

The QUADRANT

November 2017



Newsletter of the MOAA Valley Forge Chapter

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Calendar

November Camaraderie
Bkfst. has been cancelled
12/2/17 Membership Mtg.
12/9/17 Camaraderie
Bkfst.
1/6/18 Camaraderie Bkfst.
2/3/18 Camaraderie Bkfst.
Camaraderie Breakfasts
are held at (TBD)

From the President

As I pen this message, I realize that it has been almost two years that I have been privileged to serve you as your President. Time has gone by very fast!

Due to serious medical issues, my Doctor has recommended that I not continue in this capacity. I will fully support the new President's agenda.

One of the main precepts of the MOAA's PREAMBLE is:

"To aid personnel of the services from which our members are drawn, their family members and survivors, in every proper and legitimate manner."

Ever since I took office, it has been my sincere desire to assist our local Veterans, both at the Coatesville VA Hospital and the Spring City Veterans Home.

This year our big event was taking 45 Vets to the Phillies/Cardinals

Baseball Game in June. It was a Great Day and a rare Phillies win.

Sly Fox voucher sales at the Pickering Farm and Feed Store brought in over \$ 600 to fund Veterans helping Veterans. As a result, we have more money to do MORE. This effort was conducted by seven dedicated members. I thank them so much for their devotion to duty. I'm sure that they found this effort rewarding.

I strongly encourage all members to participate in these service activities as the chapter goes forward.

Therefore, to help with future planning, I ask that you e-mail me (Or call me at 610-384-1358) and provide me answers to three questions.

1) Do you approve of the current "service" direction of the chapter?

- 2) What would you like added or deleted from our current activities?
- 3) Would more social events, including spouses, be welcomed?

Please feel free to expand on these points or introduce new issues. My e-mail is:
john.murphy.moaa@gmail.com.

Please support John Connelly and Gil Lappano as they conduct their SR/JR ROTC Scholarship program to make the December awards. There is still time to include a scholarship contribution when you reply to the luncheon invitation and remember to include your 2018 dues. Save yourself a stamp!

I thank the Valley Forge Chapter for this opportunity to serve as your two-term president. As we continue our journey, I wish all smooth

sailing and continued good health. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

PLEASE NOTE: The Lion's Share Diner recently closed for business. As a result, we are seeking a new venue for our monthly

Camaraderie breakfasts and other meetings. We need a location that not only serves breakfast on Saturday mornings but also has a private room

that seats at least 30. If you have any suggestions, please forward them to a Board Member.

Around the Chapter

The September 9th Chapter Camaraderie breakfast at Lions Share Diner saw the appearance of a distinguished speaker, as arranged by C.T. Alexander. U.S. Congressman Ryan Costello (PA 6th District) joined some 35 Valley Forge – MOAA members / guests for breakfast. The congressman spoke and took questions for about 30 minutes on a range of topics, including immigration, national

security, healthcare, and veterans / armed forces.

The recent quarterly Valley Forge chapter luncheon and member meeting was held at the Phoenixville Country Club on Saturday, Sept 16th from Noon until 3:00 PM. The event was well-attended, with approximately 35 members and guests present. The keynote speaker at the luncheon was Vietnam-veteran Mr.

Alvan 'Cappy' Markle. His talk and slide presentation was titled; 'The Tet Offensive. Did the Media Get It Correct?' The presentation offered a more-unique perspective from various sources that were not previously well-known.

The twice-annual chapter Officer's Call was held on Tuesday evening, Oct 10th, from 6:00 PM to about 8:00 PM at the Sly Fox Brewhouse & Eatery in

Phoenixville. This strictly-informal social event, setup by Dick Doherty, was quite enjoyable, with over a dozen members & spouses on-hand to visit over food and drink.

Frank Audino reports that the SOUTHEASTERN VETERANS' CENTER announced that Scott Steffen has been appointed Volunteer Coordinator.

Liberty Bell Competition

In the awards corner now all the buzz is dedicated to preparations for our Liberty Bell Trophy Competition.

