



Minutes of March 4, 2017 Council Meeting

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

Attendees: All elected officers and appointees were present, except for the 2nd Vice President and Webmaster. All chapters were represented, with the exception Upper Potomac Chapter. The General Smallwood Chapter was also represented by Neil Johnson, its Vice President. National MOAA board members Matt Clark and Mike Rogers 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 January 21, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously after the correction of a date to reflect the Council's discussion regarding sequestration.

New Council member Ronnie Bagley was introduced as the incoming President of Prince Georges Chapter. National board member Matt Clark introduced himself and discussed his role as board Membership Committee chair and offered his outlook for increasing MOAA membership going forward.

Treasurer Dalke provided his report, with the spreadsheet attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof. He noted that chapter dues letters had been mailed out and requested chapter action on submission. The proposed 2017 budget was discussed and adopted. A letter regarding the Council's contribution to the MOAA Scholarship Fund in honor of retired Senator Barbara Mikulski was discussed and is to be included in the Council's correspondence records.

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

.

The Council's Legislative Liaison presented her status report on legislation in the current General Assembly session that is of importance and interest to the Council. Regarding the legislation on the subtraction of military retired pay from state income tax, the comment was made that the lack of Democratic co-sponsors was due to the Governor submitting the bill directly without giving Democrats the opportunity to sign on. While the fate of HB375/SB321 is in doubt, she commented that the likelihood that an additional \$5000 subtraction for those over 65 would be enacted was better. She also discussed the reason for the unfavorable report on HB1194, but noted that the likelihood of passage of related bills was positive. The Secretary discussed the hearing on HB1234 that he attended and testified at. The general consensus is that this bill would pass with a favorable recommendation. Annie concluded her update by noting that she was working with the Office of Legislative Services to encourage the use of the correct language in future legislation when there is a clear distinction intended between enlisted ranks of the armed forces" and the more inclusive "uniformed services."

Following the discussion on state issues, the focus turned to local county issues. There was an update on how county jurisdictions were addressing the authority granted them by HB898 from the 2016 legislative session. Action has been seen in Baltimore City and Montgomery County. It is apparent that some jurisdictions are not aware of this authority. Annie recommended taking no further action on this property tax issue, suggesting that we get the various county councils to address it, leaving MOAA free to work on the income tax issue.

The President provided an overview of the upcoming "Storming the Hill" event, noting that the issues to be addressed with the congressional delegation will be sequestration and the SBP/DIC situation. Harvey provided a handout with contact info for the various Maryland members of Congress. The matter of the 7th Maryland Council Congressional Luncheon was discussed. The date has been set for September 13th. 1st VP Hartzog is chairing the planning committee. The council members were asked to suggest some means by which we could welcome the 2 new congressmen in the delegation.

Transition Liaison Dittbrenner gave his report, which is attached to these minutes and made a part hereof. He again offered his assistance and expertise to any chapter needing help with transitioning service members.

Past President Fallon discussed the plans for the award to the selected National Guard unit. He expected the award ceremony to take place within the next 4 weeks.

President Kaplan discussed the new MOAA approach to the "State Report Card." The new approach is that it will now only be found online. He

encouraged chapters to make reference to it any time they are advocating for our issues with our legislators. Past President Fallon provided the following information concerning the OSD organization that is responsible for liaison with state legislatures: DOD (USD P&R) has established a liaison office within the OASD MC&FP (<http://www.people.mil/inside-M-RA/Military=Community=Family-POlICY/Bioraphies/Beauregard/>) to promote military friendly policies through the legislatures of the 50 states and US Territories. The URL below is their interactive DoD Scorecard for all 50 states on the key issues for military families at the state legislature level – it's different than the MOAA scorecard in that it is focused on the active force. DoD Interactive State Scorecard:

<http://usa4militaryfamilies.dod.mil/MOS/f?2p=USA4:HOMR:0>

Spouses and Surviving Spouses Liaison Naomi Kaplan advised that her newsletter had been distributed to all. 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 also advised that she is willing to add names to the distribution list that are not currently on it.

Old Business

Nominations to replace Dave Peterson as a Commissioner on the Maryland Veterans Commission will be sought in time for the next meeting of the Council.

Council and chapter participation in the upcoming Council/Chapter Leaders Conference was discussed. It is important that chapters participate and take maximum advantage of this exposure to MOAA organizational training. MOAA will support a maximum of 3 participants from each.

New Business

The availability of new MOAA name tags was discussed and arrangements were made for those who want name tags to get them. Jack Fringer has volunteered to help with this effort.

Chapter presidents or representatives provided brief reviews of chapter activities since the last Council meeting. Due to a crisis in leadership, the Southern Maryland Chapter is "in extremis" and will be going through a chapter rescue effort in April.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1420.

Respectfully submitted,

Captain David H. Peterson, NOAA (Ret)
Secretary