



The Council Crier

Third Quarter 2023

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

As we enter the close of Summer 2023, our Third Quarter Council Crier for this year continues to tell a story of tremendous service by our Chapters around our great Commonwealth. To this story, Congratulations to our Virginia Council and ten Council member Chapters awarded the Levels of Excellence award, 2022 Cycle, for which each is at the Five Star Level. Well done, all regards.

Our Third Quarter Meeting 2023 was again held at George C. Marshall's Dodona Manor in Leesburg Virginia, with Chapter attendance the best of many months, even years. Thanks to the George C. Marshall Foundation's Dodona Manor for a most remarkable support of our Virginia Council this year.

VCOC Officers 2022-2024

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On Deck

Indeed, stories of dedication to the MOAA mission abound in our VCOC, both known and lesser known. Representing MOAA and our Council over the length and breadth of our Commonwealth and beyond this summer 2023 remains an endless privilege.

I joined Congressman Don Beyer (VA 08) at his Town Hall, McLean Community Center, McLean, Virginia, 12 July, thanking him for his long term support of preserving the earned pay and benefits of the American Veteran, to include his co-sponsorship of the MOAA Legislative priority Major Richard Star Act, HR 1282. The Star Act will amend title 10, United States Code, to expand eligibility to certain military retirees for





concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay or combat-related special compensation.

Amidst duties in our Nation's Capitol, lunched on 11 August with our VCOC Second Vice President CDR John Prevar, USN (Ret) at the storied Cosmos Club, DC. Our discussion included topics and feedback relating to the long term viability of both MOAA and our Virginia Council. For years now, John has been most dedicated to our Association, many regards.

On 15 August, I returned to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, DC, attending the legendary musical Moulin Rouge, also visiting the new immersive exhibit of President Kennedy's life, open daily with free admission from noon to midnight. Harkening back to Veterans Day 1961, President Kennedy said in his remarks at Arlington National Cemetery, "There is no way to maintain the frontiers of freedom without cost and commitment and risk. There is no swift and easy path to peace in our generation."



Having served on the President's Ship for some 42 months, I often think of many shipmates, some of whom are no longer with us. With this ongoing reflection, I again visited the USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67) at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard on 30 July, while enroute to the Disabled Veterans of America 101st National Convention, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Earlier this year, I visited model of the new USS John F. Kennedy (CVN 79), while teaming with MOAA National at the annual U.S. Navy League Sea Air Space Exposition, National Harbor, Maryland. With the forthcoming Kennedy crew part of the future of both our great Navy and Nation, we would look forward to growing the MOAA brand by attending the future commissioning of CVN 79.



Fourth Quarter Meeting 2023

Our Fourth Quarter meeting, will be held at Falcons Landing, Sterling, Virginia, 25 October 2023. We are honored to be joined by our Virginia Delegation at our Biennial Luncheon 2023, to be held immediately subsequent to our business meeting that day. Along with installation of our Officer

Slate 2024-2026, we will be presenting awards of great significance, to include MOAA Steve Strobridge Award 2022 to VCOC Third Vice President COL Monti Zimmerman, USA (Ret) and Virginia Cabinet Secretary of the Year award 2022 to Deputy Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Jason Pak. Many thanks to Falcon's Landing Chapter President Col. Phil Walsh, USMC (Ret) for his hosting of VCOC.

Around Our Commonwealth

The George C. Marshall Chapter is hosting their Annual Veteran Golf Tournament, Friday, 16 September, Lexington Golf and Country Club. A signature event for the Marshall Chapter, point of contact is Tournament Chair CAPT Bill Kozak, USCG (Ret), 571-358-5378. To the Holidays 2023, the Heritage Hunt Chapter, Gainesville and our Richmond Chapter will be holding their annual Holiday Galas 2023 in December. Look forward to joining Heritage Hunt Chapter President LCDR Jim Beavers, USN (Ret) and RACMOAA President COL Mark Rich, USA (Ret) at each of these galas.

