



Montgomery County, MD Chapter

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

4th Monday of Each Month -- Regularly scheduled meeting of the chapter executive group. The chapter meets for dinner at 1815 hours on the fourth Monday of the month. The business meeting starts at 1900. The meeting currently is being held at the Urban Burger in Rock Creek Village Shopping Center Bauer Drive just off Norbeck Road/MD 28 in Rockville. The meetings are open to any member who would like to participate in chapter deliberations – or just socialize. Contact a chapter officer prior to attending to confirm the date and location.

OFFICERS

President
Col Harvey Kaplan
USA Ret

Past President
LCDR Art Glover
USN Ret

1st VP
LCDR Art Glover
USN Ret

2nd VP
CAPT David H. Peterson
NOAA Ret.

Secretary
Col G. R. Surman
AUS

Treasurer
LCDR William Schultz
USN Ret

Luncheons -- 2010 -- Recent luncheons have been joint events with a federal retiree group. The luncheons are held at the Manor Country Club off Norbeck Road Rt. 28, just west of Georgia Avenue. They are regularly scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month. All luncheon meetings are at noon, with a lunch buffet at 12:30 PM. The price of the luncheon is \$20. Please RSVP with names and number of participants to: Jim Dittbrenner at 301-460-9611, or Jimditt@verizon.net; or to John Lass at 301-871-6734.

Manor Country Club Carrolton Road,
Rockville, MD 20853 • 301 929-1700
Dining Style: Casual Elegant
Cuisine: American
Web site <http://www.manorcc.org/>

Chapter News

The Chapter President's Corner - I'm pleased to report that our Chapter will be receiving a 4-star Level of Excellence Award from MOAA at the Annual Meeting in San Antonio at the end of October. This award is both in recognition of our work in support

of MOAA missions and for the high quality programs we have scheduled during the past calendar year. We'll be awarded a new streamer for our MOAA Montgomery Chapter flag. We are planning to present it officially to the Chapter at our November 19th luncheon at Manor Country Club.

On the subject of luncheons, I'd like to encourage our members (both active duty and retired) to take advantage of these wonderful monthly programs. We've consistently had excellent speakers on subjects of genuine interest to our military community. Since somewhere near half of our Chapter members are on active duty, I would like to ask those of you still serving to pick out a third Wednesday of the month and join us for a social hour, a professional development presentation from our speaker, and a fine lunch in our private dining room at the Club. Bring your supervisor and colleagues too! (If they are on active duty they are eligible for free membership in both the Chapter and National MOAA). Kindly notify Jim Dittbrenner if you're not receiving the monthly announcements of these exciting programs: jimditt@verizon.net .

We're disseminating the word so that our members can take advantage of our Maryland MOAA Summer 2012 trip to Hawaii. You should have received an e-mail recently on what is being planned include touring in Honolulu and a 7-night cruise around the Hawaiian Islands (with several ports of call). If you think you may be interested and do not have the background information on the trip, please go to our Maryland MOAA Council's web site for details and the point of contact at MOAA Travel: www.mdmoaa.org . Please join us for our annual Holiday Luncheon in December (Wednesday, December 21st at Manor Country Club). Everyone had such an enjoyable time at our December meeting last year. Instead of our traditional guest speaker, for that gathering we will be recognizing the staff members at the Club for their excellent service and support, and we'll be distributing numerous interesting and valuable door prizes. There'll be other surprises too. Don't miss our December Luncheon!

.Sincerely, Colonel *Harvey J. Kaplan* USA Ret

20 July Luncheon – Congresswoman Donna Edwards (Maryland 4th district) was scheduled to speak at the luncheon but was unable to attend due to congressional duties. Staff member Rasheen Wright replaced her. Mr Wright provided information on a number of initiatives for veterans that the congresswoman championed. The list includes:

- Encouragement to the Veterans Administration to speed the processing
- Involved with a job fair (3000 attendees)
- Federal career day (October 2010) (150 attendees)
- Veterans benefits after 2010 (support on foreclosures and financial management)
- A college fair (financial aid)
- Service academy selection



Mr Wright provided the congresswoman's web address for further insight on district 4

initiatives. <http://donnaedwards.house.gov/>

17 August Luncheon - Captain Craig McLean, NOAA (ret), spoke about Ocean Exploration. There is much to be done in this discipline. The Captain explained that ocean maps are not complete and in fact our own US continental shelf is only 20% mapped. The resolution of the maps available are less than those available for the planet Mars.



Understanding the oceans is the last frontier on earth to explore. Further knowledge of the creatures in the seas could be useful for medical initiatives. An abundance of methane in the depths is a resource that could provide energy benefits to the US. Other countries have initiatives to capture this resource but we do not . Because of the depth the methane is highly compacted. The expansion that will occur on retrieving the compacted methane to the surface provides special difficulties to be resolved. .

