



Fort George G. Meade Chapter

Officers Call



Mar/Apr 2011
Five Star Chapter Award in 2010



Presidents Message:

Hi,

First let me introduce myself. I'm Jim Shiffrin and I am looking forward to the next two years as the President of the Fort Meade Chapter of MOAA. Since most Chapter members do not attend our bi-monthly meetings, I'm sure I have not met most of you. I'd like to change that by having a larger turnout for our meetings. Please contact me at Jim.Shiffrin@gmail.com or 410-766-5732 (in the evening) to discuss what we can do differently – or just come out to one of our Board of Directors' meetings. The next Board meeting will be on 19 Feb 2011 at 10:00AM at the Fort Meade Golf Course clubhouse. Any Chapter member is welcome to attend and participate!

A little about myself – I served on active duty from 1970 through 1990, leaving the Pentagon the day before Iraq invaded Kuwait. I was a Software Engineer during my USAF career, and am still working (part-time now) as a Software Engineer. I've been a member of MOAA since just before I retired, using the Resume Review and Mediplus services. I joined the Fort Meade Chapter in 2008, and was volunteered into being Treasurer. My wife Fran and I live in Severn. My priorities for 2011 are to increase meeting attendance (especially among our active duty members), to continue to lobby Congress and the Maryland Legislature on bills of interest to the military community, and to continue to support charitable activities like the USO at BWI.

I'd like to thank Jim Pede for his three-year tour as President (and most importantly his wife Audrey because we all know behind every successful man is a smart woman pointing the way), and hope I will be able to keep the Chapter as vibrant and relevant as it is today. I'd also like to thank those Officers and Board members who are continuing to serve, and those who have taken new Officer and Director positions. You will find their names to the right.

Congratulations to our own Captain Norm Taylor, USN-Retired (and his wife Carolyn) on his election as President of the Maryland Council of Chapters. We appreciate his leadership as Vice President of our chapter, and look forward to more of the same at the State level. Let's make 2011 even better than 2010, and earn an MOAA Excellence Award again.

Jim Shiffrin
Chapter President

Chapter Officers

President

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Immediate Past President
410-531-3794

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Personal Affairs Officer

Mrs. Eleanor Layman, AUX
443-296-7024

eleanorlayman@comcast.net

Welcome New Chapter Members

Please welcome our newest chapter members:

Captain Ronald D. Grossman, USA, (former) of Odenton, MD

Captain Robert W. Kelly, USA-Retired and his wife Anne of Columbia, MD

Get well wishes

COL Frank Akiyama is at home recuperating from hip surgery in December. He can be reached at 410-730-2087.

LTC Howard "Bud" Schindler is currently undergoing treatments for lung cancer in Rockledge, FL. Howard or his wife Sherry can be reached in Florida at 321-636-0545. They plan on returning to Maryland in early April.

Captain James Coleman, USN-Retired, is scheduled for open-heart surgery in early February. Jim is the Immediate Past President of the Annapolis MOAA Chapter.

USO Book Drive

The chapter's 2011 USO book drive at BWI airport has hit the ground running. Paperback books and magazines from the 20 January luncheon netted over 250 magazines and 200 paperback books for the troops at BWI. Food donations (snack food) donated so far amounted to \$20. If you require a pickup for delivery to BWI, contact John Whitman or bring your excess books/magazines to the 3 March luncheon and the chapter will ensure delivery.

Quote of the Day

"When you come to a fork in the road, take it." Yogi Berra

Chapter Dues

Your mailing label has a date in the lower left hand corner. If the date listed is 12/31/2010 or earlier your dues are now payable for the 2011 year. Annual chapter dues are \$12 for one year or 3 years for \$30. Auxiliary dues are \$5 per year. Thank you for your prompt attention.

Legislative

Senate Bill 190 has been introduced in the Maryland Senate. It would exempt \$10,000 from Military Retirement Pay after 12/31/2012, if passed. The Senate's Budget and Taxation Committee has scheduled a hearing for Wednesday, 9 February, in Annapolis. So far the House of Delegates has not introduced similar legislation. Now is the time to write, call or e-mail your State Senator to ask for his/her support. Also contact your Delegates and ask them to sponsor similar legislation in the House.

A Tip of the Hat

To: Captain Norm Henry Taylor upon his selection and election as the President of the Maryland Council of Chapters of MOAA. He has some big plans for the Maryland Chapters to include a meeting in Aug/Sept timeframe with your Congressional representatives in Washington, DC. More to follow on this but we need chapter members from all Congressional Districts in Maryland to show in big numbers on Capitol Hill.

