



DRAFT

Maryland Council
Military Officers Association of America
Meeting Minutes
9 January 2011 at Club Meade

Members Present:

Jack Fringer, President
Norm Taylor, Incoming President
John Whitman, First Vice-President
Gunter Finkenauer, Second Vice-President and Outgoing
President General Smallwood Chapter
James Pede, Secretary
Greg Dalke, Treasurer
Jim Shiffrin, Webmaster, Incoming President, Ft Meade Chapter
Tom Smith, Past President, Maryland Council
Evelyn Deluca-Widmer, Outgoing President, Southern Maryland Chapter
Tony Blankenship, Incoming Southern Maryland Chapter
Andy Fallon, President, Annapolis Chapter
George Evans, President, Upper Eastern Shore
Kenneth McCreedy, Incoming President, Gen Smallwood Chapter
Jim Shellem, Vice President, Upper Eastern Shore
Dave Peterson, Montgomery Co Chapter
Bill Benson, Second Vice President, Upper Potomac Chapter
Joe Shrader, Past President, Upper Potomac Chapter
Rob Hood, FGGM member

Members Absent:

Harvey Kaplan, President, Montgomery Chapter
Raymond Rowland, President PG County Chapter
James Wasson, President, Susquehanna Chapter
James Shelley, President, Baltimore Chapter
Luke Brennecke, President, Upper Potomac Chapter
James Dittbrenner, Montgomery Chapter

The Maryland Council met 9 January 2011 at 1300 at Club Meade with a Call to Order by outgoing President LTC Jack Fringer, who introduced LCDR Tom Smith, Immediate Past President to conduct the Installation Ceremony of officers for 2011-2012.

Capt Taylor thanked everyone for attending and said he is looking forward to working closely with everyone in the year to come. He called LTC Jack Fringer forward to express the council's appreciation for hard work and dedication over the previous two years and presented Jack with an engraved plaque and an engraved pen and pencil set. A

time for introductions followed for new Council Officers, new and continuing Chapter Presidents (and Chapter representatives), and additional guests.

OLD BUSINESS:

Review and approval of minutes: Minutes from the 15 November 2010 meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

Treasurer's report: CDR Dalke reported that there are no changes to his last report in November. He reviewed line items in detail explaining that \$7,500 is in certificates of deposit. Lt Col Finkenauer suggested that we should try to annotate some figure for missing 2002 data but CDR Dalke reported that there just isn't any information available due to bank changes and lost paperwork.

CDR Dalke highlighted that this is the first time he can remember where every chapter has paid dues. There was general agreement that chapters should continue to pay \$1 per head in dues for 2011 according to their current membership. LTC Fringer asked, and was assured that the annual National Guard award is funded (approx \$45).

Motion: LTC Fringer moved that \$1000 be created as a line item for the planned legislative luncheon in 2011. It was agreed the line item would fall under 'campaign' in the budget. The motion was seconded by George Evans and pass unanimously.

Before approving the budget, CMD Dalke received council permission to create gift line items for external gifts (\$250) and internal gifts (\$100).

Motion: Capt Taylor moved that the budget be approved. Maj Whitman seconded and the budget was passed with a unanimous vote.

Council Leadership: Capt Taylor distributed a list of Administrative Items that he considered essential for all to understand and to establish consistency for incoming Council Officers and Chapter Presidents.

This council is a creation of our chapters to provide overall policy guidance and uniformity among independent chapters in support of the National MOAA. This council does not direct chapters; but as a part of this body are obligated to support the council and its collective decisions.

1. Chapter presidents will provide the council secretary with information necessary to prepare a 2011 council membership roster.
2. Chapter presidents will obtain and read the council and chapter policies and procedures guide.
3. Chapter presidents will notify the council secretary and webmaster of scheduled chapter meetings for 2011.

4. Chapter presidents or secretaries will notify the council officers of pending chapter officer installation dates so that council officers can plan to attend meetings.
5. Chapter presidents are requested to prepare a chapter self evaluation of chapter performance during 2010. The self evaluation checklist is appendix 'O' of the Council/Chapter Guide.

In addition, Capt Taylor stated that he would email to all chapter Presidents Col Lange's "Year in Review" (email of 12/16/10 Call to Action), which contains essential information and tips on Chapter management based on the 2010 Chapter President's Symposium Report. This is a MUST READ for each President.

