

**Central Virginia Chapter, VCOC – MOAA**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report from CVC/MOAA**  
**1 April 2021 to 30 June 2021**

<b><u>I. Membership:</u></b>	<b><u>Regular</u></b>	<b><u>Surviving Spouses</u></b>	<b><u>Honorary</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
As of 31 Mar:	158	20	4	182
Gains:	1	0	0	1
Losses:	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>	0	<u>10</u>
As of 30 Jun:	152	17	4	173

Gains: MAJ Mike Schulman, US Army (Ret)  
Deaths: None  
Resignations: 10  
Moved: None  
Surviving Spouses Gains: None

**II. Legislative Affairs:**

- A. John Down and Wes Loffert attended the VCOC LegCom meeting on 6 Apr 21. Claudi Flores (Director of Policy & Plans) Virginia Department of Veteran’s Services opened the meeting. There are 15 House bills and 8 Senate bills dealing with veteran issues, with the House reconvening on 7 April. The DVS has approved funding for a 2d women’s veteran coordinator position. The DVS strategic priority is to make Virginia the most veteran friendly State in the Nation. This generated some lively conversation – Virginia has a long way to go.
- B. COL (Ret) Monti Zimmerman (VCOC) reviewed the upcoming JLC initiative process – initial call for topics will be 14 May (John Down to attend). All agreed the JLC needs to steer away from token initiatives like license plates or State Park entry for veterans and start tackling key issues like National Guard drill pay or military tax exemptions. Col (ret) Jim Pauls from the Virginia Peninsula Chapter recommended the VCOC form a committee to examine and comment on the Virginia study documenting the State’s reluctance to provide tax incentives for veterans. The document claims other Virginia tax incentives counter/out way the benefits military/veterans would receive from any State income tax decrease.
- C. CDR (Ret) Lincoln Smith (VCOC) quickly covered MOAA’s top 3 initiatives for the year: Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform, TRICARE Young Adult, and Basic Needs Allowance. Linc requested volunteers to support VCOC’s outreach to Senators Warner and Kaine (CVC volunteered our services as required). All were asked to reach out to

their District Reps at the Chapter level. Our LegCom team is setting up ZOOM meetings with Congressman Good (5<sup>th</sup> District) and Congresswoman Spanberger (7<sup>th</sup> District).

- D. On 27 May 21 Central Virginia Chapter LegCom Reps Col (Ret) Dan Moy and LtCol (Ret) John Down held a virtual conference call with Representatives Bob Good; with a follow up conference call with Representative Abigail Spanberger to solicit their support for the MOAA's 2021 National Initiatives: Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform, TRICARE Young Adult Parity, and Basic Needs Allowance.
- E. Additionally, the LegCom team solicited support for the Major Richard Star Act (S. 344) with 42 Senators as original cosponsors. The legislation will authorize concurrent receipt of DoD retired pay and VA disability for those injured in a combat zone and forced to medically retire under Chapter 61.
- F. **Upcoming soon:**
  - 1. Next VCOC LegCom meeting 13 July 2021.
  - 2. Next JLC Meeting 14 July 2021; War Memorial in Virginia (Monti Zimmerman, VCOC attending); initiation of topics for State action in 2022.
  - 3. Development of CVC LegCom timeline continuity file continues.

### **III. Public Affairs:**

- A. Our Public Affairs Officer, CAPT David Hilty, USN (ret.). Dave has established a joint Personal Affairs/Surviving Spouses committee.

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

- A. 5 Star.
- B. Self-evaluation, 5 Star.
- C. 5 Star for Col Marvin J. Harris Communications Award for printed newsletter and website. Award date May 3, 2021.

### **V. Most Significant Chapter Events of the Quarter:**

- A. Chapter Legislative Committee Participated in the MOAA "Advocacy in Action" meetings in May and June. Chapter President participated in the State Legislative Forum virtually in April.
- B. The Chapter received a congratulatory note and MOAA Fiftieth Anniversary Affiliate Award on June 24th. Gen. Atkins cited the Chapter for its consecutive excellence awards, advancing the MOAA legislative agenda, with leadership and enduring contributions to the MOAA mission, "Never Stop Serving."

- C. The Chapter continues to publish its newsletter, *The Bugle*, during the pandemic despite the cancellation of Chapter social functions and community activities. The newsletter, normally printed and mailed to all Chapter members, is being distributed via email and paper copies are being sent via USPS to those few members who do not have email. The Chapter's Board of Directors believes that *The Bugle* plays an important role in keeping the Chapter members "connected" even though we have not met in person.
- D. The Chapter submitted the 2020 Level of Excellence Award nomination in April to MOAA Headquarters.
- E. While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact all chapter in-person activities, we continue to conduct our monthly Board meetings via teleconferencing. Hopeful of in-person meetings to resume in August.

Submitted by responsible submitting officer:

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