

PHILA



GRAM

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December 2013



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



LUNCHEON MEETING



Hello to everyone:

Hope that everyone is well and looking forward to the upcoming holidays.

During the past year the Chapter's Recruitment Plan has been redefined and recruiting efforts have successfully resulted in several new members – welcome to each of you!!

I do ask that our longtime members continue to reach out to the new members and encourage involvement in chapter activities. Recognizing that change does not always run smoothly I want to clarify for everyone: dues for new members are waived for the calendar year that they join. Some of the officers who joined in 2013 did pay dues and they will be credited for their 2014 dues. Just a reminder to our honorary members that you are not expected to pay dues. If you have questions I can be reached at aliciablessington@verizon.net.

Four area students received financial assistance from the MOAA Scholarship Fund: Katie Falcone, Elliot Hirsch, William McDonnell, and Lindsey Treston. A congratulatory note was sent to each recipient. Those of you who could not attend the Sept. 14 general membership meeting missed an inspirational speaker - Mentor Jason Braase from the Wounded Warriors Project. Also the James W. Brokenshire Award was presented posthumously to COL Wesley Froehlich. The Chapter's financial books were audited and found to be in conformity with accepted accounting principles.

The December 14 general meeting will be held at the Springfield Country Club. Reservations need to be mailed no later than Dec. 5 and include your choice of entrée. Members will elect the officers, directors, and board members for 2014 and vote on revisions to the By-Laws. Carl Robertson Certified Senior Advisor will be the guest speaker. Some of the topics he will discuss are: doing a worthwhile year end review, preserving money for your lifetime, and college funding for grandchildren.

Arrangements are being made to have the first 2014 general membership meeting at White Horse Village in Newtown Square on March 8. The speaker will be one of our new members - LtCol. Timothy Meserve, Executive Director, of The Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service & Education Center.

I want to thank the membership for the opportunity to have served as President of the MOAA Philadelphia Chapter since 2011. It has been a privilege as well as an educational experience. Thanks to the support and dedication of the Officers, Directors, and Board Members several challenges placed before the Chapter were addressed.

Best wishes to the incoming Officers, Directors and Board Member as they carry out their important duties in 2014, the 45th year for the MOAA Philadelphia Chapter.

Take care.

Alicia M. Blessington, President

Philadelphia Chapter Military Officers Association of America



LUNCHEON MEETING



OFFICERS AND BOARD



September Luncheon Meeting

Chapter Buffet Luncheon Meeting

Date: Saturday December 14, 2013

Time: Social Hour 11:30 – Lunch 12:15

Location

Springfield Country Club
Tavola's Restaurant
400 West Sproul Road
Springfield, PA 19064
610-543-2100
<http://www.tavolas.com>

Cash Bar — Alcoholic beverages
may be purchased at the bar

Lunch Menu

Tossed Garden Salad
Choice of:
Sliced London Broil OR Chicken Marsala
Chef's selection of Starch and Vegetable

Beverages

Regular and Decaf Coffee and Hot Tea

Dessert

Cheesecake with Raspberry Sauce

Cost \$25.00 per person

Luncheon Guest Speaker

Guest Speaker: Carl Robertson

Topic: Year End Financial Review and Update of
Retirement Assets in an Uncertain Economy

Russell Ferrara, a classical guitarist, will be providing
seasonal music at the luncheon.

2014 Slate of Officers and Board Members

The Nominating Committee in accordance with
chapter by-laws recommends the following nominees
for officers and board members of the MOAA
Philadelphia Chapter for the year 2014.

SLATE OF OFFICERS

President	LTC William Pfeiffer, USAF
1 ST Vice President	CW4 Douglas Craig, USMC
2 nd Vice President	CAPT Anthony Basilio, USN
Treasurer	CAPT Anthony Basilio, USN
Recording Secretary	CAPT Alicia 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	Rev. Robert B. Tate
Registration Secretary	Eleanor Craig / M Vance
Program Director	LTC William Pfeiffer, USAF
Arrangements Director	LTC William Pfeiffer, USAF

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





MEMBERSHIP



LEGISLATIVE



Welcome to our newest Chapter Members who have recently joined:

LtCDR James M. Coyne, USN (ret)

Capt Ralph W. Galati, USAF

Isabelle Guernsey

LTC Gregory Nardi, USA

It is that time of year for members to renew their membership in the MOAA Philadelphia Chapter. A dues renewal card and a return envelope are included with your newsletter.

Before completing the card please check the newsletter label which states "Dues Paid Thru Year". If you have already paid dues for 2014, 2015 or 2016 it is not necessary to complete the card and pay again.

Dues are \$15.00 annually and a check or money order can be mailed to Maj. Richard Levering, 517 Hermitage Street, Philadelphia, PA 19128-2603. Payment is due by January 1, 2014.

Thank you for your prompt response.

Maj Dick Levering, USAF (Ret.), Membership Director

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

To contribute to the PHILAGRAM or the website, please contact the editor, MAJ Robin Islam at robin.islam@us.army.mil, islam.robin@gmail.com or mail to 522 Lombardy Road Drexel Hill, PA 19026

The Hill, the largest-circulation newspaper on Capitol Hill, has once again included MOAA in its list of "Top Lobbyists". This is the seventh straight year MOAA has made the list.

MOAA's President Vice Adm. Norbert R. Ryan joined together with veterans' groups and legislators to support legislation to fund the entire VA a year in advance.

Senior Pentagon leadership expressed frustration that growing budget uncertainty is hurting readiness and expressed doubts that Congress will act in time to stave off another year of sequester cuts.

Upcoming Event:

August 12-17, 2014, Philadelphia will be hosting the National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG) which is a sports and rehabilitation program for military service veterans who use wheelchairs for sports competition due to spinal cord injuries, amputations or certain neurological problems.

Attracting more than 500 athletes each year, the NVWG is the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the world. The event is dually sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), with financial assistance from corporate, civic and veteran service organizations.

The events are free and the public is most welcome.

To learn more about the events, visit their website at <http://www.wheelchairgames.va.gov>



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

*Address Corrections Required *



Philadelphia Chapter Military Officers Association of America

Directions to Springfield Country Club: From 476

South: take Exit 5 (US 1 N-Springfield-Media). Turn Left off exit. Follow signs for 320 (West Sproul Road). Turn right on Route 320. Springfield Country Club is located ¾ mile on the right.

From 476 North: take Exit 3 (Swarthmore/Springfield). Turn right onto Baltimore Pike (US 1). Proceed on Route 1 for approximately ½ mile to Route 320 (West Sproul Road). Turn Left. Springfield CC is located ½ mile on the left.

For additional directions use www.tavolas.com

Because of **EARLY DEADLINE**, reservations must be **mailed by December 5th**.

For cancellations (1 week prior to the event) please call Mrs. Ann Froehlich at **610-728-5412**.

Please return reservation form to **Mrs. Ann Froehlich 12204 Shannondell Dr., Audubon, PA 19403**

Remove and Return by mail

Luncheon Reservation

Please reserve ____ places for Saturday, December 14, 2013 at Tavola's Restaurant, Springfield Country Club at \$25.00 per person. Please select a dinner option. # Chicken Marsala ____ #London Broil ____

Name(s) of Guest(s) _____

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

Signed _____

Name (please print); Rank/Grade; Telephone Number