

PHILA



GRAM

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September 2013



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Hope that each of you is having a good summer – despite the high humidity and heavy rainfall we have experienced.

Since the last newsletter we have had the pleasure of welcoming the following new members to the Chapter: CAPT Kathleen Moore, USCG, CDR Clifford Bayuk, USCG (Ret.), Chaplain CPT,MSGR. David Benz, USAF (Ret.), CPT John Ansley, USA, MAJ William Magill, AUS (Ret.), LT Kyle Fitzpatrick, USN, and COL Howard Snyder III, USA (Ret.). CWO4 Douglas Craig, 2nd Vice President continues to coordinate the Chapter's Recruitment Program. Please contact Doug at EVCraig552@gmail.com. If you know of a prospective member or would like to assist him with recruitment. I also want to welcome back our newsletter editor, CPT Robin Islam, USA from his recent assignment in Europe and Africa.

Those of you who could not attend the June 8 general membership meeting/luncheon missed an opportunity to meet and listen to one of our new members. CAPT Kathleen Moore, USCG, Sector Commander Delaware Bay gave an informative presentation on the Coast Guard's involvement and management of Hurricane Sandy and the Paulsboro Spill.

The last two general membership/luncheon meetings for this year will be held in restaurants. The September 14 general membership meeting/luncheon will be held at the Concordville Inn in Glen Mills. Reservations must be made no later than September 11. Please RSVP promptly. The meeting will start at 12:15pm to allow for a brief business meeting. Peer Mentor Jason Braase from Wounded Warrior Project will speak at the luncheon. He joined the Army National Guard in September 2001 and was deployed to Iraq in 2004 and will share his journey of recovery with us.



LUNCHEON MEETING



Legislators are in their local offices during August and this is a good time to call and voice your concerns against legalizing payday loans in Pennsylvania. Another option is to contact your legislature thru www.stoppaydayloansinpa.com. Check out our website for information about HeroesPath a new program to help local veterans connect with local job opportunities.

The next Board meeting is October 31 at the Coast Guard Base in Philadelphia. Board meetings are open and start at 12:30pm.

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

Take care.

Alicia M. Blessington, President

Luncheon Guest Speaker

Guest Speaker: Jason Braase

Topic: My Experiences with the Wounded Warrior Project

Jason Braase enjoyed a childhood in Idaho often traveling to nearby ski resorts and camping destinations with his family. He joined the Army National Guard in September 2001, and his life as active duty Army took him through nearly a dozen states - culminating with his deployment to Iraq in 2004. A year into his service overseas he suffered the fury of an IED blast that sent shrapnel through his right leg just below the knee. After thirteen surgeries - with numerous doctors telling him he'd never walk again - today he walks, swims, and mountain bikes with little pain. He says he'll never forget that day in the hospital when he received a backpack from the Wounded Warrior Project and a new chapter of his life began.



LUNCHEON MEETING



OFFICERS AND BOARD



September Luncheon Meeting

Chapter Buffet Luncheon Meeting

Date: Saturday September 14, 2013

Time: Social Hour 11:30 – Lunch 12:15

Location

Concordville Inn
780 Baltimore Pike
Glen Mills, PA 19342
Phone: 610-459-2230
<http://www.concordville.com/>

Cash Bar — Beer and Wine

Buffet Menu

Fresh Fruit Medley
Freshly Tossed Mesclun Salad
Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Mixed Vegetable Medley
Grilled Chicken Mediterranean
Choice Top Roast Sirloin
Dinner Rolls

Beverages

Assorted Beverages

Dessert

Assorted Dessert Buffet

Cost \$25.00 per person

Speaker

Jasson Brasse

Topic: My experiences with the
Wounded Warrior Project

<http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/>

2013 Officers and Board Members

OFFICERS

President	CAPT Alicia M. Blessington, USPHS
1 ST Vice President	LTC William Pfeiffer, USAF
2 nd 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

The Wounded Warrior Project

The Wounded Warrior Project is a non-profit organization whose mission is “to honor and empower Wounded Warriors” by:

- raising awareness and enlist the public’s aid for the needs of injured service members
- help injured service members aid and assist each other
- provide unique, direct programs and services to meet the needs of injured service members





MEMBERSHIP



LEGISLATIVE



2013 Membership Dues Not Paid

I would like to thank CWO4 Doug Craig and LtCol Bill Pfeiffer for their excellent recruiting efforts. Their hard work will ensure that the MOAA Philadelphia Chapter will continue as a strong and viable Chapter with new members. I would also like the members of our 2014 Nominating Committee for an outstanding job.

