



VCOC 2nd QUARTER MEETING
Wednesday April 10, 2024
Zoom Meeting
DRAFT MINUTES

1. Administration

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 PM by Col Diana Kupchella, USAF (Ret), VCOC President.

The Pledge & Invocation was delivered by Col Diana Kupchella, USAF (Ret), VCOC President.

The Roll Call was conducted by VCOC Acting Secretary MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret). Nine chapters were represented: Central Virginia (CPT Ruth McWilliams, USA, former), Heritage (Col Bill Gooding, USMC, ret), Mount Vernon (CDR John Prevar, USN, ret), Northern Virginia (Col Diana Kupchella, USAF, ret), Piedmont (LTC Judy Chantelois, USA, ret), Portsmouth Area (MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA, ret), Richmond Area (COL Mark Rich, USA, ret), SW VA (CAPT Matt Haag, USN, ret), and Virginia Peninsula (New President, Ron Corson), VCOC officers: President: Col Diana Kupchella, USAF (Ret), Second Vice President: CDR John Prevar USN (Ret), Third Vice President COL Monti Zimmerman, USA (Ret), Treasurer MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret), and Legal Counsel COL Vince Cammarata, USA (Ret) . Several chapters had additional members attending – Portsmouth Area: President Bruce LaLonde and Richmond Chapter: CAPT Mary Lou Wassell, USN (Ret).

- Adoption of the Agenda approved.
- The 1st Quarter meeting minutes were adopted with corrections to Linc Smith's name and CAPT Mark Rich, USN changed to COL Mark Rich, USA. Motion made by Ruth McWilliams. Matt Haag, USN (Ret.) seconded. Approved.

2. President's Report

- Col Diana Kupchella, USAF (Ret) welcomed everyone. Vacant positions, First VP, Secretary, and Chaplain. Diana is juggling doing the updates to the website which is the 1st VPs job but that is still a vacant position. Ruth McWilliams agreed to take the third quarter meeting minutes on 11 July 2024. Diana is going on a cruise next week that is raising money for the Military Women's Memorial so she will not be able to attend Advocacy in Action on Capitol Hill next week. Monti and Linc will attend in her place. Diana applied for MOAA Community Outreach Sponsorship (\$800.00) to help pay for Network Solutions expenses (about \$1000.00 per year) to maintain and update website and provide security protection.



3. Treasurer's Report

- MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret) provided financial update: reviewing the 1st Quarter Financial Report and noted above budget in income (\$259.00) and expenses under budget. Expenses expected to be much lower this year as all meetings virtual and won't have biennial meeting/luncheon/Remembrance Ceremony. Also travel and awards expected to be much lower as more are given at biennial 4th Qtr meeting. Documents were provided to every Chapter before the meeting.
- Qtrly meeting was a carryover from 2023 – for flowers at meetings, etc. Balance much better than ended the year with so much better situation than in December 2023.
- Reduced budgetary lines and plan to keep to that plan. If something unexpected comes up, leadership will bring to the Executive Committee. If something doesn't make sense, Sherry volunteered to explain.
- Chapter dues update – received dues from every chapter except Northern Neck and communicating with them now. New Leadership Team in place, none the same as in VCOC Directory.
- Executive Committee decided to cancel the debit card so still researching alternatives.
- New PO box has been rented.
- State Farm Insurance Coverage is being investigated because costs have gone down which is unusual. Sherry investigating.

4. Standing Committee Reports

- **Communications and Public Affairs**
 - Col Diana Kupchella, (USAF) (Ret) noted Network Solutions support discussed earlier. She still has all the updates members have been sending her and will have Network Solutions update the website with them after she returns from her cruise. After discussion, it was decided that **info should be submitted to Diana by the 15th of each month to update website.**
- **Membership and Chapter Affairs**
 - CDR John Prevar, USN (Ret), noted Membership Report shows membership numbers as of 31 Dec and not accurate as no report from Northern Neck. John noted membership numbers decreased by 87 at this time but probably will decrease when get numbers from Northern Neck. Sherry had highlighted on the report that 3 chapters had not submitted a quarterly report for 3 years.



