A Message From The President
MG Joseph P. O’Leary (Ret)

An article in the “Military Officer” magazine of February 2018 headlined “Recruiting Woes”. It went on to explain 7 out of 10 young people are not fit to join the military hindering the search for eligible new service members. After years of downsizing the services are adding thousands more troops back to the force, but finding the next crop of fit and willing warriors is not an easy task.

The 2018 National Defense Authorization act, which President Donald Trump signed in 2017 authorized another 20,000 troops to be added to the force. The Army will add 7,500 soldiers the Navy 4,000 sailors, the Marine Corps 1,000, the Air Force 4,100 and the reserve components will increase 3,400 personnel. At the same time we find fewer young people fit to serve. The economy improves attracting recruiting prospects to civilian pursuits. The recruiter will have a most difficult mission. The shrinking pool of eligible prospects has led some services to alter their recruiting standards. More tattoos, past drug use, and certain medical conditions no longer bar some young people from serving.

More than 70 percent of 17 to 24 year olds are ineligible for military service according to DOD data. Nearly a third of these young are over the weight limit to qualify. Criminal records, past drug abuse and failure to meet educational requirements are other top disqualifiers. The military services are also fighting their own battle with obesity. In 2015 nearly a fifth of soldiers were classified as obese according to the 2016 health of the Force report the Air Force was next followed by the Navy and the Marine Corps.

Annual Dues are Due by 30Apr18. Everyone is overdue except 11 Current members who are paid up. No Mailing labels are available. The 9 individuals names that are overdue are listed at the end of this newsletter. Please pay up we can’t continue the newsletter or pay for our website.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Tuesday 10 Apr 2018
1930 Hrs
Yonkers Armory
Annual Elections

Tuesday 10 Jul 2018
1930 Hrs
Yonkers Armory

Saturday 13 Oct 2018
1300 Hrs
Cabin Restaurant
White Plains

Tuesday 8 Jan 2019
1930 Hrs
Orangeburg Armory

Annual dues are $12.00 E6 & Up
$2.00 E-1 to E-5
Due in April Each Year
Check Your Mailing Label
In Apr 2017 for Expiration Date

Upcoming events

West Point Boat Ride on the Hudson celebrating birthday of the US Army and Family Day is again scheduled for June 2018. A flyer will be posted to the website when all the details are finalized.

140th General Conference & Exhibition
August 24 - 27 2018
New Orleans, Louisiana

Nick Biancoroso exp 2020
Debra Chapton exp 2023
Vinny Donahue exp 2020
Joe Gusman exp 2021
Dan Murphy exp 2026
Pat Murphy exp 2020
Joe O’Leary exp 2045
Rod Quinn exp 2020
Mike Reiss exp 2019

Everyone else expired on 30Apr18
NEWBURGH -
Soldiers gathered at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, NY Saturday 17Mar18 before heading overseas to Afghanistan for a yearlong deployment. The hanger at the airport was full of support for the 101st Signal Battalion of the New York Army National Guard. The 300 troops left Stewart Air National Guard Base for Fort Hood, Texas, and then to the Middle East. The battalion will conduct post-mobilization training at Fort Hood before going overseas.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Ian Seagriff, Commander of the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion, speaks with reporters during the unit's farewell ceremony at Stewart Air National Guard Base on March 17, 2018. The approximately 300 members of the battalion departed for further mobilization training at Fort Hood, Texas, before heading overseas in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. They are expected to return to the Hudson Valley in the spring of 2019. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Jeremy Bratt)

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Johnny Nieves, 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion, spends time with his family during the unit's farewell ceremony at Stewart Air National Guard Base on March 17, 2018. (photo also by SGT Jeremy Bratt)
Membership Application for Liberty Chapter & National SCRA
DUE 30 April 2018

Name & Rank:__________________________________________________________

Address:__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Military Unit or Retired:________________________________________________________

Telephone #_________________ E-Mail Addr:________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Terms & Amount SCRA National Chapter at FT Gordon
(Check One) New Member ( ) Renewal ( )

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<th>Military Rank</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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Liberty Chapter SCRA Annual Dues
E-6 and Above $12.00 ( ) E-5 and Below $2.00 ( )

Total Amount Enclosed:________________________

Check your mailing label for Liberty Chapter & National Membership Expiration Date

Make Check payable to: Liberty Chapter SCRA and mail to:
Liberty Chapter SCRA
ATTN: SSG Carlos Rodriguez
PO Box 242
Orangeburg, New York 10962

Organized 1 May 1996 at Camp Smith, Peekskill, New York