



Minutes of June 4, 2016 Council Meeting

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

Attendees: All Council elected officers and appointees were in attendance. All chapters were represented by their presidents, with the exceptions of Fort Meade (represented by John Whitman, in relief of the late BG Veronis), and Upper Potomac (represented by Hugh McIlroy). No representative of General Smallwood Chapter attended.

The meeting was called to order at 1245 by Council President Andy Fallon. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the meeting then proceeded, following the agenda, attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

The Minutes of the March 5, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.

Andy Fallon and Harvey Kaplan briefed on the 2016 efforts of the "Storming the Hill" event coordinated by MOAA National. It was noted that receptions by legislators and staffs were positive and attentive. Both cautioned that members need to stay focused and to pay attention to National's legislative updates. It seemed apparent that there will be a comprehensive look at the entire military health care system, as well as studies on commissaries and Space=A travel. It was further reported that progress is expected on SBP/DIC offset legislation.

Harvey Kaplan discussed the outcome of legislation passed by the General Assembly during the 2016 session. It was noted that the General Assembly's Veterans Caucus does not seem to support full retired pay subtraction, but rather seems to support subtraction in \$5K increments. The MRVTF will work on this again next year.

Treasurer Dalke provided his report, with the spreadsheet attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

TOPS Liaison Dittbrenner provided his report, which is attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof. there was extended discussion on the topic of how chapters interact with local Guard and Reserve units. Andy Fallon noted that

he will work with the Guard Chief of Staff on local contacts. Chapter activity regarding assistance to transitioning veterans was raised by Annie Brock. It was commented that we need to focus on awareness and marketing when we consider what our "value-added" services are. Jim Dittbrenner noted that he offers "one-on-one meetings" 24/7 and for an indefinite period to individuals he helps.

Spouses and Surviving Spouses Liaison Naomi Kaplan 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.

The 2016/2017 meeting calendar was discussed. The September 10th meeting date (moved by Jim Campbell and seconded by Annie Brock) was affirmed and the venue will again be O'Loughlin's. There will be no Council meeting during the MOAA Annual Meeting event this year due to time constraints. The winter meeting will be deferred to January 21st, at O'Loughlin's. Harvey Kaplan will put together a 2017 strawman calendar to be discussed at the next meeting.

Old Business

The possibility of using "tailored post cards" in *Military Officer Magazine* for various chapter business concerns is being considered by MOAA National and more should be known by our next meeting. Andy Fallon has the action on this.

New Business

The Congressional Luncheon was discussed. The date of Wednesday, September 14th, was approved by the Council, to be affirmed by MOAA HQ. (Date later shifted to Thursday, September 15th, in coordination with MOAA National.) the Council will seek a \$1000 support contribution from MOAA National for this event.

The demise of MOAA Connect was briefly discussed. Annie Brock has created a Linked In group to continue the communications outreach being lost with Connect. She urged all hands to become members of this group.

The desirability of purchasing another round of MOAA Maryland baseball caps was discussed, with a favorable outcome. Jim Shiffrin moved and Annie Brock seconded a motion to purchase 4 doz blue and 2 doz tan caps, at a price of \$11.75 per unit, to be sold for \$12 each to the chapters. Individual prices to be charged by the chapters were left to each chapter.

Discussion on the creation of a "Queen City Chapter" in Western Maryland was deferred to a future meeting.

The meeting concluded with the usual activity reports by all the chapters present. Of particular note, Phil Campbell advised that under current circumstances, the Southern Maryland Chapter may become unsustainable. Annie Brock announced that the first ever JROTC unit at a high school in her locale had been approved.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1500.

Respectfully submitted,

Captain David H. Peterson, NOAA (Ret)
Secretary