

# UMA SCUTTLEBUTT

July 2016

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**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. **Prior military service not required.**

**Welcome our new UMA Members!** Greg Dodson, Tia Ware, Ginger Capodice, Kristof, Pasternak, Cuong Nguyen, Narciso Victoria, Seth Meyerson, Kelly Cavin, Katie Reeder, Valentin Neacsu, Judy Johnson-Joyner, Candice Dow, and Michael Lang

**UMA Quarterly Meeting:** Thanks to everyone who participated in the UMA Quarterly Meeting. Special thanks to Linda Lowry from the [Gary Sinise Foundation](#) and Carolyn Harris-Hutchinson from [Alexandria Vet Clinic](#).



**PTSD Awareness.** Special thanks to Justin Howell from [Mighty Oaks Warrior Programs](#) for briefing the Trademark Managers on PTSD as well as offering his services to UMA members.

**Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act:** President Obama recently signed the [Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act](#) which provides a separate new leave category, to be known as “disabled veteran leave,” to any new Federal employee who is a veteran with a service-connected disability rated at 30 percent or more for purposes of undergoing medical treatment for such disability for which sick leave could regularly be used. Disabled veteran leave is available during the first 12 months of employment and may not exceed 104 hours. Disabled veteran leave not used during the first 12 months of employment may not be carried over to subsequent years.

**Melissa Stockwell:** UMA, Network of Executive Women (NEW), and ResponsAbility are co-hosting a brown bag lunch with Melissa Stockwell on August 4<sup>th</sup>. As a first lieutenant in the Army, she was the first female soldier to lose a limb in the Iraq War when a roadside bomb exploded while she was leading a convoy in Baghdad. Melissa is currently an American para-triathlete and former Paralympic swimmer. She was the first Iraq veteran chosen for the Paralympics.



**Coast Guard Birthday Celebration.** UMA will celebrate the Coast Guard’s 226<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 4<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Melissa Stockwell brown bag lunch. Please join us.

**UMA Night at the Battle of the Beltway:** We are purchasing discounted tickets to the Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup> game of the Baltimore Orioles at the Washington Nationals, 7:05 p.m. at Nationals Park. Tickets will be in right field corner and cost \$39, of which \$10 is redeemable for food, drinks, and gifts. Please pay Dean Dominique prior to July 14<sup>th</sup>. *This event is for dues paying members only.*

**UMA Pictures/Videos:** We have created a [Flickr page](#) to share pictures taken at UMA events and a [YouTube channel](#) for our UMA videos. If you have pictures to add, please contact [UMA@uspto.gov](mailto:UMA@uspto.gov).

**Softball Team.** If you are interested in playing on the “Vets” co-ed softball team, please contact Al Gagliardi at [Albert.Gagliardi@USPTO.GOV](mailto:Albert.Gagliardi@USPTO.GOV). Prior military service not required.

**Eid luncheon:** UMA member Nasir U. Ahmed is selling tickets for the Eid (end of Ramadan/fasting) luncheon (jointly hosted by BAIPO and AMACA) on Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 11.30AM-1PM in the Madison Auditorium. Tickets are on sale at \$10. Please let Nasir know if you are interested.

**Reward Program.** Sign up a friend and receive the UMA coffee mug!

**Coffee Break:** The weekly UMA coffee breaks are across from Innovation Grounds on Tuesdays from 9:00-10:00. Please drop by, even if only for a couple of minutes to say “Hi”.



