



Maryland Council  
Military Officers Association of America  
Meeting Minutes  
12 November, 2011 at Annapolis Sheraton Hotel

Members Present:

Norm Taylor, President  
John Whitman, First Vice-President  
James Pede, Secretary  
Jim Shiffrin, Webmaster, President, Ft Meade Chapter  
Jack Fringer, Legislative Liaison  
James Dittbrenner, Montgomery Chapter  
Eleanor Layman, Ft Meade Chapter  
Dave Peterson, Director  
Andy Fallon, President, Annapolis Chapter  
Ken McCreedy, President General Smallwood Chapter  
Ed Kreiner, Acting President, Susquehanna Chapter  
Tom Seybold, Baltimore Chapter

Members Absent:

Greg Dalke, Treasurer  
Gunter Finkenauer, Second Vice-President  
Raymond Rowland, President PG County Chapter  
Tony Blankenship, President, Southern Maryland Chapter  
James Shellem, President, Upper Eastern Shore  
Tom Smith, Director  
Luke Brennecke, President, Upper Potomac Chapter  
Harvey Kaplan, President, Montgomery County Chapter  
Wally Dann, First Vice President, Baltimore Chapter

The Maryland Council met 12 November 2011 at 1240 at the Annapolis Sheraton Hotel with a Call to Order by President CAPT Norm Taylor.

Following the pledge CAPT Taylor introduced a representative member of the Baltimore Chapter, Tom Seybold.

Review and approval of minutes: Minutes from the 23 July 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved as written. Open items from the July meeting include:

Council Level of Excellence award: A general discussion of the new criteria resulted in group agreement to compete for the award in 2012. This is the first year for this award. CAPT Taylor reiterated that we are well ahead of the effort as we completed a rough

draft earlier in the year before the original award submission date was changed. The new submission date is 1 June 2012 and the group agreed to review our draft at the first meeting of 2012. OPEN

Website Updates: This is an ongoing endeavor and CAPT Taylor reminded presidents to review their web site information and provide updates to Maj Shiffrin. OPEN

Zip Code Review: CAPT Taylor inquired if MOAA National had received all 2011 data for Maryland chapter territories defined by zip codes and the response was negative. This review should be completed by the end of the year. Maj Pede volunteered to work this issue. OPEN

Treasurer's report: LTC Fringer presented the treasurer's report (Atch 1) for CDR Dalke saying the checking account balance stood \$333.52 . The 2012 proposed budget (Atch 2) was introduced to the council for approval. Following discussion supporting the efforts of the Maryland Retired Veterans Task Force (MRVTF) it was generally agreed that the expenses category, "internal gifts" line item, would be reduced to zero in favor of a new standing line item, "MRVTF, \$100." At the request of CDR Dalke, LTC Fringer also stated that BB&T is raising the minimum balance requirement, for free checking, to \$1,500. This will result in a \$10/month fee beginning in January 2012.

Both the treasurer's report and the 2012 proposed budget were approved by the council.

**ACTION ITEM: Financial Committee Tasking:**

Jim Shiffrin raised a concern that BB&T is instituting fees on the checking account. He moved that the council financial committee explore alternatives to fee based checking. Federal credit unions were discussed as one way to avoid such fees. All agreed that the bank chosen should be convenient for the Treasurer. The Treasurer is to report at next Council meeting his selection of the new bank. OPEN

In a separate discussion the council asked for an update on our tax exempt status. In July, CDR Dalke recommended we continue to examine the need for such status following the rejection of our package to the state comptroller. Most all agreed that we don't spend enough to worry about the paper work and reporting requirements of tax exempt status. OPEN

TOPS Update: Jim Dittbrenner provided the TOPS Liaison Report (Atch 3) to the council reporting efforts to establish a new Business and Networking Group (BANG) to the Ft Meade/Aberdeen area as well as Bethesda area. He asked "what can I do for you?" He reminded the council that the unemployment rate for veterans is 27% for males and 34% for females.

**ACTION ITEM: Chapter presidents should send the names of their TOPS Liaison to Jim Dittbrenner.**

Congressional Luncheon Feedback: LTC Fringer provided a lessons learned report on the successful luncheon held in October. He praised committee members who helped him plan and organize the event: CAPT Norm Taylor, Col Harvey Kaplan, and especially Maj Jim Pede who handled all of the administrative requirements. He highlighted successful aspects of the planning which included the reservation process, additional funding from MOAA, and the luncheon brochure. He recognized that one of our key strengths that day was our program flexibility and the way we worked in speakers almost seamlessly. Asking if we should do the lunch again in 2012, he suggested the council consider asking chapter legislative chairs to step up to the task and assist the planning committee in such areas as personal invites to legislators and the important task of follow up, a time consuming endeavor. OPEN

Col Fallon asked if there was any communication with legislators following the lunch. There was no follow up but CAPT Taylor said the lunch provided MOAA staff with an 'entree' to congress. He said ADM Ryan was very pleased with the entire affair. Maj Shiffrin moved that the council hold a legislative luncheon in 2012. Col Peterson seconded and vote was unanimous.

Annual Membership Meeting, San Antonio: Maj Pede represented the Old Line State and Maryland Council of Chapters at the annual meeting of the membership in San Antonio, Texas.

