



The Council Crier Third Quarter 2022

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Virginia Council of Chapters of the Military Officers Association of America

VCOC Officers 2022-2024

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Our Third Council Crier for 2022 tells the story of a highly active Virginia Council and Member Chapters, with the Legislative Advocacy and Community Service remaining prime examples of such engagement.

During the period 21 January - 4 August of this year, nine VCOC Chapter Teams conducted some 15 visits with our Virginia Delegation in advocacy of the MOAA top three legislative priorities. In measurable result, Virginia Delegation Co-Sponsors now numbers 13 for The Major Richard Star Act. This represents an increase of five cosponsors for 2021. The Star Act corrects the wrongful injustice of a veteran with a combat-related disability and fewer than 20 years of creditable service not being allowed to receive retirement pay, without reduction, concurrent with disability compensation.

The credit for the increased support for the Star Act belongs to the advocacy of our VCOC Legislative Affairs teams and leaders this year.

MOAA Advocacy in Action 2023 (AiA 2023) is scheduled for April 2023. AiA 2023 will be in person, Capitol Hill, Washington, DC. Standby for further details, to include specific AiA 2023 topics and schedule.

To State Legislative Affairs, Governor Glen Youngkin signed two bills this year of great significance to the Virginia Veteran. First, House Bill 957, patroned by Delegate Kathy Tran (D 42nd), which provides local governments the opportunity to offer tax relief for surviving spouses of a member of the Armed Services. Second, Senate Bill 528, patroned by Senator Bryce Reeves, R-Spotsylvania, and House Bill 1128, patroned by Delegate John McGuire, R-Goochland. The bills commence a state income tax deduction for military retirement income for veterans age 55 and older, phased-in rate of

\$10,000 in tax year 2022, \$20,000 in tax year 2023, \$30,000 in tax year 2024, moving to \$40,000 in the taxable year 2025.

The aforementioned bills remain living testimony to the advocacy efforts of the Joint Leadership Council, for which VCOC Third Vice President COL Monti Zimmerman, USAA (Ret) is Vice Chair. To HB 529, COL Zimmerman will continue work on a Constitutional Amendment, mandating Virginia county compliance with the Bill.

The 2023 Virginia General Assembly is scheduled to open on Sunday, January 8, concluding on Friday, February 24 (adjournment sine die is Saturday, February 25). Joint Leadership Council approved Legislative Initiatives, as of September 15, 2022, may be viewed at: [Joint Leadership Council](#). To our VCOC advocacy with the General Assembly in 2023, COL Zimmerman has scheduled a Zoom Virtual Legislative Affairs Pre meeting for all Chapter Legislative Affairs Representatives, Monday, 19 December, 9:00am.



I would like to personally thank MOAA General Counsel and Corporate Secretary Maj. Gen. Joe Lynch, USAF (Ret) and MOAA Vice President, Council/Chapter Affairs CAPT Jim Carman, USN (Ret) for hosting me this Fall for lunch at the Army Navy Club, DC, The purpose of the lunches was threefold: fact finding, ask questions and share ideas.

Amidst our fellowship, Maj. Gen. Lynch spotlighted his well known creation and oversight of the Time Magazine “Person of the Year” Display, which has rested on the lower level of the Army Navy Club in DC for many years. To above image, an honor to be hosted by Maj. Gen. Lynch and CAPT Carman at this storied Club, where, based on my MOAA Life Membership, I have been a member now since 2011.

Over to Chapter visits this quarter, our VCOC Team had informative and productive visits with the Mt. Vernon and Falcon’s Landing Chapters. Many thanks to Chapter Presidents COL Smash Yurovich, USMC (Ret) and COL Phil Walsh, USMC (Ret) for the opportunity to be “On Deck” with Chapter members.

In closing, our Virginia Council wishes our Chapters and the MOAA a happy Thanksgiving and Holiday Season 2022.

Linc

CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret)
President, Virginia Council of Chapters



MOAA Announces New President/ CEO and Board Chairman

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is proud to announce its new president and CEO, Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), and new board chairman, Gen. Gary L. North, USAF (Ret), along with 12 newly elected members of its board of directors.

