

# DRAFT

Maryland Council  
Military Officers Association of America  
Meeting Minutes  
15 November 2010

Members Present:

Jack Fringer, President  
Norm Taylor, First Vice-President  
John Whitman, Second Vice-President  
James Pede, Secretary, Ft Meade President  
Tom Smith, Past President, Maryland Council  
Evelyn Deluca-Widmer, President, Southern Maryland Chapter  
Jim Coleman, President, Annapolis Chapter  
Andy Fallon, Annapolis Chapter  
Edward Kreiner, Susquehanna Chapter  
Harvey Kaplan, President, Montgomery Chapter  
J.R. Cambell, Past President, Montgomery Chapter  
Gunter Finkenauer, President, General Smallwood Chapter  
Luke Brennecke, President, Upper Potomac Chapter

Members Absent:

Greg Dalke, Treasurer  
Jim Shiffrin, Webmaster  
James Shelley, President, Baltimore Chapter  
Raymond Rowland, President, Prince George's Chapter  
George Evans, President, Upper Eastern Shore  
James Dittbrenner, Montgomery Chapter

Call to Order. The Maryland Council met 15 November 2010 at 1300 in the Sheraton National Hotel, Arlington, Virginia. The meeting was held in concert with A Capital Event sponsored by MOAA.

LTC Fringer introduced Col Harvey Kaplan, President Montgomery Co. Chapter. Col Kaplan read the governor's proclamation recognizing 11 November 2010 as Veterans Day in Maryland.

LTC Fringer introduced our guest Col Barry Wright, MOAA Deputy Director for Council and Chapter Affairs.

OLD BUSINESS:

Review and approval of minutes: Minutes from the 10 May 2010 meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

Treasurer's report: LTC Fringer reported for CDR Dalke that the checking account balance stands at \$9,124. Dues for the year have been provided from Prince Georges, Upper Potomac, Upper Eastern Shore, Southern Maryland, Ft Meade, Gen Smallwood, Susquehanna, and Baltimore Chapters. Dues outstanding include the Annapolis Chapter and Montgomery Chapters. Both representatives present pledged to check into this matter.

#### New Business:

MOAA Awards Program: LTC Fringer announced that three chapters submitted packages for the MOAA Communications Award with no success. This was the first time Maryland chapters competed for the award and he thanked those who submitted for their participation. Comments from MOAA staff focused on the lack of a dynamic web site for most of the Maryland chapters but they did praise the Annapolis site as one of the best.

Chapter Levels of Excellence Awards have been announced for five Maryland Chapters and will be presented at the awards dinner. Recognition goes to the Ft Meade Chapter (of course), the Montgomery Co. Chapter, the Gen. William Smallwood Chapter, the Southern Maryland Chapter and the Upper Potomac Chapter.

Montgomery Co. Chapter Resolution: Col Kaplan and Jim Cambell introduced a draft resolution to the Maryland Council of Chapters 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. They also explained that programs in other parts of the country have been established to address this special situation. Ed Kreiner suggested that the Maryland Veterans Task Force may be a starting point and can help reach out to all veteran organizations to support this resolution. LTC Fringer suggested the Maryland Council should write a letter to Col Strobridge, Director Government Relations, MOAA to seek support. Lt Col Finkenauer sympathized with the cause but suggested we need more facts and should consider the legal precedence available. He warned that previous efforts failed when bills were wrapped into other military initiatives. Capt Coleman suggested we focus on existing bills to build support for the issue.

The resolution calls on the Maryland Council to support five proposed actions and discussion closed with agreement that funding the initiative at the federal level is key to having states implement special courts. Capt Coleman made a motion to draft a letter to MOAA seeking support, and Col Kaplan seconded. The motioned passed.

Col Kaplan explained that the remaining four actions should be undertaken only if MOAA approves following receipt of the council letter. All were in favor but a vote was left pending until a response is received from MOAA.

Maryland Council of Chapters officer slate: By unanimous vote the following candidates for the 2011 election were approved:

Capt Norm Taylor	President
Maj John Whitman	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice
Vacant	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice
Maj Jim Pede	Secretary
CDR Greg Dalke	Treasurer
Maj Jim Shiffrin	Webmaster
Mr James Dittbrenner	Tops Liaison

(Update: As of 1 January 2011, Lt Col Finkenauer volunteered for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice)

Maryland Outstanding Unit Award: The Maryland Council unit award was reactivated in 2009 and presented to the 224th Area Support Medical Company on 12 December 2009. LTC Fringer worked with General Atkins, AG, Maryland National Guard, to make a recommendation for the 2010 award winner. Our congratulations goes to the Maryland Air National Guard 175<sup>th</sup> Wing, Warfield Air National Guard Base, Baltimore Maryland. The unit “successfully executed expanded wartime and peacetime missions with outstanding professionalism, knowledge and technical skills” that contributed to national defense strategic objectives. The award will be presented 5 December 2010.

Chapter Communications: LTC Fringer initiated informal chapter president meetings during 2010 to enhance communication and share ideas. He is encouraged by early feedback and hopes the meetings will continue. Ed Kreiner suggested that all emails contain name, email, and phone numbers for easy contact. Col Kaplan suggested that all chapters share their newsletters so folks can visit to hear speakers and participate in other chapter activities. LTC Fringer asked all presidents to email the webmaster with updates to chapter points of contact and he reminded all that newsletters should be sent as well.

Maryland Legislative Luncheon: LTC Fringer announced that he, Col Kaplan, and Maj Pede have volunteered to orchestrate the first ever MOAA sponsored Maryland Legislative Luncheon. He asked all for a commitment of three/four folks from each chapter to attend along with key members of the MOAA staff. He said this is a great opportunity to meet and thank our legislators for their support of military benefits issues and defense issues in general. With approval he will work with MOAA staff to seek a sponsor and determine a date for the event. MOAA has offered to support the council with a ‘gift’ of \$1000 to help the effort get rolling. Ed Kreiner moved that the council approve plans for the luncheon, the motion was seconded by LCDR Tom Smith, and the vote was unanimous.

Chapter zip codes and “catchment” areas: Col Kaplan raised the issue of zip code “catchment” areas and asked Col Lee Lange, MOAA staff, where District zip codes belong. Col Lange said they are assigned to Prince Georges and Virginia chapters but was not sure why some could not be reassigned to Montgomery Co. if they were close by etc. Co Kaplan offered to absorb D.C. zip codes close to his chapter. Col Lange offered to work with all chapters affected to make the change.

Col Kaplan reiterated that Montgomery Co. chapter and the Ft Meade chapter have come to grips with the zip code situation and considering how there is always overlap he encouraged everyone to consider multi chapter membership. He asked Col Lange to make zip code changes already submitted permanent. Col Lange said he has a handle on it and promised to have everyone review their zip code areas in the future. He promised that Maryland would be the first in the nation to get this accomplished.

The meeting was adjourned at 1430. The next scheduled meeting is Sunday, 9 January, at Ft Meade, Club Meade at noon.

James Pede, Maj, USAF Ret  
Secretary

Atch: Maryland MOAA Council Treasurers Report  
Resolution: Tailored Judicial Care: Veterans Courts  
Outstanding Unit Award Nomination