Ongoing Thanks

Our VCOC continues to confer with fellow MOAA Councils nationwide, multiple issues. In example, our White Paper Committee to study the future of MOAA and Councils includes North Carolina Council of Chapters President CW4 Jay Garbus, USA (Ret), New Mexico Council of Chapters President LTC Walter Paul, ARNG (Res) and Illinois Council of Chapter President Col Bob Tyler, USMC (Ret). Many thanks to each of these Council Presidents for providing feedback on our initial White Paper.

Closing

In his *From the President* remarks in the August 2023 issue of MOAA Magazine, MOAA CEO and President Lt. Gen. Brian "BK" Kelly, USAF (Ret) says, "Imagine if we had at least half our membership supporting our advocacy efforts, just about every topic we champion would be top of mind for legislators across Congress."

To BK's charge, our Virginia Council is listening. In prime example of supporting advocacy, VCOC was recognized for legislative advocacy accomplishment by Virginia State Senator Bryce Reeves (R 17th), Regular Session, 23 January 2023, view here: [Senator Bryce Reeves and Lieutenant Governor Winsome Sears Recognizes Virginia Council of Chapters](#)

Be it a Town Hall with Congressman Don Beyer (VA 08) in McLean, Virginia, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in DC, joining the Disabled Veterans of America 101st National Convention, Atlantic City, New Jersey, USS John F. Kennedy (CVN 79) future commissioning, our George C. Marshall Chapter Annual Veteran Golf Tournament, meetings with members of our Virginia Delegation, or joining the Virginia Senate during the 2023 session, our Council continues to seize the unique opportunity of growing the MOAA Brand.

To President Kennedy's historical reminder in 1961 of the American Veteran maintaining the frontiers of freedom and the centerpiece charge last month by Lt. Gen. Kelly on the importance of MOAA Legislative Advocacy, may we indeed continue to champion the great cause we advocate: preserving the earned pay and benefits of the Veteran and their families.

Thank you for your dedicated service to both the Virginia Council of Chapters and Military Officers Association of America.

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



Council and Chapters

VCOC Third Quarter Meeting

Dodona Manor

The Virginia Council of Chapters held the Council Third Quarter Meeting 2023 at George C. Marshall Dodona Manor, Leesburg, Virginia July 12, 2023. With Chapter Presidents and Representatives from around the Commonwealth in attendance, the hybrid in person and virtual meeting was the most attended Council quarterly meeting in recent years.

Two awards were presented at the meeting. First was an VCOC Honorary Membership presented to Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret), ninth President and CEO of MOAA. MOAA Vice President for Council/Chapter and Member Support CAPT Jim Carman, USN (Ret) accepted the award on behalf of Lt. Gen. Atkins (pictured below, left). Next, pictured below right, VCOC Legislative Affairs Chair COL Monti Zimmerman, USA (Ret) awarded VCOC State Legislator of the Year to Virginia State Senator Jeremy McPike (D 29th).



Below: VCOC President CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret) presents certificate of appreciation to Ms. Buzz Baker, Dodona Manor.



Pictured below, MOAA Director of Government Relations for Currently Serving and Retired Affairs Lt.Col. Mark Belinsky, USA (Ret) provided an update on the most recent MOAA National Legislative Affairs advocacy, to include work on legislation to preserve full burial benefits as Arlington Cemetery nears capacity.



THE GEORGE C. MARSHALL
INTERNATIONAL CENTER
Inspiring Leadership

George C. Marshall Chapter Veteran Support Golf Tournament



All proceeds will support special service projects and provide assistance and scholarships for veterans and their families.

Friday September 15, 2023

!!Captain's Choice!!

Shotgun Start at 1 p.m. - \$100 PP (Cash or Check)

\$200 Low Gross / Low Net Pro Shop Prizes
for both Men's and Women's Teams

TO REGISTER:

Call the Lexington Golf and Country Club

540-463-3542

On-site registration opens at 11:30 a.m.

TO SPONSOR A HOLE:

Contact Mike Quarles at 540-463-5290

Refreshments
On Course

Separate Flight
For Women!

