



THE EAGLE



THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

www.pa-coc.org



NEWS AND VIEWS
October 2013



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Some tidbits from the State Veterans Commission meeting held on Sept. 6:

- Beginning in November you will be able to contribute \$3 to the Veterans Trust Funds when you renew your driver's license.

- A Trust Fund lottery ticket is being discussed on Capitol Hill, stay tuned.

- A mental health forum will be conducted by the Dept. of Public Welfare on Nov. 6-7 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Harrisburg. The forum will provide educational and practical resources for redeploying veterans and their families. For more info contact the welfare department.

- As of July 30 some \$3.4 million has been paid to more than 10,000 Persian Gulf War bonus claimants. The average turn-around is 4.3 days!

Susan and I had a great time dining with General Greene Chapter members on Sept. 19. Not only did we stay at a hotel on Arnold Palmer Drive but we ate at a terrific restaurant in the Arnold Palmer Regional Airport! Guess we know who's the VIP in that city. Some 28 members and spouses attended. It was good seeing former council president **Chuck Anderson**, whose better half **Nancy** serves as our council secretary as well as the Chapter president. I also had a nice chat with former council member **Dick Flock** and found another member who served as a "tac" officer in the PA Guard OCS program several years after I graduated, so we had many friends in common. Well, perhaps not friends at the time ...

We visit the Pittsburgh Chapter next month and the PM/NE PA

Chapter in December, so my goal of visiting every Chapter during my term will have been reached. More on that later.

Some bullets gleaned from the Hershey symposium held Sept. 26-28:

- You can now sign up for text alerts from MOAA National.
- MOAA's strength is holding steady at about 380,000 while other national VSOs are losing members.
- Beginning in 2014, MOAA will be offering three types of memberships: basic (electronic only, no dues, only good until you are 35); premium (formerly the regular membership, you pay dues annually, get magazine, etc.), and life (same as before).
- MOAA's goal is to have every Congressional district covered by a MOAA Chapter and they will begin offering legislative liaison training sessions at the SE regional symposium being held in FL. Because it was too late for the Hershey symposium, they will set up mini-training sessions in the NE in the next 18 months. I urge you to form a Chapter legislative committee if you haven't already done so.
- USAA continues to provide \$500 annually to any Chapter that applies; funds can be for operations or programs, and USDAA will donate \$1000 for state conventions.
- The gold bar program will be retained.
- MOAA will provide any Chapter up to \$250 for print media ad

placement, and provides ad slicks that can be tailored for Chapters. This offer runs out this CY!

- Next year MOAA will provide a web site that permits Chapters to collect dues online and will continue to send Chapters \$10 for every new member - and that includes surviving spouses.

- To qualify for incentives, Chapter rosters must be received by MOAA National by Feb. 1, 2014.

- When lobbying, one state has their members all wear the same "uniform" since MOAA does not have hats or any distinguishable clothing/ID. They all wear blue sport coats, gray slacks, white shirts and a red tie. Good idea? Let me know.

- Can the State College area support a Chapter? We go there four times a year and could meet with interested officers. Feedback please.

All in all, a great, as usual, meeting. A best practices recap was included in the handouts which provided info on what Chapters were doing that made them successful. A great read.

See you on November 9!

4-STAR AWARD

Congrats to our Pittsburgh Chapter for continuing to earn four-star awards in MOAA's Levels of Excellence Awards program! They recently

received the kudo for Category IV chapters (120-199 members). Hats off to Carmen DiGiacomo, Pete Bellisario and their other Chapter leaders!

For a complete list of winners, go to our council website, www.pacoc.org, and click on *The Affiliate*. It's in the September 2013 issue.

* * * * *

THE HERSHEY MEETING

Bill Harris

The Hershey regional symposium held from Sept. 26-28 was attended by beaucoup Pennsylvanians. All of our Chapters attended! Attending were council secretary **Nancy Anderson** (General Greene), **Jim Leveson** (Bucktail), **Den Benchoff**, **Tom Bender**, **Victor Bove**, **Dina Casablanca-Cerese**, **Tony Cerese** and **Don Smith** (Lancaster), **Harold Cooney** and **Glenn Mitchell** (Cumberland Valley), **Bill Luckenbill** (Willow Grove), **Alicia Blessington**, **Douglas Craig**, **Richard Levering** and **Bill Pfeiffer** (Philadelphia), **Ben Mosier** (Oliver Hazard Perry), **Pat Genung** (French Creek), 2nd VP **Bob Cudworth** and **Adele Zavada** (Pocono Mountains/NE PA), 1st VP **Bob Gray** and **Keith Beebe** (Keystone Capitol), immediate past president **Bob Kutulis**, newly elected treasurer **Jack**

Whelan, Frank Brown and Will Conley (Valley Forge), **John Antonitis, Rick Fousek, Gordon Weith and Jon Johnston** (York), **Carmen DiGiacomo and Pete Bellasario** (Pittsburgh) and myself and **Charles Taylor** (Lehigh Valley). What a great turnout! Just goes to show you what a free meal will get you. Hah! To my knowledge this was the largest council participation we've ever had!