**How are we doing?** [Click here](#) to take the 10 question survey and let us know how we’re doing.

**Did You Know?** John Adams believed that July 2<sup>nd</sup> was the correct date on which to celebrate the birth of American independence, and would reportedly turn down invitations to appear at July 4<sup>th</sup> events in protest. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826--the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

#### **UMA Calendar of Events:**

- Weekly Coffee Break every Tuesday across from Innovation Grounds from 9:00-10:00.
- Monthly Board of Directors Meeting (second Tuesday of the month from 12:00-1:00). POC Dean Dominique.
- July 14 - UMA Lunch & Learn – Learn about The Jonas Project which helps Veteran entrepreneurs start a Veteran Owned Business.
- August 16 - USPTO Military Association will sponsor the food trucks again.
- August 25 - UMA Night at the Battle of the Beltway. Baltimore Orioles at Washington Nationals, 7:05 p.m. at Nationals Park. Please pay Dean Dominique prior to July 14<sup>th</sup>.
- September 15 - Quarterly Membership Meeting. POC Dean Dominique.
- September 16 - National POW/MIA Recognition Day.
- September 18 - Air Force Birthday.
- October 13 - Navy Birthday.
- November (Date TBD) - UMA Sponsored Blood Drive. POC Dean Dominique.
- November 10 - Veteran’s Day Celebration. POC Dr. Olivia Wise.
- November 10 - Marine Corps Birthday.
- November 11 - UMA Dining Out at the [Willing Warriors Gala](#).
- December 13 - Quarterly Membership Meeting. POC Dean Dominique.

#### **Veteran-Related Events:**

- [Pre-Release Screening of "Thank You for Your Service,"](#) Thursday, July 7, from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM, The Ware Center - 42 North Prince Street, Lancaster, PA.
- [Post 122 Golf Outing for Wounded Veteran Families & Fallen Heroes,](#) Friday, July 8, 8 PM, Hampstead, MD.
- From the Front Lines to the Home Front commemorates our country’s war experience with a focus on

Loudoun County. Free to active duty personnel and retired Veterans. July 9-10. [Click here for more information.](#)

- [A Sense Of Purpose Memorial Bike Ride](#) Saturday, July 16, 2016, Marlboro, MD.
- [Veterans Music Open Mic](#) at Dog Tag Bakery, by Armed Services Arts Partnership, Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM.
- [Volunteer: Tree Care at Armed Forces Retirement Home](#), Saturday, July 23, 2016 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Washington, DC.
- 9/11 Heroes Run event in Alexandria on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. IHOP is expected to provide FREE pancake and bacon breakfast to all participants. And Starbucks will be back again with unlimited coffee. A very patriotic event complete with pancakes, bacon and coffee...life doesn't get much better than that!
- October 9<sup>th</sup> is the [Army Ten-Miler](#) in Washington, DC.
- October 30<sup>th</sup> is the [Marine Corps Marathon](#) in Arlington, VA.
- The American Veterans Center's Conference & Honors. November 3-5, 2016 in Washington, DC. The three-day event will feature panels and discussions with America's most decorated and distinguished Veterans and active duty personnel from World War II to the present day. To attend and/or learn more about the Conference, call 703-302-1012 ext. 227 or e-mail [info@americanveteranscenter.org](mailto:info@americanveteranscenter.org). [Click here for more information.](#)
- Loudoun Therapeutic Riding provides quality equine-assisted activities and therapies for wounded military and Veterans. [Click here to find out more about their "Equine Services for Heroes" program.](#)
- 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:

- UMA Dining Out POC

**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 Kloborg, Mark Booker and Catherine Ferreira. Sieg Chencinski serves as a special nonvoting member. Mr. Fred Steckler is our Executive Sponsor.

#### **A special thanks to our UMA Volunteers:**

- Quarterly Newsletter - Arlene Jones
- Wounded Warrior Letter Writing Campaign - Jill Wolf and Gair MacKenzie
- Wreaths Across America Committee - Troy Tyler and Brian Simpkins
- Memorial Day Event Committee - Sherry Anderson and Arlene Jones
- Social Coordinator and Veteran's Day Committee Lead - Dr. Olivia Wise
- PTSD Awareness Month - John Menkaure
- Facebook Administrator - Reid Bailey and William Jerez Lora
- Webmaster - April Blair and William Jerez Lora

UMA membership is open to all USPTO employees, prior military service not required. 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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The Scuttlebutt may include stories, links and references not directly connected to the USPTO Military Association, but which may be of interest to our Veteran community. 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).