



VCOC 3rd QUARTER MEETING
Tuesday, 12 July 2022
Virginia War Memorial, Richmond, and Zoom Meeting

1. Administration, Meeting Called to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 1037 hours by Linc Smith, CDR, USN (Ret). Linc welcomed all to the meeting.
- Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation were offered. Ken Ruppard, LTC, USA (Ret), VCOC Chaplain, gave the invocation; Monti Zimmerman, COL, USAR (Ret.), led the pledge.

2. Secretary's Report

- VCOC Secretary, John Down, LtCol, USAF (ret), reiterated the welcome. He mentioned that some chapters have not submitted quarterly reports. The VCOC website lists the status of each chapter and reports from each chapter received and posted to the website.

• Roll Call & Determine Quorum

- John Down conducted the Roll Call. Seven chapters were represented of the total of sixteen active chapters; some chapters had multiple representatives but only one voting member per chapter. A quorum was thus not achieved. Therefore, the Council conducted the meeting for information purposes only. Please refer to Attachment 1 of these minutes for details of the roll call. We had two guests attend the meeting in Richmond. Mike Morones, MOAA Senior Multimedia Producer, Communications took photos of the meeting. Retired USAF LtCol Philip Hicks represented the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME). See "New Business" for more information on that topic.

• Adoption of the Agenda

Because there was not a quorum achieved, the agenda did not require adoption.

3. Approval of 2nd Quarter Meeting Minutes

- Because we lacked a quorum for this meeting, the Second Quarter Meeting minutes could not be voted on for approval. The vote to approve those minutes will be conducted at a later date, TBD.

4. President's Report

- Linc Smith introduced Craig Crenshaw, retired USMC Major General and currently Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs. Please refer to Attachment 2 of these informational minutes for a summary of his remarks.
- Linc thanked the Portsmouth Area Chapter (PACMOAA), the Potomac Chapter, and the Central Virginia Chapter for the opportunity to visit them recently.

- Linc reminded everyone about the upcoming MOAA Mid-Atlantic Leadership Training Workshop to be held in Raleigh, NC, from August 12-13. Notifications had previously been sent out.
- In summary of Council “Advocacy in Action” legislative events, Linc noted that between 21 January and 8 July we had five teams who contacted both our Senators and many of our representatives to Congress. He thanked all the participants for their outstanding efforts.
- Linc mentioned the upcoming award presentations to Rep. Elaine Luria, 2nd District, as VCOC Federal Legislator of the Year and Del. Kathy Tran as State Legislator of the Year. We plan to present both awards to these recipients at our Fourth Quarter VCOC Meeting in October. MOAA recently recognized Rep. Luria with a separate award for her outstanding support at the federal level.
- Finally, Linc noted some chapter events coming up such as the Richmond Area Chapter (RACMOAA) attendance at a Flying Squirrels baseball game and the Tidewater area chapters having an annual meeting and dinner event.

5. Treasurer’s Report

- In the absence of the Treasurer, John Down briefly presented the information previously sent out by Treasurer Jim Stephan, LtCol, USAF (Ret.). John noted the expenses for MOAA travel include the planned travel expenses for the Council President which have been added to the budget this year. At the end of the Second Quarter, we have \$6, 613.71.

6. Standing Committee Reports:

• Communications & Public Affairs

- Linc Smith mentioned that “The Crier” was posted on the VCOC website. He asked that chapters should send their inputs to him at his email address (mvng288@aol.com).

• Membership & Chapter Affairs

- John Down briefly presented the Membership report on behalf of John Prevar, CDR, USN (Ret.). This report presents the membership data as of end of the second quarter. Several chapters to include PACMOAA and Falcons Landing said that their reports were not correct. We asked those chapters to send us their correct/revised reports and we would update the Council Membership Report accordingly. Overall, we are down approximately a hundred+ members since the end of the first quarter.

7. Legislative Committee Report

- Monti Zimmerman provided an overview of on-going legislative efforts at the state level.
 - The Commonwealth’s budget has been signed.
 - MOAA VCOC polo shirts – to be covered under “New Business.”
 - Work continues to move the property tax exemption toward a constitutional amendment which will eventually have to be voted on. Noted in Attachment 2 to this informational meeting minutes.
 - The JLC is collaborating with the National Guard Association to increase the Virginia State Tax deduction from \$3k to \$6 and to remove the O-3 cap.
 - The National Guard Association wants to have Virginia grant free access to all state parks for its members. There is an issue with this, and that is the Virginia user fee. Virginia receives a “kicker” from the federal government for entrance fees paid. If

Guard members do not pay a fee, the state loses that “kicker” accordingly. An alternative may be reduced fees for Guard members in lieu of no fee.

- The Navy League is working to eliminate the surviving spouse burial fee of \$400.
- An Air Force attorney on his two-weeks active duty with the Reserves has a father who is 100% disabled and who is seeking property tax relief; he ran into problems. There are three options for dealing with this, and they are contradictory. The JLC is asking the Reserve Officers Association (ROA) to sponsor a 2023 initiative for this and to get a co-sponsor, possibly MOAA.
- The American Legion reports that the tax relief being sought for military retirees is not enough. They have a lengthy position paper on this which they sent to the JLC on June 17th.
- Linc Smith provided an update on national legislative advocacy status:
 - As part of continuing “Advocacy in Action” for 2022, Linc praised the Southwest Chapter for their July 8th meeting with Rep. Morgan Griffith to advocate for the top three MOAA goals/legislative objectives. Specifically, they asked that he co-sponsor the Major Richard Star Act, which is Amendment 98 in the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), and the Honor the Pact Act.