Schools from two levels participate:

At the university/college level ROTC units from five schools nominate their best candidates who submit essays and complete detailed applications. The candidates are interviewed by a panel of chapter members for about an

hour, and the panel members score their credentials in ten categories. The candidate who earns the highest average score is recommended to the chapter's board of directors as the Liberty Bell Trophy winner. The trophy is kept at the winner's school for one year, and the winner takes home a check for \$1200.

At the high school level seven local JROTC units are invited to nominate

candidates to write essays and submit detailed applications. A panel of chapter members grades the essays and the activities detailed on the applications. The panel determines the recommended JROTC winner, and the winner is approved by the chapter's board of directors. The winner's school retains a JROTC trophy for one year, and the selected cadet or midshipman takes home a \$300 grant.

The ROTC winner and the JROTC are recognized at our December luncheon where the trophies and checks are presented and the winners briefly address the gathering. Each winner may bring one guest and one instructor at chapter expense. And the MOAA members go home to begin fund raising to support the next year's competition.

Chapter Photos



Members Appreciating Congressman Costello's Presentation.



Chapter President John Murphy Presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to Congressman Ryan Costello.



Alvan 'Cappy' Markle Presenting his Views on the Viet Nam War at the September Meeting.



Members enjoying "Cappy" Markle's Presentation.

Membership Update

Welcome aboard to:
David Greer, CPT, USA;

Dennis Keifer, LT, USA;
Michael Patti, CAPT,

USN; Robert Schoemer,
CPT, ARNG;

John L.Sullivan, LT,
USA.

Will Conley's Legislative Corner

In the October 2017 edition of *The Military Officer*, it is pointed out that consistent attempts are being made to reduce benefits, services, and support to military service members and their families. "The topics of reduced pay raises, reduced housing allowances, and increased TRICARE enrollment fees and pharmacy co-payments

are brought up in discussions on Capitol Hill because some believe we pay the military too much and those who serve should pay more for their health care". As an example, a report in the September 2017 edition of the *Military Officer*, notes that: "The Senate aligned itself with DOD's budget request to increase pharmacy

copayments and repeal a grandfathered TRICARE fee structure, arguing the latter was too confusing and costly." The House, fortunately, chose to stick with the current TRICARE fee structure, which prevents disproportional fee increases from being foisted onto military beneficiaries. Resolution of the issue awaits the outcome of ongoing

Senate –House Armed Services Committees conferences. MOAA's position: Oppose the Senate position. Congress must live up to its commitment to the troops. And MOAA needs our help. Every Email, letter, or phone call to our Legislators helps.

Membership Meeting Reservation Form

Membership Meeting Reservation Form

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

Location: Waynesborough Country Club
440 Darby Paoli Rd, Paoli, PA 19301
Tel: 610 296-2122

<http://www.wcc1965.org>

Date: SATURDAY, DEC 02, 2017

Gather at **11:30 AM** (no-host Cash bar is available);
Call-to-Order begins ~ 12:00 PM

Luncheon Menu:

Main course – Choose 1 of 3 entrées; each served with Chef's selection of vegetable, house baked rolls and whipped butter.

- 1.) Herb-Crusted Chicken Breast ~ Saffron Risotto
- 2.) Shrimp and Scallop Puttanesca ~ Penne Pasta
- 3.) Veal Scallopini ~ Linguini Pasta

Dessert – Warm Apple Crisp

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

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.

Program: Valley Forge Chapter - MOAA are pleased to welcome back the **Phoenixville High School Vocal Ensemble**. The group will present classical holiday songs for the enjoyment of our members and luncheon guests.

Member Name: _____

Chicken, Shrimp & Scallop, or Veal

Spouse Name: _____

Chicken, Shrimp & Scallop, or Veal

Guest(s) Name: _____

Chicken, Shrimp & Scallop, or Veal

Special Request: _____

(gluten-free, etc.)

TOTAL RESERVATIONS

\$30/pp \$ _____

ROTC/JROTC Scholarship Fund \$ _____

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

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 15 Nov 2017**, but please do not wait for this deadline.

If necessary, cancel NLT Nov 22nd.

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

Annual dues of \$15 for 2018 are payable now until no later than 12/31/17: *please make your check payable to: Valley Forge Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 254, Valley Forge, PA 19481.*



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.

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