

# UMA SCUTTLEBUTT

March 2016

Issue #16-02



<http://ptomilitaryassociation.org>  
<https://www.facebook.com/USPTOMilitaryAssociation>

The Scuttlebutt is back for March! Articles may include stories, links and references not directly connected to the USPTO Military Association, but which may be of interest to our veteran community.

**UMA Mission:** To provide *fellowship, mentorship, and advocacy* for military veterans working at the USPTO, and to *help educate others* on the important contributions that veterans have made and continue to make to the workforce and our nation at large. UMA membership is open to veterans and non-veterans alike.

\*\*\*Updates from the mid-month email are highlighted in blue\*\*\*

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Welcome to our new UMA Member, Sherry Anderson!

Thank you to our new volunteers!

- Jill Wolf - Wounded Warrior Letter Writing Campaign Lead
- Gair MacKenzie - Wounded Warrior Letter Writing Campaign Co-Lead
- Sherry Anderson – Memorial Day Event Committee Lead
- Dr. Olivia Wise – Social Coordinator and Veterans Day Event Committee Lead

**Coffee Break:** We would like to thank you to all of the new faces that have been coming out and enjoying the coffee and donuts with a side of good old fashioned fellowship. The weekly UMA coffee breaks are across from Innovation Grounds on Tuesdays from 9-10. If you would like to share some war/sea stories, please drop by, even if only for a couple of minutes to say “Hi”.

**Wounded Warrior Letter Writing Campaign:** The UMA is sponsoring a letter writing campaign for wounded, ill and injured service members who are recovering at Walter Reed and Fort Belvoir and their families. If you are interested, please stop by during our weekly Coffee Break, or contact Jill Wolf or Gair MacKenzie for more details. We plan to deliver the letters during Military Appreciation Month in May. I would like to thank Jill Wolf for volunteering to lead the campaign!

**Wreaths Across America:** Several members of the UMA helped “Retire the Wreaths” at Arlington National Cemetery on Saturday, Feb.13, 2016. Wreaths Across America (WAA) coordinates wreath laying ceremonies each December at Arlington and at Veterans’ cemeteries in all 50 states and beyond. Thank you to Troy Tyler, Brian Simpkins and Catherine Ferreira, for coordinating the effort!

**UMA Quarterly Membership Meeting.** Please join us for our quarterly UMA Membership Meeting on March 31<sup>st</sup> from 9:00-10:00 in Madison Auditorium South. The gathering is open to veterans and non-veterans alike in the USPTO who would like to learn more about the UMA. Bring a mug for free coffee!

**DOD Warrior Games Representative:** A representative from the [DoD Warrior Games](#) will be dropping by during our Coffee Break on a date to be determined (postponed due to scheduling conflicts). If you are interested in volunteering, or just want to learn more about the DoD Warrior Games, please stop by.

**T-Shirt Design Contest.** If you would like to submit a design for the UMA T-Shirt, please contact us at [uma@uspto.gov](mailto:uma@uspto.gov). Winner gets a free t-shirt!

**USPTO Veteran Hiring Program:** There are currently two openings in the [USPTO Veterans Hiring Program](#). Please pass it on to anyone you know who may be interested. For more information on USPTO Veteran Programs, please send all questions to [HireVets@uspto.gov](mailto:HireVets@uspto.gov). Click [here](#) and [here](#) to see the openings.

**UMA Calendar of Events:**

- Weekly Coffee Break every Tuesday across from Innovation Grounds from 9-10.
- Monthly Board of Directors Meeting (second Tuesday of the month from 1200-1300)
- March 4 - UMA T-Shirt Design Contest Ends
- March 9 - Board of Directors Meeting (12:00-1:00). Contact us for details if you would like to attend.
- (TBD) - DoD Warrior Games Representative will join us during the UMA Coffee Break
- March 31 - UMA Quarterly Membership Meeting from 9:00-10:00 in Madison Auditorium South
- April 28 - USPTO Wellness Fair from 10:00-2:00pm in Madison Auditorium
- May is Military Appreciation Month
- May 3 (Tentative) - Deliver Letters to Wounded Warriors at Walter Reed
- May 12 - USPTO Community Day. This year's theme is "Diversity Coast to Coast".
- May 26 - Memorial Day Remembrance Event
- June (Date TBD) - Quarterly Membership Meeting
- June is [PTSD Awareness Month](#)
- June 14 - Army Birthday
- August 4 - Coast Guard Birthday
- September (Date TBD) - Quarterly Membership Meeting
- September 16 - National POW/MIA Recognition Day
- September 18 - Air Force Birthday
- October 13 - Navy Birthday
- November (Date TBD) - Quarterly Membership Meeting
- November (Date TBD) - UMA Sponsored Blood Drive
- November 10 - Veteran's Day Celebration / Marine Corps Birthday

