

Greetings to all,

Here is a quick summary of those points discussed at the Council & Chapter Affairs Council Presidents (Quarterly) Webinar Update that are of special interest to Maryland MOAA Chapters. The conference call was held from 1500-1615 hours this past Thursday, 9 August 2018.

1. The meeting was again coordinated by COL Terri Coles and Lt Col Scott Wadle, both of Chapter & Council Affairs. Col Mike Turner, VP for Development, gave an update on the National Voter Registration Day - NVRD (this year on 25 September). Details are at moaa.org/foundation. There is a tab (far right side of screen) for NVRD. If you would like to make this a Chapter event, there is a sign up page with a form to complete, and three possible actions to get your Chapter involved. For example, you may wish to have members sit at a table at a location you select and sign up new voters there. It was suggested that this participation is most definitely eligible for inclusion in a write-up for next year's LOE submissions. Photos can be uploaded via Facebook > #MOAAServes. You are welcome to contact Mike Turner with any questions. MOAA is the only MSO on the NVRD National Steering Committee. The 2018 goal is to register 300,000 voters. Participation is an excellent adjunct to the MOAA advocacy mission and Never Stop Serving. Of course, it also can generate valuable publicity and recognition in the community for the Chapter.

2. Key Calendar Dates: The October 2018 issue of Military Officer will contain extended Chapter and Council coverage; watch for it. 1-2 November are the dates of the MOAA Annual Meeting in Phoenix. We will have our Maryland Council meeting on 1 November (Thursday) in the afternoon. The LOE Awards Dinner will take place that evening. The business meetings for us will be held the following day, 2 November. Watch for the complete schedule with the reservation package, coming from MOAA Events via e-mail very soon. A new electronic platform is being used for registration this year. See item 5, below, for related information. [Note: While I'm discussing key dates, please don't forget we are having a Council Meeting on 8 September in Arnold and our 8th Annual Congressional Luncheon in the Dirksen Senate Office Building on 26 September.] The next Leaders Workshop for Chapters and Councils in our geographic area is not yet scheduled. That was last held in Atlantic City, NJ. The Chapter Member Recruiting Program for 2018 closes on 31 December.

3. Check out the new "Why MOAA" video. It is shorter and more impactful than the original version. You can find it at: <https://youtu.be/42YD9d8WI5Q> [See if you can locate me Storming the Hill in this short clip. I didn't even know I was in it until I recently viewed it again.] You can be innovative in how you use this link to reach out to potential MOAA Chapter members or spread the word about the organization in your community.

4. We were reminded about the mileage dollars that recently were transferred to Councils from MOAA HQ. Any officer of the Maryland Council is welcome to claim travel reimbursement at 45.5 cents per mile (for CY 2018). The dollars are for trips to Chapters in Maryland (other than your own) to speak at a function, to participate in an event, to attend a meeting, or to make an official Chapter visit. Council Meetings do not count! We have a balance of just over \$200 to reimburse our Council officers for this travel over the next 5 months. There is a very short Trip Report to file with Council and Chapter Affairs [chapters@moaa.org] and a recent submission took me only 5 minutes to complete. A copy of the blank Trip Report, in pdf format, is attached to this document. Jim Campbell, our Council Treasurer, is prepared to reimburse you directly--for mileage--upon his receipt of an info copy of your trip report. Please contact me if you have any questions about this new program. We expect an allocation for travel of over \$500 for CY 2019 if we make use of this valuable initiative--and file our trip reports.

5. The Levels of Excellence Awards Dinner will take place on Thursday, 1 November, in Phoenix. We have 7 winners from Maryland, and I hope they all will be there to receive their awards. Spouses are encouraged to join for this gala event (no charge for the winning organizations). If the winning Chapter President is not able to be present, kindly let Victoria Twyne (at Council and Chapter Affairs) know the name of your substitute. Registration is open until 21 September. Award recipients are entitled to one night's stay at the hotel and, of course, the meals are included. Remember, travel to and from Phoenix is at your own expense. [I already shared the fact that airline rates currently are quite reasonable, but they

will get more expensive as time passes. Southwest Airlines has some convenient non-stop flights from and back to BWI.]

6. This fall, MOAA will offer both ROTC and JROTC certificates in the MOAA store. Both will be with the gold embossed MOAA emblem, and very attractive. These are complimentary with the purchase of a medal. Also, they will be shipped free of charge to the purchaser. They are designed to enable the Chapter to print the recipient's name and other key elements of information using a local printer.

7. National HQ likes to visit each Council every year, and we do get these frequent visits her in Maryland. Of course, we also get multiple visits during our Congressional Luncheon each September. If you are overdue for a Chapter visit by a member of the National Staff (i.e., it has been 4+ years), please set one up now! Council and Chapter Affairs is planning its calendar of visits now for CY 2019. They have made 63 visits so far in 2018, and have 41 remaining (as of 9 August). I plan to check with everyone at the next Council Meeting in regard to these visits. Of course, either I or one of our Council Vice Presidents attempt to visit all of the Chapters approximately every year. We remain available to speak at your Chapters on a broad spectrum of subjects, and will be pleased to do that if you give us some advance notice. Our other Council Officers also are available to join you at your invitation.

In closing, feel free to contact me whenever you wish, and I look forward to seeing all of our Council members in Arnold, MD (O'Loughlin's Restaurant) for our meeting on Saturday, 8 September, starting at 1130 hours. Please watch for the advance agenda, which we will be assembling next week.

Harvey

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