September Luncheon - Chapter member Lieutenant Colonel Bob Pelletier USA(ret) presented the employment services available in the County. The old unemployment office has been replaced by “Montgomery Works” which is a one stop service center for those needing help. The extent of support available to veterans is impressive. Colonel Pelletier presented in detail the veteran services.

Veterans receive priority access to available resources. Services include:

- Career counseling, resume assistance, job search & referral assistance
- Training opportunity referral to enhance the employability of veterans
- Transition assistance to connect retiring/ separating military personnel to special programs designed for civilian careers
- Assistance in applying for government jobs and priority hiring assistance through federal contractors (New Program: Mil2FedJobs)
- Case Management and referral to supportive services for veterans with barriers to employment
- Access to other vet specific programs, services, and benefit information
- Licensing and Certification



Some of the barriers to employment among veterans include: homelessness, incarceration, drugs and alcohol, emotional challenges, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, service connected physical disabilities, lack of skills, education and training, and lack of transportation

Montgomery County Veteran Services operatives include one Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) and two Disabled Veterans Outreach Program

Specialists (DVOPs). The LVER manages the Veterans Program through outreach to federal contractors, businesses, service clubs, and veterans, and veteran-related organizations. The DVOPs assist all veterans who are searching for jobs. Assistance includes:

- Civilian resumes, Federal Resumes, and Training Programs
- Overcoming barriers to employment
- Vocational guidance
- Sending over 200 job listings daily to over 650 Montgomery County Veterans

These programs serve over 1800 Veterans annually.

Note! In order to receive services, the Veteran must have served 180 days on active duty, be registered in the Maryland Work Force Exchange, and not have a Dishonorable Discharge.

The breath of services requires the use of partners. Partners involved with veterans include:

- Way Station/ TransCen (Veterans Workforce Investment Program) Counselor Monthly Job Search Seminars
- Ex-offender Coordinator (Monthly visits to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility)
- State Veterans Affairs Representative (Twice monthly on-site at Montgomery Works)
- Fleet and Family Support Office- WRAMC/NNMC Bethesda (Two Transition Assistance Program (TAP) Briefings) (Resume assistance monthly)
- Montgomery County Veterans Collaborative
- Combat to College at Montgomery College
- Vet Center (Rockville)
- Operation Home Front (Gaithersburg) Ombudsman
- Apprenticeship Programs (i.e.: WANADA)
- PROVET
- American Legion Post, Wheaton
- Annual “Winterhaven” project for Homeless Veterans at VA Medical Center Wash. DC

The First Maryland Annual Legislative Appreciation Luncheon - conducted by the Maryland Council of (MOAA) Chapters was held at the Rayburn Building on 14 September. Nine chapter members attended this activity sharing tables with Congresswoman Donna Edwards (Maryland 4th district) and representatives of Congressman Chris Van Hollen (8th district) and Senator Ben Cardin.

Another Award Streamer for the Chapter - Colonel Lee F. Lange II USMC (Ret); Director, Council and Chapter Affairs; Military Officers Association of America, has congratulated the chapter on its being selected as a four star 2010 Level of Excellence Award winner. Chapters will be presented with their four and five-star streamers by General Michael Carns, USAF (ret), MOAA’s chairman of the board, at the Levels of Excellence Awards Dinner at San Antonio Texas on October 29.

Chapter Members -- We welcome the following new members to the Chapter:

