



**Tennessee Council of Chapters
Military Officers Association of America**



Minutes of the Meeting 24 January 2024

Tennessee Council of Chapters, MOAA changed their meeting from the 17th of January 2024 to the 24th of January 2024 due to the Artic Vortex affecting the entire state. Met in person/by request zoom 11:40 AM CST.

Those in Attendance were:

CC Chattanooga (TN01)

Carol Grohn, Pres 2023
Ray Mitchell, Pres 2024
Bill Hewitt
Tony Crowder
Ray Atkins

ETC East Tennessee (TN02)

No Representative

MC Memphis (TN03)

No Representative

MTC Middle Tennessee (TN04)

Karon Uzzell-Baggett, Pres 2023
Larry Cotton, Pres 2024 via zoom
Doug Minton

MEC Mountain Empire (TN05)

No Representative

Gen Andrew Jackson (TN12)

Bobbie Bell, Pres

UCC Upper Cumberland (TN06)

Scott Jacobson, Pres
Kathie Clark
Robert Martin

FCC Ft Campbell (TN07)

Ivan Adames, TN CoC Pres 2023
Eddie Sumbler
Tim Powers via zoom

SRC Stones River (TN10)

Betty Moshea, Pres 2023
Keith Prather, Pres 2024
Jim Mapes
Jim Parks
Pete Warner, TN CoC Pres 2024
Sandy Warner, TN CoC Sec

SCC Sumner County (TN11)

Steve Petersen, Pres 2023
Stewart Reeve, Pres 2024

The meeting did not have a guest speaker.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: 2024 MEETING INFORMATION IN THE MINUTES!

Council President Ivan Adames began the meeting at 11:40 am. and led the pledge to the flag. Following the pledge of allegiance to the flag Eddie Sumbler said a prayer of opening for the meeting.

Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes of the 18 October 2023 meeting had been sent out on 17 January 2024 to all the chapter presidents and Council members Doug Minton moved that the minutes be accepted once Amended with the Fee to the IRS questioned. The motion was seconded by Betty Moshea and approved unanimously.

Financial Report

The financial report for the period of October 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023. The council had two disbursements during the quarter, Ivan Adames travel reimbursement of \$958.75 and Pete Warner travel reimbursement of \$175.15. Total funds on hand at the end of the quarter were \$4,947.40, which included restricted travel funds of \$16.10.

Doug Minton brought up the EIN Federal Tax ID penalty, reported in the October Financial Report.

From the October minutes: Doug Minton requested information about the amount of the EIN Federal Tax ID fee and what could be done to correct the large fee? What the fee was for? And how did it come to be? Monroe would check into it. End of October notes. ^^On the 26th of January and as per our phone conversation Monroe Gildersleeve, had the fee erased from the EIN Federal Tax ID and made sure our 5013c Non-Profit Status was in good standing. Monroe cleared up the issue with the IRS that would cost us our Non-Profit status they had with us, which was over 3 years ago, (didn't get exact date) the annual filing of the 5013c fell through the cracks. He will stand on top of this issue. ^^ On that note our new Council President had mentioned during this meeting that each chapter needs to check their Non-Profit status, and be sure to update it annually.

The issue of the EIN Federal Tax ID was brought up exactly as the issue of the IRS Fee and what can be done about it discussed among the Chapters sharing information each had.

The council accepted the Treasurer's report.

Surviving Spouse Report – Patricia Bergquist written update provided as follows:

Chapter Presidents of all Tennessee MOAA Chapters have provided their Surviving Spouse Liaison information except *Upper Cumberland*.

When a Chapter Surviving Spouse Liaison needs assistance helping a surviving spouse, please contact Patricia at p_bergqq@hotmail.com or (615-948-4960).

The January Annuitant Statements reflecting the COLA increase and the Form 1099-R needed for 2023 taxes are available on MyPay at www.dfas.mil

ADVOCACY/LEGISLATION

Please continue to encourage all MOAA chapter members and surviving spouses to contact their Congressmen and Senators to advocate for legislation impacting our surviving spouses as follows:

- 1) **H.R.3232 and S.1588 - “Respect for Grieving Military Families Act”** would allow for retention of the full final month's retired pay by the surviving spouse or other

designated survivor, of a military retiree for the month in which the member was alive for at least 24 hours.