Kelly will become MOAA's President and CEO on Jan. 4, 2023, leading the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. Commissioned in 1988, Kelly concluded his military career this year after serving most recently as the Air Force deputy chief of staff of Manpower, Personnel and Services at the Pentagon. "I'm extremely excited and proud," Kelly said. "It's a fantastic organization. What MOAA has been able to do in terms of legislative advocacy is really second to none."



Gen. Walter "Skip" Sharp, USA (Ret), MOAA's outgoing board chairman, speaks during MOAA's annual meeting Oct. 28 in Kansas City, Mo., as Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret), looks on. (Photo by Katie Currid/for MOAA)



Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), center, and Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret), right, smile during MOAA's annual meeting in Kansas City, Mo., on Oct. 28. Kelly will succeed Atkins as MOAA's President and CEO on Jan. 4. (Photo by Mike Morones/MOAA)



Gen. Gary L. North, USAF (Ret), MOAA's new board chairman, addresses board members and staff during MOAA's annual meeting in Kansas City, Mo. (Photo by Mike Morones/MOAA)

The following 12 individuals also have been elected to MOAA's 36-member board. They will serve a six-year term.

Cmdr. Stephen A. Bedard, USN (Ret) – President of Sailmaker, LLC and an adjunct professor at the College of Charleston. Served in the Navy Supply Corps as a staff member of the assistant secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition.

Col. Myles B. Caggins III, USA – A senior fellow at The New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy. Previously the U.S. Army Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York. Served three combat tours in Iraq.

Lt. Col. Ronald J. Clark, USMC (Ret) – Former Deputy Under Secretary at the Department of Homeland Security and former Senior Director for Defense Policy on the National Security Council in the White House. Retired infantry and force reconnaissance officer. Currently the Chief Executive Officer of Spartan Strategy & Risk Management.

Col. Stephanie E. Dawson, USA (Ret) – Former deputy commander and commander of the 369th Sustainment Brigade, and deputy commander of the 53rd Troop Command for the New York National Guard. In her civilian career, her role included Chief Operating Officer of the bi-state Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Adm. James G. Foggo, USN (Ret) – Former commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Naval Forces Africa, and U.S. Sixth Fleet. Served as dean of the Center for Maritime Strategy at the Navy League and member of the board of directors of the Olmsted Foundation, the Naval Historical Foundation and the Council on Foreign Relations.

Lt. Cmdr. E. Fred Green Jr., USN (Ret) – President of the MOAA California Council of Chapters. Over 20 years active and reserve service in a variety of surface warfare positions at sea and ashore.

Rear Adm. Nancy A. Hann, NOAA – Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Corps and Office of Marine and Aviation Operations. She holds two master's degrees, one in aeronautical science and the other in public administration.

Maj. Sharron A. Mackey, USAF (Ret) – Served in the Air Force, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve. She has more than 30 years of leadership experience in health care, ensuring access to high quality care. She worked directly on building provider networks for veterans with TRICARE. Holds master's degrees in public administration and health service management.

Vice Adm. Fred M. Midgette, USCG (Ret) – Defense industry consultant and served in a variety of positions in the Coast Guard including Pacific Area Commander and Commander, Defense Forces West; Deputy Commandant for Operations; and 9th Coast Guard District Commander.

Maj. Gen. Stephen W. Oliver Jr., USAF (Ret) – International and defense policy researcher for the RAND Corporation. Former senior military assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force and Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs.

Brig. Gen. Robert P. Palmer, USAFR – Senior vice president of Government Relations for WPS Health Solutions. Served as Chief of Strategic Communications for the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, deputy director of Legislative Affairs for NORAD and U.S. Northern Command, and director of Public Affairs for Air Force Reserve Command.

Capt. W.G. “Bud” Schneeweis, USCG (Ret) – Former MOAA Director of Benefits Information and Financial Education and a former director of the Military Financial Readiness Project, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. Served as chief of Coast Guard Public Affairs and commander of Coast Guard Recruiting.

