

ADVOCATE DRUM

Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization



OCTOBER 2018

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ADVOCATE DRUM'S FOCUS FOR THE MILITARY & THEIR FAMILIES

Although it has been four months since I began serving as your Executive Director, this is my first opportunity to introduce myself and to tell you how excited I am to lead this fantastic organization. I have spent much of my time getting to know many of you and your businesses and organizations, and I am grateful for your support of Advocate Drum, and of Fort Drum and the greater North Country Community.

During my nearly twenty-six years of military service, the one resource I could never get enough of was time. Time to train my Soldiers, time to maintain my equipment, and time to spend with my family. Having enough time to take care of all these things is what our Soldiers need to achieve the Army's number one priority: Readiness. Our North Country community can greatly assist the men and women of the 10th Mountain Division on Fort Drum in achieving a higher level of readiness by giving them more time to train for fighting and winning our Nation's wars. Whether it is ensuring that our communities provide a quality and challenging education for our children, or that our hospitals and clinics provide first-rate healthcare for our family members, or that our military spouses and transitioning Soldiers can find great, satisfying jobs in the local area are all ways to create more time for commanders to focus on training, because we take that burden away from them.

I was fortunate to be able to attend two conferences over the summer that focused on ways communities can lighten the rucksacks of our Soldiers and family members. One theme that continued throughout these conferences was that future basing decisions would include the quality of the education system for our military children, and employment opportunities for spouses and veterans. We are attacking the first issue with an Education Survey that will begin later this fall. In 2015, when Fort Drum faced a significant reduction in force, our military families anecdotally said that they loved the schools here in the North Country. We want to back those statements up with some scientific data that will put some meat on the bone and highlight what we are doing well and identify any gaps so that we can begin to mitigate them ahead of the next Base Realignment and Closure action, when it comes.



Don't Forget To Exercise Your RIGHT TO VOTE.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2018

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**FORT DRUM REGIONAL
LIAISON ORGANIZATION**

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Chair's Corner

By: Tom Carman

It is my honor to serve as the Chairman for the Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization/Advocate Drum. I have been in the North Country since 2004, and through my role at Samaritan Medical Center, have witnessed firsthand this very unique military/civilian partnership. I look forward to working with the Board and volunteers as we partner with leadership on Fort Drum, as well as our elected officials to serve our mission:

To protect and enhance Fort Drum's military value, sustain and leverage its economic and cultural significance to the Fort Drum region and NYS, and foster effective communication between the installation and its civilian neighbors to promote mutual support and understanding.

At our annual meeting in June the membership also confirmed Maureen Cean, Vice Chair, Dave Zembiec as Treasurer, and Kevin Jordan, Secretary. I look forward to serving with these great leaders.

I am also pleased to note that our new Executive Director, Edward "Fritz" Keel, has hit the ground running and is doing an exceptional job. Fritz began in June and is getting himself up to speed on all of the Advocate Drum projects and issues. He has also had the opportunity to meet with all Board members, many community leaders, Fort Drum leaders, and elected officials. I am convinced that Fritz was the right choice for us and will do an incredible job.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank our immediate past chair, Mary Corriveau, for her four years of leadership. Mary was a tireless leader with a passion for taking care of Soldiers and loves the North Country. She accomplished a great deal. I will never forget the time she wrapped up the public session to prevent devastating cuts proposed by the Army in 2015 in the Sturtz Auditorium to hand over 30,000 petition signatures supporting Fort Drum. She was directly responsible for many of those signatures and organized a tremendously successful effort. Mary is to be commended for her leadership, dedication and commitment to our community.

MG Walt Piatt, Commanding General of Fort Drum and the 10th Mountain Division, has given us clear guidance that the Army must be "ready today and relevant tomorrow". As we look at that challenge it is obvious that Advocate Drum has much to do. This will continue to require all of us working together to support the needs of Fort Drum which ultimately benefits the tri county area. Some of the projects on our plate include those that relate to compatibility with the mission at Fort Drum such as industrial wind and missile defense. We understand that the quality of our education system and spousal employment are important to Army families, so we must prove

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Chair's Corner

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the value of the education system and insure barriers are removed for employment. Transportation is another opportunity for the region, and particularly important for our Soldiers and families on post. These are just a few of the projects we are working on that will improve the quality of life for all.

