



Maryland Council
Military Officers Association of America
Meeting Minutes
11 April 2015

Members Present:

Andrew Fallon, President, MDCOC, President, Annapolis Chapter
John Whitman, Immediate Past President
Norm Taylor, Past President
Harvey Kaplan, 1st Vice President
James Pede, Secretary
Greg Dalke, Treasurer
Jack Fringer, Legislative Chair
Dave Peterson, MDCOC Director, President, Montgomery County Chapter
Jim Dittbrenner, TOPS
Jeff Brock, President, Susquehanna Chapter
Annie Brock, Susquehanna Chapter
Mike Rhoden, President, General Smallwood Chapter

Members Absent:

Andrew Veronis, President, FGGM
Charles Brock, Chaplain
Reggie Sealey, Prince Georges Chapter
Jim Shiffrin, Webmaster
Phil Campbell, Southern MD Chapter
Warren Prince, Southern MD Chapter
Doug Reichard, Upper Potomac Chapter
Mike DeHaemer, President, Star Spangled Banner Chapter

The Maryland Council of Chapters met 11 April 2015 at 1300 at O'Laughlin's Restaurant in Arnold Maryland. Council President COL Andy Fallon opened the meeting by thanking all present for attending and recognizing the attendance to two past presidents, CAPT Norm Taylor and Maj John Whitman. Following the pledge and invocation, the minutes from the December 2014 meeting were approved as written.

COL Fallon highlighted upcoming council activities such as Storming the Hill in April and the Legislative Luncheon on 17 September 2015.

Legislative Update: LT COL Fringer provided an overview of the legislative session and the work of the Maryland Retiree Task Force. He reported that the task force used an updated impact study as the basis for efforts this year but he expected no action on bills affecting military retired pay

this session. He provided the following synopsis of this session's initiatives impacting our community:

Council Legislative Report:

1. Income Tax Subtraction Modification. The Governor submitted bills in both the Senate and the House to exempt 100% of military retirement income from state income tax over a four period (25% exemption per year for 4 years)
 - a. SB 592 was amended by the Budget & Taxation Committee to provide an additional \$5,000 exemption for military retirees age 65 and older. The amended bill received a favorable vote in the B&T Committee and was sent to the Senate. The Senate passed the amended bill and sent it to the House Ways & Means Committee where it received a favorable vote. The House passed the bill and returned it to the Senate. The Governor is slated to pass the bill in the next week or so.
 - b. HB 482 was heard by the House Ways & Means Committee and received no further action.
2. In-state tuition for military dependents. Currently, only dependents receiving financial assistance under the provisions of the Post 9/11 GI Bill receive in-state tuition. The purpose of the bill (SB834/HB1136) was to extend the same benefit to all dependents. (The Post 9/11 GI Bill has a limited time frame and a limited amount of coverage) This bill passed the Senate, but died in the House.
3. Veterans Treatment Courts. As a result of the study directed by the 2014 Legislature, a pilot Veterans Treatment Court has been established in Prince George's County.

Treasurer's Report: CDR Greg Dalke provided his report (ATCH 1) again reporting that cash flow this year is low due in part to dues shortfalls versus expected (budgeted). He said he would 'pulse' chapters next month to remind them. (OPEN) He also discussed adding a column to his report to indicating established minimums. He reported that Storming the Hill costs the council between \$450 and \$650 annually and that we should expect the legislative lunch to cost us \$650 out of pocket due to reduced support from MOAA HQ.

TOPS report: Jim Dittbrenner reported on the March webinar with MOAA Lead TOPS Coordinator COL Terri Coles. The webinar helped spell out how to establish a tops program and seven or eight participants were present. Bottom line is that there is maximum flex in establishing a program and that no two programs will be alike. He passed out his written report. (ATCH 2)

Council Calendar: COL Fallon asked all presidents to help 'de-conflict' the calendar to ensure council meetings and chapter meetings do not occur at the same time. He asked all presidents to send their meeting calendar to Maj Pedo. (OPEN) Established council meeting dates are as follows:

11 July	MDCOC Council Mtg	O'Loughlin's Restaurant
12 September	MDCOC Council Mtg	TBD
17 September	Legislative Lunch	Capitol Hill