The legislation would allow for repayment over a 12-month period and gives the Secretary of Defense the option to forgive the payment. *This bill is important for all “future” military surviving spouses.*

H.R.3232 has 16 co-sponsors (1 from TN: S. Cohen)

S.1588 has 2 co-sponsors (NONE from TN)

- 2) H.R.1083 and S.414 - “Caring for Survivors Act of 2023” are to improve and expand eligibility for the DIC Increase from 43% of a single, 100% disabled veteran’s compensation to 55%. The 2024 DIC flat rate is \$1,612.74 per month.

H.R.1083 has 70 co-sponsors (1 from TN: S. Cohen)

S.414 has 22 co-sponsors (NONE from TN)

- 3) H.R. 3651 and S. 1266 - “Love Lives on Act 2023” This act would allow surviving spouses to remarry at any age without eliminating benefits, and update certain terminology related to marriage under Title 38, US Code Section 101(3) and Section 5120(b) administered by the VA.

Currently, surviving military spouses are not allowed to remarry before the arbitrary age of 55 without losing ALL their benefits.

Specifically, we understand the bill provides the following:

- allow retention of Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) upon remarriage at any age;
- allow surviving spouses to maintain eligibility for education benefits under Fry Scholarships and Dependents Education Assistance upon remarriage; and if that marriage subsequently ends in death, divorce, or annulment;
- allow remarried surviving spouse access to Commissary and Exchange benefits;
- allow remarried surviving spouses to regain their TRICARE benefits if marriage subsequently ends due to death, divorce, or annulment; and
- allow access to electronic medical records, referrals, and prescription refills for remarried spouses with dependent children and ensure remarried surviving spouses are treated as the parents to minor children not just the fiduciary.
- Allow those who have already remarried to get these benefits back without back pay.
- Remove the “hold themselves out to be married” clause from 38 USC, Section 101, Paragraph 3.

H.R.3651 has 37 co-sponsors (NONE from TN)

S.1266 has 27 co-sponsors (NONE from TN)

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) continues to advocate diligently on Capitol Hill on this bill with Ashlynn Haycock-Lohman, TAPS Legislative Staff, leading the charge. Also, TAPS keeps the Love Lives On Act of 2023 FaceBook group focused on the

e-mail campaign to Congressmen and Senators across the U.S. to garner co-sponsorship and support for the bill.

Note: As of 9/30/23, there are a total of 479,623 DIC recipients. TN has 12,840 DIC Recipients with 910 of those under age 55. (Be aware that TAPS uses the Texas DIC number on its fact sheet because they have the largest number of any state).

The following “updated” support documents are provided separately:

- 1) DIC By State 2023
- 2) FB Group DIC Fact Sheet
- 3) 118th Congress H.R. 1083 and S. 414 Sheet
- 4) TN Congressmen and Senators Contact List (1/17/24)

E-mail campaigns continue to both Congressmen and Senators across the United States to garner co-sponsors and support for these three (3) pieces of legislation. Please encourage your membership and surviving spouses to join in these efforts using one of the following:

MOAA’s Legislative Action Center at www.moaa.org/takeaction to send a MOAA prewritten message which you can personalize, if desired, to Congress.

Contact your Congressman and Senators, using the MOAA Capitol Switchboard (1-866-272-6622), ask to be connected to your congressman or Senator’s office, once connected ask to speak with the Military Legislative Assistant (MLA). *Get name and e-mail address of the MLA, if you do not already have it, and follow-up your phone call with an e-mail.*

The *most active* surviving spouses FaceBook groups following these bills are:

- “DIC Surviving Spouses/DIC Increase Advocacy”
- “Love Lives on Act of 2023 Advocacy”
- “Military Survivors DFAS/SBP Issues”
- “MOAA Surviving Spouses and Friends”

TNVET Update – Written update not provided. 2023 10-18 Extracted from TNVET secretary summary Daniel Wilson.

