

**The Maryland Council of Chapters held its quarterly meeting from 1500 to 1630 hours on Thursday, 1 November 2018, at the Arizona Grand Resort & Spa in Phoenix, AZ. The meeting was held in the Sierra 2 Ballroom, a portion of the Conference Center. I have prepared the minutes from the meeting in the absence of the Council Secretary, who was not able to be in Phoenix for the Council Meeting. {Due to the wide array of subjects discussed by the Council at this meeting-- and the relevance of these to numerous staff personnel and members, I have opted to share this document for the information of many recipients who do not normally receive Maryland Council Minutes.}**

The following persons attended the meeting (or a significant portion of the proceedings): Harvey T. Kaplan (Council President), Naomi M. Kaplan (Spouse and Surviving Spouse Liaison), Bradley Jewitt (Commissioner, Maryland Veterans Commission and new National Board Member), Cheryl Jewitt, Charles Rishell (representing the Star Spangled Banner Chapter--with Linda Rishell joining the group after the meeting), Harry M. Quinn (President, Susquehanna Chapter), Susan Quinn, Matt Clark (National Board Member, currently serving on active duty and just promoted to Colonel, U.S. Army), Mrs. Clark, Sam De Bow (National Board Member--with Mrs. De Bow joining our group after the meeting), Terri Coles (from Council and Chapter Affairs), and invited guest participants Robert J. Heister, Jr. (President of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Pennsylvania Council), and David W. Shelton (Vice President of the Lancaster Chapter of the Pennsylvania Council). Scott Wadle of Council and Chapter Affairs assisted us in accessing and preparing the room for the meeting and placement of the U.S. Flag. All participants were provided an opportunity to introduce themselves to the group either at the start of the meeting or shortly after each individual's arrival. National Board Members from Maryland were able to join the group after the conclusion of the scheduled Board meeting in a nearby room.

Copies of the printed agenda were furnished at the start of the meeting. The President opted to cover items in a different sequence from that displayed on the agenda to accommodate those participants with concurrent scheduled events.

1. At 3:05 PM the meeting was called to order by the Council President. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Harry Quinn and the Invocation was delivered by Charles Rishell. Harvey Kaplan explained the goals of the meeting and the need to conclude discussions and business within 90 minutes in order to allow participants to prepare for the evening's scheduled events. Naomi Kaplan presented mementos to spouses in attendance at our first Council Meeting ever held west of the Mississippi. This was part of the Council's effort to encourage more spouses to participate in our meetings and programs.

2. The President reviewed the Council procedures for biennial election of our officers, which currently is scheduled for Saturday, 12 January 2019, at our scheduled lunch meeting in O'Loughlin's Restaurant (Arnold, MD). In accordance with our custom, 1st Vice President Bryon Hartzog was nominated for President. In addition, 2nd Vice President Bob Norton was nominated for 1st Vice President. Harvey T. Kaplan will become Immediate Past President when the new officers are sworn in on January 12th. A first call was put out for nominations for a new 2nd Vice President. Nominations for all elected positions are open until the next meeting. [Note: We will be requesting Council and Chapter Affairs to arrange for a member of the National Staff to administer the oaths of office. If necessary as an alternative, one of our Past Council Presidents can fill in for the ceremony.]

3. Harvey T. Kaplan furnished members with a Fact Sheet entitled: **Introduction to the Maryland Military Commission (MMC)**. A copy is attached to these minutes and it explains in more detail the rationale behind the Coalition. In brief, the new organization will "roll out" in a special program at the War Memorial Building at 101 North Gay Street in Baltimore at Noon on Friday, 9 November 2018. MOAA members from across Maryland are invited and encouraged to attend this historic gathering, scheduled in conjunction with the weekend of the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice at the end of World War I--with press coverage and professional photographic support. There currently are 13 Charter Members of the MMC (see attached). Council President Harvey T. Kaplan is scheduled to speak briefly on behalf of our approximately 12,000 MOAA members in Maryland. Other MOAA speakers/participants will be Bob Norton (our 2nd Vice President), Annie Brock (our Legislative Liaison), Erwin Burtnick (the Master of Ceremonies for the event and JWV State Commander), and Sheldon Goldberg (representing

MOWW). Chapter Presidents should notify their members of this special event and encourage attendance of members and spouses. The gathering is open to the public. An MOAA photographer will be present to assist in getting appropriate pictures of the overall event and participants from MOAA. It is proper to wear MOAA caps, name tags, and other apparel with the MOAA logo.

