



Minutes of January 21, 2017 Council Meeting

Location: O'Loughlin's Restaurant
1258 Bay Dale Drive
Arnold, Maryland

Attendees: All elected officers were present. All chapters were represented, with the exception of Prince Georges County and Upper Eastern Shore. The General Smallwood Chapter was represented by Neil Johnson and Sandra Wadsworth, the Vice President and Secretary, respectively. Commissioner Erwin Burtnick from the Maryland Veterans Commission attended as an invited guest.

The meeting was called to order at 1145 by Council President Andy Fallon. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the meeting then proceeded, with a break when lunch was served. The agenda for the meeting was followed and is attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

The Minutes of the September 10, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.

Andy Fallon provided a general brief on legislative affairs now that the General Assembly is in session. He urged council members to read the Issues and Priorities Papers developed by the General Assembly for a better understanding of the various state issues. On behalf of the Council of Chapter, Andy and John Whitman testified on SB3, noting that the accompanying Fiscal Note will continue to have effect on such legislation. It was noted that the current Fiscal Note is now clearer.

Andy further commented on MOAA activities at the federal level. He noted that the fight over sequestration will return in 2018 and that major changes are coming in health care. Implementation of the electronic health record in a pilot program is something we need to keep our eye on. There was some mention of HB512 as one means of improving VA responsiveness to beneficiary issues and a brief discussion ensued.

Treasurer Dalke provided his report, with the spreadsheet attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof. He noted that chapter dues letters will be

going out in February. He further noted that the Council has not yet received the \$900 in support for the Congressional Luncheon from MOAA National.

Harvey Kaplan briefed on MRVTF, noting that Jack Fringer has resigned as the Council Legislative Liaison. A request for a volunteer to assume this post was made to all present. Susquehanna Chapter President Annie Brock volunteered and was so appointed by the Council President. Harvey noted that the MRVTF would defer to the Council as the lead on issues going forward.

TOPS Liaison Dittbrenner provided his report, which is attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof. Activities related to the Maryland National Guard initiative for the Guard Unit of the Year were noted to be in progress.

Spouses and Surviving Spouses Liaison Naomi Kaplan again commented briefly on information that she has previously provided to the chapter presidents. She asked again to be provided any additional information that may be of use/interest to spouses that might come to the attention of chapters. She noted that her next newsletter will include a discussion of curative and hospice care for military children.

The remaining 2017 meeting calendar was discussed. The consensus of the attendees is that the current venue of O'Loughlin's should continue to be the meeting place for the Council for the remainder of the year.

The Council agreed unanimously that it would again financially support the participation of the First Vice President in the April "Storming the Hill" event.

Old Business

Annie Brock discussed developments regarding the Council's legislative initiative on military retired pay and her plans for advocacy activities during the current session of the General Assembly.

The Treasurer was reminded that action to make the MOAA Scholarship Fund contribution this year "in honor of " Senator Mikulski was approved last meeting.

New Business

The MOAA 5-Star Level of Excellence Award was presented by Harvey Kaplan and affixed to our MOAA organizational flag.

Colonel Robert Norton, USA (Ret) was nominated to fill the vacant Council Second Vice President slot. Colonel Norton accepted the nomination. The Council voted unanimously to elect him to the office.

The elected 2017-2018 slate of Council officers was then installed. Officiating the installation and administering the oath was Major John Whitman, USAF (Ret), a former Council President. The slate of officers installed is:

Col. Harvey Kaplan, USA (Ret)...President
Lt. Col. Bryon Hartzog, USA (Ret)...First Vice President
Col. Robert Norton, USA (Ret)...Second Vice President
Capt. David Peterson, NOAA (Ret)...Secretary
Cdr. Greg Dalke, USN (Ret)...Treasurer

Captain Peterson noted that his 5-year term representing MOAA as a Commissioner on the Maryland Veterans Commission would be up this year in July. A MOAA volunteer to fill this role will be sought in the coming months.

Chapter presidents or representatives provided brief reviews of chapter activities since the last Council meeting.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1444.

Respectfully submitted,

Captain David H. Peterson, NOAA (Ret)
Secretary