The 2011 Chapter President's Symposium: This meeting focused on a new initiative named Community Blueprint ([http://www.moaa.org/main\\_article.aspx?id=2555](http://www.moaa.org/main_article.aspx?id=2555)). This effort, by several chapters nation wide, attempts to bring together non government organizations interested in helping wounded warriors. The general idea is for MOAA chapters to provide leadership to assist diverse organizations in working with local military installations and/or groups wishing to help wounded warriors. Areas for consideration include behavior health, education, employment, financial, re-integration, and volunteerism. General discussion quickly led to the realization that such an effort is "out of hide" with no additional funding or support from MOAA.

Auxiliary Voting Rights: A proposal was made to the Board of Directors (BOD) which would allow auxiliary members to vote at the national MOAA level. Because this is a change in classification of members a change to the bylaws is required. As such, a vote by the general membership is needed. The BOD voted to place this proposal on the upcoming July 2012 ballot. Voting will be conducted via mail and electronic voting. There are currently 61,000 auxiliary members and many vote at the chapter level already.

Auxiliary Liaison Report: Ms Eleanor Layman reported that she attended a Society of Military Widows meeting and learned of their Survivor Outreach Service in the Ft Meade area. She intends to get more information to determine if we can work together in some way.

**ACTION ITEM: CAPT Taylor asked chapter presidents to ensure they have identified an auxiliary chair and report this name to Ms Laymen.**

Outstanding Unit Award: For training year 2011 the Outstanding Unit Award goes to the Maryland Aviation Depot Maintenance Round Out Unit (ADMURU). During 2011, the ADMURU supported Operations New Dawn, Iraqi Freedom, and Enduring Freedom. While deployed, the unit contributed to the operational readiness of four aviation brigades within the Southwest Asian Theater of Operations. The award presentation is scheduled for Saturday, 4 February 2012. LTC Fringer will pass this responsibility to Col McCreedy following announcement of this year's award recipient. CLOSED

Open Discussion: Maj Pele summarized the Veterans Appreciation Day address by Col McCreedy and highlighted his focus on association membership and how such membership has changed over the years.

**ACTION ITEM: Maj Pele asked Col McCreedy if he would address the council at our first 2012 meeting with a presentation focused on helping chapter presidents better understand the recruiting situation and the concerns of today's younger officer corps.**

The meeting adjourned at 1430. The 2012 council meeting schedule is in flux and further communication from the president is pending.

JAMES PEDE, Maj, USAF Ret  
MD Council Secretary

- 1 ATCH: Treasurer's Report
- 2 ATCH: Council Goals
- 3 ATCH: Council Committees
- 4 ATCH: TOPS Report



ATCH 2: Council Goals



**MARYLAND COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS  
GOALS 2011 – 2012**

- ▶ **One hundred percent representation of Chapters at Council meetings**
- ▶ **Activate Council Committees as a primary Chapter resource**
- ▶ **Initiate a Chapter Rescue Plan for marginal chapters**
- ▶ **Improve Council web site with consistency among Chapter sites**
- ▶ **Establish a Council Auxiliary Liaison Officer position**
- ▶ **Provide Council expertise to strengthen Chapter structure & mgmt**
- ▶ **Assist Chapters in reaching and maintaining a Level of Excellence**
- ▶ **Improve Chapter to Chapter communications and mutual support**
- ▶ **Encourage Chapters to share successful “best practices”**
- ▶ **Assist Chapters in creating and publishing a newsletter**
- ▶ **Encourage Chapters to develop community outreach programs**
- ▶ **Encourage Chapters to develop auxiliary memberships**
- ▶ **Assist Chapters to develop a Leadership Ladder for continuity of mgmt**
- ▶ **Review potential of establishing a new chapter in Western Maryland**



## **ATCH 4: TOPS Report**

### ***MARYLAND COUNCIL***

**mdmoaa.org**

### **Council Meeting**

**23 July 2011**

#### **Maryland TOPS Liaison Report**

##### **1. Current Status**

- A. Continuing to distribute the Career Fairs and Open House Listing. Currently goes to all 10 Maryland MOAA chapters, the Maryland Council Web Site and six other web sites, two other MOAA Chapters in Virginia, 13 military installations, and some 65,000 individuals world-wide.
- B. Continuing to distribute Vacancy and Program Announcements weekly to all 10 Maryland MOAA Chapters, two VA Chapters, the Wounded Warrior Program Counselors, 13 military installations from Dover AFB to Norfolk NAS, and some 250+ separating military personnel.
- C. Serving as XO of Northern VA MOAA BANG Program, developing monthly programs for retiring and separating service members.

##### **2. In-Process Activities**

- A. Developing with Karl Savino, Karin Sadowski, and Greg Wilcox, a working version of Wounded Warrior Mentor Training. To be offered at the American Legion Hall in Springfield, VA this fall.
- B. Proposed a Panel comprised of MOAA and a State Representative for the upcoming 29 September RecruitDC Program. This program is for the top 250 recruiters in the metropolitan area and will be held at MITRE in September. The Panel's focus is on hiring returning veterans and will deal with the conflicting issues of EEO versus Hiring A Veteran Programs, and will deal with the issue of the HR function's concern in hiring returning service members due to the possibility of PTSD.

##### **3. Proposed Activities**

- A. Establishing a Business and Networking Group within each chapter that houses a military installation in its area of responsibility. (Copy attached.)
- B. Presenting periodic Transition Programs for separating service members and their spouses. (Copy attached)