

Richmond Area Chapter  
VCOC 2024 Mid-Year Report  
1 Jan – 30 June 2024

**I. Membership**

As of 30 June 2024, total active chapter membership was 205 paid and 4 honorary. The paid membership breakdown includes 179 military and 26 surviving spouse members.

**II. Legislative Affairs**

Our June board meeting included a long discussion of the May 15th Executive Directive from Governor Youngkin addressing the changes to the VA Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP). Efforts to respond to legislators were discussed. It was agreed to explore coordination with COL Monti Zimmerman who has represented VCOC - MOAA, JLC and other veteran groups on legislation for guidance on what individuals can do.

**III. Public Affairs**

Nothing to report

**IV. Awards**

Submission was made for the 2023 MOAA Communication Awards for Newsletter and Website and the Level of Excellence Award.

**V. ROTC/JROTC Awards**

Support of our 25 area high schools and six colleges continued with awarding certificates and medals at their school ceremonies. Also, three \$1,000 awards were made to outstanding graduating JROTC cadets accepted at four-year ROTC programs.

**VI. Significant Chapter Events**

Three Member events were the highlights/significant events this quarter. On 4 February, our chapter conducted our first return to Member Brunches at Meadowbrook Country Club. This Meeting featured LTC Kenneth Ruppert, USA, Ret, as guest speaker and key officiant at our Annual Memorial Service honoring 10-chapter members who passed in 2023. Our 17 March, our St Patrick's Day Member Brunch featured Karen Ruedisueli, MOAA's director of government relations for health affairs, providing an informative update on MOAA's legislative priorities for TRICARE and the military health system including efforts to reverse TRICARE pharmacy network cuts, fix TRICARE coverage gaps, and address barriers to access in military treatment facilities. On 15 May we conducted our annual JROTC/ROTC dinner meeting. The highlight was awarding \$1,000 to each of three outstanding cadets.

Submitted by:  
COL Mark Rich USA Ret  
Chapter Representative