



UPPER POTOMAC CHAPTER

Recipient of the 2017 MOAA 5 Star Level of Excellence Award

January 15, 2018

Chapter Officers

President

LtCol Hugh M. McIlroy, Jr, USMC, Ret.

1st Vice President

COL Luciano Muniz, Jr, USA, Ret.

2nd Vice President

MAJ John R. Derr, USA, Ret.

Secretary

Mrs. Mary Lee Schumeyer

Treasurer

LtCol Robert S. Fenimore, USAF, Ret.

Board Members

COL Douglas W. Reichard, USA, Ret.
CAPT Joseph N. Shrader, USCG, Ret.
CPT Wilmer K. Benson, USA, Ret.
CPT Jason Ruth, USAR
Col Lawra Lee, USAF, Ret
CDR Jeff Bodie, USN, Ret.

Chaplain

LTC Carol VanSchenk Hof, USA, Ret.

Legislative Affairs

PA- LtCol Hugh M. McIlroy, Jr, USMC, Ret.

MD-CAPT Guy F. Everhart, USN, Ret.

WV-Vacant

Personal Affairs Officer

Mrs. Barbara L. Bodie

Program Chair

Mrs. Joan Muniz

Surviving Spouse Liaison

Mrs. Jayne Bongard

Newsletter Editor

COL Gerard Schumeyer, USA, Ret.

...from the President



We have carried outstanding momentum forward from 2017. The Christmas Luncheon

at Holly Hills was remarkable: we had a record 72 in attendance, the Fort Detrick Chapel Choir was delightful and we had a wonderful time. Then, on 13 January 15 officers, board members and program charis attended our Board of Directors meeting. The energy and enthusiasm of the officers and directors is incredible. The meeting lasted almost three hours and accomplished a tremendous amount of business. We approved a Chapter Fiscal Policy, updated our Strategic Plan and Program Requirements, approved a new newsletter advertising program, increased our support for the Fort Detrick Retiree Council, approved cash awards for the cadets we honor from Hood College and Mount ST.

Mary's College and increased our support for our recruiting efforts. Four outstanding charities were briefed to receive our scramble proceeds and the Hospice of Frederick County won by an overwhelming majority vote. We approved contracts for the scramble and Christmas Luncheon and embarked on an exciting Events Program. The Garrison Commander at Fort Detrick, Colonel Scott Halter, will be our Guest Speaker at our 17 February luncheon and the Secretary of the Maryland Department Veterans Affairs will be our Guest Speaker at our 20 October luncheon.

This is an election year for the Chapter, so we encourage all of you to consider nominating one, or more, of our members for elected office. After many, many years of dedicated service and enthusiastic support of our chapter, Mary Lee and Jerry Schumeyer will step down. So, in addition to the 2nd Vice President position that will be vacant due to the advancement of the incumbents, we need to nominate a new Secretary.

As well, we are seeking volunteers for Membership Chair, Newsletter Editor, TOPS Liaison/Transition Assistance Officer and Webmaster that Jerry Schumeyer has performed so well for so long.

I am excited about the coming year and look forward to Never Stop Serving for yet one more year.

Warmest regards, HMcl

February Meeting and Luncheon

Join us on **Saturday, February 17, 11:30 a.m.** at Dutch's Daughter, Frederick, MD for our first business meeting of the New Year. Hugh McIlroy will bring you up-to-date on our plans for 2018. Our guest speaker will be COL Scott M. Halter, U.S. Army, Commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Ft. Detrick. **Reservations are due NLT Monday, February 12, 2018.** A reservation form is provided at the end of the newsletter.

Changes to Chapter Program Chairs

Mrs. Barbara Bodie is now our Chapter Personal Affairs Officer, 301-644-1651 or senecajgb@comcast.net; Mrs. Joan Muniz is now our Program Chair, 210-722-9354 or popeyemuniz@yahoo.com.

The Board of Directors thanks these individuals for volunteering to fill these very important Chapter positions.

