

February 2008

Vol. X

General Joshua L. Chamberlain Chapter



The Companion

The quarterly newsletter of the General Joshua Chamberlain Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars.

IMPORTANT DATES

Chapter Luncheon Meeting

19 April 2008
1200-1400 Hours

Luncheon meeting to be held at the Weathervane Restaurant; 380 Gorham Rd., South Portland, next to Maine Mall

Staff Planning Meeting

13 March 2008
1200—1400 hrs. Foreside Tavern, Falmouth

Note: Search continues to find a new location to accommodate an evening staff meeting.

Commander: Capt. Tim Politis

Commander's Message

The General Joshua Chamberlain Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars has challenges ahead. We have a mission, established goals and objectives, activities and projected new additions that need to be met. In order to accomplish the aforementioned we need to:

- 1. Recruit new active members.**
- 2. Increase chapter revenue/funding.**
- 3. Increase attendance at Quarterly meetings**

If we do, we will be able to establish committees and key leaders to lead various outreach missions, support the funding of Memorials and the establishment of new Memorial while making a larger footprint in Statewide Patriotic events.

The Chapter leadership is in the process of finding a more amenable venue for our Quarterly meetings looking to pick dates that do not conflict with other meetings scheduled that might help increase attendance. In addition, we are always striving to have interesting and informative speakers for membership to enjoy and an atmosphere conducive to promotion of good fellowship.

The General meeting on February 9th was attended by 12 members and so many of the membership did not hear our guest speaker nor get the benefit of LTC Lauria's PowerPoint presentation on the "Business Plan" for the Chapter for 2008. The "Business Plan" can be found on the Maine MOWW website under the "Business Plan" and details our with computer access to read it and think of what piece of the plan you want to take a more active part.

It is time to rally around the Flag.

Tim Politis

Capt. (former) USMCR, Chapter Commander

Chapter Notes

Chapter Meeting – December 1st, 2007

Companions attending the December 1, 2007 Chapter luncheon meeting were introduced to three new members by Chapter commander, Capt Timothy Politis; Capt. S. James Levis (USMC), Capt Frank Delong and Warrant Officer One Dana Lane (USA). Warrant Officer One Lane leaped right into the organization by agreeing to assume the position of Chapter Treasurer, which was previously held by Major Richard Joseph. Our guest speaker, Admiral (Retired) Gregory "Grog" Johnson provided a very informative and enlightening briefing on the changes that have taken place in the

military since the end of the Cold War and the need to increase the force structure of the U.S. Military to meet growing threats.

Region 1 Meeting – December 8, 2007

On December 8, 2007 the Region I Mid-Winter Meeting was held in Portsmouth, NH and was attended by Chapter members BG Al White, LTC Deo Lauria and LTC David Duehring. Seven out of the nine chapters were represented for a total of 23 attendees. Key items discussed were:

- The discontinuation of the YPAL program in New England due to liability issues
- A resolution was proposed to have each chapter in Region 1 donate \$100.00 toward a \$1,000 goal to support the maintenance of the new Veteran's monument at North Eastern University
- The Vermont Chapter may have to close due to lack of membership.

Staff Meeting – January 17, 2008

On January 17, 2008 during the Chapter Staff Meeting, Col Barton introduced and swore in LCDR David J. Billings (USN) as our newest Chapter companion. Fund raising was also discussed as a carry over from a previous meeting in which it was voted and approved to collect \$5.00 per member at each meeting to go into the general operating fund. A consensus of the meeting was to continue asking members to donate to the Eberly Patriotic Education Fund until each member gives \$150.00. Members can and have donated more in the past. Chapter projects were also discussed that follow the mission and goals stated in The Preamble. A new location to conduct our Chapter meetings in order to provide a quieter setting was also discussed.

Chapter Meeting – February 9, 2007

On February 9, 2008 we held our first Chapter meeting for 2008. Attendance was down by several members who were attending the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) meeting that same date. The staff is looking at new dates to conduct our MOWW chapter meetings. Currently, we are looking at the 3rd Saturday of each monthly meeting. LTC Lauria, filling in for our Chapter president, presented LCDR Billings his perpetual pin and membership certificate.

After Lunch, LTC Lauria introduced our guest speaker Colonel Kelley Kash (USAF Retired) who is the CEO of the Maine Veterans Homes. Colonel Kash gave a very interesting and informative talk on the six (6) veterans homes in Maine. He covered skilled nursing and rehabilitation, dementia care, residential care and long-term care.

COL Barton stated that there are 3 ROTC and 7 JROTC organizations in Maine. He stated that of the 7 JROTC organizations 5 are Army, 1 Air Force and 1 Navy. He

further stated the Old Town JROTC has been doing very well. COL Barton also gave an overview of several topics discussed at the December 8, 2007 Region 1 Mid-Winter Meeting held in Portsmouth, NH.

LTC Lauria passed out a copy of the Chapter Business Plan for fiscal year 2008. It consists of a comprehensive plan including Mission Statement, list of staff activities we support, reasons for joining, Goals and Objectives, Fiscal Plan, Annual Resource Requirements, Annual Income, Key Issues and Rewards.

Other Chapter News!

In other Chapter news, Chapter President Timothy Politis leads the Chapter in new Companion recruits. Nice job, Commander, in "Leading by Example"! Also, COL Schlieper and CDR Jones have begun liaison with the Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout Program that we will hear more about in the near future.

Membership - New Members Recognized

**CAPT Joseph F. Boulos
LCDR David J. Billings
CAPT Frank W. DeLong**

**Welcome to the General Joshua L. Chamberlain Chapter of the Military Order of
the
World Wars!**

Companion of the Quarter Lieutenant Colonel USA (Retired) Amedeo J. Lauria

LTC Amedeo J. Lauria has been a perpetual member of the General Chamberlain Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars since June 2003. During this time he has developed into a great leader serving now as 1st Vice Commander. LTC Lauria has developed a web page for our chapter that is the envy of the North East region. He has also developed a detailed business plan for the chapter for 2008, which will help guide the chapter to great heights. He attended Region One mid winter conference where his comments were well received as well as his report on the Chamberlain Chapter.

LTC Lauria's distinguished military career covers the period of 1973 to November 2002. He served in both enlisted and officer positions in both the US Army Reserve and active duty Army. He has held numerous command and staff positions in administrative areas that included recruiting, teaching as a senior Assistant Professor of Military Science at Indiana University-Purdue. He served a total of six years the European theater, where he played a major role in the post Persian Gulf War drawn-down in Europe.

His numerous awards include the Legion of Merit and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

He is a member of Association of the USA, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Adjutant General's Corps Regiment. He is or has been very active in Boy and Girl Scouts of America. He is also a member of the National Rifle Association. He is also very active in his hometown, Sabattus, serving on many committees.

LTC Lauria is married to the former Susan Grace Henshaw and has three children.

The Chamberlain Chapter of the MOWW is privileged to have him as a valued companion, and congratulates him on being selected as Companion of the Quarter.

KEY CHAPTER STAFF OFFICERS FOR YEARS 2007 2008

Senior Vice Commander

LTC Amedeo Lauria

Junior Vice Commander

MAJ Mary McGuirk

Adjutant

LTC David Duehring

Historian

COL Henry Adams

Program Director

BG Al White

General Joshua L. Chamberlain Chapter MOWW Web Site

Web Site address: <http://www.mainemoww.sabattus.net> The site was established and is maintained by LTC Amedeo Lauria, 1st Vice Commander. Information available: Preamble, list of members, their biographical sketch and record of service, Chapter information and schedule of events both special and routine, ROTC support and other links of military interest to be developed.