Includes
Buffet

Virginia Peninsula Chapter ROTC/JROTC Program

LtCol Tom Swanson, USAF (Ret)

June 2023 VIPMOAA Newsletter

ROTC/JROTC PROGRAM – Lt Col Tom Swanson

Make a Difference!
DONATE

Please consider including a tax deductible donation when you renew your membership or pay for events.

The following organizations are recipients of our members' generous donations:

- [Fisher House at Portsmouth Naval Hospital](#)
- [Liberty Lounge, Colonial Williamsburg](#)
- [Old Dominion Honor Flight](#)
- [USO of Hampton Roads & Central Virginia](#)
- [JROTC/ROTC](#)
- [Civil Air Patrol](#)
- [Williamsburg House of Mercy](#)

Please click on the links above to read more about these organizations.

VIPMOAA is proud to support and mentor the Cadets at our 3 local colleges and those in the 11 JROTC programs at the high schools.

The commissioning of the Cadets at Hampton University took place on Saturday 13 May with Jim Pauls as the VIPMOAA representative. At the commissioning the Senior Cadets receive a set of 2nd Lt bars, a certificate citing **Welcome into the Officers Corps**, along with a free introductory membership in MOAA. This year Cadets Rylan McLaurin, Joseph Somers, NaKhyla Ligonde, Naya Thomas, Jamori Macon, & Jaleh Ames were commissioned.



The commissioning of the Cadets at CNU took place on May 12th with Tom Swanson presenting their 2nd Lt bars. The Cadets were Sydney Buckner, Timothy Davis, Keith Martin, Conor O'Grady-Walsh, Gabrielle Petrone, William Soos, Olivia Wood, & Nathan Zimmerman.



Lynn Dievendorf, Steve Huebner & Sheri Elston attended the commissioning at W&M on 18 May. The Cadets commissioned were Remy Lee Benner, Sarah Dorrel, Kenneth Doty, Paul Johnson, Katelyn McCormack, Nicholas McCormick, Peter O'Donahue, & William Stubner.

Newport News Heritage High School ceremony was on 18 May. The Cadets were sharp and energetic, and the drill team and color guard were exemplary! Tom Shubert presented the Leadership award and a \$1000 scholarship to Senior year Cadet LCDR Nikkia Williams who will be attending Old Dominion University to pursue a degree in electrical engineering. Junior year Cadet Lt Madison Davis received the VIPMOAA Leadership Award along with a \$50 gift card.



Denbigh High School had their awards program on 18 May. Ron Corson presented Cadet Nico Apple with the Junior Leadership Award and Cadet Elijah Pascual the scholarship award for \$1000. Cadet Pascual will attend Norfolk State University.

Legislative Affairs

VCOC Third Vice President Awarded Colonel Steve Strobridge Award

VCOC Third Vice President and Legislative Affairs Chair COL Monti Zimmerman, USA (Ret) has been awarded the MOAA Colonel Steve Strobridge Award for calendar year 2022. From the MOAA Website, the Strobridge award is “Awarded annually to one affiliate Legislative Chair or Liaison who has demonstrated superior service to their council/chapter in support of national and/or state legislation which affects service members, veterans, retirees, and their families.” To the award, email dated 14 August 2023 from MOAA President and CEO Lt.Gen. “BK” Kelly follows.

Monti,

Congratulations on your selection as the 2023 Colonel Steve Strobridge Legislative Chair Award winner at the Council level! This recognition is well earned – as evidenced by your selection from a strong pool of nominees.

The Colonel Steve Strobridge Legislative Advocacy Awards are given to individuals who have demonstrated superior leadership and service at the Council or Chapter level, advocating on issues of great importance to the military and veteran community. Your efforts have contributed to an increase in awareness of veterans’ issues in Virginia as well as remarkable and hard-fought success. In addition to keeping MOAA members informed and engaged, your active involvement as Vice Chair of the Virginia Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Organizations has made an enormous difference for countless military members, veterans, families, and survivors and I commend and thank you for your efforts.

Congratulations again!

