site. At the bottom is the “Latest Chapter Discussion” section where members can interact with one another and comment on a member's postings and give their comments, knowing that it will not go outside our council membership.

To see other information you need to go back to the green bar and click **Resources**. That brings out Library, Blog and Discussion Group. Click on Library and you will see several Topics on the left. Click on one of the topics to reveal the documents to the right in that topic. Take your cursor and click on the document to highlight it and then click on the **View** tab above it to open the document. You can now click on the document to open it. Then you can click on Library to search of other documents or go back to the green bar to explore what the topics contain. It takes some getting used to but it makes a good place to post chapter documents, update information on meetings and conduct discussion groups on topics members bring up.

The Site Administrators for the PA Council of Chapters are Bob Gray [rl\\_gray@hotmail.com](mailto:rl_gray@hotmail.com), Bill Harris [wthiii3@rcn.com](mailto:wthiii3@rcn.com), Bob Cudworth [drrobert2@comcast.net](mailto:drrobert2@comcast.net), and Nancy Anderson [leadhers@aol.com](mailto:leadhers@aol.com). The Site Administrators can post meetings, library and event items to the site. Every council member can access the blogs and discussion sections. If you want to learn more about the site, look in the upper right corner and click on **Connect Home**. This will take you to the MOAA Connect home page. You will see the Getting Started section and the first item is **Tutorial Videos**. Click on Tutorial Videos and you can look at the topics and view how-to videos on You Tube and Word documents.

\* \* \* \* \*

## WOMEN VETERANS SYMPOSIUM

The state council approved donating \$100 to PA's first ever Women Veterans Symposium, being held March 8-10 in Gettysburg. According to BG Mike Gould, Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs, more than 230 women veterans and families will attend including eight women from the WWII era. For more info on the event go to website [www.pawomenvets.org](http://www.pawomenvets.org) or see the attached brochure.

National will set up a table at the symposium and Nancy Anderson, our council secretary,

will "man" it for national. They will also contribute financially to the event. We're looking for volunteers to help Nancy run the booth. Contact Nancy directly at [leadhers@aol.com](mailto:leadhers@aol.com).

\* \* \* \* \*

## SEN. TOOMEY EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER STATUS OF COMBAT VALOR MEDAL

U.S. Senator Pat Toomey (R-Pa) sent a letter to Defense Secretary Leon Panetta expressing his concern and asking why the Pentagon has reportedly decided to rank a new medal for drone operators and others not in direct ground combat above some long-standing combat valor medals.

The new Distinguished Warfare Medal will be awarded to pilots of unmanned aircraft, cyber war experts and personnel involved in combat operations who are neither physically present nor in a war zone facing risks of traditional combat service participants. According to recent news articles, in the military's "order of precedence" of various medals, the Distinguished Warfare Medal is slated to be ranked above some traditional combat valor medals such as the Bronze Star with v-device.

*Sen. Toomey's letter:*

Dear Secretary Panetta:

I write to express my concern regarding the Distinguished Warfare Medal.

While fully supporting appropriate recognition of all military personnel whose extraordinary actions make a difference in combat operations, I am concerned about the new medal's possible ranking in DOD's order of precedence. It has come to my attention that the new medal may rank above some traditional combat valor medals, such as the Bronze Star Medal with valor device.

I respectfully request your answers to the following questions:

1. Where does DOD plan to rank the Distinguished Warfare Medal in the order of precedence, and what is the rationale?

2. To what extent were members of the veterans community, particularly those with combat service, consulted on the planned order of precedence?

Thank you for your service and attention to my request.  
Sincerely,

Pat Toomey  
U.S. Senator

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Federal Benefits: Switch to Electronic Payments by March 1**

If you receive your federal benefits by paper check, you'll need to [switch to electronic payments by March 1, 2013](#).

The federal benefits affected are:

- Social Security
- Supplemental Security Income
- Veterans Affairs
- Railroad Retirement Board
- Office of Personnel Management
- Department of Labor (Black Lung)

You have two options for receiving benefits electronically:

**1. Direct Deposit:** The U.S. Treasury deposits your benefits directly into your bank account. You can sign up for direct deposit in one of these ways:

- [Enroll online](#).
- Visit your bank or credit union.
- Call (800) 333-1795 (Mon-Fri, 8am-8pm ET).
- Contact the local office of the agency providing your federal benefits.
- [Enroll by mail](#).