2018 Annual Dues

This is the Last Call for 2018 dues. Dues are \$20/year. Our Lifetime Membership option is \$150. If you are a new member who joined after July 2017, you will be credited with 2018 dues. Also, any member who recruited a new member for 2017 will receive a credit for 2018. **Please send your dues payment to our Treasurer, Bob Fenimore, 8611 Discovery Blvd, Walkersville, MD 21793.** If you have any questions about your dues status, contact Jerry Schumeyer, 301-696-1191, theschumeyers@comcast.net

Recruit a New Member for 2018



February

- 2-Jimmie Spiller
- 2-Carol Baker
- 9-Dave Richards
- 11-Sue Mekkelson
- 12-Jerry Schumeyer
- 14-Luke Brennecke
- 15-Norma Bishop
- 16-Doug Reichard
- 21-Pete Mekkelson
- 28-Joan Malloy

March

- 3-Kathleen Brekhus
- 3-Joanne Spiller
- 4-Harriet Click
- 4-Don Quail
- 8-Loretta Mulcahey
- 12-Barbara Brennecke
- 12-Charlene Denton
- 13-Darlene Aulls
- 14-Paul Yeun
- 21-Joan Muniz
- 23-Dennis Brekhus
- 24-Peggy Remsberg
- 25-Lawra Lee
- 27-Dick King



Happy Valentines Day
February 14



February

9
Herb & Nettie Arm

March

4
Guy & Suzanne Everhart
26
Bob & Sandra Reynold
29
Bob & Kathy Fenimore
31
Terry & Diane McCune

Taps



LCDR James T. Oblinger, 94, of Adamstown, passed away on December 23, 2017 in

Frederick, MD. He was the husband of the late Dorothy Cochrane Oblinger to whom he was married for 61 years. Jim was commissioned in the U.S. Navy and served in WWII and the Korean War. Jim was a former member of the Chapter for many years and had to discontinue his membership in 2016 due to his declining health.

Honor Flight

Honor Flight is a national organization dedicated to giving all WW2 veterans (and some Korean and Vietnam vets) a chance to visit DC for a day and tour Memorials dedicated to them. Each vet is accompanied on their visit by a Guardian who remains with them all day to assist and share stories. Jeff Bodie, one of our members, has been a Guardian and he says it is a humbling and moving experience. If any Chapter member is interested in being a Guardian for a future visit, let Jeff Bodie (301-644-1651) know. We are losing 100s of these WW2 veterans every day - their time is fleeting; you will never forget your day as a Guardian!

Chapter Officer/Board Elections for 2019-2020

At our October meeting we will be electing our Chapter officers for the 2019-2020 term. We are in need of volunteers to step forward to fill the positions of 2nd Vice, and Secretary. The responsibilities of officers do not consume a lot of your time, and this would be a great opportunity to bring in members with fresh ideas to contribute to the well-being of the Chapter. As Hugh pointed out, we also need volunteers for Membership Chair, Newsletter Editor,

TOPS Liaison/Transition Assistance Officer, WV Legislative Liaison, and Webmaster. If you are interested, please contact Hugh McIlroy at 717-785-1059 or germac03@gmail.com.

Donations to the MOAA Scholarship Fund

Thanks to your overwhelming generosity, the Chapter donated \$678 to the MOAA Scholarship Fund. This represents a combined donation from the Chapter and individual members. Well Done!!.



Ground Hog Day February 2

MOAA Levels of Excellence Award

The submission deadline for the Chapter Excellence Award is **NLT 1 May 2018**. The Chapter will submit a nomination package again this year. Jerry Schumeyer will assemble the nomination package and he will need your help in capturing information about your involvement as a member of MOAA or the Upper Potomac Chapter in **CY 2017** events or activities that demonstrate support of our

nation, our military and the local community. While we are looking specifically for a connection to MOAA or the Chapter, we would also like to know your involvement in volunteer and community activities. In previous submissions, we provided a sample of the activities which included: Veterans Day presentations at local high schools or ceremonies; hospital visits to our wounded warriors; veteran center visits; liaison with elected representatives; volunteer activities in the communities. So if you have input, please provide the information to Jerry Schumeyer, **NLT 1 March 2018** so he can consider your participation in the submission.

2018 Chapter Golf Scramble-Volunteers Needed

Our next golf scramble will be on Friday, September 14, 2018 at the Glade Valley Golf Club. Lou Muniz is our scramble director and he will need volunteers to step up and help with the organization and planning. More information will follow in subsequent newsletters. In the meantime, you may contact Lou Muniz at 210-439-7578 to volunteer.

