

**Central Virginia Chapter, VCOC – MOAA
 Quarterly Report from CVC/MOAA
 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2020**

<u>I. Membership:</u>	<u>Regular</u>	Surviving Spouses	<u>Honorary</u>	<u>Total</u>
As of 31 Dec:	172	23	4	199
Gains:	4	0	0	4
Losses:	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
As of 31 Dec.:	176	23	4	203

Gains: Col Fred Gortler, USAF; Capt Sandi Meadows, USAF; Maj Leo J. Still, USMC; 1LT Richard Sturtevant, USA

Deaths: None

Resignations: None

Moved: None

Surviving Spouses Gains: None

II. Legislative Affairs:

A. This January brought forth a frenzied opening of the Virginia General Assembly as majority control changed hands, which necessitated last minute naming of Chairs and members of appropriate committees. As usual, the Virginia Council of Chapters of MOAA (VCOC) held their first quarterly meeting the day before the “storming.” John Down and Trish Sifka attended the VCOC meeting. Contemporaneous with this meeting at the American Legion State Headquarters, a Senate Privileges and Elections (P&E) Committee held a hearing at the Capitol, which included a bill that would extend time for counting overseas, military deployed, absentee ballots arriving late. Previously with the JLC and at the Senate Committee hearing, our chapter strongly advocated for this initiative, co-patroned with AMVETS. Thereafter, the JLC prioritized this initiative second only to a State Constitutional Amendment. Senator Bryce Reeves sponsored and passionately advocated for passage of the bill in the Senate. Senator Scott Surovell (D) co-patroned this initiative again as he had initially done in 2018. The Senate P&E Committee voted unanimously to move the bill forward.

B. The next day, during the “Storming of the Hill”, our chapter’s Legislative Committee (CVC/LEGCOM) members met with many other VSO’s representatives early in the morning to attend the Military Caucus chaired by Senator Bryce Reeves. This Caucus is bi-partisan and includes many, if not all, veterans. Senator Reeves especially commented on the positive prospects for increasing veteran treatment courts in Virginia, which is an extremely beneficial service for veterans involved in the criminal justice system. Virginia AG MG Tim Williams gave the Adjutant General’s report concerning the growing of the

force, past and future expected deployments and operations, and the TAG's priorities in education and retention.

- C. CVC/LEGCOM members had extremely positive visits with Senator Bill DeSteph, Senator Bryce Reeves, Senator Mark Peake, Delegate Rob Bell and Delegate John McGuire. Subsequently, members attended the Senate or House of Delegates general session where they were presented by a representative to the members. LEGCOM members sat in the Senate gallery and were presented to Senators by Senator Bryce Reeves. Prior to the session, Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax visited the gallery to personally greet each of us and others seated there. The Virginia Department of Veterans Services' Policy Director (and JLC's Administrative Aide), Carrie Ann Alford was there as well. Ms. Alford superbly organized the JLC Storming day's events.
- D. The Governor's pandemic directives have necessitated the cancellation of the annual Congressional Appreciation Luncheon on April 30th in Washington DC which is annually hosted by the Virginia Council of Chapters of MOAA (VCOC). The VCOC is looking to possibly reschedule this summer. The 2nd Quarter VCOC meeting in April was also cancelled. However, VCOC Board is evaluating teleconferencing options instead. The Central VA Chapter's April 1st Board meeting at the Glenmore Country Club was changed to a video-teleconference (held 1 April). Regardless of these changes, the chapter has moved forward with its nominations of Congressman Denver Riggleman and State Senator Bryce Reeves to the VCOC for legislators of the year.
- E. **Upcoming soon:**
 - 1. Chapter members to hopefully meet with Congressman Riggleman in the second quarter, 2020.
 - 2. Plan to attend upcoming Congressional Appreciation Luncheon this Summer (TBD pending rescheduling due to COVID-19).

III. Public Affairs:

- A. Members and Officers attended the Charlottesville Aviation Club program in January and February.
- B. Members continue to actively participate in the Civil War Round Table.
- C. Members attended the Charlottesville Council on Foreign Relations meetings in January and February.
- D. Other scheduled activities have been postponed until at least 10 June 2020 due to the coronavirus.

IV. Levels of Excellence Award Scoring & Chapter Self-Evaluation Status:

- A. 5 Star.

B. Self-evaluation, 5 Star.

C. 5 Star for Marvin J. Harris Communications Award for printed newsletter and website.

V. Most Significant Chapter Events of the Quarter:

A. The chapter hosted Rick Britton who presented a presentation about Frank Peregro, WWII Medal of Honor recipient and Charlottesville native.

B. Chapter nominated Congressman Denver Riggleman as VCOC Federal Legislator of the Year; and State Senator Bryce Reeves as VCOC State Legislator of the Year.

C. The chapter hosted Dr. Michael Balazs, MITRE Corporation, a nationally recognized expert in artificial intelligence who spoke about GAIN: Generation Artificial Intelligence Nexus.

Submitted by responsible submitting officer:

Rank and Name: COL Wes Loffert, USA (Ret.)

Central Virginia Chapter (CVC) VCOC Representative

Email: wloffert@earthlink.net; Home Phone: (616) 438-4011