



General William Smallwood Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 554
Waldorf, MD 20604



The Smallwood Crier

Year 33 No. 3 April/May 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year is off to a great start! Our guest speaker during our March 14 luncheon was LtCol John Sherkus, Air Force navigator and Defense Attaché. His remarks included his experiences both as a pilot and his tours in Moscow as Instructor and Seminar Director at the Joint Military Attaché School. We are grateful for his visit and participation.



In case you missed it, the photo at left from our Feb/Mar newsletter was published in the April 3 edition of the Maryland Independent (Page B-14). Shown are most of the General Smallwood Chapter 2009-2010 Officers. We hope to have a more extensive feature article about the Chapter in the near future.

In last month's newsletter I also mentioned that I believe our Chapter has untapped potential both in terms of membership and as an organization in our local community. The question at hand is how to best engage members to determine what course to follow, since ultimately it is the membership that determines the degree of success in any endeavors the Chapter undertakes. I have learned from the BoD and officers that past solicitations for such information via mail had only limited success.

I think it is important to take into consideration the ideas of all members as we make plans not only for this year and the next, but the Chapter's future in general. **I propose that the May 9 luncheon be a special, one-time session to give us an opportunity to speak candidly about our Chapter goals and aspirations.** This would be our agenda and be in lieu of an invited guest speaker. I will lead the discussion; everyone—Chapter officers, BoD and all members—will have an opportunity to voice their opinions, propose ideas, and provide guidance regarding past lessons learned and future goals. I believe this will give Chapter officers the necessary, tangible inputs to meet member needs and effectively plan future activities.

Sample discussion points include but are not limited to:

- **Membership:** How important is it to "grow" the chapter? What may we expect in 3-5 years or beyond if we do not increase membership?
- **Member Profiles:** Is there value in publishing Chapter member profiles that would include brief biographical highlights and help with member networking?

- **Local Community:** Does the Chapter wish to establish a scholarship fund? Are there other areas of interest such as recycling and JROTC? What expertise do Chapter members have that could add value to the community?
- **Chapter History:** Are you among or do you know any charter members of the General Smallwood Chapter? We have the original documents (May 15, 1976)! Did you know we have copies of most previous chapter newsletters, as well as photographs from past General Smallwood Chapter events?
- **Information Exchange:** Up-to-date contact information is key to timely distribution. Often information is passed to us from MOAA national, from another chapter or the Maryland Council that is of interest to many but can from a practical standpoint be passed only via email. Recent examples include: Legislative activities about health care and associated fees, retirement pay taxation, veteran job fairs, Buffalo Soldier Memorial Banquet, African American Patriots Day...the list goes on.
- **Chapter Committees:** Programs, Personal Affairs and Legislative Affairs are among the committees that could use more participation.
- **Chapter Luncheon Speaker Program:** What topics or persons are of interest? Do you know someone or have someone in mind? Let us know and we will do the contacting and scheduling.

As you can see, there is much to discuss. Help shape our Chapter's future with your ideas! I look forward to hearing your ideas.

v/r

Günter Finkenauer, President

MEMBERSHIP

A copy of the chapter roster is inclosed for those who were not at the March meeting. Please do not share this list or information with any anyone.

Welcome New Member: Lt.Col. Robert L. Striegel USAF Ret.

May 2009 Chapter Luncheon

Date: Saturday, May 9, 2009	Cost: \$17.00
Place: VFW Post 8810 RT 925 (Old Washington Road) Waldorf, MD	Menu: stuffed pork chops, vegetables, rolls salad, apple sauce
	Dessert- Please bring a "goodie" to share.
Time: 1130: Social hour 1200: Lunch	Speaker: None Special Session **Please pay at the door

Please call Sandy Mitchell with your reservation by May 4th. (301-934-8086)

General Smallwood Chapter Notes

Directions to the VFW: From Route 301 in Waldorf, turn onto VFW Road by Ken Dixon Chevrolet-Cadillac dealership, then turn right on Old Washington Road, and immediately into the VFW parking lot.

Chapter Committees:

The chapter has several standing committees that assist the officers and board in conducting Chapter business. We are always looking for members to volunteer to work on or chair a committee. Please contact Gunter Finkenauer or any of the Chapter officers if you have any questions. Listed below are the standing committees:

- **Programs:** This committee secures guest speakers and entertainment for Chapter events.
- **Personal Affairs:** This committee answers questions about benefits for members and spouses, and assists when a member passes away.
- **Legislative Affairs:** This committee keeps the membership up to date on legislation of interest to the group.
- **Special Projects:** This committee manages the aluminum recycling program, the JROTC programs and Boys and Girls State programs.
- **Newsletter:** This committee writes and distributes the newsletter.

Chapter Meeting Schedule for 2009

The Board of Directors has set the meeting schedule for the 2009 calendar year. Specific meeting times, locations and programs will be announced in subsequent newsletters.

- May 9
- June 6, Gen. Smallwood Chapter Cribbage
- August 15, Southern Maryland Chapter Picnic
- September 19
- October 31
- December 12

Memorial Day Ceremony, Monday, May 25, 11:00 a.m. The Town will host the annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Monument at the La Plata Town Hall. There will be guest speakers, a wreath laying ceremony, and musical entertainment. Refreshments will be provided following the ceremony. *For information on any of the above events, Please contact Amy Peña at 301-934-8421, ext.142 or via email at apena@townoflaplata.org.*

Reservation Form for Luncheon, May 9, 2009

Name: _____

Number attending: _____

Cost: \$17.00 per person

**Mail to: General Smallwood Chapter, MOAA
 P.O. Box 554, Waldorf, MD 20604-0554**

Mail by: Monday, March 9, 2009

If you prefer, you may contact Sandy Mitchell with your reservation information at 301-934-8086 and pay at the door.



MOAA

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WALDORF, MD 20604-0554**

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