- Discussed and voted in January at 1st Qtr Meeting to change Quarterly Reports changed to Biannual reports. They will be due by 6 July and 6 January and should be sent to John Prevar and Sherry Ferki.
 - Sherry reviewed the proposed Biannual Report. Some changes noted include Advocacy in Action under Leg Affairs, under Community Affairs- JROTC & ROTC involvement under Community Affairs, Communication Awards should be included along with Levels of Excellence and should change last section to Significant Chapter Events over the past 6 months. Very good discussion per why info needed and what needed to be included to give better overview. Mark Rich noted importance of including social component with dinner meetings, listing events including speakers names, etc. Revised version will be sent to all chapters before next meeting. **Deadline** for submission of report discussed and **6 July and 6 January** decided needed to give chapter times to see end of the month numbers and to give Membership Chair time to update his report.
 - Several members mentioned the challenge with getting new members and new Leadership Team members. Ron Corson, new President of VIPMOAA and a past President of the chapter, mentioned they are doing presentations in 50 and older communities to get more members.
- **Legislative Chair - COL Monti Zimmerman, USA (Ret)**
 - **State legislative Advocacy: Joint Leadership Council (JLC) Update**
 - 1. **JLC 2024-01 Tax Exemption for Surviving Spouses of Military Service Members to include Died on Active Duty.** Can access position paper at <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/dvs/joint-leadership-council-veterans-service-organizations-2>. Passed and will be on Nov ballot as Constitutional Amendment. Impacts around 4 widowers and 100 widows. Constitutional amendment will change it to become mandatory across the state versus the voluntary status currently! Monti has been working on this issue for 8 years. Ruth asked for information on the Constitutional Amendment and Monti clarified the issue: Purpose to give Surviving Spouse of service member that was killed on active duty versus killed in action same benefit. Impacts about 100 widows and 4 widowers!
 - 2. Monti worked with Reserve Officers Assoc (ROA) to get Public Health Service (PHS) & NOAA added to the armed services that receive deduction from their state taxes passed in 2022. Not successful this year but he did develop a squad of volunteers from PHS & NOAA who will carry on the fight next year.
 - 3. State budget very interesting. Legislation may be passed but may need to be included in budget. 17 April last day to sign legislation. Some backroom negotiations occurred



and included cut to education benefits for 90% & 100% disabled veterans. Program called VA Military Survivors and Dependents Program (VMSDEP). Monti forwarded info link Diana, Sherry & VFW generated enough support for Gov to veto the line item that significantly cut this program!

- **MOAA Advocacy in Action** – Monti Lead, Linc assisting with Senators and 1 Rep, Sherry meeting with 2 Rep, & John Down meeting with 1 Rep. 3 issues – The Richard Satr Act (biggest issue per Monti), Fully Funding BAH, and Protecting TRICARE for Life. Several members had questions per the Richard Star Act so Monti briefly reviewed it.

Surviving Spouse

- The Surviving Spouse Corner on VCOC website updated frequently with articles of interest to Surviving Spouses.
- Encourage Chapter newsletter editors to include Surviving Spouse Corner from MOAA website in newsletter but without pictures.
- Suggestion from Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter Briefing for chapters to have a yearly program about Surviving spouses.
- **Please send Diana or Sherry name and contact info per current Surviving Spouse Liaison so list can be updated.**

4. Old Business

- Discuss revised Quarterly Report to Biannual Report – Reviewed will be revised as discussed under membership report.
- Who is updating Directory? Diana currently is updating. Discussion per accessibility. Used to be accessible by password only to members. Now only accessible with specific link. Should be more available to members. Will be on the agenda to discuss at next meeting.

6. New Business - None

Ron Corson made a motion to adjourn, Matt Haag seconded. The meeting was adjourned by Col Diana Kupchella, USAF (Ret) at 4:05 pm.

Respectively Submitted By: Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret), Acting Secretary, VCOC

Two Attachments:

- Updated Semi-Annual Report Form
- Updated Membership Report from 31 Dec 2024 as of 1 April 2024