29 September General Mbrship Mtg Orlando, Florida
14 November MDCOC Council Mtg TBD

Council Officer Vacancies: COL Fallon asked everyone's help in identifying potential fills For 2nd Vice and Auxiliary Chair. CAPT Peterson offered to ask a prospective Montgomery County Chapter member to fill the Auxiliary post. Maj Whitman offered to talk with Bryon Hertzog of the FGGM chapter. (OPEN)

Planned Financial Support: CAPT Peterson asked if the council would consider new agencies to support. He specifically talked about supporting the new Maryland Veterans Trust Fund. The issue was tabled until the next meeting pending more detailed information from CAPT Peterson. (OPEN)

Council Meeting Venue: COL Fallon asked if everyone was happy with O'Laughlin's or whether we should consider returning to other venues. He volunteered to survey chapter presidents and report back at the next meeting. (OPEN)

Legislative Lunch: COL Fallon and COL Kaplan will plan this year's lunch. COL Fallon asked all presidents to return to their chapters and begin urging folks to attend for another successful year.

Levels of Excellence: Maj Whitman will be lead on the council Levels of Excellence submission due 1 June 2015. (OPEN)

Old Business: COL Kaplan explained his recommendation, Tabled from the October 2014 meeting, for Council approval of use of the term "Commander" by the Maryland Council President for initiatives in lobbying and similar outreach activities in which, in the President's opinion, such a title would be useful in promoting MOAA's objectives. The intention is not to be in conflict with any other MOAA guidelines and he emphasized our need for the additional title especially when operating in the legislative arena or testifying in conjunction with other Veterans organizations that employ the titles of "Commander" or "Department [of Maryland] Commander." Following a motion to vote the Southern Maryland Chapter abstained saying that they had not discussed the issue at the chapter level. The motion was tabled until the next meeting to allow all presidents one more opportunity to canvass their membership. COL Kaplan furnished Fact Sheets from October 2014 to all Chapter representatives who requested them. (OPEN)

New Business: COL Kaplan reported that The Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training approached MOAA asking that Admiral Ryan visit the center to learn more about its programs supporting homeless veterans. With staff input, Admiral Ryan decided to forward this MCVET request to the Maryland Council of Chapters (MDCOC) since MCVET is strictly a Maryland organization, headquartered in Baltimore--and its area of operations is in close proximity to three of our Chapters. Annie Brock volunteered to gather more information on the request and report back to the council and to MOAA. (OPEN)

COL Kaplan reminded all that BRAC issues are still active. He discussed the issue of the light rail purple line and how it's needed to reduce congestion while providing transportation to and from Walter Reed. He asked the council if we want to become involved in such issues by

lending our support or otherwise when an opportunity arises. Everyone agreed to table the discussion until the next meeting when the issue could be placed on the agenda for more detailed debate and education of the issues. (OPEN)

COL Fallon concluded the meeting at 1500. Next meeting is TBD

JAMES PEDE, Major, USAF Ret
MD Council Secretary

2 ATCHS: Treasurer's Report
TOPS Report

Maryland MOAA Council
Treasurer's Report, as of 31-March-2015 (CDR Greg Dalke, USN, retired)

CY2015 Balance Sheet	Guides	31-Dec-14	31-Mar-15	Comments	change in position
Assets					
Cash	\$0	\$8,892.26	\$8,360.44		(\$531.82)
NFCU Checking	NLT \$1,000	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
NFCU Savings	NLT \$200	\$3,750.76	\$3,218.91		(\$531.85)
NFCU Share Cert	NLT \$7,500	\$77.59	\$77.62		\$0.03
		\$5,063.91	\$5,063.91		\$0.00
Liabilities					
Equities		\$403.31	\$0.00		(\$403.31)
		\$8,488.95	\$8,360.44		(\$128.51)
A=L+E		\$8,892.26	\$8,360.44		(\$531.82)

