



Maryland Council  
Military Officers Association of America  
Meeting Minutes  
5 August 2012 at the Fleet Reserve Club  
Annapolis, Maryland

Members Present:

Norm Taylor, President  
John Whitman, First Vice-President  
Gunter Finkenauer, Second Vice-President  
Greg Dalke, Treasurer  
James Pede, Secretary  
Jim Shiffrin, Webmaster, President, Ft Meade Chapter  
Jack Fringer, Legislative Chair  
Tom Smith, Director  
Dave Peterson, Director  
Eleanor Layman, Auxiliary Rep, Ft Meade Chapter  
Harvey Kaplan, President, Montgomery County Chapter  
Tony Blankenship, President, Southern Maryland Chapter  
James Shellem, President, Upper Eastern Shore  
Jeff Brock, President, Susquehanna Chapter  
Luke Brennecke, President, Upper Potomac Chapter  
Ken McCreedy, President, General Smallwood Chapter  
Andy Fallon, President, Annapolis Chapter  
Raymond Rowland, Past President PG County Chapter  
Steve Regner, Sec/Treas, PG County Chapter

Members Absent:

Tom Seybold, Baltimore Chapter  
Reggie Sealey, President, PG County Chapter  
Jim Dittbrenner, TOPS

The Maryland Council of Chapters met 5 August 2012 at 12:55 in the Fleet Reserve Club, Annapolis, Maryland.

Following the pledge and invocation, CAPT Taylor opened the meeting with a review and approval of the minutes from 29 April.

Minutes were approved by vote following discussion. The April TOPS open item calling for a point of contact from Ft Meade Chapter will remain 'open.' The April minutes reference to the governor attending the Maryland Veterans Commission was updated and removed.

Treasurer's report: CMD Dalke presented the treasurer's report (Atch 1) saying that council assets stand at \$9,500 with \$7500 in a CD. A suggestion was made to break down the single certificate of deposit into several smaller denominations in order to ensure flexibility in the future. CMD Dalke said he would consider this change when the CD matures.

TOPS Report: The current report can be obtained online. In April Jim Dittbrenner provided the TOPS Liaison Report saying Ft Meade BANG effort was ending as the local representative retired from the position. He asked the FGGM President to advertise for a new volunteer to help re-establish the BANG in the Ft Meade area. (Open)

Legislative Liaison: LTC Fringer reminded all that the upcoming Maryland Congressional Luncheon is scheduled for 11 September 2012, Rayburn Building, Room 2168. He encouraged all presidents to consolidate their attendees list and forward a single check to the point of contact, Maj Pede, by August 10. Yes, August 10!

The council discussed a new initiative to make presentations to Senators and Representatives through meetings and appointments when legislators are in their home districts. The feeling is that we need to energize and cultivate the Council and Chapters contacts with legislators on a continuing basis throughout the calendar year. Doing so should increase legislator's attendance at our Annual Congressional Luncheon.

Auxiliary Report: Eleanor Layman reported that she continues to help widows obtain identification cards, memberships, and benefits etc. She said she is working with the Society of Military Widows and the ROWC to conduct a wreath laying ceremony at Arlington on Memorial Day.

Member Chapter Committee: Lt Col Finkenauer reviewed what MOAA has as a blueprint for increasing and maintaining chapter membership. The council is tasked with assisting chapters in this regard. He said the council can basically advise and assist as needed but chapter membership efforts must be local initiatives. Chapters should use all the tools that MOAA national can offer. Lt Col Brock suggested a 'sexy website' to attract membership. COL McCreedy suggested a larger initiative to include Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. CAPT Taylor suggested that all website improvement ideas be sent to Maj Shiffrin our webmaster.

Finance Committee: Maj Whitman discussed charitable giving. He favors the MOAA scholarship fund and the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. COL Fallon made a motion that the council adopt a cyclical plan to contribute \$250 to the scholarship fund and in year two contribute to Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. The motion was seconded by CAPT Peterson and passed with four dissenting votes.

Maryland Veterans Commission: COL Kaplan reported that CAPT Peterson has agreed to a five year term as the Maryland Council of Chapters representative. The next meeting of the commission is October 16 2012.

Veterans Courts: COL Kaplan said “there is authority in the law but no action so far.” The General Assembly approved the Task Force on Military Service Members, Veterans, and the Courts. The task force, convened as of 1 October 2012, must complete its work by 30 June 2014. The task force is now looking to find best practices to help the initiative move forward. COL Kaplan suggested this issue no longer remain as an action item for the council. (CLOSED)

New Chapter Initiative: CAPT Taylor announced this new two year effort as a primary focus of our council’s new leadership. He cited that MOAA offers a cash incentive for the creation of new chapters. (OPEN).

The meeting adjourned at 1515. The next meeting will be 29 October 2012 during MOAA’s Annual Membership meeting at the Sheraton Hotel, Arlington Virginia.

JAMES PEDE, Maj, USAF Ret  
MD Council Secretary

1 ATCH: Treasurer’s Report