

Western Montana Military Officers Association

April Newsletter

It is so nice to meet the day with temperatures above 32 degrees. Sure, it is not every day that it is that warm, but I am excited to have Spring here and making inroads to allowing things to start growing again. Summer is coming! Last month we had two excellent presentations for our programs. Social Hour had retired Air Force Master Sergeant Matthew Manning, the new Bureau Chief for the State Veterans Cemetery Program give us a concise update on the Montana Veterans Cemeteries in Montana. He explained the future plans, funding and personnel needs key to the future of the cemetery operations. For the Luncheon, Retired Army Colonel Vanessa Berry talked about her prosecution team's involvement in the investigation, prosecution and sentencing of SGT Bowie Bergdahl, Army deserter in Afghanistan. That was a fascinating insight into the background on the individual and what it took to prosecute and convict the high-profile deserter from the U.S. Army.

This month we have a fun Social Hour on April planned for all of us. We will have a world map up on the board in front and will encourage everyone to come up and locate one of your most memorable deployments, Permanent Change of Stations or civilian trip and give a one- or two-minute explanation of that place. You all have such interesting backgrounds and experiences. The Luncheon will feature Retired Army Colonel Gary Swartz talking about the Falkland Islands, their history in both peace and war.

Your Board is going ahead with planning on having a Banquet on May 22 (National Maritime Day?) at the DoubleTree. We have confirmed that Professor Mehrdad Kia will be our guest speaker talking about growing up in Iran and what Iran is like today with its economy and politics then and now.

Hope to see you soon.

Jack Babon

- President - Jack Babon 549-9835 jkbabon@gmail.com
- Vice President - Charlie Olinger 728-2331 colingermt@gmail.com
- Secretary - Gary Swartz 542-1978 ghswartz214@gmail.com
- Treasurer - Will Deschamps 544-4344 flyingd@outlook.com
- Personal Affairs - Tottie Parmeter 543-5002
- Past President - Mike Schauf 251-3231 mschauf51@gmail.com

April Social Events

Social Hour - Friday 9 April 6:00 to 8:00p.m.
Westside Bowling Alley \$10.00

Our Most Memorable Places

Luncheon

Friday 16 April - 1130 a.m. - 1:00p.m.
Doubletree Buffet - \$18.00

Gary Swartz - The Falkland Islands in War and Peace

RSVP Required to Gary Swartz - 542-1978 / ghswartz214@gmail.com

WMMOA BANQUET - Saturday 22 May

Social Hour 6:00p.m. Dinner 7:00p.m.

Professor Mehrdad Kia Iran: Then and Now

Cost \$35.00 per person- RSVP to Gary Swartz NLT 16 May