CY2015 Financial Activities or Profit-Loss Statement & Cash Flow						
YTD Actuals:	Receipts	2015 Budget:	(from)	(description)	(date)	(amounts)
\$121.00	dues:	\$800.00	MC Ch.	2014 dues, chk # 1291	3-Feb-15	\$53.00
			GW/S Ch.	2015 dues, chk # 1630	11-Mar-15	\$68.00
\$0.49	Int/divs on accts:	\$210.00	NFCU Cert	interest on Cert	31-Mar-15	\$0.00
			NFCU Accts	interest on Accts	31-Mar-15	\$0.49
\$0.00	other:	\$0.00				
\$121.49	<totals>	\$1,010.00			Total:	\$121.49
YTD Actuals:	Expenses	2015 Budget:	(to)	(description)	(date)	(amounts)
\$0.00	mail/web/bank:	\$10.00				
\$0.00	meetings:	\$0.00				
\$0.00	int'l gifts:	\$0.00				
\$250.00	ext'l gifts:	\$350.00	CHVH	chk # 163, donation	21-Mar-15	\$250.00
\$0.00	campaigns:	\$650.00				
\$250.00	<totals>	\$1,010.00			Total:	\$250.00
(\$128.51)	Difference: Receipts to Expenses					(\$128.51)

Notes: 1. In 2006, checks by Dalke started at #260 & finished at #307 (BB&T), 2014.
 2. In 2012, checks by Dalke started at #146 & finished at #150 (NFCU); in 2013, restart at #0001 & finished at #0012; in 2013, restart at #151 & finished at #xxxx (NFCU).
 3. Maryland MOAA Chapters:
 A Ch. = Annapolis Chapter
 FGGM Ch. = Fort George G. Meade Chapter
 GB Ch. = Greater Baltimore/ Star Spangled Banner Chapter
 GWS Ch. = General William Smallwood Chapter
 LES Ch. = Lower Eastern Shore Chapter
 MC Ch. = Montgomery County Chapter
 PGC Ch. = Prince Georges County Chapter
 SM Ch. = Southern Maryland Chapter
 S Ch. = Susquehanna Chapter
 DES Ch. = Upper Eastern Shore Chapter
 UP Ch. = Upper Potomac Chapter



Maryland TOPS Report
Military Officers Association of America
11 April 2015

1. Participated in MOAA Transition Center's Webinar last month. The 21 slides from the presentation are attached. The results of the webinar can also be found on MOAA's website. Copies of the slides are also being made available at the Maryland Council of Chapters meeting. Key points of the webinar are:
 - a. Establish a TOPS Liaison Person with the Transition Center.
 - b. Establish a TOPS Program at each Chapter.
 - c. Think of TOPS as a Program, not a person.
 - d. Develop a Contact Roster.
 - e. Schedule Meetings.
 - f. Create a Chapter Newsletter or column in Chapter Newsletter.
 - g. Connect with local Veterans organizations.
 - h. Partner with local colleges and universities.
 - i. Resources for MOAA members only (not the free online membership) include the Transition Center and its Services, TOPS groups, and MOAA Connect, as well as VSO.
 - j. The Transition Center controls all contact between states. I do have the contact information for Virginia's TOPS Representative (Tom Kelly) and their seven TOPS Reps.
2. Lost Sponsor and Facility for Ft Meade at the end of 2014, due to lack of interest from the two chapters immediately next door. Still have interest from the Ft Meade ACAP/TAP individuals.
3. Still no movement from Montgomery County's DLLR One-Stop. Going back to Montgomery College to see what can be generated there for a TOPS Program in Montgomery County.
4. Continue to hold interest in working with Chapters contingent to or incorporating military installations here in Maryland. Have or can obtain support from the military side.
5. Options are wide open as to type of program. Hampton Rhoades has an excellent TOPS program incorporated into its luncheons. Has its own website, with an Administrator. This website is open to E-7s and above. Has some 600 members. They do post jobs. This is run by Captian Loren Heckelman, USN Ret.
6. The Career Fairs-East Coast is now on the web at www.careerfaris-eastcoast.com, and is downloadable to anyone. Interested individuals can subscribe online to receive their own copy or download their own at their own convenience.
7. Have distributed some 1500+ job listings since 5 January 2015, to some 40,000+ recipients.

Respectfully submitted,

James P. Dittbrenner
Maryland Network Liaison (TOPS)
Montgomery County Liaison (TOPS)