LCDR Gregory, Tchernavia, USPHS; LCDR Gill, Jaspreet, USPHS; LT Summer, Casey, USPHS; LCDR Klink, Kimberly, USPHS; LT Ruiz, Iraidia, USPHS; LCDR Helmstetter, Catherine, USPHS; LT Bishop, Kendra, USPHS; LT Rodriguez, Tami, USPHS; LCDR Carothers, John, USPHS; LT Ogonowski, Pamela, USPHS; LT Carlisle, Karen, USPHS; LCDR Pie, Robert, USPHS; LCDR Christ, Joseph, USPHS; LCDR Hamilton, Brent, USPHS; LT Patel, Manisha, USPHS; LCDR Bearden, Brian, USPHS; LTjg Tuggle, Krista S., USPHS; LTjg Gonzales, Evudio Mercado, USPHS; LT Valgardson, Joshua, USPHS; LTjg Wright, Trisha, USPHS; LT Johnson, Aaron, USPHS; Ltc Pelletier, Bob, USA; CW3 Godwin, Jerry, USA; CAPT McLean, Craig N., NOAA; COL Anderson, Brian D., USAF; LT Dudley, Janet E., USPHS; LCDR Zhou, Eric X., USPHS; LCDR Zhou, Helen, USPHS; LCDR Anagnostiadis, Eleni, USPHS; LTjg Howard, Crystal J., USPHS; LT Parker, Erin M., USPHS; LTjg Kibei, Rebecca M., USPHS; LT Gallo, Deborah A., USPHS; LCDR Roman, Jasmin S., USPHS; LCDR Hancock, William T., USPHS; LT Cuthrell, Solita J., USPHS; LTjg Klevos, Andrew D., USPHS; LTjg Sheehan, Christopher M., USPHS; LT Meyer, Sarah A., USPHS; LCDR Park, Judy, USPHS; LT Bongratz, Jennifer L., USPHS; LT Gronostaj, Michael P., USPHS; LT Gustafson, Jeremy S., USPHS; LT Bailey, Jori, USPHS; LCDR Faber, Thomas J., USPHS; LT Walters, Maroya S., USPHS; LT Halldin, Cara N., USPHS; LT McNeil, Sonya L., USPHS; LT Henaghan, Kristi B., USPHS; LT Haley, James M., USPHS; LCDR Antonucci, Maria D., USPHS; LTjg Holt, Elizabeth, USPHS; LT McElwee, Grant A., USPHS; LT Krayner, Michelle A., USPHS; LT Lui, Crystal P., USPHS; LT Joseph, Rachael H., USPHS; LT Schriener, Cara B., USPHS;

“At Large” Board Members - The Chapter board would very much like to appoint two new “At Large” members as soon as possible. They would not have specific titles or responsibilities. We need more members to participate in Chapter planning, even in a role involving minor time and effort. The members should as a minimum attend the evening board meetings, If you are interested in such a position contact Col. Kaplan or send an E-mail to the Chapter secretary. MOAA05@verizon.net

MOAA Information

Old Cell Phone Turn-In Date Extended - You can still turn in old cell phones to the Chapter until Mid-January. Turn them in at the Chapter meetings or mail them to our post office box. Each recycled cell phone translates into 60 minutes of phone talk time for the overseas military service member.

Of Interest

Mobilized Reserve 20 SEP 2011 - The Department of Defense announced the current number of reservists on active duty as of 20 SEP 2011. The net collective result is 1739 more reservists mobilized than last reported on 1 SEP 2011. The total number currently on active duty from the Army National Guard and Army Reserve is 71,771; Navy Reserve, 4,704; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 10,782; Marine Corps Reserve, 5,697; and the Coast Guard Reserve, 653. This brings the total National Guard and Reserve personnel who have been activated to 93,607, including both units and individual augmentees. A cumulative roster of all National Guard and Reserve personnel who are currently activated may be found at: <http://www.defense.gov/news/d20110920ngr.pdf>. [DOD News Release No. 823-11) ,

Veterans Invited to a Veteran’s Day Event - Montgomery County, MD will unveil and dedicate a Veterans Memorial Artwork at the Silver Spring Civic Building at Veterans Plaza

on Veterans Day, 11/11/11, at 11 am. The work for the plaza will be historic photographs molded into clay with wooden panels. It will have three etched glass panels sitting above bronze bas relief panels. Five branches of the military will be included in the panels. The panels are of Ft. McHenry, the MD 29th Infantry, train station, and storming the Utah Beach. The panels will represent Montgomery County, the State of Maryland, and the United States. The Commission has requested that the artwork also include the inscription of the United States Public Health Service and National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration. The theme will be letters to and from home from all eras in which our county residents have served. Toy Mended, the artist, is from the Frederick area.

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/hhs/ads/VA/PDFs/vetday2011savethedate.pdf>

Activities of the Commission can be found on the Montgomery County Veterans Affairs web site: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhstmpl.asp?url=/content/hhs/ads/VA/cva.asp>

LINKS

George Washington University and The Reserve Officers Association host former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld in an address that covers comments on his recent book, and periods of his political career. Additionally he responded to questions from the audience. Time of video - 52 minutes.

<http://www.youtube.com/discovergw#p/u/12/AMU9iNSVlo0>

INSIGHT

“We are either a United people, or we are not. If the former, let us, in all matters of general concern act as a nation, which have national objects to promote, and a national character to support. If we are not, let us no longer act a farce by pretending to it.” [sic]
--George Washington, letter to James Madison, 1785

“[W]hen the resolution of enslaving America was formed in Great Britain, the British Parliament was advised by an artful man, who was governor of Pennsylvania, to disarm the people; that it was the best and most effectual way to enslave them; but that they should not do it openly, but weaken them, and let them sink gradually.” --George Mason

Military Humor

“When In Doubt, Empty The Magazine”

““Happiness Is A Belt-Fed Weapon”