TNVET Zoom Meeting Tue. Dec 19, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING: Howard French, Chairman, Daniel Wilson, Secretary, Bill Summers, Board member, Mike Rhew, Past Chairman, Robin Beamon, Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Steve Singleton, Board member, John Pollack, Vice Chairman,

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS PRESENT: Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Farmer Veteran Coalition, National Sojourners, VFW, Women Veterans of America, Marine Corps League,

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS ABSENT: Air & Space Forces Association, Buffalo Soldiers, American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America,

Summary:

Conversation began talking about the WVA past assistance and if they would be willing to help again this year, and where they would help out at. Talked about who would be assisting with, the setup of, and function of the registration area. Mike talked about breakfast and lunch. VFW will provide the breakfast and we are looking into Mission BBQ for lunch, but the price is a little high. If Mike can't get them to come down a bit on the price then we may need to look at an alternative for lunch. Bill identified that Buffalo Soldiers will cover parking again this year. Mike is working with the Lt. Gov. office to get a couple parking spots at the Capitol. Talked about the number of attendees currently and how many we're looking to have. Recommended Daniel send another reminder email to the Org Leaders as well as everyone who registered last year, since the information does not seem to be flowing through the organizations.

Speaker invites were sent out. Some have accepted.

Bill, Howard, and Steve are meeting with some reps to try and get some support on the second license plate bill and Tax Equalization Act, on 8 Jan. Montgomery Co. secured a 15 PAX van for shuttling some folks. Marine Corps League volunteered a few personnel to assist where needed. The prep package was mentioned (where to find it and what it entails). Talked about getting back with Senator Powers on Electronic voting. The group introduced themselves and discussed the upcoming Veterans Day on the Hill event. Bill Summers provided updates on the facilities, layout, and preparations for the event, including parking, shuttle services, and meeting rooms. The group discussed the challenges of visiting all legislators during the meeting and the need to follow up with those who have not had any veteran visitors. They also discussed the importance of getting co-sponsors for the bills they are pushing for and the need to secure funding for electronic voting. Farmers Veterans talked about finalizing the process to become an official organization.

Question posed about a Capitol tour. If we decide to do a tour there will only be one and it will probably be limited to 20-30 people. Mr. Baker asked about topics to speak on. Several were offered and Bill will push those back to his office. Mike said there is a VFW member in Nashville who might be willing to take photos. If not Robin offered to take them. Mike brought up number of personnel so we can get a final price for food. Also, mentioned trying to get w/ Sen. Powers to see if he would be interested in financially supporting the lunch effort again.

Separate Legislative Update

It is strongly encouraged for the Chapter Leaders, Chapter Officers, and Chapter members to register with the [MOAA Legislative Action Center](#). This helps each member have a connection and to stay in contact with your U.S. Senators and Congressional Legislators.

NEXT STEPS:

Stay Informed. Be sure to subscribe to the weekly *MOAA Newsletter* for the latest AIA news and updates. Keep up with all the latest advocacy news at [MOAA's Advocacy News page](#). Visit the MOAA website and navigate to the Advocacy in Action page to find out about virtual conferences and legislative visits to make your voice heard. Remember that its numbers as well as the message that counts.

MOAA discussion

Current agenda in black below

MOAA Awards and New Submission Deadline Changed – Feb 16, 2024

LOE, Legislative, SS Liaison, (Communication – Jan 31, 2024)

*2024 MOAA Virtual Leaders Workshop - New Leaders (March 13-14, 2024)

**2024 MOAA Leader Training Workshop – South Region (May 17-18, 2024)

MOAA Advocacy – 15-18 April 2024 Congressional Representative District

MOAA TN Chapter's Catchment Zip Codes Boundaries (for submission to MOAA)

Next meeting – April 24, 2024, at Sammy B's restaurant In Lebanon, TN

Other Chapter Business:

Volunteers are still needed to fill the Board for the Council of Chapters, former Presidents interested in applying to fill the vacancies please contact the President of the Council of Chapters Pete Warner. A First and Second Vice President volunteer are still needed.