Message from MOAA President and Chief Executive Officer Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF, (Ret)

“As I approach retirement from MOAA, I want to take the opportunity to say Thank You to all our surviving spouses . As the years pass, I will always reflect on both the personal friendships and strength of your collective advocacy that made so much difference in the lives of everyone – active duty – retired – and survivors. It will be hard to eclipse the monumental effort of repealing SBP/DIC (Widow’s Tax) and the many personalities within your collective Surviving Spouse ranks that brokered that legislative success. Through the lens of MOAA you all have grown in numbers and advocacy success. From auxiliary membership to full voting members—from an advisory council to positions on our national board—from a loose federation of survivors to the introduction of a robust virtual chapter. Your social media presence has been an instrument providing counsel, guidance, support, and fellowship to so many who need you as they navigate the changes and uncertainties in their future. It’s simply hard not to smile when I think of our Surviving Spouses and how much they mean to me personally, to MOAA, and to the many surviving spouses who both need and depend on your caring, compassion and wisdom. Although I am retiring from my position as President and CEO of MOAA I will endeavor to stay connected—I need you more than you need me.

God bless.

Lt. Gen. Dana “DT” Atkins, USAF (Ret)



National Veterans Day Observance

The 69th annual National Veterans Day Observance, honoring the men and women who have served and continue to serve in the U.S. armed forces during war and peacetime, took place on Friday, November 11, 2022 at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC).



Pictured above left to right: VCOC Vice President and Legislative Affairs Chair COL Monti Zimmerman, USA (Ret), who laid the MOAA wreath on behalf of MOAA at the National Veterans Day Observance

Legislative Affairs

A Conversation With Congressman Rob Wittman (VA 01)



With this conversation, VCOC President CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret) interviews Congressman Rob Wittman (VA 01). Congressman Wittman discusses his career in Congress, following with spotlight on his work on Veterans Legislation in 2022, also the value of VCOC grass roots legislative advocacy. Click below to listen.

[A Conversation with Congressman Rob Wittman](#)



A Perspective from Legislative Chair COL Monti Zimmerman, COL (Ret), USA

COL Monti Zimmerman USA (Ret)
Third Vice President
Chair, Legislative Affairs Committee

What is the value of MOAA? I have asked myself this question a lot over the past two years.

My initial and still strongest response is that it is the BEST advocate for military retired pay and benefit issues. We all know that the percentage of veterans is rapidly decreasing. Over the past two years, more than 2 million veterans have passed away. Also, from the statistics provided by the DoD Office of the Actuary, this is the first year that the total number of retirees has shrunk. The statistics that are presented for the prior fiscal year show the total number of military retirees shrunk from 2,003,957 as of 30 September 2020 to 1,996,446 as of 30 September 2021. The total number of officer retirees shrunk slightly, and the total number of veterans who served as officers rose slightly. I watch these numbers as it is important to remember we are but a small constituency in the greater schemes of Congress. With that said, on the recruiting and retention front, it is no secret that all services are struggling and the propensity for service of our young people is now only 9%.

Do you think that if we stop raising our voice and showing our flag that our positions will “magically” be supported by members of Congress and the 17% who have served in some capacity in the military? We have worked at the federal level with the Military Coalition representing 5.5 million veterans to finally, and with much effort get the PACT Act signed into law this August. Would that happen without MOAA? Maybe, but it would have been much more difficult. We should plan to be active on the Hill as we are close for Advocacy in Action in April 2023. On the state level, after a 25-year fight, the stars aligned to pass income tax relief. Additionally, we in MOAA on the JLC forced the Virginia Legislature to correct the wrong of oversight that did not provide for one of the most vulnerable groups, the surviving spouses of those who died on active duty, but were not killed by enemy. Now, we are trying to create a constitutional amendment that would create a permanent, across the Commonwealth benefit for this group, matching the benefit with those who are listed as 100% permanent and totally VA disabled and the surviving spouses of the 100% disabled group and to correct the benefit for the KIA Gold Star spouses as their benefit is not as generous as for the 100% disabled and their surviving spouses.

So, back to my question, the VCOC has power as we represent almost 2,000 officer veterans and retirees who have worked to retain and protect these benefits.

There is no other advocacy group that is focused on our issues. We are significantly stronger together than we would be separately.

