



Tennessee Council of Chapters
Military Officers Association of America



Minutes of the Meeting 24 January 2018

Tennessee Council of Chapters, MOAA met 24 January 2018 at O'Charley's Restaurant (Private Dining Room), 902 Murfreesboro Road, Lebanon, TN with **27** members present as follows:

Chattanooga: Chris Dooley, Ray Adkins, Linda Morris
East Tennessee: No Representative
Ft. Campbell: Ivan Adames, Eddie Sumbler, Bill Summers, Steve Singleton, Richard Noggle, Howard French, Monroe Gildersleeve, Warren Evans
General Andrew Jackson: John Wade, Phil Ponder, Jim Perkinson
Memphis: Kathy Desjarlais, Jim Thomasson, John Dixon
Middle TN: Doug Minton, Patricia Bergquist, John Olinger, Bob Bussey
Mountain Empire: No Representative
Stones River: Ron Nall, Ralph Fullerton, Jim Parks
Sumner County: Steve Petersen
Upper Cumberland: Mark Pfaffenroth, Doyle Winters

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: 2018 MEETING INFORMATION IN THE MINUTES!

Mrs. Eunice Sumbler, spouse of Eddie Sumbler, Mrs. Carla French, spouse of Howard French, and Mrs. Nancy Evans, spouse of Warren Evans, were our guests at this meeting.

LCDR Kathy Desjarlais called the meeting to order at 11:30am and welcomed everyone. Eddie Sumbler delivered the opening prayer.

Committee/Standing Reports

Jim Thomasson reported no expenditures were made during the quarter and \$6,021.83 is our current balance. Motion made and seconded to approve the report.

Kathy Desjarlais called for the Minutes of the October 2017 meeting to be accepted and they were by acclamation.

Patricia Bergquist reported on the SBP/DIC Offset. Current legislation to repeal the offset is: **H.R. 846** with 207 co-sponsors and **S. 339** with 37 co-sponsors. The NDAA 2018 failed to repeal the SBP/DIC Offset. However, the SSIA was permanently extended at \$310 per month with future increases tied to COLA. The current SSIA extension covers 25% of the offset. MOAA continues to support and work on full repeal of the offset. In early January, MOAA met with the HASC Chairman to address the full repeal. Congress needs to make the full repeal a priority. MOAA plans an ongoing campaign on the Hill and they will need our grassroots advocacy. MOAA Legislative Alerts will be forthcoming on the issue.

TN Senators have not co-sponsored S. 339 due to unidentified funds to cover the cost of the bill. Also, Congressman Duncan (District 2), Chuck Fleischman (District 3), Diane Black (District 6) and David Kustoff (District 8) have not co-sponsored H.R. 846.

Everyone was encouraged to contact their Senators and Congressmen on this issue and to encourage their chapter membership to do the same. Patricia recommends a call to the Congressmen or Senators D.C. office followed by an e-mail. Then, wait several days and make a follow-up call. If you prefer, use the MOAA Capitol Switchboard toll-free number: **1-866-272-6622**, request operator to connect you to the office of your Senator or Congressman, and ask to speak with the Military Legislative Assistant.

The MOAA Surviving Spouse Level of Excellence Award winner for 2017 is Shirley Phillips, Tucson Arizona Chapter.

The Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee Virtual Member application launched in November and deadline has been extended until of March 31, 2018. Selection will be made by the April 2018 MOAA Board of Directors Meeting when the 2-year term begins. The two virtual members will work with the SSAC by telephone, e-mail, and teleconference. No travel will be required.