It is a tremendous privilege and honor to have the 10th mountain Division Soldiers and their families living in the North Country, as our friends and neighbors. Being the most deployed Division, these Soldiers continue to fight for our freedom and the American way of life. All of us are deeply indebted to the commitment of these brave men and women. Thank you for what you do. I hope this inspires all of us to do what we can to support these dedicated Soldiers and families at Fort Drum through Advocate Drum. I look forward to working with you as we continue our advocacy, which ultimately benefits all citizens in Northern New York.



Pictured from left to right: NYTRIC employees, Apprentice Samuel May, Journeyman Steve Young, Apprentice Patrick Thornhill and Owner, Michael Norstrud

Apprenticeship Program: An Educational Alternative

Much has been written lately about the cost of college, the exodus of our youth and the lack of skilled trades individuals. By far the best way to learn a skilled trade is through an apprenticeship program. IBEW Local 910's apprenticeship program is local, is tuition free and qualifies for the GI bill. The program is cosponsored by the Union (IBEW) and the Contractors Association (NECA). This training for electricians is 5 years long, the apprentices work for a contractor during the day and attend school at night. By the end of the 5 years a Journeyman Certification is attained, by then they have worked over 8,200 on-the-job training hours and 900 classroom hours. During that time the apprentices earn a fair wage, have good health insurance and begin building a handsome retirement, both at no cost to the employee. This is a great opportunity for a Fort Drum Soldier who likes to work with their hands and wants to stay in the North County. Local 910 has participated in the job fairs at Fort Drum for many years. We not only recruit for our program but also give Soldiers who are relocating information on the IBEW apprenticeship program in their home town.

The success of Fort Drum Soldiers joining our apprenticeship has been occurring for many years. Michael Norstrud decided to stay in Northern New York when he completed his Military Service at Fort Drum in 1987. Mike completed the apprenticeship in May 1995 and then worked for a few different contractors as a Journeyman and Foreman. In 2006 he started his own electrical contracting business; NYTRIC Electrical Contractors, LLC. The company started out small and has grown steadily now employing 24 IBEW members. NYTRIC does various residential, commercial and industrial projects, including work on Fort Drum. He is also involved in the contractor's association as President of NECA. Mike takes great pride in his Military Service, the work his employees do on Post and especially enjoys when he has the opportunity to train an apprentice who is a Veteran. Currently NYTRIC employs 2 apprentices who are Army Veterans; Samuel May is a 3rd year apprentice and Patrick Thornhill is a 2nd year.

John O'Driscoll, Business Manager, Local 910 IBEW



Gary DeYoung's Upcoming Retirement

Over the past 30 + years there are certain individuals who have left an indelible mark on our organization. Gary DeYoung is one of them. As Co-Chair of our Marketing Committee, Gary has developed messaging, created slogans, logos, and even our new look as Advocate Drum. In 2015, he developed the I Love Fort Drum message/logo for the 2015 Rally and Listening Session events at Jefferson Community College. What a simple, focused message, and it worked, the community very quickly adopted Gary's message as their own.

When we decided to take a look at our branding in 2017, we once again turned to Gary for his assistance. He helped us with a survey and shepherded us through the process of developing a new name and a new branding that now better defines who we are, Advocate Drum.

Advocate Drum congratulates Gary DeYoung, Executive Director of the Thousand Islands International Tourism Council, on his well-deserved, upcoming retirement. While we are incredibly excited for him and wish Gary the very best in retirement, it is a tremendous loss for the North Country.

Thank you, Gary, for all you have done to Advocate Drum. In life, there are no sure bets, except that exceptional individuals such as you will always rise to the occasion and make the North Country a better place.

I ❤️ FORT
DRUM



Two towering monuments honor the proud legacy of the 10th Mountain Division and its home in the North Country. The upper is in Memorial Park at Fort Drum and the lower one is in the heart of Thompson Park in the City of Watertown.