It is strongly recommended and encouraged for each Chapter Leaders and Chapter Officers to register with the MOAA Legislative Action Center. This helps you stay in contact with your U.S. Senators and Congressional Legislators; and gain credit points towards the MOAA LOE Awards. From the Council members: the TN Council President will need to write and to inform the East TN Chapter President, Bill Potter, that the TN Council makes an appeal to arrange a Chapter "rescue" to revitalize the East Tennessee Chapter (TN02).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: VDOH - Veterans Day on the Hill (State Capitol in Nashville, TN) is set for Wednesday, 31 January 2024.

Chapter Updates

Chattanooga TN01 – Ray Mitchell: written update provided as follows:

Several of our members were invited and attend the September 5th official awarding of the Medal of Honor to Captain Larry Taylor by President Joe Biden in Washington D.C. The White House ceremony was followed by a banquet in the East Room. The following day, a ceremony hosted by the Secretary of the Army, Captain Taylor was inducted into the Pentagon's Wall of Fame.

On September 11th, 2023, Chattanooga held a special patriot day "Welcome Home" parade and ceremony honoring Captain Taylor. Our chapter was represented by a truck with MOAA signage in the parade. The parade ended with a ceremony featuring local, state, and national dignitaries.

Our chapter's October 24th dinner meeting featured Mr. Vince Butler, Director of Capital Campaign with the National Medal of Honor Heritage Center. He gave us a brief history of the MOHHC and an interesting glimpse into the center's future. During our dinner meeting the chapter membership voted on the new leadership positions for 2024. The new positions are President, LTC Raymond Mitchell, 1st VP, Lt. Col Tony Crowder, and 2nd VP, LTC Scott Bryant and two new board members, LTC Bill Brooks, Director of Scholarships and LTC Tom Durham, Director of Chapter Services. The MOAA National Leadership Award was presented to CDR

James Hargrove, our chapter Treasurer, for our outstanding newsletter. Also, the MOAA National Outstanding Service Award went to Mrs. Mary Rhoden for Spouse/Surviving Spouse leadership.

MOAA Chattanooga Chapter conducted a golf tournament on 6 October 2023 at the Valleybrook Golf and Country Club titled "Veterans Golf Classic". The event was a benefit for local JROTC and SROTC scholarships students. Over 38 golfers participated. Early mild rain gave way to a beautiful autumn afternoon and a fun time was had by all. A delicious post-tournament dinner was provided by Choo Choo Barbecue. Generous corporate sponsorship came from many local and national businesses and several private donations were also made. The event generated over \$4,100 in support of scholarships and chapter services.

On November 2nd the chapter participated in the Veterans Day Parade in Fort Oglethorpe Georgia. Once again, we had a truck with MOAA signage. Several MOAA Members were part of the reviewing stand, including the Master of Ceremonies, GEN B.B. Bell, our chapter's very own.

Several chapter members attended the November 11th Veterans Day Services at the Chattanooga National Veterans Cemetery. There were several keynote speakers and representatives from all the services.

December 9th was a traditional event for our chapter. Once again, 18 of our chapter members "rang the bell" for the Salvation Army Christmas Drive. We raised more money at that entrance to the mall than previous groups. And we had fun doing it.

At our December 12th dinner meeting we enjoyed our fellowship together and celebrated the Holidays. As in past years, the Choo Choo Chorus performed a variety of holiday songs with a little twist, Old Saint Nicholas honored us with his presents. We also collected a large number of toys for the Marine's Toys for Tots Program and raised over 85 pounds of non-perishable food items for the Chattanooga Food Bank. And lastly, the membership selected three potential chapter social events for the coming year. The three that were selected by vote were, A guided tour of the Chattanooga and Chickamauga Battlefield, a train ride through the famous Hiwassee Loop, and a picnic at a Lookouts Baseball game. We are looking forward to an exciting summer for our chapter members.

MOAA Chattanooga Chapter continues to serve our Chattanooga community by supporting Wreaths Across Chattanooga both financially and volunteering. On December 14th several of our members participated with 100's of others to place wreaths on every headstone in the Chattanooga National Veterans Cemetery. These were provided by donations to Wreath Across Chattanooga along with Wreath Across America. This is the first year that they had enough wreaths to cover all 50,000 plus graves. The visual spectacle is a testament to the love and respect bestowed upon every resting place within this cemetery. Again, on December 20th many of those same volunteers removed the wreaths.