In concert with this article, our Council has launched the “Future of Councils” Committee, for which I am Chair. Our official meetings, via Zoom virtual, are scheduled to commence in January 2023, specific dates, times, goals and objectives forthcoming. Contact me at zoomeruw@gmail.com if interested in serving on our committee.

Spotlight on the Chapters

2021 Levels of Excellence

Congratulations to our Council and ten member chapters presented the Levels of Excellence Five Star Award for 2021 at the MOAA National Meeting in Kansas City

Congratulations to the winners, as follows:

Virginia Council of Chapters

Central Virginia Chapter

Falcons Landing Chapter

George C. Marshall Chapter

Heritage Chapter

Mount Vernon Chapter

Northern Virginia Chapter

Portsmouth Area Chapter

Richmond Area Chapter

Southwest Virginia Chapter

Virginia Peninsula Chapter



MOAA Annual Meeting 2022



The MOAA Annual Meeting was held on October 28, 2022, Kansas City, Missouri, at which MOAA announced its new president and CEO, Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret) and new board Chairman, Gen. Gary L. North, USAF (Ret), along with 12 newly elected members of its board of Directors.

Pictured above: On behalf of VCOC, VCOC Third Vice President and Legislative Affairs Chair COL Monti Zimmerman, USAF (Ret) accepts the MOAA Five Star Award from MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret) and board Chairman Gen. Walter "Skip" Sharp, USA (Ret)



Falcon's Landing and Mt. Vernon Chapters Host VCOC Team



The Falcon's Landing Chapter hosted VCOC President CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret) and Third Vice President, Legislative Chair COL Monti Zimmerman, USA (Ret), 20 October 2022, Falcon's Landing, Sterling, Virginia. Pictured above: CDR Smith and COL Zimmerman with the Falcon's Landing Chapter, Falcon's Landing Executive Dining Room.

During the visit, CDR Smith and COL Zimmerman attended the Chapter board meeting, followed by a mid day luncheon in the Falcon's Landing dining room.

With over 170 members, the Falcon's Landing Chapter is located with in the Falcon's Landing Community, Sterling, Virginia.

The Chapter provides multifaceted local support to veterans and their families, to include the Loudoun Veterans and Family Support (LVFS) program, executed in partnership with Community Lutheran Church of Sterling. The Chapter supports the Loudoun County Community Veterans Engagement Board (LCCVEB), purpose of which is to promote a healthy and enriched lifestyle for Loudoun County veterans.

Four times a year the chapter supports the Adopt a Platoon Soldier Support Effort® dedicated to serving deployed United States Service Men and Women by providing ongoing care packages to improve quality of life and raising morale for those serving overseas in the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corp, Coast Guard and Special Forces.

The Chapter also supports two Junior ROTC Units: the Air Force JROTC unit at Chantilly High School in Fairfax and the Navy JROTC unit at Loudoun County High School. The Chapter President and director of JROTC Programs present two-four scholarships to cadets at each school. In addition, the Lieutenant General John Pustay Scholarship is awarded to a selected cadet at Chantilly High School. View the Chapter



website at: [Falcon's Landing](#). Pictured above: COL Zimmerman briefing the Falcon's Landing Chapter Board. Pictured Below, COL Walsh with CDR Smith, Falcon's Landing Executive Dining Room.



The Mt. Vernon Chapter hosted a meet and greet social at Kilroy's Restaurant, Springfield, Virginia, 19 October 2022. The meet and greet was hosted by Mt. Vernon Chapter Immediate Past President CDR George Wallace , USN (Ret). MOAA President and Chief Executive Officer Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret) and MOAA Chief Operating Officer Col Jim O' Brien, USAF (Ret) attended, with Lt. Gen. Atkins providing brief remarks, including spotlight on the MOAA Legislative Advocacy process on Capitol Hill, also challenges and opportunities of the modern day military recruiting environment.

VCOC President CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret) and Third Vice President, Legislative Affairs COL Monti Zimmerman, USA (Ret) also provided a brief informal review of VCOC Legislative Affairs accomplishments for 2022, Federal and State levels. CDR Smith also thanked Lt. Gen. Atkins for his leadership and steadfast support of VCOC.