On the subject of Annual Dues, we are including a "Dues Paid Through Year" on the Phila-Gram Newsletter mailing label.

On the subject of Delinquent Dues we still have some 2012 Members who have not renewed their dues for 2013:

LTC Keith M. Cianfrani USA
LTC David C. Deardorff
CWO4 Frank J. DeFranco USNR
LTC Daniel V. DiLoretto USAR
1LT Louis Essaf
BG Henry C. Frisby
LTC Russell A. Gallagher USA
LTJG William Heller USN
CWO2 Louis E. Miller, Jr. USCG
LTC Dr. Lewis E. Neumann USAR (Ret.)
Sgt. Raphael M. Randles USAF
CPT Catherine Makem Stock USA
LtJg. Raymond L. Tyler USNR

Our By-Laws require us to drop from Chapter Membership those who have not paid their \$15 dues for the current year by 30 September 2013. If you think you had renewed for 2013, please review your check register and let me know the check number. Or, if you determine you hadn't renewed, just mail me a \$15 check payable to MOAA Philadelphia Chapter.

Mailing address is 527 Hermitage St. Philadelphia, PA 19128-2603

I can also be reached at 215-483-2900 or e-mail at RLevering@Verizon.Net.

Thank you.

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

DoD WARNS OF LOOMING PROMOTION FREEZES

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel informed the Senate Armed Services Committee that if Congress fails to end budget sequestration, DoD could be forced to freeze military promotions, suspend recruiting, put a hold on all PCS orders and make bigger reductions than current law allows.

THE PUTTING VETERANS FUNDING FIRST ACT of 2013 — Eliminate the Budget Grid Lock for VA Funding

Congress is now considering 'The Putting Veterans Funding First Act of 2013' (HR 813). This bill would fulfill our nation's promise to help veterans readjust back into civilian life. The bill would do so by ensuring that VA services aren't affected by Washington's partisan budget wrangling, and that the care and benefits veterans have earned are delivered them with timeliness and predictability.

STATE VETERANS BENEFITS

Many states offer veterans benefits. These benefits may include educational grants and scholarships, special exemptions or discounts on fees and taxes, home loans, veteran's homes, free hunting and fishing privileges, and more. A VA Loan is worth \$417,000, it can also be used to refinance to lower monthly payments

Each state manages its own benefits programs.

Visit military.com to see a list of the links to the websites for the individual states that offer Veterans benefits.

Digital copy of the newsletter and additional information about Philadelphia Chapter of the MOAA can be found of the Chapter's website at www.MOAAPhiladelphia.com

To contribute to the PHILAGRAM or the website, please contact the editor, CPT Robin Islam at robin.islam@us.army.mil, islam.robin@gmail.com 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 September 11th, 2013**. 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 From Route 202: Turn onto U.S. 1 North (Baltimore Pike) - go 1.2 miles to Concordville Inn on the right

Directions From I-95 South:- Take exit 3A to merge onto US-322 W/Conchester Hwy toward W Chester - 7.4 mi. Turn right onto U.S. 1 N/Baltimore Pike - go 0.2 mile to Concordville Inn on the right

Directions to Concordville Inn From I-476 South: - Take Exit 5 - US 1/Baltimore Pike toward Lima. Go 10.1 miles to Concordville Inn on the left

Directions From Route 252: Turn onto US 1 South. Go 8.3 miles to Concordville Inn on the left

Remove and Return by mail

Luncheon Reservation

Please reserve ____ places for Saturday, September 14, 2013 Buffet Luncheon at Concordville Inn 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