



Tennessee Council of Chapters
Military Officers Association of America



Minutes of the Meeting 17 October 2018

Tennessee Council of Chapters, MOAA met 17 October 2018 at Sammy B's, 705 Cadet Court, Lebanon, TN with **21** members present as follows:

Chattanooga: Ray Adkins, Bob Crates, Chris Dooley
East Tennessee: No Representative
Ft. Campbell: Ivan Adames, Howard French, Monroe Gildersleeve, Steve Singleton, Eddie Sumbler
General Andrew Jackson: Phil Ponder, John Wade
Memphis: Kathy Desjarlais, John Dixon, Jim Thomasson,
Middle TN: Patricia Bergquist, Bob Bussey, Doug Minton, John Ohlinger
Mountain Empire: No Representative
Stones River: Ralph Fullerton, Jim Mapes, Ron Nall
Sumner County: Steve Petersen
Upper Cumberland: No Representative

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: 2019 MEETING INFORMATION IN THE MINUTES!

Mrs. Eunice Sumbler, spouse of Eddie Sumbler, was our guest at this meeting.

COL Doug Minton called the meeting to order at 11:05am. He reported that Mark Pfaffenroth sent his regrets as he and his wife are driving their 1966 Impala on Route 66 in AZ. Jim Thomasson led the pledge to the flag and Eddie Sumbler delivered the opening prayer.

Minutes of the 18 July 2018 meeting were approved by acclamation.

Council Bylaws Revision

Doug Minton reported that we are trying to bring our bylaws up to date as to what we do. Changes discussed were as follows:

Article II – Section I. Updates what the council should be doing to assist chapters.

Kathy Desjarlais noted that some lines say “as requested” and not others. Doug stated that MOAA has requested councils to start visiting chapters. National MOAA tries to visit every council and chapter every four years. MOAA initiates contact and request to visit. **No change.**

Article II - Section II. The second bullet refers to our new affiliation with TVET. **No change.**

Article III – Section 5. This section covers the restrictive funds (\$272.50) MOAA sent to cover transportation cost for the President, 1st VP, and 2nd VP to make visits to chapters within the

council. Everyone was provided a copy of a “Speaker Trip Report” for the Stones River Chapter as an example of a report. [No change.](#)

Article IV – Section 4. This section request report of active membership to Council President each calendar year. [Date changed to February 1 on an annual basis.](#)

Article VI – Section 3. This section added to provide biennial financial review by past president. Kathy Desjarlais stated that should something happen to either the Treasurer or President a financial review should be conducted. [Section to be changed to reflect this concern.](#)

Kathy asked if thought had been given to requiring two signatures on checks. Bob Bussey stated that banks during “proof in transit” do not check signatures. The council account has Bob Bussey, Doug Minton, and Jim Thomasson authorized to sign checks on the account. Bob Crates thought two signatures would be an added burden on the treasurer. Ron Nall made the motion that we stay with what we have in place. Motion seconded and approved.

Article VIII – Section 1. This reflects what we do. [No change.](#)

Article VIII – Section 3 and 4. Bob Crates suggested a change in wording from “expected” to “anticipated”. Others though “encouraged” should be used. [Change wording.](#)

Article VIII – Section 5 and 6. Treasurer and Secretary are appointed by the President and confirmed by the council. [Add: If possible, treasurer should be from the same chapter as President.](#)

Article VIII – Section 7. Kathy Desjarlais prefers leadership consistency and officer roll-up.

Doug Minton will make the changes and get the update out to the Chapter Presidents for approval in the next two weeks.

Addendum #1 covers the MOAA Policy on Mileage Supplement for chapter visit travel in the area as discussed earlier. Doug Minton stated that collaboration in implementation of the guidelines will need to occur between the council officers and the Chapter Officer following each visit.

Visit schedule at this time is as follows:

November: Jim Thomasson – Fort Campbell

January: Doug Minton – Mountain Empire

April: Doug Minton – Stones River

Chapter Implementation Guidelines. [Add: the visit report is not a report card, but a snapshot of a chapter’s health. Also, in #4 add: Chapter President will receive a copy of the report along with Council President and MOAA Council and Chapters.](#)

Financial Report

Bob Bussey, Treasurer, reported the quarter account activity was a \$272.50 deposit for the MOAA Travel Incentive. These funds are “restrictive” funds to be used only for travel expenses to chapters within the council by the Council President, 1st and 2nd VP. \$6,244.35 is the account balance. Motion made and seconded to approve the report.