**2. Prepaid Debit Card:** The U.S. Treasury deposits your benefits directly to a debit card. This is an option if you don't have a bank

account and do not want to open one. You can request a debit card by calling (800) 333-1795 (Mon-Fri, 8am-8pm ET).

Be ready with the [information you'll need to set up your federal benefit payments by direct deposit or debit card](#).

If you have questions, call the Go Direct Helpline at (800) 333-1795.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **TAX EXEMPT STATUS FOR CHAPTERS**

The Lehigh Valley Chapter's appeal to be designated a PA nonprofit was upheld by the Bureau of Business Trust Fund Taxes on Jan. 29.

Former Chapter president and current council president Bill Harris said that the initial request, made last May 10, now becomes the official date the Chapter can use to request sales tax rebates for any events the Chapter participated in after that date.

The Chapter had been notified last July 25 that its original application was denied. "We read the reasons for the denial and went to work filing an appeal, which consisted of a written application plus sworn, recorded testimony before a hearing officer in Harrisburg. Fellow Chapter member Nate Kline and I testified under oath about what our Chapter did, and with the accompanying appeals form that must have carried the day," he said.

"It simply came down to the fact that we didn't make a good case the first time around; when we saw what areas needed additional documentation, we simply asked our board to provide more input, i.e., 'what have we been doing that we didn't report on the initial application,' and that did it." he added. Anyone wanting info on how to do this should contact Bill.

\* \* \* \* \*

## 2013 CHAPTER RECRUITING

*This article is reprinted from an email from council member, Carmen DiGiacomo, regarding MOAA's new recruiting initiative.*

The MOAA 2013 Chapter Recruiting program has changed dramatically from the Give me 10 programs of the last few years. The emphasis is now to build chapter membership. MOAA incentives have also changed, however, the opportunity to get new Chapter members and also receive a monetary incentive is a double edged sword to build Chapter membership and also add much needed funds to chapter treasuries. A summary of the program follows:

A key change is the cash payment for complimentary/unpaid new members no longer exists.

This ties in with changes to new member categories: Basic (complimentary); Premium (paid @ \$37.00 for one year) and Life. A cash incentive of \$250.00 is paid to a Chapter that recruits 10 new paid MOAA national memberships. That is the maximum incentive payable to any Chapter. If a new paid member also becomes a Chapter member he/she receives a \$15.00 voucher from MOAA to be used for the Chapter dues. The Chapter can redeem the vouchers for cash from MOAA national.

In order to strengthen the Chapters the MOAA national team has developed a plan to assist us in this endeavor. However, each Chapter was required to scrub their Chapter rosters sent to them from MOAA headquarters and submit the scrubbed roster back to MOAA by 31 January 2013. It is key to accomplish this task because the scrubbed roster establishes the base line for incentives for recruiting from the MOAA national potentials list for your area and for retention of current Chapter members.

For each new Chapter member recruited from the MOAA potentials list the Chapter will receive a \$10.00 cash incentive. In addition a Chapter that retains 90% of their membership

during the year 2013 will receive a \$500.00 cash incentive. The importance of the scrubbed Chapter roster to establish the base line is obvious.

There are other details, but these are the key ones that each Chapter needs to know to take advantage of the opportunities presented. First and foremost scrub your roster, plan your strategy and then execute it. MOAA was to send out updated potential lists to each Chapter by 15 February 2013. If you have not received yours you should ask for it.

For more detailed information go to [www.moaa.org/chapterrecruiting/](http://www.moaa.org/chapterrecruiting/). You can also contact Col Brian Anderson, USAF-Ret, Deputy Director of Council and Chapter Affairs at [briana@moaa.org](mailto:briana@moaa.org)

Have a great recruiting and retention year.  
Carmen D. [tippfado@verizon.net](mailto:tippfado@verizon.net)

\* \* \* \* \*



*The Eagle* is published monthly by the Pennsylvania Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association of America. Its content does not reflect the official position of the DoD, any branch of the US Armed Forces, NOAA, USPHS, nor MOAA National. Please send articles and audio-visual submissions to the Editor at [pacocnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:pacocnewsletter@gmail.com). The deadline for submissions is one week prior to the first of the month.