During this quarter we had the privilege of having four new members join our team, MAJ John Simpson, LTC Don Rixie, Capt Janet Myer and COL Steven Whitley, which brings our total membership to 171.

East Tennessee TN02 (Knoxville) – Revitalization underway.

Contact has been established and continues, to bring this chapter back to life. Doug Goins is on board to regain the solid foundation needed to move forward. The Council will continue to support and restructure closely to help along the way. Any contacts in the area known to other chapters

can be shared with the Council President. Ideas shared between the chapters are key to help each other grow.

MOAA Memphis TN03 – Kathy Desjarlais: written update provided as follows:

Oct: We celebrated the Navy Birthday and enjoyed a relaxing luncheon of fellowship and good conversation.

The chapter, with very generous donations from members, gave \$2100 to the VA to help pay for food boxes for 348 Veterans and Veterans with families. Several members assisted with the food collection, boxing of the food, the give-a-way of the food.

Members did a coffee call at the VA in December, serving coffee and snacks for Veterans and family members who were there for appointments.

Members also donated just over \$1,400 in kind. Items ranged from t-shirts for in-patients to furniture for Veterans moving into apartments through the Home Again program

Nov: We had a Home Health Care nurse speak to us about home care, its pitfalls, and its benefits. We also celebrated the Marine Corps Birthday.

Dec: Held annual Surviving Spouses (S/S) luncheon with Patricia Bergquist as guest speaker. She brought everyone up to speed on the current bills. Special gifts were provided for the S/Ss and their luncheon was paid for by the chapter.

Middle Tennessee TN04 – Karon Uzzell - Baggett: written update provided as follows:

Luncheon Meetings

October 2023 – The chapter received a MOAA National visit from Captain W.G. “Bud” Schneeweis, USCG, Retired, who is on the Board of Directors. He attended our chapter luncheon held at Operation Stand Down Tennessee and there were approximately 35 members in attendance. Captain Schneeweis, USCG, Retired, briefed attendees on MOAA programs and presented the Chapter with its 10th MOAA Levels of Excellence medallion. The Executive Board met separately with him after the luncheon and provided a comprehensive overview of chapter accomplishments.

November 2023 – United States Army recruiting was the focus of this month’s luncheon and LTC Kirsten McFarland, USA, the Commander of the Nashville Army Recruiting Battalion was our guest speaker. She provided an outstanding presentation on current and future recruiting programs. Approximately 42 members attended the luncheon.

December 2023 – No chapter luncheon was held in accordance with our long-standing policy to avoid conflicts with other holiday engagements. A chapter newsletter with pertinent information was published for members.

Advocacy

Members were briefed on end of year legislation being emphasized through MOAA’s Legislative Action Center. Chapter members were encouraged to use the platform and meet with their legislators when they returned to the districts if they wanted.

Chapter members were notified about the upcoming Tennessee Veterans Day on the Hill at the end of January 2024. The registration link was published in the chapter newsletters.

Community Outreach

December saw the Chapter complete one of its two 2023 – 2024 Community Outreach Grant projects. Publix grocery store gift cards were given to veterans receiving services from Operation Stand Down Tennessee as part of a new Christmas Holiday Market.

Chapter members donated new, unwrapped toys to the annual Marine Corps Toys for Tots program in keeping with our annual tradition.

Other

Captain Larry Cotton, USN, Retired, Past Chapter President, volunteered to serve as First Vice President. The Executive Board and a quorum of Chapter members attending the November luncheon approved his assumption of the position. Captain Cotton, USN, Retired, was sworn in after the vote and will assume the position of Chapter President at the January luncheon.

The chapter's annual scholarship drive concluded at the end of December with over \$6,000 collected. The chapter paid off its fourth \$25,000 MOAA-endowed scholarship and donated \$1,000 veterans' scholarships to three area universities.

Mountain Empire TN05 – Written update not provided.

