



Maryland Council  
Military Officers Association of America  
Meeting Minutes  
26 March 2011 at Annapolis Sheraton Hotel

**Members Present:**

Norm Taylor, President  
John Whitman, First Vice-President  
Gunter Finkenauer, Second Vice-President  
James Pede, Secretary  
Greg Dalke, Treasurer  
Lee Lange, MOAA  
Jim Shiffrin, Webmaster, President, Ft Meade Chapter  
Jack Fringer, Legislative Liaison  
Harvey Kaplan, President, Montgomery County Chapter  
Raymond Rowland, President PG County Chapter  
Tony Blankenship, President, Southern Maryland Chapter  
Andy Fallon, President, Annapolis Chapter  
James Shellem, President, Upper Eastern Shore  
Ed Kreiner, Acting President, Susquehanna Chapter  
Dave Peterson, Director  
Tom Smith, Director  
Jim Campbell, member, Montgomery County Chapter  
Bill Schultz, Montgomery County Chapter Secretary

**Members Absent:**

Luke Brennecke, President, Upper Potomac Chapter  
James Dittbrenner, Montgomery Chapter  
James Shelley, President, Baltimore Chapter  
Ken McCreedy, President General Smallwood Chapter  
(The General Smallwood Chapter was represented by Günter Finkenauer)

The Maryland Council met 26 March 2011 at 1300 at the Annapolis Sheraton Hotel with a Call to Order by President CAPT Norm Taylor.

Following the pledge CAPT Taylor welcomed Col Lee Lange, MOAA Director, Council and Chapter Affairs Department, and asked for brief introductions from all in attendance.

**Review and approval of minutes:** Minutes from the 9 January 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

**Treasurer's report:** CDR Dalke reminded everyone that the budget was developed at the January meeting. The checking account balance stands at \$2000 with \$7,500 in certificates of deposit. LTC Fringer, Legislative Luncheon Chairman, asked if January motion to create a line item in the budget for \$1000 supporting the luncheon was established as discussed. CDR Dalke reported that he is ready to "write the check" and will support the initiative when asked. (Atch 1) He also offered that yearly dues are "voluntary" and that if a chapter is struggling, dues payment should not be a further burden.

**Assignment to Council Committees:** CAPT Taylor distributed a list of Council Standing Committees, Directors, and Projects (Atch 2). He promised to reach out to chapters in need of support using the expertise of the council to bolster chapters. He introduced CAPT Dave Peterson and LCDR Tom Smith as Maryland Council Directors. He asked listed committee chairs to first and foremost establish committee mission statements and goals. He suggested that over the next 30 days chairmen should discuss the committee goals with members with a focus on how the committee can support chapter initiatives. He reminded all that the council is here to help chapters. Lt Col Finkenauer requested for more specifics about the expectations regarding the committees. CAPT Taylor emphasized that the committee should tell the council what they can do and where their experience can help out. LTC Fringer suggested adding the council award function to the Public Relations Committee and volunteered to assist the committee in the administration of the award.

**Council Level of Excellence Award:** MOAA has established the first ever council level awards for the year 2010. CAPT Taylor introduced Lt Col Gunter Finkenauer and Major John Whitman as the team to complete the required award paperwork. CAPT Taylor made it clear that this is an "All Hands" drill requiring everyone's help.

**Maryland Legislative Luncheon:** LTC Fringer announced the date of the luncheon: 14 September 2011, Rayburn Building, B339. He promised to get more information about the lunch out to everyone soon, including cost. Letters of invite to chapter membership and congressmen to "save the date" are in draft. Chapter presidents should begin looking at their membership to ensure constituents of all districts etc are in attendance.

**Maryland State Legislative Session:** LT Ed Kreiner presented a summary of the legislative session and bills of concern to veterans (Atch 3). He said MOAA is well represented on the Maryland Retired Veterans Task Force (MRVTF) and appreciates the support. Col Fallon asked how the governor feels about Senate Bill SB190, "Income Tax - Military Retirement Income." LT Kreiner reported that the bill must be brought to the floor first, which has not happened, and that the issue must be in the governor's budget, which it is not.

**Montgomery County Legislative Update:** Col Kaplan introduced LCDR Bill Schultz USN (Ret.), incoming Chapter Treasurer. He then presented a summary of the chapter initiative set up through the Montgomery County (legislative) Delegation. The

Montgomery County Chapter chaired a series of briefings covering a wide range of current veterans' issues (over the course of a day in Annapolis) for small groups of representatives and their staffs. In between the briefings, he and his staff visited representatives in their offices leaving materials and offering summaries and follow up to many of 32 Delegates and Senators. Col Kaplan believes his effort reached a reasonable number of representatives (some through their staffers) and that he did have a good dialogue with them. A written summary of the briefings was sent to each member of the Delegation via e-mail. One positive result of the event is that Col Kaplan is now on the delegation distribution list for e-mail items sent to the elected members of the delegation. Further, he already has been invited to participate in a presentation to the Delegation in Montgomery County late in CY 2011 (i.e., before the next legislative session in Annapolis).

**Veterans Courts Resolution:** In November 2010 Col Kaplan and Past President CAPT Jim Campbell, Montgomery County Chapter, introduced a draft resolution entitled *Tailored Judicial Care: Veterans Courts*. 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 of the resolution by contacting and working with state legislators. This open item had been tabled by CAPT Taylor in January pending further information and review.

Col Kaplan told the Council that as of this meeting, Col Bob Norton, MOAA Deputy Director for Government Relations is working the issue of Veterans Treatment Courts. He reported that there is no current legislation on Capitol Hill. There is a state-sponsored bill setting up a task force to study the issue but it did not pass a Judiciary Committee vote in the House of Delegates. It's obvious there can be no bill without resources to implement the bill, although states and local governments elsewhere have demonstrated that low cost alternatives may work well with dedicated support. Col Fallon added that the Maryland Bar did review veterans courts and that the initiative has support of the Obama administration.

CAPT Taylor moved that the open resolution be tabled. The Council is restricted from moving forward on the resolution at this time. Maj Rolland seconded and the motion was carried.

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**Chapter Officer Updates:** CAPT Taylor reminded all that all key personnel updates are always requested particularly with the installation of new officers. As a minimum, each chapter should ensure a current leadership roster is submitted to MOAA national and to the Maryland Council webmaster.

**Website Improvements:** Again, CAPT Taylor stressed that information must be submitted to the Webmaster in a timely fashion – the Webmaster relies on chapter input. He asked all chapters to review their web site at [www.mdmoaa.org](http://www.mdmoaa.org) and offer ways to make their sites more consistent.

**Exemption from Federal Income Tax, 501(c)(19):** CAPT Taylor reported that our tax exemption package has been submitted to the State Comptroller. We are seeking exemption from paying sales tax.

**Flag Purchase:** General discussion about meeting support at both Club Meade and the Sheraton resulted in a motion for the purchase of both the MOAA flag and Old Glory. A budget of \$500 was approved. The motion was seconded by LTC Fringer and motion carried with one dissenting vote.

**Travel Hawaii Tour:** Col Kaplan announced an MOAA group travel opportunity in the summer of 2012 sailing the Hawaiian Islands. This 13 - day trip, starting 24 July 2012, requires only a \$50 deposit and, in his view, promises to be a lot of value for the money. For more information please contact Col Kaplan.

The meeting was adjourned at 1515. The next scheduled meeting in July is TBD

James Pede, Maj, USAF Ret  
Secretary

Atchs:

Atch 1: Maryland MOAA Council Treasurers Report

Atch 2: Assignment to Council Committees

Atch 3: Maryland State Legislative Session