Veterans Courts Resolution: In November 2010 Col Kaplan and Jim Cambell, Montgomery Chapter, introduced a draft resolution entitled Tailored Judicial Care: Veterans Courts. They cited instances where veterans with wounds or injuries are incarcerated for substance and family issues and all veterans have earned the right to tailored judicial care. In brief, the resolution called on the Maryland Council to seek support of MOAA at the national level, with several additional actions to be taken by all chapters in support the resolution by contacting and working with state legislators.

Last November LTC Fringer suggested the council write a letter to Col Strobridge, Director Government Relations, MOAA to seek support. The letter was written and delivered 30 November 2010. MOAA supports the initiative but did not make it a nationwide or even regional objective for 2011. With regards to follow on Chapter actions many of those present echoed Lt Col Finkenauer's comments from November when he called for more facts and examples and suggested that such initiatives fail due to lack of federal support and funding. Due to the absence of the original sponsors of the resolution, no additional information could be provided.

Motion: Capt Taylor moved that the issue be postponed due to lack of information. He recommended that the proponents put together a fact sheet with critical information that can be used by the Chapters in providing a uniform argument to the State in support of the National Act, including cost estimates to be available for the next Council meeting in April. The motion was seconded by George Evans and the vote unanimous.

New Business:

Capt Taylor reminded all of the following dates:
MOAA Workshop, Hershey Pa, Mar 18/19
Storming the Hill, 11/14 May
Annual Meeting 26/29 Oct, San Antonio, TX
Council Meeting in April, "after tax date"

In reference to the remaining three Council meetings in 2011, tentatively scheduled for April/July/November, Capt Taylor asked that members provide feedback to him regarding preference for Day/Time/Location. Club Meade is a geographic center for

such meetings, but it does not necessarily have to be held in a military installation. A restaurant in the Fort Meade/Laurel area, with a private meeting room is also an option. Or the Council can meet in the far North or South of the state. The day could be Saturday or at a later hour on Sunday. All options are open...just need feedback.

Voices for Americas Troops: Capt Taylor introduced a new nonpartisan advocacy organization within MOAA: Voices for America's Troops (*Voices*). This new nonprofit is being established to support a strong national defense and sustain our all-volunteer force. MOAA states that the "primary purpose of Voices is to educate the public on legislative and policy challenges affecting the military" and to seek the broadest possible base of grass-roots support. Membership is open to both individuals and businesses that want to show their support for the military community but are not eligible for MOAA membership. Capt Taylor said more will soon follow from National MOAA on this new organization. Information may be found at www.moaa.org/about/voices.

Maryland Legislative Luncheon: LTC Fringer reminded all present of the November vote in favor of sponsoring the first ever MOAA sponsored Maryland Legislative Luncheon. He reminded all that we need as many participants as possible to sit at tables with their legislators. A fall date is tentative.

Storming the Hill: Capt Taylor expressed a desire to send two council members, the First Vice President as is customary and a Past President, in addition to the President, to "storm the hill" this year; and asked that the Council cover the cost associated with the hotel expense, approximately \$1,200 for both Council members, or an additional \$600 over last year. All agreed the budget line item for this effort was sufficient authorization. Col Lange has been asked for authorization for such action, which had been a past practice of the Council; so the final attendance at the event by all three members will depend on his concurrence.

Chapter Awards: Capt Taylor reminded all of the February and June deadlines for communication and excellence awards. He also asked all presidents to ensure that updating of chapter officers are submitted to National MOAA in a timely fashion. To date, only 50% of chapters have completed this task. LTC Fringer offered to help all chapters complete award packages in 2011.

Council Goals for 2011-2012: Capt Taylor handed out the following goals:

1. Publicize the availability of Council expertise in areas that strengthen chapter structure.
2. Assist with improving chapter to chapter communications.
3. Encourage chapters sharing of "best practices" (i.e. membership and web design).
4. Assist chapters in reaching and maintaining a Level of Excellence standard
5. One hundred percent representation of chapters at Council meetings.
6. Review potential of establishing new chapter(s) in areas of geographic opportunity.
7. Review benefit of activating Council Committees as a primary Chapter resource.

Capt Taylor stated that these goals were his, and he wanted to hear from members regarding acceptance, modification and/or additional goals. The final set of goals will be finalized at the April meeting and become a part of the Council's web site.

The meeting was adjourned at 1430. The next scheduled meeting in April is TBD and will depend on the preference feedback provided to Capt Taylor as noted above.

James Pede, Maj, USAF Ret
Secretary

Atch: Maryland MOAA Council Treasurers Report