

Maryland Council
Military Officers Association of America
Meeting Minutes
16 May 2010

Members Present:

Jack Fringer, President
Norm Taylor, First Vice-President
John Whitman, Second Vice-President
James Pede, Secretary
Greg Dalke, Treasurer
Jim Shiffrin, Webmaster
Tom Smith, Past President, Maryland Council
David Peterson, Second Vice President, Montgomery Chapter
James Dittbrenner, Montgomery Chapter
Evelyn Deluca-Widmer, President, Southern Maryland Chapter

Members Absent:

James Shelley, President, Baltimore Chapter
Harvey Kaplan, President, Montgomery Chapter
Raymond Rowland, President, Prince George's Chapter
Jim Coleman, President, Annapolis Chapter
George Evans, President, Upper Eastern Shore
Gunter Finkenauer, President, General Smallwood Chapter
David Robinson, President, Susquehanna Chapter

Call to Order. The Maryland Council, MOAA, met at Club Meade, Ft Meade Maryland on 10 May 2010. LTC Jack Fringer opened the meeting following brunch at 1250 pm.

OLD BUSINESS:

Review and approval of minutes: Minutes from the 28 February 2010 meeting were reviewed and updated to indicate that the next meeting is scheduled for 16 May 2010. Jack reminded all that in the future minutes would be posted to the web for all to review prior to the meeting.

Treasurer's report: CDR Dalke reported that the checking account balance stands at \$2000 with \$2,500 placed in certificates of deposit as was agreed. He said dues so far amounted to \$600. Recent changes included moving CDs to a 60 month certificate to increase the interest rate. Currently the CD is paying about \$200 yearly in interest.

New Business:

MOAA Awards Program: LTC Fringer announced that three chapters submitted packages for the MOAA Communications Award. He said he intends to ask for a summary of judges comments for Maryland chapters. He hopes this will help chapters focus on short comings. He reminded all present that the chapter Levels of Excellence Award submissions are due in June. Winners will attend the Capital Event symposium in D.C. 16-18 November.

Storming the Hill: LTC Fringer provided an after action report. He said the effort was very successful this year. His team met with Senator Ben Cardin who promised to support MOAA initiatives. LTC Fringer urged everyone to visit the MOAA web site and ‘flood’ representatives with emails asking them to support our issues. He encouraged all to sign up for the MOAA legislative update. Issues included:

1. **Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act:** MOAA supports this act which would permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans' disability compensation. (Senators Cardin and Mikulski are co-sponsors)
2. **“Widows’ Tax”:** All sponsors have committed to finding an offset for this law which prevents surviving spouses from receiving retirement pay and survivor benefits at the same time. (All senators and representatives are co-sponsors except for Rep Hoyer)
3. **Early Reserve Retirement:** MOAA received a promise of support from Representative Van Hollen who joins MOAA supporting a change to the existing policy and calling for a 2001 effective date (versus 2008). This change would affect many reservists. (Senator Cardin is co sponsor as is Rep Cummings and Van Hollen)
4. **Military Pay Raise:** Current administration policy calls for a 1.4% pay raise which would be the lowest in over 48 years. MOAA feels this does not send a good message to those serving. MOAA supports the House effort to increase the raise to 1.9%. (Rep Bartlett is the only cosponsor)

Maryland Legislative Luncheon: LTC Fringer reported that he has been asked to consider sponsoring a legislative luncheon similar to that of Virginia Council of Chapters. The overall goal is to thank senators and representatives for their support of MOAA issues. MOAA is offering \$1000 in financial support to establish this first ever Maryland event. LTC Fringer asked all to return to their boards and membership and determine if there is support for the effort.

Chapter Membership: LTC Fringer asked all presidents to check their membership rosters to determine if all members are MOAA national members. He asked that everyone contact local only members to encourage them to join.

TOPS Program: James Dittbrenner, Council TOPS representative, asked if there is interest in developing a business and networking group. BRAC initiatives have called for this type of service to help military job seekers. He asked for interested folks to contact him to set up the program and stressed this is a time investment versus a cost investment to create the program.

Chapter President Update: All chapter presidents provided current updates of their chapters.

The meeting was adjourned at 1356. The next scheduled meeting is 15 November 2010 during the Capital Event in D.C.

James Pede, Maj, USAF Ret
Secretary

Atch: Maryland MOAA Council Treasurers Report