



Maryland Council of Chapters

Draft Minutes of the October 22, 2022 Meeting

Attendees:

Council Officers and Chairs

P Bob Norton; 1VP Gary Palmer; Webmaster Jim Shiffrin; Leg Ch Lynn Nash

Chapter Presidents

Annapolis: Andy Fallon; FGGM: *Jim Shiffrin; Gen Smallwood: Neil Johnson

Montgomery County: *Gary Palmer; Prince Georges: *Ron Fairley; Star

Spangled Banner: Mike DeHaemer; Susquehanna: *Keith Reagan; MG Andy

Anderson: Mike Johnson; Upper Potomac: Guy Everhart

*representing absent chapter presidents

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 at O'loughlin's Restaurant.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bob Norton who also offered the invocation.

The agenda for the meeting was followed and is attached to these minutes and made a part hereof.

The minutes of the July 9, 2022 meeting were approved with minor changes offered by Bob Norton.

Oral and written chapter reports were received as follows:

Annapolis...Andy Fallon reported that he was planning an annual meeting for December or January and that web site standup is proceeding. (No written report submitted as of 22 Oct 22)

FGGM...written report, attached.

General Smallwood...written report attached..

Montgomery County...written report, attached

Prince George's County...written report, attached

Star Spangled Banner... written report, attached

Susquehanna...written report, attached

MG Anderson Eastern Shore...written report attached

Upper Potomac...written report, attached

In his President's Report comments, President Norton reported that he and Gary Palmer, Cathy Hampton, Mike DeHaemer and Guy Everhart would attend the 2022 MOAA Annual Meeting in Kansas City October 28/29 and represent the

Council & Chapters at the Level of Excellence Awards Dinner. He reported that the Council had donated \$100 to a fund to recognize Gen. Atkins' service, via the MOAA Crisis Relief Fund. He noted and discussed briefly the revitalization efforts underway in the chapters. He announced the Facebook social media training would be tabled pending full operation of the Council web site and chapter ability to obtain Facebook page managers and capability. He also relayed information regarding the Veterans Day observance at the Arlington National Cemetery.

Legislative Chair Lynn Nash reviewed the national legislative activity, including the Starr legislation, the pay raise in the NDAA (8.7%), the Health Care Fairness Act (for 23-26 year old family members) and mental health visits. At this time the Advocacy in Action focus items have not been identified. She reiterated the use of <https://moaa.quorum.us/>, in our national advocacy efforts. She also reviewed Maryland state level activity from 2022 and said that the 2023 priority for Maryland Military Coalition and the Council would be uniformed services retired pay. She reported on recent success in Delaware to emphasize the momentum in other states. She noted she would talk further about the mechanics of the campaign during the social media update.

Secretary's Report... written report attached. Pres. Norton requested that attendees review the roster and forward any changes to the Secretary.

Treasurer's Report... written report attached; the Council voted to accept the report. President Norton noted that all the Chapters had submitted 2022 dues and thanked the Presidents for their help.

Transition Chair: President Norton said that he had received a draft plan from Transition Chair Mike Bowers and was reviewing it.

MDNG Unit of the Year Award: Andy Fallon reported that the 2021 awardee, the 58th Troop Command MD Army National Guard (located near Adelphi MD just north of IS 495 and near FGGM) would be recognized in December. He was asked if additional attendees from the Council could attend and he said that all are welcome. He is now working on the 2022 awardee to catch up from covid delays. President Norton suggested a MOAA membership recruiting table be set up at the presentation.

Maryland Veterans Commission MOAA Commissioner Jim Shiffrin reported that the MD women in military service memorial Commission was in the works. He discussed the MD Veterans' Trust Fund. He noted that Charlotte Hall is again accepting applications and that the 2nd home near Sykesville is underway and a 3rd site on the Eastern Shore is being considered.

Under Old Business, VP Palmer reported that enough progress had been made on the new Council website to recommend going "on line". After discussion, the Council agreed and Webmaster Jim Shiffrin was asked to work with the contractor to bring the web site "on line". President Norton noted that another training session would be helpful to ensure that Chapter Presidents and webmasters and Council directors are able to use their access to modify/maintain their areas and asked that the social media team work to schedule one.

Lynn Nash discussed the web site capability to send messages regarding legislative activity and requested that the Chapter Presidents prepare a list of members using the spread sheet template she provided. She also handed out a letter that would go to Chapter members confirming that they would agree to their information being provided for the use of this project.

Council Bylaws: Technical amendments brought forth by the President were discussed and accepted; Secretary to prepare a corrected version.

New Business:

The President presented the slate for officers Pres, 1st VP, 2nd VP) for 2023; the Council voted to accept the slate. Installation will occur at the January 14, 2023 meeting.

President Norton recognized Jim Shiffrin as Council webmaster for the Marv Harris Communications Award, 2021 (4 Stars) and presented a MOAA certificate of appreciation to him. A photo was taken and posted on the Council Facebook page.

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS RESULTING FROM AGENDA ITEM DISCUSSIONS:

1. Attendees asked to review the roster and forward any changes to the Secretary.
2. Col Fallon to notify all of the December NG award presentation and a recruiting table to be set up at the event.
3. Council web site deemed ready to go live and webmaster Shiffrin to work with contractor to do so.
4. Media team to schedule another Council web site training session for Council members.
5. Chapter presidents to act on the request to provide a list of Chapter members who would accept direct messaging from the Council Legislative Chair for supporting national and Maryland state legislative initiatives.

The benediction was offered by President Norton and meeting was adjourned at 1340.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary J. Palmer

Gary Palmer for

David H. Peterson, NOAA (Ret)

Secretary