COL Ed Cramer, LTC Pat Glass, LTC Chuck Miller, and CWO5 Larry Burbank for their generous donations of paperback books, magazines, and snack food to the USO book/magazine drive at the BWI. Also special thanks to Larry for lining up Mr. Wells Jones as our guest speaker for the January luncheon.

TOPS Corner CDR Jason Harris, USNR-Chapter Tops Officer, e-mail: JAH100@gmail.com

There is a Technical Job Fair scheduled at Club Meade on Wednesday, 16 March 2011 from 9AM to 2PM. This job fair is open to the public and there will be numerous employers eager to meet you so bring plenty of resumes. For additional details call 410-674-5240. Or e-mail: jduncan@dllr.state.md.us

2011 Chapter Luncheons and Board of Directors' Meetings (BOD)

Saturday, 19 Feb 2011: BOD meet at Golf Course Club House-10:00AM

Thursday, 3 Mar 2011: Luncheon – Club Meade-11:30AM

Saturday, 23 Apr 2011: BOD meet at Golf Course Club House-10:00AM

Thursday, 5 May 2011: Luncheon – Club Meade-11:30AM

Saturday, 20 Aug 2011: BOD meet at Golf Course Club House-10:00AM

Thursday, 1 Sep 2011: Luncheon – Club Meade-11:30AM

Saturday, 22 Oct 2011: BOD meet at Golf Course Club House 10:00AM

Thursday, 3 Nov 2011: Luncheon – Club Meade-11:30AM

ROWC luncheon will also be in November (TBD) FGGM/MOAA is co-sponsor



Immediate Past President Jim Pede thanks Mr. Wells Jones, CEO of Vet Dogs, Veterans K-9 Corps after his presentation to the FGGM/MOAA chapter on Thursday, 20 Jan. Jim also presented a \$200 check on behalf of the chapter to support the work of Vet Dogs.

Maryland Council of Chapters Goals 2011-2012 Captain Norm Henry Taylor, USN-Retired

- Publicize the availability of Council expertise in areas that strengthen chapter structure
- Assist with improving chapter to chapter communications
- Encourage chapter's sharing of its "best practice" (i.e. membership and web design)
- Assist chapters in reaching and maintaining a Level of Excellence standard
- One hundred percent representation of chapters at Council Meetings
- Review potential of establishing new chapters in areas of geographic opportunity
- Review benefit of activating Council Committees as a primary resource

Other Key Positions in the FGGM/MOAA Chapter

- COL Frank Akiyama, USA-Retired, BOD and a past chapter President
- LTC George L. Helwig, BOD, joined the board this fall
- Mrs. Cecille Morse, AUXILLAIRY Chairman, Cecille has been active in the chapter in numerous capacities for many years
- Mrs. Eleanor Layman, Personal Affairs
- CDR Jason Harris, USNR is our TOPS advisor

Currently the chapter has openings for a chapter recruiter (although every chapter member should be a recruiter), legislative affairs, newsletter editor, and we always need folks to present medals at ROTC and Junior ROTC award ceremonies (usually Mar-May time frame each year).

Volunteers for MOAA table displays at Open Houses, Vets events, and Retiree Appreciation Day are also needed. Most of these activities help the chapter tremendously and are not a big imposition on your time. Help is needed for other worthy community activities supported by the chapter and include the USO book/Magazine/Snack Food drive at BWI, Operation Welcome Home, and Honor Flight. Get involved. Contact any board member if interested.

Luncheon Thursday, 3 March at Club Meade

located at 6600 Mapes Ave on Ft Meade

Guest Speaker is FGGM/MOAA's own COL Ed Cramer, USA-Retired and Johns Hopkins US Family Health Care Plan

Bring a friend or prospective member to the meeting!

Join us at Club Meade Thursday, 3 March 2011 at 1130. Lunch begins at noon. Menu: garden salad, corned beef and cabbage, carrots, corn muffin, coffee/tea and special dessert brownie in glass. Cost is \$14.00 per person. Please make reservations by Monday, 28 February 2011 by COB.

Name(s) _____

Total Reservations _____ Check enclosed for total amount _____

Phone number: _____ e-mail: _____

Please mail reservations and checks payable to FGGM/MOAA, mail to:

LTC T. Wayne Hobbs, USA-Retired, home phone: (410)-799-8331

7305 Brookview Road, Unit 302

Elkridge, MD 21075-6080

If you make reservations but are a no-show for the luncheon, payment will still be required to the chapter. If you need to cancel your reservation please do so by Monday, 28 February 2011.

**The Fort George G. Meade Chapter
The Military Officers Association of America**

P.O. Box 743

Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-0743

www.mdmoaa.org

We're on the web