



VCOC 1st QUARTER MEETING
Friday, 14 January 2022
Zoom Meeting via Link

1. Administration, Meeting Called to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 1000 hours by Linc Smith, CDR, USN (Ret). Linc welcomed all to the meeting.
- Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation were not offered. Ken Ruppard, LTC, USA (Ret), VCOC Chaplain, was not able to attend the meeting.

2. Secretary's Report

- VCOC Secretary, John Down, LtCol, USAF (ret), reiterated the welcome and commented that this is his first meeting as VCOC Secretary. He set the tone by covering the "ground rules" for how the meeting would be conducted. He mentioned that one representative would vote for each chapter attending for a total of ten votes on any item requiring a vote. He also asked that attendees mute any electronic devices that could disrupt the meeting and further asked that when an attendee was not speaking to please mute their volume.

3. Roll Call & Determine Quorum

- John Down conducted the Roll Call. Ten chapters were represented of the total of seventeen active and inactive chapters. A quorum was thus achieved. Please refer to Attachment 1 of these minutes for details. Note that "Representative" refers to chapter voting member for this meeting, not necessarily a chapter installed position.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

- John Down then asked that the Meeting Agenda be adopted. John Prevar, CDR, USN (Ret) moved that the Agenda be adopted and was seconded by Victoria Revilla, COL, USA (Ret). The motion carried by unanimous vote.

5. Approval of 4th Quarter Meeting Minutes

- John Down requested approval of the 4th Quarter 2021 meeting minutes. Monti Zimmerman, COL, USA (Ret), moved that the minutes be approved. He was seconded by Jim Pauls, Col, USAF (Ret). The motion carried by unanimous vote.

6. Guest Speaker: MOAA HQs Briefing

- Jim Carman, CAPT, USN (Ret), MOAA Vice President for Council/ Chapter and Member Support, provided a roughly one-hour report. Please refer to Attachment 2 of these minutes.

7. President's Report

- Linc Smith thanked Jim Carman for his presentation and requested that the slide deck Jim used be made available to the Council. To be sent to Linc Smith.
- Linc moved on to the upcoming legislative advocacy events. We will focus on the top two or three MOAA objectives in that regard. Linc aims to meet with Virginia's two Senators, Kaine and Warner, in the near term to advocate for support of those key priorities.
- Linc then thanked Mark Rich, COL, USA (Ret), for an outstanding effort in the Richmond Area Chapter's hosting of the Legislative Forum in December. At that event, several of the initiatives achieved co-sponsorship from legislators to the Virginia General Assembly.
- Linc installed the Portsmouth Area Chapter Officers on 13 January 2022.
- Linc attended/participated in the remembrance ceremonies for Sen. Bob Dole.
- Finally, Linc stated that the Virginia War Memorial is looking great. With a view to our next meeting, we intend to have both in-person and virtual capability for our 2nd Quarter meeting. Physical presence will be at the War Memorial.

8. Treasurer's Report

- Jim Stephan, LtCol, USAF (Ret) presented the budget as of the fourth quarter 2021. Income and expenses are seen to be lower for 2022 vs. 2021 with proposed budget of \$6,700 vs. \$7,500 with COVID still a factor in our expenses. The Virginia War Memorial charges \$200 per meeting, and Linc Smith had earlier commented on signature of contracts for each meeting with no signatures yet but pending. Monti Zimmerman moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved, with any noted updates added. The motion was seconded by Ken App, CDR, USN (ret), and the vote was unanimous to approve the report.

9. Standing Committee Reports:

• Communications & Public Affairs

- Linc Smith mentioned that "The Crier" was posted on the VCOC website. He requested that chapters should send their inputs to him at his email address (mvng288@aol.com).
- Thanks to everyone for a fine luncheon in October in Williamsburg.

• Membership & Chapter Affairs

- John Prevar presented the membership report that reflected chapter members as of 31 December 2021. The report shows a slight decline over previous periods, but generally, we were pretty stable. There was one adjustment affecting one member account in a chapter. With that adjustment, the attendees approved the report. John mentioned that he has MOAA banners if desired to support chapter recruiting efforts.

10. Legislative Committee Report

- Monti Zimmerman provided an overview of on-going legislative efforts at the state level. First, he mentioned that he was elected Vice Chair of the Joint Leadership Council (JLC) in December at the JLC meeting in Richmond.
- In terms of where things stand with the JLC initiatives for 2022, he said that 5-6 of the seven initiatives had patrons/sponsors. He noted that he was looking for support from the incoming Dept. of Veterans Services (DVS) Commissioner Daniel Gade.

- Although not JLC initiatives, state legislators are considering bills to provide state tax relief for military and retirees. About \$278M in the state budget would need to be offset. There are various proposals about how the relief could be phased in. One such proposal would offer relief for the first \$20K of income for 2021, \$30K for 2022, and \$40K thereafter. Other consideration includes \$10K for 2022, \$20K for 2023, \$30K for 2024, and \$40K thereafter.
- There are 231 veterans-oriented bills generated so far in the General Assembly and a total of 705 bills for military in general.
- Monti personally has been the driving force for JLC Initiative 2022-02. This initiative would provide property tax relief for surviving spouses of military members who died in the line of duty while performing official military duties (as opposed to killed in the line of duty). The Senate Bill is SJ19 (Reeves) as it requires a constitutional amendment. The corresponding House Bill is HJ96.
- Monti noted that a special election will need to account for redistricting; then constitutional amendment will need to be voted on (for JLC 2022-02).