**Veteran Events:**

- UMA President Dean Dominique is partnering with the USO Warrior and Family Center at Fort Belvoir to lead a Writer's Workshop for Active Duty Service members and dependents on March 14<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-1:00. More information will be posted on the [USO website](#).
- The USPTO Veterans Hiring Program Office will be attending the upcoming veteran career fairs:
  - 3/18 – [Marine Corps Base Quantico Hiring Event](#)
  - 3/24 – [RecruitMilitary Career Fair](#)
- The U.S. Army Warrior Transition Command will be hosting the [2016 DoD Warrior Games](#) at the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, June 15-21, 2016 and are looking for volunteers. You can check out the [Facebook page](#) for more information as it becomes available. A representative will join us during our coffee break on a date to be determined to discuss it with anyone who is interested in learning about the DOD Warrior Games.
- Women Veterans ROCK! Public Policy Day Event on Capitol Hill - March 17, 2016. The "Women Veterans ROCK!" Advocacy Campaign is dedicated to Engaging and Empowering Women & Girls In Military Families. [Click here to read more.](#)
- The Veteran Success Resource Group (VSRG) is holding a free Veteran Resource Expo and Access to Capital event in Springfield, VA on March 23, 2016. [Click here for more details.](#)
- Recruit Military and DAV are sponsoring a free career fair for military veterans in the DC area on March 24<sup>th</sup>. [Click here for more details.](#)

- Stratford University's Woodbridge Campus is hosting a free Veterans' Resource & Job Fair for Veterans, Active Duty and the Military Dependent population on Saturday, April 9, 2016 from 10am – 2pm. [Click here for more details.](#)
- Semper K9, a local charity that provides assistance dogs to Wounded Warriors, is hosting an open house on April 16<sup>th</sup>. [Click here for more information.](#)
- Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band will be performing live in DC on May 21<sup>st</sup>. [Click here for more details.](#)
- If you know of any other Veteran-related events, please send an email [uma@uspto.gov](mailto:uma@uspto.gov) and we will include it in the next update.

**Volunteers needed:** The UMA is looking for members to help us with the following activities:

- Community Day Committee Lead
- Wellness Fair Committee Lead
- Communication Committee Lead
- Committee Members
- The UMA depends on our membership to make our great ideas come to reality, so if you're interested in leading a committee, helping out on a committee or event, volunteering or just have a great idea about something, please contact us at [uma@uspto.gov](mailto:uma@uspto.gov) .

**ICYMI:** Check out the following UMA articles in the USPTO Weekly:

- [UMA Veteran Highlight – Hank MacDonald](#)
- [UMA Veteran Highlight – Tim Nesley](#)

**Did You Know?** Despite all his exploits, the “Father of the American Navy,” John Paul Jones, was never ranked higher than Captain during his service to the United States Navy. However, he was given the rank of Rear Admiral in the Russian Navy.

**The 2016 UMA Board members** are President Dean Dominique, Vice Presidents Asghar Bilgrami and Anhtuan Nguyen, Treasurer Albert Gagliardi and Secretary Melissa Wiley. Members at large are Eric Atkisson, Aretha Grayson, Hank Macdonald, Clifton Randolph, Neal Sereboff, Keith McCray, Paul Kloberg, Mark Booker and Catherine Ferreira. Sieg Chencinski serves as a special nonvoting member. Mr. Fred Steckler is our Executive Sponsor.

**UMA Volunteers:**

- Webmaster - April Blair
- Facebook Admin - Greg Kuron
- Wounded Warrior Letter Writing Campaign - Jill Wolf and Gair MacKenzie
- Wreaths Across America Committee - Troy Tyler, Brian Simpkins and Catherine Ferreira
- Memorial Day Event Committee Lead - Sherry Anderson
- Social Coordinator and Veteran's Day Committee Lead – Dr. Olivia Wise

UMA membership is open to all USPTO employees, Veterans and non-Veterans alike. If you are not currently a dues paying member, we invite you to join us. Simply fill out the four highlighted blocks of the [Membership Form](#) and return it to us via email.

If you haven't already done so, please like our [Facebook page](#) and check out the [UMA website](#).

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If you have questions or comments about anything appearing (or not) in the UMA Scuttlebutt, please contact us at [uma@uspto.gov](mailto:uma@uspto.gov).