Two members will rotate off the SSAC at the Annual Meeting in Phoenix, AZ scheduled October 30 - November 2, 2018. Applications will be available on the MOAA website. The deadline for submission is June 30, 2018. The four-year term, with an optional two years, begins in October 2018. *Please share this opportunity and the one above with your surviving spouses.*

If you know any spouses of veterans interested in a career in nursing, please have them contact Dennis E. Schroader, Sr., MEd at Chamberlain University, 253-861-8845 or e-mail him at DSchroader@chamberlain.edu as their school policy includes the spouses in their definition of a military affiliated student, which means they get the military group tuition rate, waived fees, etc. While they attend career fairs at military bases, etc., they find the potential students there are the veterans themselves not the spouse. Their analysis of their student population shows many of the military affiliated students are spouses of veterans. They are looking for ways to connect better with them. If you have any suggestions, please contact Dennis.

Bill Summers reported that he and others attended the Veterans Conference Tuesday, January 23. February 7, 2018 is Tennessee Veterans Day on the Hill. The state legislative offices moved from the old Legislative Plaza to the remodeled Cordell Hull Building.; so, the event this year is being limited to a maximum of 250 veterans. In order to participate in the event you must have gone online to register. Details on the event will be published in the near future.

The initiatives for TVET Day on the Hill are as follows:

1. Stolen Valor: Advocate for a state law regarding wearing medals, etc. to which one is unentitled.
2. Appoint veterans to various state boards and committees (Board of Regents and Mental Health).

3. Veteran Homes: Advocate for veteran home names to stay within the community rather than the political arena. The state can copy what they do to name colleges.
4. Property Tax Based on VA Disability Rating (< 100%): Cleanup on this issue is required for exemption when the veteran is in a care status. Current bill does not allow exempt status for the home when veterans are in a care status outside the home. One Clarksville Gold Star Wife, a CPA, has found manipulation of her property tax numbers.

Old Business

Doug Minton stated that after our last meeting a Letter of Intent to join, pay dues, etc. was filed with TVET. Since we do not have a complete set of by-laws updated for discussion at this meeting, we need to amend now the council by-laws to allow the council to join TVET. Please see the attached updated council bylaws where the amendment is highlighted. TVET at a future date will assess a fee based on the number of members in the chapters. Vote carried. A complete new set of by-laws will be discussed at the next council meeting in May 2018.

Kathy Desjarlais requested chapters submit change of officers to MOAA National by March 1. Only 2 of our 9 chapters have done this.

Doug Minton reminded everyone that only the chapter president and membership chair can update the officers, unless you have requested a change. He suggested that if necessary you go into the system the old way. He can help anyone with the new module, if needed, which is easy once you understand what MOAA is trying to accomplish.

Chapters need to look at the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) so members can pay dues online.

On the MOAA Legislative Update we have received confirmation that your members that are former officers who do not yet have a MOAA National membership CAN use the Legislative Action Center. They simply go to the MOAA website, click on Legislative Action Center, and then choose the issue as a guest.

Chapter Presidents need to let Doug Minton know if they did not receive the e-mail regarding chapter updates.

Doug also reported that ROTC/JROTC medals are available now through MOAA Target Marketing. The medal cost is \$3 if ordered in the poly bag. You can order a separate presentation box or velour pouch at additional cost. The JROTC certificate form is no longer available and now must be downloaded so that you print your own. All prices available on the MOAA web site.

New Business

CWO Howard French installed the following slate of officers to serve from January 2018-January 2020:

President: Doug Minton
1st VP: Jim Thomasson
2nd VP: Ivan Adames
Secretary: Patricia Bergquist
Treasurer: Bob Bussey

Howard French presented Kathy Desjarlais with her Past President's pin and thanked her for her service to the Tennessee Council of Chapters. The President's pin will be sent to Doug Minton; however, Kathy did present him with the gavel.

The new Military Officer Magazine launched with the January 2018 issue. It is very informative. Kathy Desjarlais said that if you see something you do not like let Doug Minton know. Then, when the opportunity presents, he can share with MOAA.

Doug Minton reported that changes to the MOAA Newsletter and Announcements process will be coming soon.