Pictured Below: MOAA Chief Operating Officer, Col. Jim O'Brian, USAF (Ret), VCOC President CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret), MOAA CEO and President Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret).



VCOC Chapter President Interview Series

A Conversation with the Richmond Chapter President

With this conversation, VCOC President CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret) interviews Richmond Chapter (RACMOAA) President COL Mark Rich, USA (Ret). COL Rich discusses his career in the United States Army as a Special Forces Officer, following with spotlight on RACMOAA activity for 2022, also the value of VCOC membership and legislative advocacy. Click below to listen.

[A Conversation with COL Mark Rich, USA \(Ret\)](#)

A Conversation with the Falcon's Landing Chapter President

With this conversation, VCOC President CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret) interviews Falcon's Landing Chapter President COL Phil Walsh, USMC (Ret). COL Walsh discusses his career in the United States Marine Corps, following with spotlight on Falcon's Landing Chapter activity for 2022, also the value of VCOC membership and legislative advocacy.

[A Conversation with COL Phil Walsh, USMC \(Ret\)](#)

Legal Corner

COL Vince Cammarata, USA (Ret)
VCOC Legal Committee Chair

A question that regularly comes up is; "What structure is the Virginia Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association of America" (VCOC) and is it the same as the Military Officers Association of America with headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia? Short answer is yes and no! What?

Lets start at the beginning:

The Virginia Council of Chapters, The Retired Officers Association, Inc. was initially formed on April 3rd, 1987. According to Virginia State Corporation Commission records, on March 1st, 2003 the Commission approved a requested name change, and

issued a formal Articles of Amendment on March 27th, 2003 with the new official name: Virginia Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association of America.

The Virginia Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association of America is an independent, nonstock corporation, licensed to do business in the Commonwealth of Virginia that must have its license renewed annually, and submit an Annual Report of its directors to the Virginia State Corporation Commission. The Virginia Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association of America is governed by its own set of approved By-Laws (voted and approved by the Chapter membership). These By-Laws are very similar to a company's Operating Agreement to shed some perspective. When issues come up from time to time, that are not be specifically spelled out and covered in the Chapter By-Laws, that matter/issue shall be governed under the Virginia Code of Virginia statues; Section 13-1 and its sub-sections. In fact, all Military Officers Association of America Chapters throughout the United States are independent, licensed organizations, each with their own set of operating By-Laws, rules and regulations.

Virginia Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association as a Chapter Organization.

A chapter-based organization is any organization that has branches in multiple areas and shares the same mission. This can include a variety of organizations, from sororities to professional associations to nonprofits, and they can be national, state-wide or regional.

Multichapter nonprofit organizations operate similarly to franchised businesses — which, if you've ever been to Dairy Queen or Denny's, you've experienced firsthand. Just like a for-profit business, the parent organization will copyright its name and create a licensing agreement with the chapter, who will then work to carry out its mission, find new members, and other day-to-day operations.

For the most part, chapter organizations are established under the umbrella of the parent organization. They will have their own board, and operate independently, while remaining their own entity. However, depending on the organization, the parent organization will want to have more or less say in the way these Chapter activities are handled.

Remember, since the parent organization takes on considerable legal liability for the affiliating Chapters, it's understandable that they would insist on adherence to their standards, mission and overall agendas.

I hope you found this short article informational, and if you have any questions, please contact me directly.....Vince Cammarata.

Chaplains Corner

LtCol Ken Ruppar, USA (Ret)
VCOC Chaplain

We are in the season of multiple celebrations, both secular and religious. Thinking about what I enjoy most about such holidays finds me focused on food and fellowship. You also may find food an important component of your celebrations. Childhood memories are filled with reflections on the food we ate for these events. My home brought three generations and ten people to the dinner table every day. Holiday meals like Thanksgiving often involved more relatives from out of town. These celebrations and fellowship were great to share. Holiday celebrations in the Army always featured special treats by the capable staff of our unit Mess Halls. The fellowship included the much larger family of young men and women from across America. Great times, all of them. One thing about the meals at home or in the Army was that amidst the variety of food before us, there was no pressure to try everything. The food I liked, I ate, The new offerings I could choose to try or not. (Sometimes I discovered I liked them) A few items I simply passed.

