



Maryland Council
Military Officers Association of America
Meeting Minutes
6 January 2013 at the Fleet Reserve Club
Annapolis, Maryland

Members Present:

Norm Taylor, President
Lee Lange, MOAA, Director Chapter Affairs
John Whitman, Incoming President
Greg Dalke, Treasurer
James Pede, Secretary
Jim Shiffrin, Webmaster, President, Ft Meade Chapter
Jack Fringer, Legislative Chair
Tom Smith, Director
Dave Peterson, Director
Eleanor Layman, Auxiliary Rep, Ft Meade Chapter
Harvey Kaplan, President, Montgomery County Chapter
James Shellem, President, Upper Eastern Shore
Jeff Brock, President, Susquehanna Chapter
Bill Benson, President, Upper Potomac Chapter
Ken McCreedy, President, General Smallwood Chapter
Andy Fallon, President, Annapolis Chapter
Mike DeHaemer, President, Baltimore Chapter
Reggie Sealey, President, Prince George's County Chapter

Members Absent:

Gunter Finkenauer, Second Vice-President
Jim Dittbrenner, TOPS
Tony Blankenship, President, Southern Maryland Chapter

The Maryland Council of Chapters met 6 January 2013 at 13:00 in the Fleet Reserve Club, Annapolis, Maryland.

Following the pledge and invocation, CAPT Taylor introduced Col Lee Lange, USMC-Ret., MOAA's Director of Council and Chapter Affairs. Col Lange made some brief comments and presented a MOAA Letter of Appreciation to Captain Taylor thanking him for his tenure as President of the Maryland Council.

Captain Taylor presented two Five Star Flags to the chapters who did not make the MOAA annual meeting in Arlington, VA in October as a result of the storm. Major Jim Shiffrin, President of the Meade Chapter and LTC Jack Fringer of the Southern MD Chapter accepting for CDR Blankenship were given the flags for their chapter's levels of excellence award.

Captain Taylor gave out Merit Awards to LTC Jack Fringer for his work as the Legislative Director for the Council and to Major Jim Dittbrenner for his hard work on the Officer Placement Service (TOPS) for the Maryland Council and also gave out momentos to members of the board who served during his tenure.

Captain Taylor also announced an award to Lt Edward Kreiner of the Susquehanna Chapter for his long-time dedicated service to MOAA, the Maryland Council and for Veterans in Maryland. Ed has been in the hospital but the award will be presented at the January 17th Susquehanna Chapter meeting.

Elections: CAPT Taylor hosted and COL Lange officiated the election of council officers for 2013-2015. CAPT Taylor thanked the many individuals who helped him during his two-year term. Incoming officers are as follows:

Captain Norm Henry Taylor, USN-Ret	Immediate Past President
Major John Whitman, USAF-Ret	President
Col Andy Fallon, USA-Retired	1 st Vice President
Col Harvey Kaplan, USA-Retired	2 nd Vice President
Major Jim Pede, USAF-Retired	Secretary
CDR Greg Dalke, USN-Retired	Treasurer
Mrs. Eleanor Layman	Auxiliary Chair
LTC Jack Fringer, USA-Retired	Legislative and MRVTF
Captain Dave Peterson, NOAA-Ret	Maryland Veterans Commission
Major Jim Dittbrenner, USA	TOPS
Major Jim Shiffrin, USAF-Retired	Webmaster

After the exchange of MOAA President pins between Captain Taylor and Major Whitman, Major Whitman gave thanks and praise to CAPT Taylor for his leadership and commitment to the council in so many ways during his term. Major Whitman presented CAPT Taylor with a memento of thanks then resumed the meeting.

A review and approval of the minutes from 2 December 2012 with a correction to the minutes listing CAPT Dave Peterson, NOAA, was annotated.

Captain Taylor acknowledged receipt of a letter from Edward Chow, Jr, Secretary of Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (ATCH 1). Secretary Chow is establishing the Network of Veteran Volunteer Mentors to assist incarcerated veterans upon release from correctional facilities in Maryland. An organizational meeting is scheduled for 10 January 2013. CAPT Dave Peterson said he would attend the meeting and report back to the council. OPEN

Treasurer's report: CMD Dalke presented the treasurer's report (ATCH 2) saying that council had "another good year" financially. End of year assets stand at \$9,679.01.

TOPS Report: Major Whitman distributed the current report. (ATCH 3)

Legislative Liaison: LTC Fringer reminded all of the outstanding success of the two Maryland Congressional Luncheons and asked if the council is ready to commit to a third luncheon in 2013. He also asked for new leadership to take on the task. The council voted unanimously to hold the luncheon and also stipulated that the venue should be moved to the Senate side this year.

LTC Fringer announced that the Maryland Retired Veterans Task Force would hold a meeting on 14 January 2013 at the Annapolis American Legion Post on Crownsville Rd. Purpose of the meeting is to bring together veteran groups of all description to brainstorm ideas focused on energizing the retired community. We have to overcome complacency to bring pressure on the legislature if additional tax exemptions for Maryland veterans are to be realized. OPEN

National Guard Award: CAPT Taylor recommended two yearly awards be established for both the Army and Air Force units in Maryland. The 2012 award will be presented to the 1297th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion on 24 February 2013 and 175 Air Wing 10 Feb 2013. .

Council Convention: Major Whitman asked the council to consider holding a statewide convention during the 2013 legislative luncheon. The council would need to call for input/issues from the chapters and create an agenda and locate a meeting area. COL Lange suggested contacting councils in Florida and Pennsylvania for help and advice. Major Whitman asked everyone to consider the idea to discuss further at the next council meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1450. The next meeting is scheduled for 6 March 2013 at 1145 at the Fleet Reserve Club, Annapolis.

JAMES PEDE, Maj, USAF Ret
MD Council Secretary

1 ATCH: MDVA letter, dated 26 Dec 2012
2 ATCH: Treasurer's Report
3 ATCH: TOPS Report