



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

Members Present:

John Whitman, President
Norm Taylor, Immediate Past President
Greg Dalke, Treasurer
James Pede, Secretary
Jack Fringer, Legislative Chair
Dave Peterson, Director
Eleanor Layman, Auxiliary Rep, Ft Meade Chapter
James Shellem, President, Upper Eastern Shore
Warren Prince, President, Southern Maryland Chapter
Dick Culligan, Susquehanna Chapter
Bill Benson, President, Upper Potomac Chapter
Mike Rhoden, President, General Smallwood Chapter
Mike DeHaemer, President, Baltimore Chapter
Reggie Sealey, President, Prince George's County Chapter

Members Absent:

Jim Dittbrenner, TOPS
Jim Shiffrin, Webmaster, President, Ft Meade Chapter
Harvey Kaplan, 2nd Vice President
Andy Fallon, 1st Vice President, President Annapolis Chapter

The Maryland Council of Chapters met 3 March 2013 at 1245 in the Fleet Reserve Club, Annapolis, Maryland.

Following the pledge and invocation, Maj Whitman introduced Dick Culligan of the Susquehanna Chapter, sitting in for President Jeff Brock.

Maj Pede reviewed the minutes from 6 January 2013 and CAPT Taylor moved for approval as written. LT COL Fringer seconded the motion and the vote for approval was unanimous.

Treasurer's Report: CDR Dalke announced that dues season, is, well, in season! He reported 100 percent chapter participation in last year's dues payments. CDs (2.75%) are still held at BB&T despite the fact we no longer bank there. Savings and checking accounts have moved to Navy Federal Credit Union. CDR Dalke requested council approval of \$250 donation to Charlotte Hall. The motion was voted on and approved.

CDR Dalke reminded all that we share our charitable donation every other year alternating between Charlotte Hall and the scholarship fund.

Change of meeting location: Maj Whitman opened the meeting with a discussion calling for a change of meeting location. He expressed his concern that it's extremely difficult to please everyone considering how far some folks drive to join the council. Several locations were discussed with the American Legion Post in Crownsville favored by most (save dire warnings by LT COL Fringer!). Maj Whitman called for a vote to try out the Legion facilities for one meeting despite the fact that BINGO might pose a problem. The vote was unanimous.

MD MOAA State wide meeting: Maj Whitman opened discussion on the possibility of one or more chapters sponsoring a state wide meeting. He suggested it might be possible to hold the meeting in concert with the upcoming legislative lunch in September. LT COL Fringer reminded all that the effort has been attempted in the past to no avail. CAPT Taylor moved that the first and second vice presidents should review the idea and make recommendations to the council in August. No vote was taken but the idea "generally approved" by all.

Congressional Luncheon: LT COL Fringer reviewed his discussions with MOAA HQ regarding the upcoming luncheon. He has received a 'promise of support' in the way of attendees and financial support (\$500). He recommended that our lunch be held while Congress is still in session and he has asked Senator Mikulski to host our luncheon. Catering options and such will be locked in as we get closer to the date. He reminded all chapter presidents that sign up and collection of money is a chapter responsibility this year. The next committee meeting will be held in April.

Levels of Excellence Award: Maj Whitman encouraged all chapter presidents to submit a package for this award. He directed every one to the "Council and Chapter Handbook." The council level award package is being reviewed by the Vice.

MD National Guard Association Convention: Maj Whitman reviewed the history of this meeting held in Ocean City during April. He plans to attend.

TOPS Report: Major Whitman distributed the current report. (ATCH 1)

Legislative Report: LT COL Fringer encouraged everyone to send in their letters of support for bills impacting the military community. We need to fill the room for the 12 March House Ways and Means Committee meeting regarding the income tax reduction bill. The MOAA HQ legislative alert is out targeting committee chairs and speakers of house and senate. MOAA Nat'l sent 5514 letters/emails. Of those who use the MOAA Nat'l web site only about 25 percent open the link and use it.

Auxiliary Report: Eleanor Layman reported

National Guard Award: The council responsibility for the award has been assigned to the Public Relations committee. LT COL Fringer promised to send a letter of information to Bill Benson, the chair.

MD Veterans Committee: CAPT Peterson provided all a copy of Secretary Chow's letter announcing the creation of a Maryland Network of Volunteer Mentors (ATCH 2). Mentors will work closely with veterans leaving the Maryland Corrections System to help them navigate back into the community. A kick off meeting is scheduled for 10 January.

The meeting adjourned at 1500. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday 3 August 2013 at the Crownsville American Legion Post 7.

JAMES PEDE, Maj, USAF Ret
MD Council Secretary

1 ATCH: TOPS Report
2 ATCH: Sec Chow Ltr



Maryland TOPS Report – 6 January 2013

2 March 2013

1. Maryland TOPS Representative received the first name tag for TOPS Representatives.
2. The proposal to both the Montgomery County Veterans Commission and the Frederick County One-Stop Office of DLLR has not been responded to. Informal inquiries indicate that neither an interest in becoming that involved with transitioning service members returning to either county. Their position appears to be let someone else do it. All agree that the TAP program does not meet the need. An approach has been made to the MOAA BANG of Northern Virginia to provide first a BANG session with the Marines at Walter Reed. This is being looked into with Colonel Frank Wickersham, USMC Ret.
3. The offer to provide start-up support for either or both the BANG concept or the Transition Program for Separating Service Members and Spouses remains open. Interested individuals should contact me at their convenience.
4. Maryland TOPS weekly distribution of Job notices and the bi-weekly Career Fairs and Open Houses listing is reaching a distribution of 70,000 world-wide with requests coming in from more TAP counselors and also additional transitioning service members currently stationed at the Pentagon.

Respectfully submitted,

James P. Dittbrenner
Maryland TOPS Representative



Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

Office of the Secretary

MARTIN O'M
GO
ANTHONY G.
LT. GO
EDWARD CH
SEC

December 26, 2012

Dear Veteran,

Maryland veterans have served their state and country in every conflict since the founding of our Republic. Many veterans have gone on to enjoy the American Dream – a wonderful family and a successful career in the public or private sector. However, a few of them have made mistakes and found themselves on the wrong side of the law – as veterans incarcerated.

My goal is to ensure that veterans who have been incarcerated do not go back after they have been released. This goal is shared with the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Gary Maynard. The benefits of preventing a formerly incarcerated veteran from returning to prison are as follows:

1. The veteran can make a positive contribution to society (as he/she did with military service)
2. The veteran will not return to prison, and will thus save the state the cost of incarceration
3. There will not be any more victims of another crime

In order to accomplish this goal, I would like to establish a Network of Veteran Volunteer Mentors. Basically, when a veteran is released from prison, he/she would be assigned a volunteer mentor to help the veteran with the readjustment back into society. The activities of this Network would be coordinated by the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, and the local Veterans Justice Outreach representative from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

I am having a meeting on Thursday, January 10th at 10:00 a.m. to discuss this effort. If you or any of your members are interested in serving as a veteran volunteer mentor, please feel free to attend the meeting. The address for the meeting is: Mental Health Association of Montgomery County, 1000 Twinbrook Pkwy, Rockville, MD 20851. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Jerry Boden at 410-260-3841 so that we can reserve a place for all attendees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward Chow, Jr.".

Edward Chow, Jr.