Reflecting on food and fellowship helps me think about organizations like MOAA to which I belong. I can use this food menu idea for other organizations as well, like churches and other volunteer associations. Our chapters have a significant "To Do" list often driven by MOAA national. We personalize the list with things important locally. Some things on the list we like. Others may not be so, I suspect there may be something on the list we manage to skip. But we do this all in the joy of sharing together in a common concern to improve the lives of those who wear the various uniforms of our nation and their families.

As we approach a new year and the arrival of a new CEO for MOAA, and often new chapter leadership, we might see some changes to our chapter menu. Strategic plans and various initiatives as well as some basic survival issues for chapters will face us in the New Year. I wonder if the idea of food for celebrations can help us as a chapter, Council and national MOAA work together to enjoy the choices and celebrate the fellowship that binds us together.

The bottom line is this. We continue to see the challenges facing us to make MOAA at all levels stronger and more effective. Like the food on a buffet, some things we like, others are new and we might try them, and other things we just skip. May we enter the New Year ready to fill up our plates with the good things about MOAA and just maybe, try something new as well. And may we invite others to join us at the table. Happy holidays to you. May you enjoy the food and fellowship in these waning days of 2022.

VCOC Homepage

In reminder, the VCOC homepage [VCOC Homepage](#) presents six primary sections: About Us, Chapters, Meetings and Resources, Crier Newsletter, Legislative Affairs and Contact Us.

The purpose of the homepage is fourfold. First, provide an online platform to assist in ensuring the longterm viability of VCOC. Second, further grow the MOAA brand in Virginia. Third, provide a platform for VCOC chapter involvement and recognition. Finally, provide an improved call to action to VCOC membership, encouraging website visitors to multiple actions, such as joining a MOAA chapter.

To the aforementioned, chapter stories are most welcome for posting to the VCOC Homepage in an ongoing basis. Contact VCOC Webmaster CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret) at mvng288@aol.com with any stories or announcements that you may have.

Chapter Announcements

Richmond Area Chapter Hosts Holiday Gala 2022

RACMOAA will again be hosting the Holiday Gala at the Meadowbrook Country Club on 9 December 2022. Dress is holiday festive - mess/formal service uniform, business suit, and holiday finery. The Gala is a special holiday social event not to be missed. Festivities start at 5 pm.

Highlights will include holiday music, good service, camaraderie with your fellow members and lots of holiday cheer. The price is \$65/person and a special holiday buffet will feature Hand-Carved New York Strip Steak, Chicken Williamsburg (Topped w/ Lump Crab & Smithfield Ham), Vegetable Lasagna, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Southern Style Green Beans, Clubhouse Garden Salad, Warm Rolls and Butter, Assorted Cakes and Pies. Coffee, Tea, Water and Cash Bar will also be available.

Register, click here: [RACMOAA](#). Or, mail names of attendees with your check to Richmond Area Chapter-MOAA, PO Box 985, Chesterfield, VA 23832-9998. Please honor the deadline of 1 December.

North Carolina Council of Chapters Annual Meeting 4-5 November 2022

The North Carolina Council of Chapters held their Annual Meeting on 4-5 November 2022. Members, spouses and guests mingled during a Social Hour in the Hawthorne Inn beginning at 5:30pm. In the Banquet Room, Council President CW4 Jay Garbus, USA (Ret) welcomed everyone and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. CAPT David Lee, USNR (Ret) gave the Invocation and CDR Ken Klassen, USN (Ret) gave a Toast. A Buffet Dinner from Camel City BBQ of barbecue meats, sides and dessert was enjoyed. Invited as a guest by CW4 Garbus, VCOC President CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret) attended both the Veteran Smiles Foundation Program and NCOC business meeting.

A part of the Annual meeting, a Program was presented by Dr. Bob Manga, COL USA (Ret) who is the Director of the ECU Community Service-Learning Center in Sylva and David McCracken, COL USA (Ret) who is Founder of the Veteran Smiles Foundation, a 100% volunteer organization. With excellent power point presentations, both spoke of the dental services provided to at-risk Veterans in eight centers across North Carolina. They outlined the need for financing to continue this program. CAPT Donna Culp, USAF (FMR) presented a check for \$1000 to Veteran Smiles from Western Chapter.