Bob thanked Doug Minton for his work on the changes to the council bylaws.

Surviving Spouse Report

The MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter (MSSVC-02) held its second quarterly meeting via FreeConferenceCall.com on September 18th at 6pm EDT with 26 of the virtual chapter's 67 members on the call. The members are from 21 states, the American Virgin Islands, and overseas. Eleven applications for membership are outstanding with no response to date. We had two guest speakers from TAPS as well as Col Dan Merry, MOAA Government Relations, on the call. The next conference call is scheduled for December 18th at 6pm EDT.

Mrs. Joyce Harte, Surviving Spouse Representative on MOAA's Board of Directors, died in late April 2018. Members of the Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee interested in filling the remaining two years of Mrs. Harte's term were requested to submit nomination packages for review and selection by the Special Board Nominating Committee. Mrs. Gail Joyce was selected to complete the two-year term.

Two traditional SSAC members, Patricia Bergquist and Sharon DeVaney, will rotate off the committee at the Annual Meeting in Phoenix, AZ. The four-year term, with an optional two years, begins in October 2018 for the two new members of the committee: Nancy Mullen (TN) and Kathy Thorp (MD).

It is likely that Shari Bondi (IA), who applied but was not selected for the SSAC and asked to serve as a virtual member, will be asked to join the SSAC. Virtual members will be sought and work with the SSAC by telephone, e-mail, and teleconference for a 2-year term with no travel requirement.

On the SBP/DIC Offset, current legislation to repeal the offset is: **H.R. 846** with 270 co-sponsors and **S. 339** with 51 co-sponsors. Surviving Spouse Facebook groups continue work to garner co-sponsors.

In 2019, we begin our 20th year in the fight for repeal of the offset. With a new congress, we will have to obtain one, if not two, new congressional members to sponsor new repeal legislation and begin the process of getting co-sponsors who will not only co-sponsor but vote "Yes" on the bills or amendments, and work to help find the pay go. Col Dan Merry told virtual members that we also need find legislators who will increase the SSIA as repealing the SBP/DIC offset becomes easier when the SSIA is increased. Since it is important that everyone be on the same page, Col Merry said MOAA would provide a "talking" paper on how to engage and get the most out of the engagement with congressional leaders on these issues.

Also, Col Merry said they are asking the HASC how much money the government made by raising pharmacy co-pays. If more than costs, then those funds should go to increase SSIA.

MOAA Government Relations Committee recommends to the Board of Directors issues to storm. We are likely to see Storming 2019 SBP/DIC focus on SSIA increase to reduce the costs

of SBP/DIC repeal. MOAA will push working all year for victory and forming relationships with congressional leaders and their staff regardless of proximity to DC.

Legislative Report -TVET

Steve Singleton reported that TVET formalized in July with eleven organizations participating. DAV and American Legion continue not to participate. Both the chairman and treasurer will come from The Women Veterans of America, the vice-chairman will be Eddie Sumbler from Buffalo Soldiers, and Steve Singleton will serve as secretary.

There is a request for chapters to provide the number of members by era of conflict: WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Cold War, and Desert Storm forward to date.

Tennessee Veterans Day on the Hill is Wednesday, **6 February 2019**. Steve highlighted three issues and a resolution that are proposed for the day:

- Reduce the veteran suicide rate in TN (TN rate is higher than average). Go to MOAA Legislative and find the State Report Card;
- Resurrect the bill to standardize naming for State Veteran Homes. This will involve a new Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Veteran Services;
- Resurrect the bill on two veteran license plates, Purple Heart and Disabled Veteran. Only one should impact the budget; and
- A resolution to create “Women’s Veterans Recognition Day” as June 12, the date women were integrated into the services.

Doug Minton gave kudos to Fort Campbell, Memphis, and Middle Tennessee chapters on achievement of 5-Star status. Awards are to be presented in Phoenix, AZ in late October.

Chapter Discussion: Electronic Presence – Website/Facebook

Previously, the tradition of the TN Council was for each Chapter President or representative to share an update of their recent Chapter activities. At this meeting, the topic “Electronic Presence-Website/Facebook” was chosen and each Chapter shared what works or does not work. Everyone was provided a listing of MOAA TN Council of Chapters Websites.