Ft Detrick Retiree Council

The Ft Detrick Area Retiree Council has been inactive for a couple of years due to funding issues. The current Garrison Commander has recently approved the renewal of the Retiree Council Charter and the Council is now active again, although the Garrison is still not able to provide any funding for Council activities. The Area Retiree Council serves as a link between the Fort Detrick leadership and the retired military community, family members and surviving spouses.

The Council intends to conduct a Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) in the Fall of 2018 and preliminary planning is underway. The RAD is open to all retired military veterans and families and will provide a comprehensive update on benefits and policies affecting retired service members. The Retiree Council also intends to renew publishing an annual Newsletter for those who have email access.

If you are interested in assisting in these important activities or in receiving a Newsletter and other timely information, please send an email to detrickretmilcouncil@gmail.com and you will be contacted.

At the UPC Board of Directors meeting on January 13, 2018, the Board approved a new line item in its 2018 Program Budget to include \$250 to assist the Retiree Council to conduct the planned RAD, and for other Council activities in 2018.

Maryland Legislative News
(From the Maryland Council of Chapters)

We soon hope to have the final language of the MD House and Senate bills exempting all Uniformed Service retirement pay from Maryland Income Taxes. They will match the budget for next fiscal year that the Governor will be submitting to the Legislature. The two bills will be submitted for the Governor by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, as a matter of courtesy (which is not necessarily an expression of support). Once that occurs, we'll have an HB number and an SB number to share with all of you. At that point, it is most appropriate to contact your Senators and Delegates (in person, by phone, by letter, by email) to request their support when the bills are discussed in the committees and in the hearings--and, hopefully, in floor votes. In the Senate, the SB will be managed by

the Budget and Taxation Committee; in the House of Delegates, the HB will be managed by the Ways and Means Committee. It is especially important to communicate with the members of the two Committees. Members of the General Assembly's Veterans Caucus (in both the House and Senate) should also be contacted.

We have a golden opportunity this year, an election year in which the Governor's position will also be on the ballot, to strive for a 100% subtraction. It is anticipated that it will be phased in over a few years, but we have been assured that nobody will receive any decrease in the tax subtraction you currently have been granted by Maryland statutes. We have argued for many years that this is a solid economic move for Maryland, its workforce, its employers, our military installations, and all taxpayers across the State (not just for retired members of the Uniformed Services). Our Maryland Comptroller agrees! So does our Maryland Military Coalition (MMC). With the recent addition of West Virginia and Arkansas in 2018, the retired pay of Uniformed Services is now not taxed at all in 27 States.

Updates will be provided as information is received. You can also keep apprised by visiting the Maryland Council of Chapters website at <http://www.mdmoaa.org/>

UPC Treasurer's Update

(Bob Fenimore, UPC Treasurer)

Well 2017 is now behind us and we are looking forward to 2018. This also applies to UPC's finances. I would like to provide you with brief updates in several Newsletters this year to keep you posted on what is happening with our revenue and expenses – i.e. what we are doing with your money! In this issue, I would like to focus on our 2017 close-out and, in future issues, I will discuss what we are doing in 2018. I hope you find these updates informative, and if you have any questions, please let me know.

(Numbers in these articles may be rounded off for simplicity, and I will try to keep it brief due to limited space.)

For the total calendar year 2017, our revenue was \$20,650, our expenses were \$20,343, and the difference was \$307. The past two years, we generally spent more than we received, so it is good to have a "balanced budget" again. Thanks to our members who agreed to the Board's increase for annual dues from \$10 to \$20,

which allowed us to achieve these results. Our dues had not been increased in many years and were behind the average for other chapters.

We track our receipts and expenses in 4 accounts: 1) Golf and Other Fundraising, 2) Luncheons and Picnics, 3) Program Funding, and 4) Other. Our Golf receipts and expenses were the same (\$9,293), including a total of \$7,000 in donations to our Scramble beneficiaries. Our Luncheon receipts were \$8,506 and we ended the year with a \$179 surplus in this account (our goal was to at least break even). The Chapter had subsidized the Holiday luncheon at least the past 2 years. The combination of our last 2 accounts resulted in income of \$2,851 and yielded a surplus of \$127.