VCOC Meeting Schedule 2022

The VCOC Meeting Schedule for the remainder of 2023, subject to modification:

Joint Leadership Council Day: January, date and times TBD, Richmond General Assembly, Richmond

First Quarter Meeting: January 18, 10:00am - 12:00pm, Zoom Virtual meeting

Second Quarter Meeting: April 12, meeting type TBD

Virginia and North Carolina Councils Leadership Workshop : Date, times and location TBD

Annual Congressional Appreciation Luncheon: Date, times and location TBD

Third Quarter Meeting: July 12, 10:00am - 12:00pm, meeting type TBD

Fourth Quarter Meeting: October 11, 10:00am - 12:00pm, meeting type TBD

Council And Chapter Awards

MOAA Levels of Excellence Award: Each year, councils and chapters may request to be recognized for one of two Levels of Excellence awards. Councils and chapters that want to be considered for [Levels of Excellence Awards](#). Levels of Excellence Award need to submit a nomination by May 1.

A standard set of rating criteria will be used to evaluate all councils and chapters that submit a package. Last year, 162 councils and chapters earned 5-star awards. Your council or chapter could be among the winners recognized at a dinner in Kansas City later this year.

Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Awards: MOAA's annual contest identifying those councils and chapters that do an outstanding job communicating with their members.

Col Steve Strobridge Award for Advocacy:

Council: Col Michael Kelly, USAF (Ret), Kansas State Legislative Liaison, Kansas.

Council of Chapters Chapter: Dr. Ron Sarg (posthumously), formerly Legislative Chair, Dover (Del.) Chapter.

2021 Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award: Surviving Spouse Liaisons work at the Council and Chapter level to ensure fellow survivors remain connected to the military family and participate in local and national programs and advocacy efforts.

MOAA ROTC/JROTC Awards Program: MOAA has PDF fillable certificates for ROTC and JROTC available for leaders to add their chapter name and the name of the award recipient.

ROTC and JROTC fillable PDF certificates, click here: [MOAA Certificates of Recognition and Pins](#)

Medals and certificates can be purchased at the [MOAA Store](#). Note for high schools and universities requesting that someone from MOAA make a presentation: If there is a local MOAA chapter in your area, you may want to consider contacting them. Many of our 400-plus MOAA affiliates are still supporting ROTC/JROTC programs in their area. These programs are entirely voluntary; no MOAA chapter is under any obligation to present a certificate to ROTC and JROTC units. You can use the [Chapter Locator](#) to find your closest available chapter.

2023 Community Outreach Grant Cycle Begins Dec 1, 2022

Next month, The MOAA Foundation will start accepting applications for its 2023 Community Outreach Grants. Grants of up to \$5,000 are offered to MOAA councils or chapters providing services to local military and veteran families — either directly or through partnerships with other community organizations — in one of 10 areas of critical military and veteran family need: housing, food assistance, employment, health (including behavioral health), family strength, community reintegration, financial assistance, legal assistance, transportation, and emergency relief. The application website and grant criteria can be found here: [Community Outreach Grant Application](#)

Veterans Eligible for Travel and Hotel Discounts

[American Forces Travel](#) is a Department of Defense online leisure travel website managed by Morale, Welfare, and Recreation and supported by Priceline. Veterans can access exclusive deals on hotels, flights, rental cars, cruises, packages and event tickets



MOAA Guidance On Partisan Political Activities

Partisan Political Activities: As organizations exempt from federal taxation under Sec. 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code, MOAA and its affiliates must take care to avoid engaging in partisan political activities. Under IRS rules, we are prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.

Candidates for Public Office: A candidate for public office is an individual who offers himself or herself, or is proposed by others, as a contestant for an elective public office, whether such office is national, state, or local, and includes incumbent candidates. The prohibition also extends beyond declared candidates and may apply to efforts to recruit an individual to run for office or advance exploratory activities. The prohibition also applies to advocating for the platform of one political party over another.

