



York and South Central Pennsylvania Chapter

Chapter News

1 April 2015

Items

1. Board notes – Minutes, vacancies
2. Events-Awards– JROTC, Job Fair
3. General –Vet running for Senator, Vietnam Vets Day Resolution, PSU Base Ball Tickets
4. Other business – Rundown of MOAA National, PA State and Chapter priorities

Board notes

Chapter Board met 26 Feb 2015. Attendees: John Antonitis, President; Jon Johnston, Membership; Rich Fousek, Vice President; Gordon Weith, Secretary; Bob O’Connell, Treasurer.

Items discussed were (1) membership renewal rate (50%) (2) current board approaching the “two-year” mark which is max for president’s term and opportunity to look at other board positions; (3) chapter comments on 2015 priorities were discussed; top four identified (4) date and venue for open board meeting set (5) role of chapter in York community discussed in terms of matching unique membership capabilities with chapter activities supporting veterans and relevant community activities.

Next meeting to be “open” board-membership afternoon meet **28 April, 1300-1430, at Never Forgotten BBQ**, 2582 Kingston Blvd (Kingston Plaza) York, about 3-4 minutes off I-83 Market St Exit. This is an informal business meeting with open agenda including discussion and decision on venue and speaker for the next (evening) general membership dinner meeting. Members welcome and if attending please confirm by Email to MOAA.York.PA@Gmail.com or phone 717.747.1047.

Events – Awards

MAJ (Ret) James Skinner, William Penn High School OIC presented MOAA JROTC Medal to Cadet Captain **Ashlee Desantis**, Military Ball, 27 March.

Rich Fousek will present MOAA JROTC medal to Dallastown High School (USMCJROTC cadet **Brandon Nadeau** at Dallastown HS, 7 May.

York Chapter awarded \$130.00 check from MOAA National for membership achievement in second half 2014.

Charles (Charlie) Boll won two tickets for January 2016 performance of Band or Royal Marines performance at Strand Theater in York. Name was randomly drawn from those responding with dues renewal by drawing deadline.

Veterans' Expo & Job Fair - The chapter is participating at the April 15 Veterans' Expo and Job Fair, **April 15, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the York Expo Center**, Memorial Hall-East, 334 Carlisle Ave, York. York Chapter will have a table with MOAA/chapter material. If attending and want to lend a hand manning the chapter table, please Email MOAA.York.PA@Gmail.com. In any event consider visiting the expo—and for sure pass the info to those who might be interested. No cost; no registration. Opening ceremony at 0900. **Background:** The Veterans' Expo's aim is to connect active and retired military members with the benefits and resources available to them through local businesses and organizations. Exhibitors represented will include community service providers, healthcare professionals, VA benefits counselors, education/training providers, and business startup assistance, as well as businesses covering everything from home improvement, legal services, and finance to retirement living and insurance. Sponsors include Church & Dwight Co, Inc.; Johns Hopkins U.S. Family Health Plan; ESPN Radio 92.7; Pennsylvania State Headquarters VFW; PHEAA; and The SYGMA Network. The Job Fair is an opportunity for veterans and employers to meet face-to-face to discuss available positions and take part in workshops and seminars offering valuable information on resume writing, interviewing, on line job searching and translating military skills to civilian opportunities.

General

Vietnam Era Commemoration Statement. Many view 28 March 1975 as the end of the Vietnam Era which officially started over 50 Years ago with the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution on 7 August 1964. This month, PA Senator Pat Toomey submitted a commemoration and appreciation statement for the Congressional Record lauding the bravery and sacrifice of Pennsylvania's Vietnam veterans. "Nearly 350,000 Pennsylvanians served in the Vietnam War. More than 3,000 gave their lives," said Sen. Toomey. "We are grateful. I encourage all Americans to thank a Vietnam vet and recognize service members in your community and in your life." The website <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/events/> has a well done rundown of the history/timeline as well as commemorative activities held across the US. Hat's off to those who served in RVN.

Fall 2015 class of VIP Fellows. For vets with masters degrees or enrolled in a masters program, U.S. Department of State is currently accepting applications. Main focus of VIP is to build and deploy strategic partnerships between the U.S. government and the U.S. private sector to mobilize resources and build networks to promote foreign affairs career opportunities for veterans. This fellowship will give applicants the opportunity to serve in foreign affairs roles primarily throughout the Department of State, but also at our participating agencies, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), or the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). The VIP fellowship will include full-time employment beginning in the fall of 2015 and lasting for one year

Penn State Men's Baseball 2015 Military Appreciation Day. PSU invites military personnel, both currently serving and veterans, as well as their families to join them at 2:00 PM on Saturday, April 25th as they take on Illinois. Up to four free tickets per military family with proof of eligibility (i.e. military ID card, Department of Veterans Affairs ID card). Additional tickets may be purchased for a special rate of \$2 per ticket. Some highlights of the day include (1) Free Penn State Baseball T-shirts will be given away while supplies last (2) Military kids participation in on-field games/contests during the game For additional details or to start the registration process, visit <http://extension.psu.edu/4-h/projects/myp/events/purple-up-with-penn-state-men2019s-baseball>

Retired Navy VADM running for US Senator from PA. The MOAA.York.PA mailbox received a campaign announcement from a former active military officer running for national office in PA. It's noted here as a matter of possible interest to a member. If interested the website is <http://joesestak.com/>. Please note that neither MOAA nor MOAA York endorses political parties or candidates.