VR, BK

Brian T. Kelly (BK)
Lieutenant General, U.S. Air Force (Ret)
President and CEO
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

NEVER STOP SERVING.®

VCOC Continues Advocacy in Action Campaign 2023



From the MOAA Homepage: MOAA members and others in the uniformed services community: Don't miss the chance to follow up with your lawmakers during their summer work period on two key parts of MOAA's legislative agenda:

Pay Full Housing Costs for Servicemembers

It's time to raise the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) back to 100% of these costs, helping servicemembers and families deal with rising inflation, spiking home costs in some areas of the country, and other budget pressures. Take Action Today!

Restore the TRICARE Retail Pharmacy Network

Thousands of independent pharmacies have left the network, threatening a critical benefit for many in rural areas, as well as elderly beneficiaries and those with serious medical conditions. MOAA wants increased Congressional oversight over a strong, accessible network, beginning with a report mandated as part of the FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) process. Take Action Today!

To the VCOC Summer Advocacy in Action 2023 effort, many thanks to VCOC Secretary LtCol John Down, USAF (Ret) for his personal advocacy of the MOAA Legislative priorities 2023 with Representative Bob Good (VA 05), 29 August 2023, Lynchburg District Office, Lynchburg, Virginia.

VCOC

Col. Marvin J. Harris

Communications Award

Winners 2022



Congratulations to our Council and member chapters winners of the Harris Communication Award for 2022, formally presented at the MOAA Advocacy in Action, 27 April 2023, Hyatt Crystal City, Arlington Virginia.

Pictured above, left to right: MOAA Chairman of the Board Gen. Gary North, USAF (Ret), VCOC President CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret), MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret). CDR Smith accepted the Harris Communication Awards 2022 on behalf of VCOC and all VCOC Chapter awardees.

On 24 August 24, 2023, MOAA Chapters Senior Director CAPT Erin Stone, USN (Ret) notified both our PACMOAA and Falcons Landing Chapters that their Harris Communication Award score for 2022 cycle had been recalculated, as follows:

”During staff debriefs of the awards, a chapter leader pointed out to us an error that resulted in 31 awards being lower than they should have been. If you are interested in the details: as you know, there are objective and subjective components, and two

judges assign a subjective score. The objective portion is worth 50 and the subjective portion is worth 50. The intent is to average the two subjective scores and add them to the objective score for a maximum score of 100.

To simplify the judging process this year, we used a new spreadsheet that erroneously contained a formula that added all three scores together for a maximum score of 150. One might think the percentages came out the same, but they did not because with the erroneous formula, the subjective score carries twice as much weight as the objective score, which was NOT the intent. Due to past practice, and as described in the Comms Awards informational guide, the subjective score should be averaged.

After confirming the error, we recalculated all scores. Your chapter was among those affected. The published list has been amended, and we will mail a 5-star certificate and medallion if appropriate to you as soon as possible.”

Many thanks to PACMOAA Newsletter Editor CDR Ken App, USN (Ret) and Falcons Landing Chapter President Col Phil Walsh, USMC (Ret) for joining VCOC President CDR Linc Smith on ZOOM virtual meeting platform meetings with MOAA Program Director, Chapter and Council Affairs, CAPT Frank Michael, USN (Ret). The purpose of the virtual meetings, as facilitated by CDR Smith, was to identify, acknowledge and correct the Harris Communication Award scoring error by MOAA Council and Chapters.

VCOC Harris Communication Awards, 2022 Cycle:

Five Star

- Virginia Council of Chapters (print newsletter and website)**
- Central Virginia Chapter (print newsletter and website)**
- Falcons Landing Chapter (print newsletter and website)**
- Heritage Hunt Chapter (print newsletter)**
- Mount Vernon Chapter (print newsletter and website)**
- Portsmouth Area Chapter (print newsletter and website)**
- Richmond Area Chapter (print newsletter and website)**
- Southwest Virginia Chapter (print newsletter and website)**
- Virginia Peninsula Chapter (print newsletter and website)**

Four Star

- Heritage Chapter (print newsletter and website)**



Virginia Council of Chapters Levels of Excellence Awards 2022

Each year, MOAA's affiliates compete to receive the Levels of Excellence Award for their work in a given calendar year. Out of almost 400 MOAA affiliates, 169 councils and chapters earned LOE award recognition this year. These councils and chapters excel at supporting and fostering programs that directly support the MOAA mission and their communities.