Prohibited Activities: Activities which constitute participation or intervention in a political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to a candidate include, but are not limited to, the publication or distribution of written or printed statements or the making of oral statements on behalf of or in opposition to such a candidate. It is clear that the prohibition on partisan political activity prohibits such outright actions such as posting a “Vote for Biden” or “Vote for Trump” on the organization’s website, or “Support Republican Candidates” or “Vote Democratic.”

In addition to these obvious examples, the prohibition goes well beyond direct expressions of support. In determining whether an organization is engaged in unlawful partisan political activities, the IRS applies a “facts and circumstances” test. The IRS looks not only to the expressed language, but to external factors, such as the communication’s timing, its targeted audience, and how the message relates to public policy positions that distinguish a candidate in a campaign.

Consequences for Violations: The consequences to an organization that violates the prohibition on partisan political activity can be severe including the loss of its tax exempt status and the imposition of certain excise taxes. For public charities, like The MOAA Foundation and the MOAA Scholarship Fund, the IRS can disallow tax deductions for charitable contributions. In addition, for an organization whose mission involves advocacy on key military community issues, MOAA must seek support from elected representatives from both parties. Engaging in partisan political activities on behalf of one party or candidate would seriously undermine MOAA’s ability to achieve the bipartisan consensus on key issues essential to achieving its legislative objectives.

Personal Opinions: As individuals, members and leaders of MOAA and MOAA’s affiliates are not prohibited from engaging in partisan political activities so long as they do

so in way that makes it clear they are acting for themselves and do not appear to be speaking on behalf of MOAA or its affiliates. For example, it is permissible for an individual to express his or her personal preference in support of or in opposition to a candidate or political party. And they may do so publicly. However, when expressing their personal opinions or preferences, they may not make reference to their MOAA position, use MOAA communications channels, use MOAA letterhead or newsletters, identify themselves as MOAA leaders, or imply that MOAA or its members share their beliefs.

MOAA HAS FOUR VIRTUAL CHAPTERS

They are: Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter, the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter, the Public Health Service Virtual Chapter, and the Chaplains Virtual Chapter.

Interested in participating in one of these virtual chapters, or in championing another group? Contact Capt. Pat L. Williams, USN (Ret), MOAA's Program Director for Engagement, at patw@moaa.org, or Capt. Erin Stone, JAGC, USN (Ret), Senior Director for Council and Chapter Affairs, at erins@moaa.org, for more information.

DIC Surviving Spouses/DIC Increase Advocacy

Join the Facebook page “ DIC Surviving Spouses/DIC Increase Advocacy “ today and get involved!

For more information contact MOAA surviving spouse Edith Smith, phone (703) 569-3380 or email esmith@capitolcrusader.com.



Military Officers Association of America

***Organized February 12, 1929
Incorporated 1944***

Preamble

To inculcate and stimulate love of our country and the flag;

To defend the honor, integrity, and supremacy of our National Government and the Constitution of the United States;

To advocate military forces adequate to the defense of our country;

To foster the integrity and prestige of uniformed service;

To foster fraternal relations between all branches of the various Services from which our members are drawn;

To further the education of children of Service personnel;

To aid personnel of the Services from which our members are drawn, and their family members and survivors, in every proper and legitimate manner; and

To present their rights and interests when Service matters are under consideration.

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Falcon's Landing: COL Phil Walsh, USMC (Ret)

George C. Marshall: LtCol Greg Frederick, USAR (Ret)

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- Improve legislative effectiveness, national and state.
- Improve recruiting - members and leaders. What is in it for the member?
- Active public affairs - seeking to how we communicate internally and externally with all members, irrespective of generation.
- Improve vitality and excellence of chapters.

Publisher and Editor – CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret). Editor may be reached at: mvng2889@aol.com

The Newsletter is published for members and friends of the MOAA Virginia Council of Chapters.

Editorial Policy: The Virginia Council of Chapters is affiliated with national MOAA. As such, the Virginia Council of Chapters is nonprofit, politically nonpartisan. Editorial policies are established by the Virginia Council of Chapters Publisher and Editor and are in accordance with MOAA Policy and Procedures guide

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