We have had a number of MOAA National officers in our area. Col Jerry Graham visited the General Andrew Jackson Chapter, General Adkins visits Sumner County tomorrow and Chattanooga in February, and Stones River will be visited by a Board Member (to be announced) in March.

Chapter Updates

As is the tradition of the TN Council, each Chapter President or representative shared an update of their Chapter recent activities as follows:

Chattanooga – Chris Dooley reported that the chapter participated in Wreaths Across America, and they want to expand their coverage in 2018. On February 28, they will dedicate the monument on the Circle of Honor and General Atkins will attend the dedication as well as their meeting on February 27. Four scholarships were given in 2017. Chapter has new MOAA shirts and coins. Chris Dooley will serve on the Chattanooga Area Veterans Council.

Ft. Campbell – Ivan Adames reported Monroe Gildersleeve is their new President. February 8 is the OSDTN Clarksville event. The chapter will host a turkey hunt in April.

Gen. Andrew Jackson Chapter – Phil Ponder reported that Col Jerry Graham, MOAA Board of Directors member, visited the chapter earlier this month. They meet monthly at McKendree Tower, and their membership covers eleven different zip codes. Chapter plans to continue their community projects, The Field of Honor at The Hermitage, along with the ROTC/JROTC programs. They have a new State Senator who will join them at their March meeting.

Memphis – John Dixon reported they held their joint meeting with the Air Force Association in November. Their last several meetings have been at The Villages in Germantown with significantly improved attendance. In December, the chapter recognized their "surviving spouses" members. Patricia Bergquist, who is a member of MOAA's Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee, attended and spoke briefly. Each surviving spouse in attendance received a rose, gift bag, and a certificate.

Middle TN Chapter – Doug Minton reported the Chapter has 265 members. The January meeting was held in a temporary location and 35 attended. Chapter participated in Wreaths Across America, Senatorial Congressional Meetings and awarded five scholarships in 2017. The chapter worked with Lipscomb University on another scholarship utilizing abandoned funds identified by Lipscomb. They have a good line up of guest speakers for 2018.

Mountain Empire – No report

Stones River Chapter – Ron Nall reported that 2017 was a successful year. They have 62 members and their Secretary is the spouse of one of their members. They have \$4,852 in an account from various donations. A chapter visit by MOAA National is scheduled in March, 2018.

Sumner County Chapter – Steve Petersen reported their chapter dinner meeting is the 4th Thursday of each month; with General Adkins visiting them tomorrow night.

Upper Cumberland Chapter – Mark Pfaffenroth reported that everything is quiet. They had their Christmas party in December. He introduced their new VP, Doyle Winters.

Good of the Order

Kathy encouraged everyone to check their chapter websites to see what people are seeing when they search for the chapter.

April 16 – 19 will be the 2018 MOAA Board of Directors and “Storm the Hill” dates. MOAA “Take Action” and “Legislative Alerts” can be expected during this time.

Howard French will perform the Council audit.

Bill Summers/Steve Singleton announced that a text had just been received stating that TVET had legislative sponsors for the initiatives: “Stolen Valor” – Van Huss/Green; “Veteran member of TBR” – McCormick/Gresham; “Mental Health Board” – Rogers/Briggs; and “Naming facilities at Veteran Homes” – Camper/Tate.

Next Meeting

Due the unavailability of the James A. Ward facility in April, our next meeting is scheduled for **9 May 2018** at 11:00am in Ward Agriculture Center, Building E.

Future Meetings - Mark Your Calendar!

TN Vets Day on The Hill:	7 February 2018
TN CoC Meeting:	9 May 2018, Building E
TN CoC Meeting:	18 July 2018, Building E
TN CoC Meeting:	17 October 2018, Building C

Closing prayer delivered by Eddie Sumbler.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10pm.

Minutes prepared by Patricia Bergquist, Secretary and Council Auxiliary Liaison
Respectfully submitted by Doug Minton, President, TN Council of Chapters