



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



The Smallwood Crier

Year 35 No. 2 February/March 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Let me begin by thanking all the members of the General Smallwood Chapter for their vote of confidence as we embark on the 35th year of the Chapter. The Board of Directors will endeavor to serve with the same distinction as previous boards. I am grateful for the terrific job Roy Hale and other officers have done in past years, and we hope to make 2009 another good year.

During our January 17th meeting, Colonel Bob Norton, Deputy Director for Government Relations, MOAA, officiated at the installation of the officers for our Chapter as well as those of the PG County Chapter. We are grateful for his participation and for his informative talk about on-going MOAA activities.



General Smallwood Chapter 2009-2010 Officers (l-r): Günter Finkenauer, President; Roy Hale, 1st Vice President; Ernie Wallace, Board Member; George Reeder, Personal Affairs Committee Chair; Sandy Mitchell, Membership Committee Chair; Darlene Keller, Board Member; Terry Briggs, 2nd Vice President; Polly Zimmerman, Secretary; Jake Mitchell, JROTC (Not in picture: Jim Goldsmith, Treasurer)

This newsletter lists this year's schedule of meetings. We have again extended an invitation to the PG Chapter to participate in our luncheons, offering to continue this joint activity. I encourage all Chapter members to suggest ideas for guest speakers and topics of interest. We also have some new members who recently joined the General Smallwood Chapter. It is my pleasure to introduce Bob Ryan, LTCDR, USN (Ret.) and his wife Minerva; Mike Rhoden, COL, USA (Ret.) and his wife Margie; Jim Starnes, CDR, USN (Ret.) and his wife Carol; and also Jamie Baggstrom, LtCol (ANG) and her husband Bob. Welcome!

Let me share some thoughts with you about my vision for the General Smallwood Chapter. I believe we have a great deal of untapped potential both as a MOAA Chapter and as an organization in our local community. Our members have a heritage rich in experience, and I propose we examine how we might increase our activity level. I propose we set as a goal to increase our membership to develop our breadth of actionable ideas, which in turn will benefit all the members. To make this a reality will take all our participation. I suggest we all take a proactive step to help. (Making a phone call to a prospective new member is a great example of being involved!) If you have done much in the past, I ask you continue with your support. Ultimately, however, the direction this Chapter follows is up to all of its members! MOAA's current "Give Me Ten" campaign encourages all Chapters to add at least 10 new members to their rosters this year.

You will notice some minor changes to our luncheon: The VFW has agreed to rearrange the buffet set-up for access from both sides; our more senior members will be given first access to the buffet; and due to the sensitivity to smoke of a number of our members I have asked the air be cleared out prior to our luncheon.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve.

Günter Finkenauer, President

Membership: It has been a busy month with membership renewal. Our Chapter now has 71 members and we look forward to increasing our ranks. For new members, both our Smallwood Chapter and MOAA offer one year of free membership! So if you have any friends who would like to join, please contact Sandy Mitchell at 301-934-8086 or email her at sandandjake@aol.com. Sandy will ensure prospective members receive the application forms.

Letters to the Front: Since 2001, Charles County students have participated in writing letters of support to our troops stationed in remote areas such as Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia, and recently Afghanistan and Iraq. This year alone a total of 408 letters were written and sent to service members. This involved JROTC students from several area High Schools: Admiral Henry E. Lackey, Maurice J. McDonough, Thomas Stone and LaPlata. Mr. Mazzeo's History classes (LaPlata HS) also participated.

One of our chapter members, Colonel Dan Donohue, USMC is currently serving in Afghanistan, and he has offered to distribute our letters to his troops. The Smallwood Chapter thanks him very much!

March 2009 Chapter Luncheon

Date: Saturday, March 14, 2009	Cost: \$17.00
Place: VFW Post 8810 RT 925 (Old Washington Road) Waldorf, MD	Menu: Stuffed pork chops, vegetables, rolls salad, apple sauce
	Desert provided by the Smallwood Chapter
Time: 1130: Social hour 1200: Lunch	Speaker: Mr. John Sherkus, Defense Intelligence Agency
Speaker	1300:

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.

Officers installed for calendar years 2009 and 2010

President	Gunter Finkenauer
First VP	Roy Hale
Second VP	Terry Briggs III
Treasurer	Jim Goldsmith
Secretary	Polly Zimmerman

Board of Directors: Darlene Keller, Ernie Wallace

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.

- March 14
- May 9
- June 6, tentative, Gen. Smallwood Chapter Cribbage)
- August, date tbd, Southern Maryland Chapter Picnic
- September 19
- October 31
- December 12

Reservation Form for Luncheon, March 14, 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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