Upper Cumberland TN06 – Written update not provided.

Ft Campbell TN07 – Brian Lynch: written update provided as follows:

October 2023

The Spouses held their luncheon on the first Friday of the month.

On Saturday, October 21, 2023, the Chapter held their monthly luncheon at the Clarksville Montgomery County Public Library. The guest speaker was Clarksville Mayor, and former State Representative, Joe Pitts.

November 2023

The Spouses held their luncheon on the first Friday of the month at The Olive Garden.

On Saturday, November 18, 2023, the Chapter held their monthly luncheon at Edwards Steakhouse in Clarksville. The Chapter reviewed the Annual Chapter Report as well as voted for Chapter officers for the coming year.

December 2023

The Spouses held their luncheon on the first Friday of the month.

On Saturday, December 9, 2023, a momentous day in Clarksville history, we held our annual Christmas/Dirty Santa Party at the USO on Fort Campbell. About an hour into the luncheon phones started going off with tornado watches. Twenty minutes later, the alerts were upgraded to tornado warnings. The Fort Campbell Tornado alert system then activated. We had just concluded our meeting and were preparing for a group photo when the power on Fort Campbell

went out. Unbeknownst to us, the tornado that had devastated most of the north side of Clarksville had just touched down.

Fort Campbell Chapter Quarterly Input for January 2024 Written by LTC Tim Powers, USA (Ret), 1st VP

1. Our December meeting was held on Saturday, the 9th, at the USO building on Fort Campbell. Near the end of our meeting, (about 1330 hours), the storm struck with strong wind and heavy rain. The lights went out in the building and all our phones sounded the tornado alarm. The tornado missed Fort Campbell and so we were safe. However, the tornado path was about 4.5 miles across north Clarksville, just south of Fort Campbell. There was major destruction to schools, homes, apartments, and business in the path. Power was out all over Fort Campbell and the north side of Clarksville/Montgomery County.
2. We are beginning planning on our annual golf event named in memory of Col. Ten Crozier, former Chief of Staff, 101st Airborne and former Mayor of Clarksville, TN. This is our major fund-raising activity for our scholarship program. This year we have funded and plan to award eight \$1000 scholarships for local high school students who will attend college this fall. TN Council treasurer, Monroe Gildersleeve, is the leader for the Golf event.
3. Our monthly meeting attendance continues to recover from Covid.
4. Elected & Installation of New Officers:
President - CW4 Brian Lynch, USA (Ret) brianelynch160@gmail.com
1st VP – LTC Tim Powers, USA, (Ret) tim.j.powers@gmail.com
2nd VP – Nancy Mullen, Surviving Spouse nmullen8289@gmail.com
5. Our February meeting speaker will be BG Walt Lord. He Vice President, Military Advisor in Residence at Austin Peay University.

Stones River TN10 – Written update provided by Keith Prather as follows:

October 2023 - Several of the members traveled to Germany for a bonding overseas trip and had a wonderful time. They were joined by a few other area chapter members and hope to travel again back to Germany in October 2024.

November 2023 - Conducted chapter elections for President, 1st Vice-President: Keith R. Prather, Pres. and Douglas B. Gilbert, 1st Vice-President. Diana Neeley was appointed as our new chapter Secretary and Larry Ellis appointed as Membership Chair. Phil Short appointed as Legislative Liaison. Hosted our annual canned food drive for Thanksgiving.

December 2023 - Held annual Holiday Dinner and spent time in fellowship with chapter members. Hosted our annual Christmas card collection for the State Veterans Home.

Sumner County TN11 – Steve Petersen: written update provided as follows:

For our October 2023 dinner meeting, the Director of the Sumner County Emergency Management Agency outlined the mission, functions, and history of the agency.

In November 2023, the Chapter participated in the Hendersonville Veterans Day Parade.

In December 2023, the members participated in the Chapter's Annual Christmas Party which included a collection of Toys For Tots.

The Chapter Board has decided to commence our nine monthly dinner meetings from the evenings to monthly daytime lunches. The lunches will be conducted at the Hendersonville Senior Center since the VFW is not available on Saturday afternoons when food is distributed at the VFW to needy military veterans.