Congratulations to the Virginia Council of Chapters Levels of Excellence 2022 winners, as follows:

Five Star

**Virginia Council of Chapters
Central Virginia Chapter
Falcons Landing Chapter
George C. Marshall Chapter
Heritage Chapter
Southwest Virginia Chapter
Mount Vernon Chapter
Northern Virginia Chapter
Portsmouth Area Chapter
Richmond Area Chapter
Virginia Peninsula Chapter**



VCOC Chapter President Interview Series

With the ongoing Chapter President Interview Series, VCOC President CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret) interviews our Council Presidents, also Program Director, Council and Chapter Affairs, CAPT Frank Michael, USN (Ret).

Each interviewee tells a story, to include highlight of their careers in the United States Military, following with spotlight on overall activity for 2022, also the value of VCOC membership and legislative advocacy. Click below links to listen.

[A CONVERSATION WITH THE CENTRAL VIRGINIA CHAPTER PRESIDENT CAPT JOHN WARNECKE, USN \(RET\)](#)

[A CONVERSATION WITH THE SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER PRESIDENT CAPT MATT HAAG, USN \(RET\)](#)

[A CONVERSATION WITH THE PORTSMOUTH VIRGINIA AREA CHAPTER PRESIDENT COL BILL SMITH, USA \(RET\)](#)

[A CONVERSATION WITH THE MT. VERNON CHAPTER PRESIDENT Col. DOUG "SMASH" YUROVICH, USMC \(RET\)](#)

[A CONVERSATION WITH COL MARK RICH, USA \(Ret\), MOAA RICHMOND AREA CHAPTER PRESIDENT.](#)

[A CONVERSATION WITH Col. PHIL WALSH, USMC \(Ret\), PRESIDENT, MOAA FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER.](#)



Surviving Spouse Corner

Maj Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret)
VCOC Surviving Spouse Liaison

I am the Surviving Spouse Liaison for VCOC, a retired Army nurse, the Surviving Spouse Liaison for PACMOAA as well as for VCOC, and a member of the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter. This is my 2nd report in the CRIER, and I hope to have a column at least yearly. Surviving spouses make up 13% of MOAA members and can serve in any chapter leadership position if they desire.

Some of the resources available to surviving spouses include:

MOAA's Surviving Spouse Page includes sections like Surviving Spouse Corner; Surviving Spouse FAQs and Resources; and Health Care: How You and Your Family Can Access These Critical Benefits. <https://www.moaa.org/content/topic-and-landing-pages/i-am-a-surviving-spouse/>

I strongly encourage each chapter to include the Surviving Spouse Corner articles, which are usually published each month, in your newsletter. I'm sure many of your chapters are similar to mine. There are 13 surviving spouses in my small chapter and only 5 use email. These articles can be accessed directly at <https://www.moaa.org/content/about-moaa/meet-our-leaders/surviving-spouse-advisory-committee/surviving-spouse-corner/>. The articles are timely and very informative. The website also has archived articles that may be useful.

The Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter is another great resource, and they meet monthly. The program meetings alternate with social meetings. Download a membership application at this link. It can also be obtained by sending a request to mssvc02@gmail.com. Some of the programs this year included giving an overview of the past year, a greeting and presentation from LTG Kelly and an update on legislative bills impacting surviving spouses and Advocacy in Action by Mark Belinsky, and a great overview of TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors – which includes children and siblings also).

Several 2023 JLC Initiatives related to Surviving Spouses were presented in the General Assembly.

JLC 2023-01 Expand Tax Relief for Surviving Spouses of Military Service Members to include "Died in the Line-of-Duty". "Expands the current tax exemption for real property available to the surviving spouses of soldiers killed in action to the surviving spouses of soldiers who died in the line of duty with a Line of Duty determination from the U.S. Department of Defense" per Virginia Legislative Information System. This was in the form of a Constitutional Amendment this year. The 2022 JLC objective that was

passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor left the tax relief at the discretion of the local communities. The constitutional amendment should make it mandatory for all communities. SJ231 presented by Senator McPike passed the Senate and House.