Other Business

MOAA (National) Selected Legislative 2015 Goals:

Active / Reserve Force/Family Issues

- Ensure active duty, Guard and Reserve force sizes meet mission requirements
- Sustain military pay comparability with private sector pay as required by law
- Protect currently serving and retiree benefits from severe, arbitrary sequestration cuts
- Credit all Post-9/11 active duty service toward Guard and Reserve early retirement
- Create new incentives for employers to hire and retain drilling Guard and Reserve members
- Restore tax deductions for reservists' out-of-pocket expenses for travel of 50 miles or more
- Create new incentives for employers/government/contractors to hire military spouses
- Protect funding for commissaries, exchanges, dependent schools and family support programs
- Ensure service sexual assault and suicide prevention measures provide positive outcomes
- Improve professional licensure transferability for service members and spouses
- Require better education on the financial disadvantages of the REDUX retirement option

Health Care Issues

- Avert a 24% Medicare/TRICARE payment cut and fix the statutory formula to improve care access
- Oppose means testing of TRICARE Prime and TRICARE for Life enrollment fees
- Block the consolidation of TRICARE health plans into a single plan providing less choice
- Improve seamless transition and protect Defense and VA health budgets/programs and benefits
- Authorize the option to retain operational reservists' civilian family health insurance upon call-up
- Increase orthodontia payment cap under active duty plan
- Authorize TRICARE coverage for Applied Behavioral Analysis for active and retired members

Retirement/Survivor Issues

- Evaluate Military Com & Retirement Modernization Commission recommendations
- Oppose military benefit changes that are inconsistent with service career sacrifices
- Preserve full-inflation cost of living adjustments (COLAs)
- End the deduction of VA disability compensation from military retired pay
- End deduction of VA Dependency & Indemnification Compensation from Survivor Benefit annuities
- Implement a more equitable military disability retirement system
- Restore VA Dependency & Indemnification Compensation for spouses who remarry after age 55
- Reform Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) calculation for reservists who die during Inactive Duty Tng
- Authorize survivors to retain a deceased retiree's full final month retired pay
- Reform the Uniform Services Former Spouse Protection Act (USFSPA)

Veterans / Other Issues

- Eliminate VA claims backlog and improve quality, efficiency and transparency of claims processing
- Improve VA healthcare services and access for women veterans
- Extend caregiver services and support to qualifying disabled veterans of all conflicts
- Authorize pre-tax payment of health, dental, and long-term health care premiums
- Prevent disproportional Social Security and Medicare penalties for any population segment

PA War Veterans Council (PAWVC) Legislative Committee Legislative Goals and Issues:

Background on how York Chapter MOAA fits-in with regards to military issues in PA:

(1) The **PAWVC** is comprised of representatives from major organizations representing PA's almost one million veterans. (2) MOAA York Chapter has representation on the **MOAA PA Council of Chapters (PACOC)** as one of its 16 members. The PACOC in turn has a representative on the PAWC. (3) The PAWC has one Rep on the **Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Affairs**. This Rep is one of 11 persons. Council members include the principal or designee for state equities as labor, education, civil service and corrections to name four. Testimony given by **Bruce Foster, Chairman of the PAWC Legislative Committee**, a member of the American Legion, on February 25, 2015, to the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee at the Capitol, Harrisburg, PA, is attached to this mail. It provides a rundown of veterans' issues being

addressed at state level. Members wishing to participate in PA legislature engagement activities should mail MOAA.York.PA@Gmail.com

Chapter Focuses. In response to a question on the membership renewal mail correspondence, the following were top four focuses identified:

- ✓ Affiliation w/ York County veterans outreach groups
- ✓ Support of state & MOAA legislative agenda
- ✓ Support PA Wounded Warriors Organization
- ✓ Jobs-career Vet coaching (including resume writing)

- Comments or questions? MOAA.York.PA@Gmail.com / Phone 717.747.1047 –

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

***Chartered** in November 1989, membership in York Chapter of MOAA is open to active duty, former, retired, Reserve and National Guard commissioned and warrant officers and cadets and midshipmen of the uniformed services—Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration –and their surviving spouses.*

NAME _____

E-Mail Address _____

Street Address _____ **City** _____ **STATE** _____ **Zip** _____

Service _____ **Component** _____ **Rank** _____

Active _____ **Reserve** _____ **Retired** _____ **Surviving Spouse** _____

Signature _____

Enclose: \$20.00 Check Payable to York Chapter, MOAA

Mail to: Membership, York Chapter MOAA, Box 3563, York, PA 17402