11. Old Business

- By-Laws Review and Nominations for 1st Vice President tabled to next quarterly meeting.

12. New Business

- Linc noted that the Strategic Plan, VCOC Budget Guidelines, and Next Meeting Calendar are posted on the VCOC website Home page.

13. With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:24PM hours.

Submitted By: John F. Down, LtCol, USAF (Ret), VCOC Secretary

ATTACHMENT 1, Roll Call of Chapters, 14 January 2022

	CHAPTER	PRESENT	REPRESENTATIVE
1.	Central Virginia	Yes	Wes Loffert
2.	Falcon’s Landing	No	
3.	George C. Marshall	Yes	Adrian Gordon
4.	Hampton Roads	Yes	Linc Smith
5.	Heritage	No	
6.	Heritage Hunt	No	
7.	Mt. Vernon	Yes	John Prevar
8.	Northern Neck	No	
9.	Northern Virginia	Yes	Monti Zimmerman
10.	Piedmont Virginia	Yes	Judith Chantelois
11.	Portsmouth Area	Yes	Ken App
12.	Potomac	No	

13.	Richmond Area	Yes	Mark Rich
14.	Shenandoah Valley	No	(Inactive)
15.	Southside Virginia	Yes	Victoria Revilla
16.	Southwest Virginia	No	
17.	Virginia Peninsula	Yes	Jim Pauls

**ATTACHMENT 2, Summary of Jim Carman’s Briefing
(Slide deck (TBD) contains many more details)**

1. **2022-2026 Strategic Plan:** No major changes. Covers Advocacy, Leadership, Education, and Service. For more information, please go to “About MOAA” link on website.
2. **NDAA:** Approved 27 December 2021. Key points:
 - a. Military pay lags the Employee Compensation Index (ECI)
 - b. 12 weeks military parental leave and 2 weeks bereavement leave
 - c. From 1 November 2021 to 30 June 2022, military members must be vaccinated or face discharge
 - d. In-home childcare pilot
 - e. Basic Needs Allowance for junior enlisted personnel: in response to a question from Virginia Peninsula representative, Jim Carman stated that the Service chiefs are in the best position to determine authorization for such allowances.
 - f. Need to get done:
 - i. Concurrent receipt, The Major Richard Starr Act
 - ii. Tricare Young Adult: Obtain better care pricing
 - iii. Toxic Exposure Reform: Bills working their way through Congress
 - g. Northern Virginia Chapter representative asked about eligibility for burial in Arlington National Cemetery. Response: No solution yet.
 - h. Portsmouth Area Chapter representative inquired about concurrent receipt. Response: Comments on priorities; Jim Carman would take this issue back to MOAA HQs.
 - i. Virginia Peninsula Chapter representative inquired about the Secretary of the Army’s position on Arlington National Cemetery; again, to be referred to MOAA HQs.
 - j. Mt. Vernon Chapter representative asked about running out of money again (continuing resolution issues). Agreement to bring that concern back to MOAA HQs.
3. **Advocacy in Action for 2022**
 - a. There will be no open visits to Capitol Hill due to COVID and security concerns.
 - b. MOAA HQs unsure about format for advocacy. Looking at 26-27 April 2022. See the MOAA Magazine for format. The ROA Building at 1 Constitution Avenue has been reserved as an option, where legislators would meet with advocates.
 - c. State Legislative Consortium. Jim Carman presented contact information for this event. Send inquiries to jimc@moaa.org.
4. **Member Engagement**
 - a. The magazine, newsletters, editorial cartoons (see the NDAA cartoon on medical billet reductions), Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Mt. Vernon Chapter representative stated that they use Facebook and LinkedIn.
 - b. Surviving Spouses of MOAA can be found on Facebook. (A Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter meeting was to take place on 18 January @ 1300 hours.)

- c. There is an audience growth in webinars. See “moaa.org/careerevents”. Also podcasts.
- d. Paper copies of various MOAA publications and document can be found in the MOAA Publications Library, moaa.org/publications
- e. The Tricare Guide is issued annually in November
- f. Other MOAA activities available to MOAA members include insurance plans and vacations (cruises)
- g. MOAA Foundation and Scholarship Fund provide for community outreach via chapter grants. Two VCOC chapters have received grants. The grant application window is open from 1 December 2021-28 February 2022.
- h. For golfers there is the golf classic at TPC Potomac Avenel in DC vicinity on May 31st.

5. Membership

- a. There are about 350K members worldwide. 46% of these are Life Members; 17% Premium Members; and 37% Basic (free) Members.
- b. Providing near real-time join report for identifying new members.

6. Councils and Chapters Roundtables

- a. Conducted virtually. See the Leaders Workbook
- b. Southside Virginia Chapter representative asked about the Ambassador Program, to be restarted. Jim Carman mentioned that Kristen Stotz at MOAA is the POC.
- c. Virtual Chapter program is on-going.
- d. MOAA has twelve directors. Anyone interested in serving on the MOAA Board of Directors can apply through 31 March of this year. This is a self-nominated process.