This is a three-step/three-year process: vote to approve, 2023; vote again to approve, 2024 so an identical resolution must pass the 2024 General Assembly in order to be on the ballot in the Nov. 2024 General Election.

JLC 2023-02 Real Property Tax Exemption Effective Date would “amend the Veterans Real Property Tax law to make explicit that the local jurisdictions must provide a veteran or surviving spouse the exemption as far back as the veteran or surviving spouse is eligible, but not earlier than 1 January 2011, regardless of when the veteran or surviving spouse applies” per JLC recommendation. HB1470 Delegate Watts was passed and went to the Senate Finance Committee.

JLC 2023-4 Appropriate \$400,000 (GF) for State Veterans Cemeteries; Eliminate Spouses/Dependent and Guard/Reserve Burial Fee. Three House bills related to this, 1 was for funding and 2 Senate bills again with 1 for funding. This would apply to the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk. The fee for spouses was \$400.00. National Cemeteries operated by the VA, like the one in Quantico and Culpepper, are 100% federally funded. They do not have a burial fee for veterans or spouses. This passed the House and Senate.

Please let me know if I can be of any assistance to you. Contact me at navmedarmynurse@gmail.com or 757-922-7030.

Chaplain Corner

LtCol Ken Ruppard, USA (Ret)
VCOC Chaplain

Volunteer organizations like MOAA face the continual problem of recruitment. We look for new ways to attract potential members. The best method remains: face to face conversation and invitation. Talking with the potential recruit provides opportunity to share the chapter's story as well as the benefits of being part of MOAA locally and nationally. Too often the conversation jumps to how someone can fill a vacancy on a committee or Board of Directors. Let that come later and think about the long-term impact of recruiting.

As veterans, we also are interested in the future of the U.S. Armed Forces. Our concern is for the services in general but may also consider some specific skill sets.

Here is an example you might consider. It will help the military and (hopefully) MOAA in the long-term

In my career in the Army we often used a quotation from General George C. Marshall in publications and briefing slides related to the religious support of soldiers. The quote is, "The soldier's heart, the soldier's spirit, the soldier's soul are everything. Unless the soldier's soul sustain him he cannot be relied on and will fail himself, and his commander, and his country in the end." General Marshall is right. The religious support mission remains critical to the well being of all of our uniformed services.

One of the ways we can perpetuated this important ministry is to encourage young adults to consider serving as a chaplain in a component of one the Armed Services. All it would take is planting the seed for someone to consider. You may know a young person in high school or college who might consider this. You also may know a young pastor, priest, rabbi, Imam or other person of faith. Plant the seed of ministry as a chaplain.

The needs of the services for chaplains changes as organizational structures change. The Navy, for example, announced the intention to now assign chaplains to Guided Missile Destroyers. This added an immediate need for additional accessions. Vacancies exist in all services and components, Reserves, National Guard, Active Duty, all are options. Just plant the seed.

And while you are at it, use the opportunity to explain how membership in MOAA can be helpful as part of serving as a chaplain and in retirement. Think of the long-term. A key part of any recruitment effort whether military service, MOAA or any volunteer organization, is to plant the seed by extending an invitation to check it out. Think about it! And if you find someone interested, I am available to talk with them or recommend a chaplain in the service they prefer.

VCOC Homepage

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

The purpose of our 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.

VCOC Strategic Plan

In accordance with the MOAA Strategic Plan 2022-2026, MOAA Council and chapter Policies and Procedures Guide and VCOC By Laws, the VCOC Strategic Plan was approved by majority vote at the VCOC Executive Committee Meeting on 31 October 2021.

View the VCOC Strategic Plan here: [VCOC Strategic Plan 2022-2024](#). Scroll down to the VCOC Strategic Plan 2022-2024.

The MOAA Strategic Plan establishes and articulates the MOAA Board of Directors' strategic vision, mission, values, goals, and six specific strategies to accomplish MOAA's mission.

View the MOAA Strategic Plan here: [MOAA Strategic Plan 2022-2026](#)

VCOC Schedule

Fourth Quarter Meeting and Biennial Luncheon: 25 October, 10:00am-2:00pm, Hybrid Meeting, in person or Zoom Virtual, Falcons Landing, Sterling, Virginia.