The Inaugural Memorial to Monument Run



In the early morning hours of September 29th, hundreds of runners joined in the inaugural Memorial to Monument run. This 11-mile run organized by Fort Drum MWR and City of Watertown Parks and Recreation wound through the Village of Black River, along the Black River trail and into the City's Thompson Park. For those not up to an 11-mile run that morning, Watertown YMCA held a 5k in Thompson Park.

This event served as the official hand-over to the City of Watertown of the Honor the Mountain Monument built by the businesses and residents of the North Country. This gift represents the community's enduring support of the Soldiers, family members and the civilians who live and work at Fort Drum.





DID YOU KNOW? Fast Facts About Fort Drum and the North Country

- Military families enrolled 6,375 children in Jefferson County schools, or 25% of all students enrolled during the 2017-18 school year.
- The three largest school districts in Jefferson County have military student populations of 63.6%, 15%, and 50%.
- NYS is a member of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The goal of the compact is to replace the widely varying States' policies affecting transitioning military students.

Advocate Drum Education Survey to Launch in November

Advocate Drum and the JCC Center for Community Studies have developed an Education Survey for military and non-military families. The survey will provide a wealth of information about families' thoughts on a variety of quality indicators relating to schools.

The survey will be launched right after Veterans Day with results released in the Spring of 2019.

If you have children in one of the surrounding school districts, look for the survey in your email. It will take only about 10 minutes to complete.



The Director's Message

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Employment opportunities are another area that we need to focus on, and this newsletter begins to scratch the surface of this important issue. We have made great strides in terms of licensure reciprocity for our Military Spouses, but there is still plenty of work to do.

Advocate Drum will continue to work with our elected officials to obtain licensure reciprocity for our military spouse educators, so that they can go to work in our schools when their families receive orders to Fort Drum. We are also taking this a step further for our transitioning Soldiers. One thing I keep hearing about is the lack of a quality workforce pool to meet the demands of our local employers. Recent reporting indicates that 60%--nearly 200—of the Soldiers who transition from Fort Drum have a North Country address as their place of residence after leaving the army. Advocate Drum has teamed up with the Soldier for Life Transition Assistance Program on Fort Drum to create opportunities to connect these talented Soldiers with local employers, so we can retain more of this talent in the North Country and make their transition to civilian life easier. This initiative begins with an Employer Tour of Fort Drum that is scheduled for later this month, and my goal is to expand the program into internship opportunities where transitioning Soldiers can work locally during their last few months of service and gain some valuable experience in the civilian workforce.

Thank you for all that you do every day to support Fort Drum and our brave men and women of the 10th Mountain Division and the other units who call it home. Because of your efforts, our Soldiers are recognized around the world as a force that is ready now, and the tremendous support of the entire North Country Community ensures that they will be relevant tomorrow as well.



The **ADVOCATE DRUM MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN** kicked-off in January 2018 offering three new membership levels, 3-year term memberships and lifetime membership for individuals. Since that time, our membership base has grown by 35 individual members and 6 corporate members.

Taylor Concrete stepped-up from the Corporate level to Supporting; and Jefferson County Economic Development and the Development Authority of the North Country enhanced their membership to the Leadership level.

We also want to thank Jefferson and Lewis Counties for their continued commitment to Advocate Drum and the North Country through their enhanced membership at the Enduring and Sustaining level, respectively.



To be successful in its mission to Advocate Drum, FDRLO needs a solid base of support – a strong community partnership is essential for ongoing effective advocacy.

CONSIDER ENHANCING YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY.

Welcome to our newest Corporate Member
RBC Wealth Management

Advocating Military Value

FDRLO leads the way in demonstrating Fort Drum’s value to federal, state and local interests.

Advocating Effective Communication

FDRLO’s mutually respected role ensures that lines of communication between the military and civilian leaders remains open.

Advocating Economic Benefits

FDRLO monitors Fort Drum’s economic impact on the North Country and plays a vital role in growing hometown investment.

Advocating Cultural Understanding

FDRLO prioritizes integrating military families into Northern New York to grow the relationship between Fort Drum and the community.