These results allowed us to donate \$3,500 each to Fisher House and DAV, \$678 to the MOAA Scholarship Fund (including member donations), \$125 to the MOAA Heritage Society, \$107 to the Maryland Council for annual dues, \$300 to JROTC scholarships, and pay \$320 to Mercer Consumer to obtain liability insurance for the Chapter and its members, among other initiatives. It was a great year and we thank all our members for their support which made these results possible.

New UPC Fiscal Policy

The UPC Board of Directors has established a new fiscal policy. The new policy requires the chapter to maintain a minimum balance of \$4,000 in the chapter bank account to ensure adequate cash flow and insure that minimum required annual obligations are met.

New Federal Tax Law Changes

*(Bob Fenimore, UPC Treasurer
IRS Volunteer Income Tax
Assistance (VITA) Site
Coordinator)*

The new tax bill passed by Congress and signed into law before the 2017 holidays contains significant tax law changes for individuals and businesses, but essentially all changes go into effect in 2018 or beyond. According to IRS Publication 17, "Your Federal Income Tax for 2017 Returns", page 1 "What's New", there are no significant changes for your 2017 return, which you will prepare and file by April 17, 2018 (if you have a filing requirement).

However, a year from now when you file your 2018 return, there will be significant changes that could affect your return. These include changes to income tax brackets, tax rate reductions, increases in the standard deduction,

elimination of the personal exemption, and a cap on itemized deductions for state and local taxes, just to name a few. At that time, we plan to provide additional information which may help you plan for and prepare your returns.

2018 state tax laws may also change as a result of the Federal changes. The Maryland Governor and General Assembly are expected to consider changes to offset impacts of the Federal changes, during the session that began the week of January 8th. Hopefully they will also consider increasing the income tax subtraction for military retirement pensions.

A review of 2017 tax law changes in the new Maryland Instructions do not show any significant changes that would likely affect our membership. After a quick review of PA and WV 2017 Instructions, I also did not see any significant changes in those tax laws that would affect us either. As always, please consult your tax advisor about your specific tax situation.

Maryland Council of Chapters (MDCOC), MOAA Meeting

The MDCOC is composed of representatives from the ten MOAA chapters, spread geographically across the state. The council meets regularly and its purpose is to promote the aims of MOAA on a state wide level. The schedule of meetings is: March 10, June 9, September 8. Our Chapter president or other board member attends the meetings. If you have items you would like addressed, please let Hugh McIlroy know in advance so he can discuss your issue with you.

Directory Changes

Under Dean Dahms change "Former Officer" to "Former Officer HD"; change email to dpdahms@comcast.net

April Membership Meeting/ Luncheon April 28, 2018

Following our February meeting, our next event will be held on April 28 at Nick's Airport Inn, Hagerstown, MD.

2018 Events Calendar

If you have any recommendations for guest speakers or luncheon venues, please let Joan Muniz know at 210-722-9354 or popeyemuniz@yahoo.com

February 17-Membership meeting/luncheon, 1130, Dutch's Daughter, Frederick, MD

March 17-Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Ft. Detrick Chapel, Rm 5, Bldg. 1776 Ditto Road, Ft. Detrick

April 28-Membership meeting/luncheon, 1130, Nick's Airport Inn, Hagerstown, MD

May 12-Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Ft. Detrick Chapel, Rm 5, Bldg. 1776 Ditto Road, Ft. Detrick

June 16 Membership meeting/luncheon, 1130, Location to be determined

July 14-Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Ft. Detrick Chapel, Rm 5, Bldg. 1776 Ditto Road, Ft. Detrick

August 18-Chapter Picnic, Bert & Emma Thornton's Shoot Proof Farm, Burkittsville, MD (Tentative)

September 14-7th Annual Golf Scramble, Glade Valley Golf Club, Walkersville, MD

September 15- Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Ft. Detrick Chapel, Rm 5, Bldg. 1776 Ditto Road, Ft. Detrick

October 20-Membership meeting/luncheon and Election of Chapter Officers for 2019-2020, 1130, Dutch's Daughter, Frederick, MD

November 10-Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Ft. Detrick Chapel, Rm 5, Bldg. 1776 Ditto Road, Ft. Detrick

December 15-Holiday luncheon and Installation of Chapter Officers for 2019-2020, 1130, Holly Hills Country Club, Ijamsville, MD.