Chattanooga – Chapter has a website but it has not been updated in a long time due to lack of a webmaster. Kathy Desjarlais offered that all that is needed is the password and then just have someone make the changes; i.e. if you are using the MOAA template, you do not need a webmaster.

East Tennessee – No Report

Ft. Campbell – Facebook is handled by Steve Singleton for information sharing purposes.

Gen. Andrew Jackson Chapter – Phil Ponder invited everyone to the upcoming “Field of Honor”. Chapter donated \$500 to “Reboot”. Donations funded a \$1,000 scholarship to JROTC senior education. Due to an unexpected, large donation, they are investing \$4,000 in a Vanguard account. Nominating Committee is working on a roster of new chapter officers.

Doug Minton thanked Phil for his leadership at the chapter.

Memphis – Chapter dumped the MOAA template website in order to develop their own website. P. Z. Horton is the webmaster. Member access begins 1 December 2018. Website will contain newsletters, events, join MOAA, links such as MOAA Memphis Facebook and current legislative affairs. They are looking at handling reservations and meal pay through the site too. Chapter has 65 members who do not share e-mail. Chapter was requested to notify MOAA when the site is “live”.

Doug Minton cautioned that it is very important to have a secure website (https) if financial data is being handled through the site.

Middle TN Chapter – Chapter has a website and a webmaster. About two people a month inquire about the chapter from the website.

Mountain Empire – Doug Minton reported that the chapter created their own.

Stones River Chapter – Chapter has web presence and 98.7% focused on recruiting with only a couple of inquiries. Communicate mostly by snail mail. Ron Nall recognized Jim Mapes for his recruiting efforts. They have 77 members and 9 associate members now. They have challenges recruiting younger officers. Members share in recruitment and retention. Chapter looks to high profile people in and around Rutherford County for guest speakers. County Mayor Ketron will be their guest speaker at the next meeting.

Sumner County Chapter – Chapter has a website which is very general. They send out information for recruitment.

Upper Cumberland Chapter – Chapter uses the MOAA website.

Note: If using the MOAA website, it still needs to be kept current.

Good of the Council

On 31 December 2018, the Defense Health Agency’s TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) ends. The replacement program is the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) with open enrollment 12 November through 10 December 2018. You do not have to be enrolled in the TRDP plan to enroll in the FEDVIP plan. *Note: Those currently enrolled in a TRDP plan will not be automatically enrolled in a FEDVIP plan for 2019. You MUST enroll during open season.*

Ivan Adames reported their chapter is looking to submit an outreach grant and seeks advice from any chapter who has completed one. Doug Minton advised that the Middle TN Chapter is working on a submission, but it is not complete yet.

Steve Petersen recommended the upcoming MOAA travel excursion which includes the "Passion Play". Also, Veteran Salute is November 3rd, and Veteran's Day Memorial Service is November 11th at 2pm.

Ron Nall shared that on November 9 "Honoring Veterans" will be held at the United Methodist Church, Murfreesboro.

Nashville Veteran's Day Parade will be held November 12.

JROTC Certificates: Starting 2019, when you order a medal, you will be sent a certificate.

MOAA Committee Module: Do not mark anyone in the module as "inactive" or "non-voting". Everyone in the module must remain "active" and "voting member". If you need to end the term of a member, you can end their term to remove them from the roster. In about a month or so, MOAA Council & Chapters is going to hide this area of the module so that leaders cannot change this on member records. Updates to come.

The MOAA Quarterly Board Meeting and Storming the Hill 2019 Event is scheduled as follows: Directors Meeting April 7 through April 11, 2019. Wednesday, April 10, is "Storm the Hill".

Please send Doug Minton your Upcoming Subjects of Interest for the January agenda.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for **16 January 2019** at 11:00am at Sammy B's in Lebanon.

Future Meetings - Mark Your Calendar!

TN CoC Meeting:	16 January 2019, Sammy B's
TN CoC Meeting:	17 April 2019, Sammy B's
TN CoC Meeting:	17 July 2019, Sammy B's
TN CoC Meeting:	16 October 2019, Sammy B's

The meeting adjourned at 1:40pm.

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