



Fort George G. Meade MOAA Chapter Newsletter

January / February 2017



Five Star Chapter
Seven Consecutive Years (2009-2015)



Chapter President's Message

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Hello and welcome to the New Year 2017, the year of the "Fire Rooster" per Chinese astrology. This year is to be "trustworthy, with a strong sense of timekeeping and responsibility at work." I find these attributes most appropriate to the tasks ahead of the FGGM MOAA Chapter this year.

President
LTC Bryon "BK" Hartzog,
USA-Retired
757-871-7605, bkhartzog@gmail.com

As your new chapter president, my intent is to obtain your trust and confidence, and with your help, achieve the following yearly goals:

1st Vice President
Vacant

- increase chapter membership by 20% (e.g. ~ 23 new members)
- increase awareness of the FGGM Chapter activities via social media
- revitalize the Chapter's Board of Directors and establish Committee's resulting in productive, efficient and meaningful programs for MOAA chapter members and their spouses
- incorporate relevant and motivating speakers at monthly luncheons/dinners and host at reputable (and affordable) locations throughout the local area inviting members spouses / significant others
- increase membership involvement in crucial legislative affairs remotely via email and phone, as well as in person (e.g. Storm the Hill, Caucus in Annapolis)
- schedule activities for both spouses and young families promoting fellowship among members (e.g. dinner theater, picnic, day at AGC range)

2nd Vice President
Vacant

Treasurer
LTC T. Wayne Hobbs, USA-Retired
410-799-8331
Twaynehobbs1@verizon.net

Secretary
Vacant

Director Emeritus
LTC Alfred Shehab, USA-Retired
410-674-7333 hotspur38@verizon.net

I nor the current BOD's can achieve these goals by ourselves; we need your assistance and participation. We need motivated souls who value their military benefits and believe wholeheartedly they are worth fighting for.

Directors

COL Gorham L. Black, III,
USA-Retired, 301-776-1807
gblackiii@aol.com

I realize we have a few senior members who require transportation and the chapter is willing and able to provide you a ride. I also realize we have members who are probably in better shape than I, but are apprehensive about committing time to the Chapter. Yes, time it does take, but isn't your military benefits, specifically your retirement pension, worth some time fighting for? If you are unsure how you can help, contact myself or any of the officer's listed to the right to discuss. No matter the length of time you have available, we will find a way you can contribute. One area we need immediate assistance is the management of the bi-monthly newsletter. If you or your spouse are proficient in Microsoft Office, enjoy graphic design and journalism, contact John Whitman.

Membership / Recruitment Co-Chairs

Maj Jim Shiffrin, USAF-Retired
410-766-5732,
Jim.Shiffrin@gmail.com

Lt CDR Steven R. Collins, USNR
443-398-1900
lt.srcollins.usn@gmail.com

This year is promising to be a very busy, yet rewarding legislative year. I pray you are eager and motivated as I to get to work on protecting our retirement benefits, as well as the benefits of those who will come after us. Do not hesitate to contact me via email or cell should you have any questions or concerns. I am also eager to hear your suggestions on how to make this chapter better for the benefit of its members. Wishing all a blessed year and am looking forward to working alongside each and every one.

Past President

Maj John T. Whitman, USAF-Retired
410-551-0528, jwhitmanth@verizon.net

Personal Affairs Officer and Auxiliary Liaison

Mrs. Gitti Lund, 410-465-5787
RELUNDJR@verizon.net

God Bless. "BK" Hartzog

USO BWI Airport Book/Magazine Drive

2017 contributions include 28 magazines, 3 hard cover books, 5 paperback books, and \$41 in snack food donations. Don't forget to bring your gently read books and magazines (magazines must be current/no older than 3 months) to the next luncheon meeting and we will ensure delivery to the USO at BWI. Leave your name on your donation or better yet fill out the donation in kind form at the meeting and we will also deliver that to the USO personnel at BWI. They will either mail or e-mail a donation in kind letter to you for income tax purposes. Food items must be individually wrapped per USO guidance.

Community Council Notes

(Courtesy of Major Jim Shiffrin and Rebecca Conover)