Directions to Dutch's Daughter

FROM GAITHERSBURG - ROCKVILLE - WASHINGTON DC AREA

Take Route 270 North - 15 North Frederick. Take the exit that reads "Jefferson Street Exit Only". Bear left at the split and turn left at the light. Go straight through the next light and merge right for Exit 180 / 351 on the right - Do not get on Route 340. The exit will have three lanes. Get into the center lane and go straight through the light onto Himes Avenue. Dutch's is ¼ mile on the right, located in a residential area.

FROM MT. AIRY - DAMASCUS - ELLICOTT CITY - BALTIMORE

Take Exit 53 B for 15 North Frederick. Stay in the exit lane that reads "Jefferson Street Exit Only". Bear left at the split and turn left at the light. Go straight through the next light and merge right for Exit 180 / 351 on the right - Do not get on Route 340. The exit will have three lanes. Get into the center lane and go straight through the light onto Himes Avenue. Dutch's is ¼ mile on the right, located in a residential area.

FROM HAGERSTOWN AND WESTERN MARYLAND

Take Route 70 East to Exit 52B for 15 North - Gettysburg. Take Exit 11 for Ballenger Creek Pike. Turn right at the stop sign. Go to the light and turn / yield right onto Himes Avenue. Dutch's is ¼ mile on the right, located in a residential area.

FROM WALKERSVILLE - THURMONT - EMMITTSBURG - GETTYSBURG

Take Route 15 South to Frederick. Take Route 340 West for Charlestown / Leesburg Exit (do not get on Route 340) Stay in the right lane to exit off at 180 / 351 Jefferson Pike / Ballenger Creek Pike. The exit will have three lanes. Get into the center lane and go straight through the light onto Himes Avenue. Dutch's is ¼ mile on the right, located in a residential area.

Holiday Luncheon



Presentation of the MOAA Excellence Award



Chapter Officers, Board & Program Chairs



Presentation of the \$3500 golf scramble proceeds to Mr. Randolph Scott, President, DAV, Washington-Lee #5



Presentation of \$3500 golf scramble proceeds to Mr Mike Ybarra, GM, Fishers Houses at Walter Reed National Military medical Center



Jane Hildebrandt, Paul Hildebrandt & Gladys Murray



Ft. Detrick Chapel Choir provided entertainment at the luncheon

**Membership Meeting/Luncheon
Saturday, February 17, 2018
11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Dutch's Daughter Restaurant
581 Himes Avenue
Frederick, MD
301-668-9500
www.dutchdaughter.com**

Join us on Saturday, February 17, 11:30 a.m. at Dutch's Daughter, Frederick, MD for our first business meeting of the New Year. Hugh McIlroy will bring you up-to-date on our plans for 2018. Our guest speaker will be COL Scott M. Halter, U.S. Army, Commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Ft. Detrick.

Menu

Dutch's Chicken, Beef Tenderloin, Lasagna (Meat Style), Twice Baked Potato, Seasonal Vegetables, Garden Salad, Rolls, Chocolate Mousse Pie, Coffee, Tea, Soda. Cash Bar

Directions

Directions are on page 7

If anyone requires assistance with transportation, please contact one of the Board members and we will help coordinate.

**REFUNDS WILL BE PROVIDED ONLY IF CANCELLATIONS ARE MADE
PRIOR TO TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2018**

-----Detach and Return-----
Name _____
Name(s) of Guests _____

____ Number of Reservations@ \$28/person _____

TOTAL Remittance _____

Make checks payable to: Upper Potomac Chapter, MOAA
Return **NLT Monday, February 12, 2018** to:
Bob Fenimore, 8611 Discovery Blvd, Walkersville, MD 21793
301-845-0042; rkfen111@gmail.com

How was your experience at the Holly Hills Country Club for our December luncheon and why?
1—2—3—4—5 (Circle one) (5 is highest)

