

ABOUT OUR CHAPTER

The WNY Chapter was chartered on December 15, 1996 and is proud of its 30year history of mission accomplishment. WNY is one of more than 400 independent, self-governing, and self-supporting organizations that voluntarily choose to affiliate with National MOAA for the purpose of cooperation and mutual support. WNY is headquartered in the Buffalo area and covers a large area extending to all eight WNY Counties, is one of seven chapters in the New York State MOAA Council of Chapters. The chapter publishes a monthly newsletter and has members from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Surviving Spouses (formerly called Auxiliaries).

GOALS

In parallel with our mission the Chapter emphasizes these elements:

1. Promote the purposes and objectives of MOAA
2. Foster fraternal relations among retired, active and former officers of the uniformed services and their National Guard or Reserve components
3. Protect their rights and interests, and provide useful services for members, their dependents and survivors
4. Serve the community and the nation.

INFORMATION ON JOINING THE CHAPTER

Membership is open to men and women who are serving or have served on active duty or in one of the Reserve components, National Guard, or as a commissioned or warrant officer in one of the seven U.S. uniformed

services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Command, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service); and widows and widowers of any deceased individuals who would, if living, be eligible for membership; drilling and active duty National Guard, and Reserve officers; Senior college ROTC cadets and midshipmen (Emembership), and newly commissioned ROTC graduates. First year membership is free for active-duty officers, drilling or active-duty National ROTC grads. All others pay \$16.00 per year (Surviving Spouses pay \$10.00 a year). We require that our chapter members ALSO be members of national MOAA, hopefully at least at the PREMIUM level so as to be able to take advantage of the full package of MOAA membership

benefits. Life membership is also available.

Why join the Western New York Chapter of MOAA?

Chapter membership enables each member to have a greater impact in the local community and benefit the lives of military personnel and their families. Chapter members speak up about local issues and influence their local and state governments. They publicize valuable information that affects other MOAA members and military personnel. They recognize outstanding young people in the community and reach out to help fellow officers in need. Chapter membership offers opportunities for lasting friendships, camaraderie, and networking with other officers who share similar concerns, outlooks, and aspirations. For more information, see our website at <http://www.wnymoaa.org/>

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

WNY has quarterly Board of Directors, plus a Bi-annual newsletter. We assist members in securing veteran and retiree benefits; provide Personal Affairs guidance and training sessions; apprise local elected representatives (state and national) on the MOAA legislative agenda; and presents MOAA leadership award medals / certificates to Canisius, Saint Bonaventure, and Niagara Universities ROTC cadets. Our Chapter volunteers support in-patients at the Veteran Hospital with a tail-gate party each year. We strive to educate the community on veteran needs and partner with other organizations to offer a broad range of services and assistance to enhance each veteran's physical, emotional and economic well-being. We support veterans in 8 New York counties.

ANNUAL CONVENTION

Each Year the Council of Chapters (CoC) holds a State Convention of which all NYS Chapters are welcome to attend. They are held at various locations depending on the host Chapter.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

The MOAA Chapter supports the national MOAA legislative agenda and strives to keep local elected representatives at the state and congressional level apprised on MOAA's key issues. The chapter is also active in supporting the New York State MOAA Council of Chapters on various state veterans' issues, and each April/May, participates in MOAA "Advocacy-in-Action" event at Capitol Hill, discussing MOAA legislative priorities with all 27 New York congressional representatives and both senators or their staffs.

GENERAL **INFORMATION**

WNY Chapter conducts an annual Business meeting in December of each year of which elections of Officers takes place. Luncheons start at 11:30 hrs. Locations vary and are announced in the chapter newsletter and via emails. There is normally a guest speaker. Guests are welcome. The members of WNY MOAA strive to foster a creative and social environment for all attendees.