



THE EAGLE



THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

www.pa-coc.org



NEWS AND VIEWS September 2013



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Thanks to the tireless efforts of past president Bob Kutulis, I'm very happy to announce that our York Chapter is back up and running. We had a great meeting in York on Aug. 22 with about 25 members and their spouses attending. Accompanying Bob and me was Barry Wright, MOAA National's point man with Chapters.

After some brief introductions, a slate of officers was chosen as follows:

- President: LTC John Antonitis, USA-Ret.
- Vice President: COL Richard Fousek, USA-Ret.
- Secretary: LTC Gordon Weith, USA-Ret.
- Treasurer: Maj Robert O'Connell, USAF-Ret.
- Board Members: CW4 John Johnson, USAR-Ret.
and CW5 David Arsenberger, USA-Ret.

In the photo below are the York Chapter officers and board members.



From left: Arsenberger, Antonitis, O'Connell, Weith, Johnson and Fousek.

I am looking forward to our Sept. 26 council meeting being held during the Hershey Symposium, to which Chapter presidents and other Chapter officers have been invited. Since our meeting will be attended by MOAA National staff, please ask all those who are attending to attend our council meeting if they can. It will be good exposure for MOAA National as well as for our attendees.

See you on the 26th!

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Former Council 2nd VP Larry Mallison died on July 26. Larry was a Vietnam veteran and retired from the AF as a lieutenant colonel after 28 years of service. His retirement years were spent with his late wife Rosalie owning and operating a travel business. His obit can be seen by going to this website: http://cumberlink.com/lifestyles/announcements/obituaries/lawrence-mallison/article_42a5b16a-f98c-11e2-92eb-001a4bcf887a.html



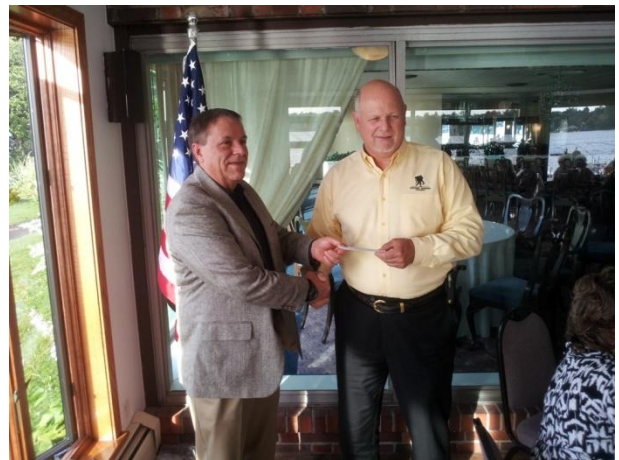
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French Creek Valley Chapter Activity

The 30 member French Creek Valley Chapter, located in Meadville, PA, held their first annual Walk for Warriors 5K on May 18, 2013 to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. The Walk netted \$5550 which the Chapter presented on July 30th to Brace and Charlene Feldbusch, two of the national founders of the Wounded Warrior Project. (See attached photo and newspaper article.)

The Feldbuschs' son, U. S. Army SGT Jeremy Feldbusch, was seriously injured at Haditha

Dam in Iraq in April 2003. He was the first recipient of assistance from Wounded Warrior Project. The next Walk for Warriors 5K is scheduled for Saturday, May 17, 2014 at Woodcock Creek Dam in Saegertown, PA.



Pictured: Jack Walter, Chapter President, and Brace Feldbusch, Co-founder Wounded Warrior Project

In addition to the Walk for Warriors 5K, the French Creek Valley Chapter also supports two local JROTC programs and the Army ROTC at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

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Enclosed with this newsletter is a flyer for a great event taking place on September 7, 2013 at Pinchot State Park in Wellsville, PA.

Any promotion you can provide will be sincerely appreciated.

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Just released from MOAA HQ

DoD recently outlined to Congress a blueprint for mandated reforms that will consolidate the military health care system.

The FY 2013 Defense Authorization Bill authorized the establishment of the Defense Health Agency (DHA) to oversee the integration of ten major functional areas of the military health care system across all services. The main goal of the DHA is to generate budget savings by consolidating redundant

health care spending. The Army, Air Force, and Navy currently operate many duplicative health care programs.

DHA will have oversight of all of the following military health care programs by the end of FY2015:

- Medical Logistics
- Facility Planning
- Health Information Technology
- Tricare
- Pharmacy
- Acquisition
- Public Health
- Research & Development
- Education & Training
- Budget & Resource management

The most recent report outlined the purpose and goals to be achieved in consolidating medical logistics, facility planning, health information technology, and Tricare. It also projected the expected budget savings associated with moving these programs under the auspices of DHA. Of particular interest in the report is the expectation that the DHA could generate \$787 billion in Tricare savings over six years by consolidating call centers and streamlining coordination with Other Health Insurance (OHI) programs.

The overall intent – which MOAA has long advocated for – is to identify opportunities to realize systematic cost-savings through the adoption of common clinical and business processes, which will result in consolidation and standardization of the best practices – not more costly duplication of efforts. This will help save money without passing on the cost to beneficiaries. DoD estimates the implementation of this new agency will have generated savings in the range of \$1.46B - \$2.9B over six years. This only takes into account projections for 4 of the 10 shared services plans – future cost savings could be even greater. The final report is due this September.

This transformation and subsequent savings have been long over-due. MOAA believes that this effort, combined with last year's TRICARE and Pharmacy fee increases

demonstrate that health care costs are not in fact “eating the [defense] department alive.”

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MOAA says the top 10 apps for traveling can be found by clicking on the link below. Never hurts to check!

http://www.moaa.org/Main_Menu/User_Group/Retired_Still_Working/Tech_Actics_-_10_Best_Apps_for_Traveling.html

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Please refer to the attachments for your invitation and agenda to this year's **annual fishing tournament** to spend some time with Veterans from the Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center, Southeast Veterans' Center and Delaware Valley Veterans' Center.

This year's event will be held Tuesday, September 10, 2013. You may join us for the entire day, or fishing, or the picnic dinner/award ceremony.

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Another great link!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uoABty_zE00

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Lotsa links this time! MOAA says there are 15 health tests for men aged 65 and older that should be heeded. Just about all applies to women as well, so double heed! For more, click this one:

http://www.moaa.org/main_article.aspx?id=12203&LangType=1033

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The annual **Never Give Up Memorial Cruise** held each year in memory of U.S. Navy SEAL Lance Vaccaro, a resident of Berks County, who was an avid motorcycle and automotive enthusiast, will be held on 28 Sep. For more info go to <http://www.nevergiveupmc.com/>

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GLORIOUS INSULTS

"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked
by his friends.."

- Oscar Wilde



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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.