- COL Rickard told us the Fort is still growing, with US Cyber Command becoming a full Combatant Command and other agencies arriving or growing. We can expect road work across the post through 2020. He also told us the DES Military Police unit was selected as the best MP unit in the Army, again!
- Speaking of road work, the Llewellyn Gate will be opening in the Spring with the same hours as the Mapes/175 gate. The Mapes/175 gate will then close for about a year for a major reconstruction. Following that, in the Summer of 2018, Mapes/175 will reopen and the Reese gate will close for a year. Eventually, they hope to actually have all three gates open, starting in 2019!
- There are a number of scholarships available for military children (if not yours, perhaps your grandchildren):
 - The Defense Commissary Agency's Scholarship for Military Children has a deadline of 17 Feb 2017. Visit <http://www.militaryscholar.org> for details.
 - The Enlisted Spouses Club Scholarship for Military Dependents has a deadline of 24 Mar 2017. Visit <http://www.ftmeadeesc.org/scholarship-opportunities> for details.
 - The Corvias Foundation also has a scholarship for military dependents with a deadline of 9 Feb 2017. Visit <http://www.corvias.com/giving-back/foundation> for details.
- If you see potholes or any other safety hazard around Ft Meade, please call 301-677-2396 to report it. Club Meade will host a Mardi Gras lunch on 26 Feb for \$30/person (\$27 for members).
- The Arts and Crafts Center on York Rd can now print unit/organization logos on things like T-shirts and coffee cups.
- Private brands are coming to the Commissary, starting with about 400 items in May, and expanding to over 1000 items by the end of the year. Regular brands will still be available, but the private brands should be cheaper.
- February is American Heart Month, and Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center will have a table at the Commissary 9-15 Feb handing out information on heart-healthy diets.

Congratulations

Captain Andrew and Uni Wong are proud parents for the third time with the arrival of their daughter Ariana on January 12th.

Fort Meade Technical Job Fair

This job fair will have at least 62 companies and/or organizations present. A free resume evaluation and preparation assistance service is available courtesy of Resume Doctor. Bring plenty of resumes and dress for success.

Location: Club Meade (6600 Mapes Ave) on Ft Meade

Time: Wednesday 22 March 2017, from 9AM to 2PM.

Dues Notifications

Notices for Chapter dues (2nd notice) have gone out. It is imperative you pay your dues promptly. Thank you if your check has already crossed in the mail. You now have the option of paying chapter dues on-line at the MOAA web site: www.moaa.org. Click on the “Chapters and Councils” tab, then click the “Chapters Dues tab, and then select “Join or Renew Chapter Dues” tab.

Members who fail to pay their annual dues by 31 December 2017 after three notifications will be administratively removed from the chapter rosters and placed into an inactive status.

Action Items on Pending Legislation in Congress and Maryland

By now you should have received your February issue of MILITARY OFFICER magazine. Inside are four letters (two addressed to the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, two addressed to House Majority and Minority Leaders-the military member has two letters and if married the spouse will also have two). All you have to do is sign and slap a stamp on them if you care about the adverse impact of sequestration on the DoD budget and SBP/DIC offset on 63,000 survivors whose spouse died from military service. MOAA has done the heavy lifting by carefully crafting and printing the letters. These letters will help LTC Hartzog and Col Kaplan, our MDCOC President and 1st VP respectively, grease the wheels when they “Storm the Hill” in the halls of Congress in early April. Please take care of this today if you have not already done so. And then visit www.moaa.org to sign up for the weekly legislative alerts by e-mail.

This week and next there are two important bills in Annapolis that if passed will exempt military retirement pay from Maryland State Income taxes. They are HB 375 and SB 321. Both bills would phase out state income taxes in 3 yearly increments until military retirement income would be 100% tax free after December 31, 2019.

HB 375 will be heard in the House Ways and Means Committee on Wednesday February 15th at 1:00 PM in Annapolis. Write your Delegates now to tell them this is important to you.

SB 321 will be heard by the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee on Wednesday February 22nd at 1:00 PM. We need maximum turn out for both bills even if you do not plan to testify. Again write your State Senator to urge his/her support for this bill. If you are unsure who your state representatives are go to <http://mdelect.net/> and fill in your street address and city. You can also call John Whitman at 410-551-0528 and he will check your voting district on the chapter roster. Get those letters and e-mails out now and follow up with a phone call to your legislators.

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

Monthly Luncheon



Location: All American Steak House, 1502
Annapolis Road, Odenton, MD 21113 (just
outside Fort Meade Meade)

Time: Thursday, March 2, 2017

1130-1200: Social gathering and ordering of meals.

1200-1300: Lunch and guest speaker

1300-1315: Closing remarks and raffle

Cost: Pay as you go. Menu and prices are on the restaurant website at <http://theallamericansteakhouse.com/location-detail/?id=19>. There are nine lunch time specials at \$9.99 each.

Featured Speaker: Our very own CAPTAIN Jim Gourley, USN-Retired. Jim will be speaking on volunteer opportunities and his work with the American Red Cross and missionary trip with his church to Zimbabwe.

Please RSVP with the total number of guests to T. Wayne Hobbs at 410-799-8331 or e-mail: Twaynehobbs1@verizon.net.

Total Number of Guests (*Required for seating accommodations*): _____

Name(s) of Guests: _____

Reservations are required by **COB Monday February 27th, 2017**; walk-ins will be accommodated on a space available basis.