



Minutes of June 10, 2017 Council Meeting

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

Attendees: All elected officers and appointees were present, with the exception of the Legislative Liaison.. Presiding officers represented most chapters, with the exception Upper Eastern Shore Chapter and the General Smallwood Chapter, neither of whom was represented. The Upper Potomac Chapter was represented by Guy Everhart, the Prince Georges County Chapter was represented by Ray Rowland and the Susquehanna Chapter was represented by Jeff Brock. Terri Coles from MOAA National and Brad Jewitt from the Currently Serving Advisory Council attended as invited guests.

The meeting was called to order at 1200 by Council President Harvey Kaplan. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and Grace, 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 March 4, 2017 meeting, previously distributed, were approved unanimously.

The guests at today's meeting were introduced

Treasurer Dalke provided his report, with the spreadsheet attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof. There was agreement that the administrative details regarding payment for chapter and council nametags would be handled by the President and Treasurer, in consultation with Jack Fringer.

The Council Secretary passed out the working version of the 2017 council roster, again requesting that members provide any corrections or updates to keep it current.

Substituting for his wife, Jeff Brock presented the Council's Legislative Liaison report on the final status of legislation of Council interest from the 2017 General Assembly session. The report is appended hereto and made a part hereof.

The primary takeaways from this year's legislative effort regarding the retired pay income tax subtraction revealed major obstacles to any chance of passage. The Senate Minority Leader told the Susquehanna Chapter that the legislative leadership is not supportive of the legislation and the inactivity of the constituency was immaterial. Tom Seybold (Star Spangled Banner Chapter) commented they had received advice at a chapter meeting from the House Minority Leader and quoted "chapters and all veterans and VSOs are 'too quiet' and we should make a huge effort, have a slogan, and hire a lobbyist." The question of whether or not the Council should engage a lobbyist (hopefully pro bono) was then discussed, with no firm consensus reached. Some chapters endorsed this approach while others demurred.

The discussion then turned to local county issues, particularly the property tax credit authority granted counties by the legislature. Montgomery County Chapter reported that its County Council was well along on adopting the amended authority provided by HB1234. Chapter presidents were asked to communicate with their respective legislative bodies to encourage consideration of this credit.

Terri Coles, senior director, Council and Chapter Affairs presented the Past Council President pin to Andy Fallon and a Five Star Website Marvin Harris Communications Award to George Wright (Star Spangled Banner Chapter) and Four Star Newsletter Marvin Harris Communications Awards to Jim Shiffrin (Council), Tom Seybold (Star Spangled Banner Chapter) and Annie Brock (Susquehanna Chapter). Following these presentations, Colonel Coles provided remarks on the Atlantic City Leadership Seminar. She advised that MOAA National has hired a Chief Information Officer, who will be responsible for undertaking an IT renovation. She encouraged the Council to regularly participate in the Council President's webinar."

Colonel Brad Jewitt, USMCR, provided a briefing on MOAA National's Currently Serving Advisory Council, on which he sits. His briefing material is appended to these minutes and made a part hereof.

Transition Liaison/Networking Coordinator presented brief remarks, reporting that the Montgomery County efforts to sustain a Business and Networking Group (BANG) have been suspended temporarily. He urged everyone to focus on the value of the MOAA Transition Center to prospective officer retirees. His full report is amended to these minutes and made a part hereof.

Past President Fallon briefly described the "Unit of the Year Award" ceremony at this year's selected Maryland National Guard unit...the 175th Cyber Operating

Group of the Maryland Air National Guard. He commented that the effect of this award on the unit was "positive and palpable." also noting that the award is well worth continuing.

Spouses and Surviving Spouses Liaison Naomi Kaplan advised that her newsletter would be distributed before July 1st. 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.

Old Business

Discussion continued regarding the MOAA Maryland representative to serve on the Maryland Veterans Commission. President Kaplan has this for action.

New Business

Past President Fallon again discussed the opportunities he sees for enhancing our websites and White Template chapter newsletters.

Chapter presidents or representatives provided brief reviews of chapter activities since the last Council meeting. Of particular concern is the status of the Southern Maryland Chapter. President Campbell noted that they went through a "chapter rescue" exercise in April and that they were making changes in the day/time of their future meetings. The Susquehanna Chapter reported that MOAA National President Atkins will be speaking to the chapter later this year and further that the chapter has commenced a chapter scholarship program.

The next Council meeting will be on Saturday, September 9, 2017, again at O'Loughlin's. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1455.

Respectfully submitted,

Captain David H. Peterson, NOAA (Ret)
Secretary

