



Maryland Council  
Military Officers Association of America  
Meeting Minutes  
3 August 2013  
at the American Legion Post #7  
Annapolis, Maryland

Members Present:

John Whitman, President  
Norm Taylor, Immediate Past President  
Greg Dalke, Treasurer  
Jack Fringer, Legislative Chair  
Harvey Kaplan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Andy Fallon, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, President Annapolis Chapter  
Jim Dittbrenner, TOPS  
Dave Peterson, Director, President Montgomery County Chapter  
Eleanor Layman, Auxiliary Rep, Ft Meade Chapter  
Chuck Block, President, Upper Eastern Shore  
Warren Prince, President, Southern Maryland Chapter  
Jim Shiffrin, Webmaster, President Ft Meade Chapter  
Jeff Brock, Susquehanna Chapter  
Bill Benson, President, Upper Potomac Chapter  
Mike Rhoden, President, General Smallwood Chapter  
Mike DeHaemer, President, Baltimore Chapter

Members Absent:

James Pede, Secretary  
Reggie Sealey, President, Prince George's County Chapter

The Maryland Council of Chapters met 3 August 2013 at 1130 in the Guy C. Parlett American Legion Post #7, 1905 Crownsville Road, Annapolis, MD 21401.

MAJ John Whitman opened the meeting following the invocation and recitation of the pledge of allegiance. Following the pledge and invocation, John Whitman thanked all those in attendance for making the trip to the meeting. He submitted the 3 Mar 2013 meeting minutes for Major Pede and asked for a motion to approve. There were two amendments from the floor for the 3 Mar minutes. The first was to list Captain David Peterson, NOAA-Retired as the President of the Montgomery County MOAA chapter in addition to the listing him as the MDCOC Director. The second amendment from Jeff Brock was to list Dick Gilligan as the Senior Vice President of the Susquehanna MOAA Chapter. After the minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed with the corrections provided they were approved by voice vote.

MAJ Whitman discussed the status of planning for the upcoming MDCOC Legislative Luncheon on Capitol Hill scheduled for September 17<sup>th</sup> at the Rayburn House Office Building and its importance to influencing the Maryland delegation during their upcoming budget deliberations.

MAJ Whitman also announced that MOAA was conducting a Chapter Leadership Symposium for September 27 – 28 in Hershey, PA, and he encouraged all Chapter Presidents to attend or to at least have another chapter officer attend. MAJ Whitman talked to the benefits of the symposium including the opportunity to interact with MOAA staff and to interchange ideas on recruiting, retention, and other chapter challenges with the leadership of the chapters and state councils of the Northeast region.

The topic of venues and times for future MDCOC meetings was discussed. There was an extensive discussion on the need for a central and easily accessible location. There was a consensus that a Saturday lunch meeting may be the best time but the ideal location was still unsettled. A motion was made, seconded and passed that the next meeting would again be at the American Legion in Annapolis. There will be a further discussion at that meeting to determine the best location for future MDCOC meetings.

LTC Jack Fringer provided a report on the state of planning for the Congressional Luncheon, the key dates upcoming, and the milestones and requirements from the Chapters. The planning was essentially completed and the official invitation memo with details would be sent out to all the Chapters within a week. The luncheon will be in the Rayburn House Office building on 17 September, and reservations needed to be in to the planning committee by 17 August. The target attendance from each Chapter was established as at least 9-10. Invitations have been provided to all the Congressional members and their staffs with at least a tentative positive response from many.

Following the report on the legislative luncheon, MAJ Whitman encouraged all the chapters to take the opportunity to visit with their representatives at their district offices during the congressional summer vacation. MAJ Whitman also thanked LTC Fringer for his efforts in supporting the Maryland Veterans Task Force.

Eleanor Layman reported on the MOAA Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee (AMAC) Storming the Hill on July 17. The purpose of the event was to educate the 113th Congress and their legislative and military assistants on the Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (SBP/DIC) offset issue.

MAJ Jim Dittbrenner provided an update on TOPS including the name change to Transition Assistance. In addition there have been multiple new programs added including an Executive Transition Workshop for senior military members and a program, workshops for military spouses, and a program for the children and grandchildren of life members who are transitioning into the workforce for the first time. Information on all these programs and the other changes are on the MOAA website. <http://www.moaa.org/career/>

CDR Greg Dalke provided the Treasurer's Report.

CAPTAIN Dave Peterson provided information on the multiple new initiatives by the State of Maryland to support the reintegration of military veterans. He also handed out to the Chapter Presidents decals - **“Our Veterans are Welcome Here”** - that can be distributed to local businesses that indicate that veterans are welcome. Information on all these initiatives can be found at the Maryland Veterans Affairs website - <http://veterans.maryland.gov/>

The Chapter Presidents provided reports on their key activities and initiatives.

MAJ Whitman asked the Chapter Presidents to insure that updated Chapter rosters are due to MOAA national by December, that all newsletters should be sent to Jim Shiffrin for posting to the Council website. He also asked the chapter Presidents to review the Council website and update the information as necessary.

MAJ Whitman asked all present to discuss at the next meeting a slate of public relations activities that we can plan at the Council level to promote the MOAA brand over the next year.

The meeting adjourned at 1430. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday 9 November 2013, 1045-1315, at the Guy C. Parlett American Legion Post #7, 1905 Crownsville Road, Annapolis, MD 21401. The early start time is to accommodate those individuals who be attending the Navy football game in Annapolis at 3:00PM.

Recorded by ANDREW FALLON, Col, USA-Ret for

JAMES PEDE, MAJ, USAF-Ret  
MD Council of Chapters Secretary