8. Surviving Spouses (Sherry Ferkhi, Maj, USA, Ret.)

- Sherry commented that communications with surviving spouses can be difficult, especially if they do not have email. She asked that any chapter having suggestions for contacting their surviving spouses to pass that along to her.
- She recommended that chapters download the MOAA “Surviving Spouses Corner” information and incorporate it into their chapter newsletters to help keep surviving spouses informed.

9. Old Business

- Since we did not have a quorum, we could not hold a vote on the VCOC Bylaws amendments. That vote will be scheduled for a later date.
- At the April meeting, the boxes of Council documents were given to volunteers to review the contents and recommend disposition of same. We had one report, and that was from Ken App representing PACMOAA. Ken noted that he had files from 1994-1996 that he believes should be destroyed. He also found flag streamers that he will bring to the next in-person Council meeting.

10. New Business

- Lacking a quorum, we could not hold a vote to confirm Maria Kelly as Treasurer succeeding Jim Stephan.
- Vince Cammarata of RACMOAA, an attorney and retired Army colonel, acknowledged Paul Galanti, Lt.Cmdr., USN, a former prisoner of war and also former Virginia Dept. of Veterans Affairs commissioner. We were meeting in a conference room named in his honor at the War Memorial. Vince also wanted to pass on some advice to all Council and chapter members to have at least these three documents:

- Last Will and Testament
- Durable Power of Attorney
- Advanced Medical Directive.

Vince is happy to discuss these with Council/chapter members.

- Monti Zimmerman, with support from Vince Cammarata, was able to create a Council log for polo shirts. The one-time fee was \$75 to do that. We thus own that logo. Monti suggested that the Council sell these shirts (price TBD) to raise funds for the Council treasury. In addition, we could award the shirts for such accomplishments as recruiting. Monti and John Down wear these polo shirts to JLC functions.
 - We entertained a request from Philip Hicks to inform the Council on the goals of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME). With its national office in Alexandria, VA, SAME has five specific goals for its members, with one of these being support to engineer veterans who are transitioning out of the service. Among chapters in Virginia are the Blue Ridge, Ft. Lee, Norfolk, Ft. Belvoir, and Langley Air Force Base chapters. Hicks said that he is working with MOAA on a webinar to be conducted in August. As he is not a current chapter member, John Down encouraged him to become a member of the MOAA chapter in his area in northern Virginia.
 - The Fourth Quarter VCOC meeting is presently scheduled for October 11th at the Virginia War Memorial. We plan to present the federal and state legislator of the year awards at that meeting.
- 11. Discussions opened to the floor. Hearing none, and with no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:46 hours.**

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

ATTACHMENT 1, Roll Call of Chapters, 12 July 2022

	CHAPTER	PRESENT	REPRESENTATIVE
1.	Central Virginia	Yes	Wes Loffert
2.	Falcon's Landing	Yes	Phil Walsh
3.	George C. Marshall	No	x
4.	Hampton Roads	Yes	John McLaren
5.	Heritage	No	x
6.	Heritage Hunt	No	x
7.	Mt. Vernon	No	x
8.	Northern Neck	No	x
9.	Northern Virginia	Yes	Monti Zimmerman
10.	Piedmont Virginia	No	x
11.	Portsmouth Area	Yes	Ken App
12.	Potomac	No	x
13.	Richmond Area	Yes	Vince Cammarata
14.	Southside Virginia	No	x
15.	Southwest Virginia	No	x
16.	Virginia Peninsula	Yes	Jim Pauls

ATTACHMENT 2, Summary of Craig Crenshaw's Remarks

1. General Crenshaw supplied a brief overview of the activities of the Virginia Department of Veterans and Defense Affairs. He mentioned how they are working to support our military and veterans communities in a way that “moves the needle.”
2. He mentioned their charter, saying that he firmly believes that Virginia is the right place for our military and veterans to “thrive and serve.”
3. He mentioned that we want to be “best in class” for whatever we do.
4. General Crenshaw mentioned some of the issues that are of interest to those who remain in Virginia. (Forty thousand military leave active duty each year, but only ten thousand (25%) remain in Virginia.) The taxation of military retirement benefits is one such issue. Beginning this year, and in \$10K increments per year, military retirement will be exempt from state income taxes, up to \$40K, age 55 and up. He mentioned real property taxes for surviving spouses, and Monti Zimmerman updated that status for those spouses whose military member died on active duty but was not killed in action. Monti noted the work being done to get a constitutional amendment passed to make the change effective state-wide. Currently 182 spouses are affected. Fairfax County is balking at this. It takes up to three years to finally get this through.
5. Next, General Crenshaw commented on our National Guard force in terms of education, tuition assistance, etc. Kevin Hoffman and the National Guard Association are working on a white paper to address National Guard issues, and MOAA is working with that organization on that, per Monti Zimmerman.
6. Lastly, the Department Secretary highlighted that a Veterans Innovation Center is being stood up, as sponsored by Boeing and Virginia Tech. This center will provide a digital hub for veterans transition services like what is underway in Texas and South Carolina. This is to be a single point of reference for all veterans for available programs, education, jobs, etc. General Crenshaw mentioned that he is closely tied in with MOAA and the Joint Leadership Council (JLC).