Advocating Mutual Support

FDRLO ensures the military and community work together when issues of mutual concern arise.

10th Mountain Division (LI) and Tenant Unit Leadership

10th Mountain Division (LI).....MG Walter Piatt CSM Samuel Roark	10th SustainmentCOL Matthew Bresko Brigade “Muleskinners” CSM Octavia Greaves-Egyinam
Headquarters and HeadquartersLTC Eric Harrelson Battalion “Gauntlet” CSM Michael Fisher	Fort Drum Garrison COL Kenneth Harrison CSM Ryan Alfaro
1st Brigade Combat.....COL Shane Morgan Team “Warriors” CSM Wendell Franklin	Fort Drum Medical ActivityCOL Brandon Bowline CSM Akram Shaheed
2nd Brigade Combat COL Paul Larson Team “Commandos” CSM Robert Fortenberry	Fort Drum Dental Activity LTC Anthony Kight MSG Liela Cowhig
3rd Brigade Combat.....COL Kendall Clarke Team “Patriots” CSM Kenneth Franko	20th Air Support Operation..... Lt Col Richard Fournier Squadron “Brutal” MSGt Tristan Magdich
86th Infantry Brigade COL Nathan Lord Combat Team “Mountain” CSM Paul Edwards	91st MP Battalion LTC Scott Blanchard CSM Christopher Reeves
10th Mountain DivisionCOL Thomas Hawn Artillery “Mountain Thunder” CSM Miguel Quiros	Warrior Transition UnitLTC Theodore Sobocienski III CSM Oscar Mullinax
10th Combat Aviation.....COL Darrell Doremus Brigade “Falcons” CSM Jason Johnson	925th Contracting Battalion.....LTC Jessie Griffith III CSM Timothy Higgs, Jr.
	AFSBN LTC John Mitchel MSG Craig Pitts

**FORT DRUM
REGIONAL LIAISON**

200 WASHINGTON STREET
SUITE 406
PO BOX 775
WATERTOWN, NEW YORK 13601

PHONE: 315-836-1531
FAX: 315-836-1532
EMAIL: office@fdrlo.org



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FDRLO Supporting Member Spotlight:



Salmon Run Mall, the North Country's only enclosed shopping destination within a 60-mile radius, is conveniently located at Exits 45 or 46, off Interstate 81 in Watertown, NY. With over 70 retail shops, a food court, full-service sit down restaurant and 12-screen stadium seat theater, Salmon Run Mall is located only 8 miles from Fort Drum and a quick 30-minute drive from the Thousand Islands Bridge to Canada.

Salmon Run Mall is anchored by JC Penney, Burlington, Sears, Dick's Sporting Goods, Best Buy, Christmas Tree Shops & That, DSW Designer Shoe Warehouse and the newly opened Gander Outdoors. Salmon Run Mall boasts a 12-screen stadium seat theater at Regal Cinemas and a full service sit-down restaurant with great food and craft beers at Skewed Brewing, right next to the cinemas. New stores in the past couple years include Victoria's Secret, PINK, Bath & Body Works with White Barn Candle, Torrid, Jimmy Jazz, Auntie Anne's Pretzels and a Sephora Inside JC Penney. Coming soon is Knockout Cheese Steaks in the food court!

Salmon Run Mall isn't just a place for retail therapy - throughout the year, Salmon Run Mall hosts over 50 events including health fairs, Job Expos, Military Appreciation Days, Mall-oween and Mall Wide Trick or Treating, Summer Kids Klub and visits with Santa, to name a few - there is always something fun for the family to take part in. All events are free to attend and open to the public.

Salmon Run Mall is also a great place for community fundraising! Over 100 fundraising events are hosted annually by various nonprofits throughout the North Country. Whether it's a walk-a-thon, selling Girl Scout cookies, holding a raffle for your nonprofit or just an informational table, Salmon Run Mall can help your group with their fundraising efforts.

For a list of events, new store openings, directions to the mall, job listings, holiday hours, or current store promotions, log on to our website at www.shopsalmonrunmall.com or "Like Us" on Facebook!

Salmon Run Mall is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.