Notes from our state council meeting, held in Hershey on September 26:

Jack Whelan agreed to take over our financial chores and we welcome his input to our council. All of the documents were passed to him at the meeting and before the day was out he already had downloaded the files and said everything appeared to be in order, so we're off to a great transition. Jack is going to recommend a state-wide bank we can move our accounts to and move out smartly to get that up and running. He'll be working with incoming

president Bob Gray since the two of them will have signature authority for the new accounts.

Speaking of finances, the council approved the CY 2014 budget, copy attached for your info. As always, a budget is a living entity so your input is continuously welcome. Part of this budget is advertising income for this newsletter. I have emailed our national legal advisor to get a few technical questions answered, and will move out smartly once these technicalities are worked through. Remember that the council has already approved selling advertising in an earlier meeting, and approval of the budget reinforces that OK. I'll keep you informed as we head into these uncharted waters. Keep in mind that I use a monthly circulation figure of 1,000, which is based on you emailing the newsletters to your members with emails. Please keep in mind that the funds we receive will be used to directly support our Chapters.

Our finances on Sept. 26 showed a checking account balance of \$2618.91 and savings account balance of \$5169.13, so our new worth was \$7788.04 as of that date. I mentioned that due to the treasurer transition the figures were not audited and the new council treasurer will provide a full update at our Nov. 9 meeting in State College.

Our state convention is set for Sept. 12-14 next year at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Pittsburgh - Meadow Lands, 340 Racetrack Road, Washington, Pennsylvania, 15301; 724-222-6200. Preliminary costs are \$25 for the Friday evening welcome reception and \$35 for Saturday, which includes refreshments adorning the morning and afternoon sessions and lunch.

Chaired by our Pittsburgh and General Greene Chapters, they are looking for support - contact Nancy Anderson or Carmen DiGiacomo to volunteer. They are especially looking for goodies to put in welcome packets, in quantities of 100.

Our Oliver Hazard Perry Chapter is looking for recruiting help and we agreed to help beginning with their meeting next April. They don't meet in the winter months. Brrrr.

Council meeting dates were set for next year: Jan. 16 (1 p.m., electronic meeting only), April 5, July 19, Sept. 13 and Nov. 8. All council meetings will be held from 11-1 at the State College Days Inn. As usual our council's legislative committee will meet an hour earlier at all of these meetings.

* * * * *

CHAPTER SPEAKER IDEA

Our Valley Forge Chapter's September meeting hosted a Civil War reenactor to discuss what it was like to be a soldier during that conflict. He wore a uniform of the period and brought equipment and weapons as well. Great idea for a speaker since reenactor groups are located all over our state. He discussed the thoughts, actions, encampments, weapons, communications, medical concerns, food/beverage, etc. of a typical enlisted Union soldier. For more info contact Frank Brown at jandfbrown726@verizon.net.

* * * * *

BURNING ISSUES

MOAA has put together its 10 most important legislative issues for the fall term of the US Congress. Please click [here](#) to review them. Please contact our legislative chair, Bob Gray, if you are interested in discussing any of these issues with your local member of Congress. Your voice counts!

* * * * *

HOMETOWN HEROES CELEBRATION SUPPORTED BY WILLOW GROVE CHAPTER

The Chapter will be supporting this initiative by the 111th Fighter Squadron at Willow Grove on Oct 5. This should be a good event although past efforts to recruit Air Guard Officers have met with only limited success. Who will speak for them when they retire if they don't speak up for MOAA now?

See the Flyer accompanying this newsletter.

* * * * *

STATE VETERANS COMMISSION ROSTER

The roster also accompanies this newsletter.

* * * * *

HOUSE CHAIR TO HOST VETERANS INFO FAIR

State House majority chair Rep. William Adolph will host a veterans' informational fair from 10-3 on Nov. 11 at the Paxon House in Media. Anyone interested in attending should contact legislative assistant Kyle Rice, (610) 544-9878; wadolph@pahousegop.com.

* * * * *

WAR VETERANS COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The 2014 meetings dates for the PA War Veterans Council are as follows:

Jan. 2, Feb. 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, Sept. 4, Oct. 2 and Nov. 6. No meetings are held in June-August or December. The meetings are held from 10 am-noon at the American Legion state headquarters in Wormleysburg, which is across the Susquehanna River from Harrisburg. Anyone interested in attending please contact legislative chair Bob Gray.

* * * * *



**PA COUNCIL OFFICERS
2012-2013 Term**

President - Bill Harris
wthiii3@rcn.com
(610) 217-3511

1st Vice President - Bob Gray
rl_gray@hotmail.com
(717) 623-8715

2nd Vice President - Bob Cudworth
drrobert2@comcast.net
Secretary - Nancy Anderson
LeadHers@aol.com

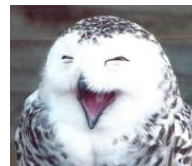
Treasurer - Harvie Beavers
harvie.beavers@verizon.net

Immediate Past President - Bob Kutulis
kutulis@comcast.net
(610) 321-1872

* * * * *

GLORIOUS INSULTS

"I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here."
- Stephen Bishop



* * * * *

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, Bob Broyles, at pacocnewsletter@gmail.com. The deadline for submissions is one week prior to the first of the month.