In January 2024, the Chapter will conduct their annual Board elections and installation.

General Andrew Jackson TN12 – Bobbie A. Bell: written update provided as follows:

Luncheon Meetings

- a. November 2023 – our speaker was Sheriff Daron Hall who spoke about the construction of the new Davidson Co. Detention Center & issues with contraband planted within the new construction.
- b. December 2023 – we did not have a speaker per se but instead had a group sing-a-long. Mr. Garrett Jimmerson joined us to lead us in Christmas songs & played the piano. We were also fortunate to have one of our members spouses who also played & led us in singing & fellowship.
- c. January 2024 – this meeting was canceled due to widespread illness within the chapter. Update since our Council of Presidents meeting January 2024 below.
- d. Update January 2024
 1. We have submitted an entry for the Levels of Excellence & the Communications Award. To my knowledge, our chapter has never submitted entries for these awards. I am hopeful we can improve our chapter by incorporating some items we were not doing that were referenced in these awards. Doug Minton was a big reason why I submitted entries. He encouraged me to do so & regardless of the outcome, I'm glad we at least tried.
 2. I looked at the potential new members on Big MOAA's zip code section. We had 2 names & our membership chair is planning on attempting to contact these two folks. I understand this has not been a successful effort in the past, but we will see what happens.
 3. I reviewed our members HOR zip codes with the zip codes authorized for our chapter. I found 5 members that fell outside our zip code, one was a chapter officer & one was a board member & past president. When asked about this, they quickly replied that they had served with many of the members & they wanted to remain in our chapter. The board talked about it & we were 100% in agreement that they belong to the chapter they are happy with. There were 2 members that have not attended since I have been going to chapter meetings. One of our board members knows them both personally & will make contact with them. He does not expect them to ever come back as they are dealing with serious health issues, possibly dementia.

Additionally, the chapter publishes a newsletter each month & started in January to spotlight one of our members. We are starting with our most recent member additions.

Membership

We are now averaging about 25-30 members per meeting. We added 1 new member in January 2024.

Awards & JROTC

Our JROTC liaison, Dan Sullenger, has already corresponded with each of the schools we support and has sent out information on our scholarship and awards. There have been changes to the instructors of several of our schools since last year.

Advocacy

Members have been reminded of the national issues & encouraged to contact their congressional representative. Our liaison sends out upcoming meetings/zoom meetings, & information to our membership throughout the month. Currently, there is no one from our chapter who is planning on participating in the Veterans on the Hill

Leadership

No change in leadership; all our roles are filled with a member.

Community Involvement

We sent Christmas cards to local veterans in hospitals & homes via the Nashville branch of the American Red Cross. Our members also brought 2 non-perishable items & donated to a local food pantry in Lebanon.

At the conclusion of the Chapters updates Ivan Adames called on Doug Minton to perform the Council Installation Ceremony in which Pete Warner was sworn in as the new Council President of the Chapters of TN.

Conclusion of Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at about 13:40 CST.

Next Meetings and Future Events

MOAA Virtual Monthly Roundtable of Chapter Leaders: Thursday 7 PM EST

28 January, Compliance & Legal Topics

29 February. Committee Module

28 March, Advocacy in Action

25 April, Marketing

*****VDOH – Veterans Day on the Hill – Wednesday, January 31, 2024**

Super Bowl Sunday – February 11, 202,

Daylight Saving Time begins – begins Sunday, 10 March 2024

Proposed 2024 future TN Council of Chapters Meetings: _

Our next meeting was scheduled for April 17, 2024, at 11:30 AM. As this meeting fell on the same dates as the Washington DC Advocacy in Action week a new date was set and agreed upon for the following week same place same time, April 24, 2024.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **April 24, 2024**, at 11:30 AM CST. The meeting will be in person at Sammy B's in Lebanon, TN.

Future Meetings – at Sammy B's or on Zoom!

TN CoC Meeting:	17 July 2024
TN CoC Meeting:	16 October 2024
TN CoC Meeting:	15 January 2025

Minutes prepared and submitted by Sandy Warner, Secretary, TN Council of Chapter