Holiday Party 2023: Date, Time, Location TBD.



MOAA Council and Chapter Upcoming Programs, Deadlines, and Events

From the MOAA Homepage: Below you'll find important dates on the MOAA Council and Chapter calendar, as well as events at MOAA National and other pieces of information of interest to you and your members.

September 2023

- Sept. 15-16: North-Central Leadership Training Workshop (Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) (Milwaukee)
- Sept. 28: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: Legal Topics. Join here at the time of the meeting. (ID: 252 652 819 249; Passcode: 6YyGNk)

October 2023

- Oct 26: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: Community Outreach. Join here at the time of the meeting. (Meeting ID: 269 840 611 973; Passcode: jYFTcJ)
- Military Officer special chapters edition
- Board of Directors meeting and Annual Meeting of the Membership (Level of Excellence presentation in even years only)

November 2023

- Nov. 1: MOAA Scholarship application period opens
- Nov. 17-18: West Leadership Training Workshop (Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming) (Phoenix)
- Council and Independent Chapter Presidents (CP/ICP) meeting
- Nov. 30: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: Recruiting & Retention. Join here at the time of the meeting. (ID: 239 737 982 627; 5UKJkY)

December 2023

- Dec. 1: Community Outreach Grant application period opens
- Dec. 1: Community Outreach Sponsorship application period opens for next calendar year events (ongoing until funds are extinguished)

- Dec. 28: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: 2023 review & 2024 preview. Join here at the time of the meeting. (ID: 286 371 292 96; Passcode: hYnwg6)

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. Levels of Excellence Award need to submit a nomination by May 1.

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: Awarded annually to one affiliate Legislative Chair or Liaison who has demonstrated superior service to their council/ chapter in support of national and/or state legislation which affects service members, veterans, retirees, and their families.

2022 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.

MOAA Council and Chapter Visit Program

Council president, or his or her representative, make chapter visits, including virtual visits.

Chapters are eligible for a visit every two to three years.

Councils are eligible for a visit every year.

During these visits, national MOAA updates can be provided at any forum or venue. A dedicated leadership meeting provides a great opportunity for the exchange of information and awareness of resources.

These visits also generate a written trip report for judge's consideration in the annual Levels of Excellence Award cycle. To request a visit, [click here](#).

Direct any questions to chapters@moaa.org or to Chapter Affairs Specialist Fahria Hossain at (800) 234-6622, ext. 120.





View the latest MOAA Vacations and upcoming travel adventures, to include MOAA Signature Cruises & Tours on the MOAA Homepage at: [MOAA Travel and Vacations](#).



Now 350,000 strong, the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military servicemembers and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers and their surviving spouses. MOAA members proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise they have made to their country: Never Stop Serving.

THE LARGER OUR NUMBERS, THE GREATER YOUR VOICE.

Why MOAA
membership matters.



Select YOUR Membership: LIFE PREMIUM BASIC

Name _____
 Rank/Branch of Service _____
 Active Retired Former Reserve National Guard Surviving Spouse
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Date of birth _____ Telephone _____
 Email _____

To ensure deliverability of MOAA communications, please provide a personal email without a ".mil" domain if available. We value your privacy. MOAA does not rent or sell its members' emails to third parties. If you include your email address, you will receive e-communications from MOAA as a member benefit. Visit www.moaa.org/email for details.

Spouse Name _____
 Spouse email _____
 Your spouse has access to all of your MOAA member benefits.
 Local Chapter Name _____

For LIFE or PREMIUM options, choose one of the following payment methods:
Method of payment

Check (please make payable to MOAA) Visa Mastercard AMEX Discover
 Charge my card the full amount due \$ _____
 Card number _____ Expiration date _____
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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 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 Facebook Page

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

View the Page at: [MOAA Surviving Spouse Facebook Page](#)

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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Our mission statement remains in concert with the Military Officers Association of America purposes and objectives. The overall VCOC goals and objectives are as follows:

- 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 mvng288@aol.com.

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