4. The group discussed lessons we have learned from our recent **Congressional Luncheons on Capitol Hill**. Some of the highlights were that (a) it is essential to coordinate with Government Affairs at MOAA HQ more than six months in advance to "lock in" a suitable date for the event and put it on everyone's calendar; (b) it is possible to negotiate a lower cost per person by innovative adjusting of details in the caterer's original proposal; (c) it is important to remain flexible on the room assignment, as the needs of the Congress on room usage takes priority--but it is critical to know the configuration and capacity of any assigned room; (d) elected Members of the Maryland Delegation appear to attend in the same numbers regardless of whether the event is on the House or Senate side of Capitol Hill and (e) a Planning Committee for this event (with membership continuity from year to year) is invaluable in both the planning and execution stages. Nine of our ten Members attended and spoke at the gathering last year (September 2017) in the Rayburn House Office Building (including both Senators Cardin and Van Hollen) and eight of our ten Members attended the event in September 2018 in the Dirksen Senate Office Building (including 6 of our 8 Representatives--with the explanation that one of the remaining two was not able to walk long distances due to recent knee surgery).

5. The Council discussed the contents of a handout entitled: *Maryland Council of Chapters Goals*. It is on the Council's website, but it has not been updated in the past six years. The President shared some thoughts on making this document more meaningful and current. The group approved his sending a revised document out to all Chapter Presidents as a draft for review between now and the January 2019 Council Meeting. Input is welcome between now and 12 January (addressed to the President and/or Secretary). We will have a final discussion and vote on Council Goals for 2019-2020 at that meeting. [Note: The draft will be furnished separately from these minutes during the coming week.]

6. President Kaplan shared his thoughts on the necessity of updating the Bylaws of the Maryland Council of Chapters in order to reflect our current way of conducting business. Most of his recommended adjustments are administrative in nature--and it won't be necessary to restructure the document or renumber sections. Sam De Bow wanted to make certain that we review any recent Bylaws template available through MOAA Council and Chapter Affairs and that we make ourselves aware of the availability of inexpensive liability insurance before approving an updated edition. The President will create a draft copy of the revised document (including the current MOAA logo) available to all those in State leadership positions so that we can finalize all appropriate adjustments and vote on a new set of Bylaws at the 12 January 2019 Council Meeting. [Note: The draft version will be sent out separately from these minutes, prior to the end of November. The current Bylaws, for comparison purposes, will remain available on the Council's website.]

7. Terri Coles assisted in the presentation of an MOAA Award for Outstanding Service (dated October 8, 2018) to Naomi Kaplan for "exceptional performance as Surviving Spouse Liaison, Maryland Military Officers Association of America. Mrs. Kaplan demonstrated dedication, initiative and professional excellence as the liaison to the [spouses and] surviving spouses of MOAA members in Maryland...Her service is in keeping with the MOAA mission to 'Never Stop Serving.' " The certificate was signed by Dana T. Atkins, Lieutenant General, USAF (Ret), President, MOAA. Naomi spoke briefly about her bimonthly Update for Spouses and Surviving Spouses, and shared some thoughts on cybersecurity for members of military families (including spouses and children). More information on the subject of a "Cyberfit Family" will be included in her next Update (during December 2018), including some thoughts from the Health.Mil website. Terri Coles commented that, with Naomi's permission, she has been sharing issues of the Update for Spouses and Surviving Spouses with MOAA Councils across the country. Most of the content applies to all, not just to Maryland members/spouses/families.

8. The President referred attendees to the list of scheduled recipients of the **Levels of Excellence Awards for Maryland Chapters**, which will be presented in the evening following the Council meeting. Maryland will be receiving seven awards tonight (one for the Council and six for individual

Chapters). The seven award recipients will be photographed with Lt. Gen. Atkins during the presentation. Sam De Bow and Matt Clark (both National Board Members from Maryland) agreed to accept Chapter awards for two of our winning Chapters not represented in Phoenix. Following the dinner gathering, all seven LOE recipients and their spouses were asked by Harvey T. Kaplan to remain for the formal MOAA photograph of all of our winners. We plan to post that on our Council website when it becomes available later in November. Photos of Chapter presentations also will be available to us. The Council President will transport the awards back to Maryland for the Chapters that were not able to be in Phoenix.

9. Harvey T. Kaplan reported that our Southern Maryland Chapter will continue to operate as a Satellite Chapter of the General William Smallwood Chapter. Southern Maryland will not need to relinquish its MOAA Charter as it will continue to operate in a new capacity. [Note: An upcoming meeting of the two groups early in 2019 is being planned for a location close to the concentration of Southern Maryland Chapter members.]

10. It was noted that the Susquehanna Chapter is planning for its upcoming 50th Anniversary. President Harry Quinn announced that more details regarding its celebration of that milestone will be forthcoming. Further, Vice President Charles Rishell of the Star Spangled Banner Chapter announced that it will be holding its annual formal dinner (with an outstanding guest speaker from the National Park Service at Fort McHenry) on the 14th of November in Timonium. Council President Harvey T. Kaplan has been invited to attend with his wife Naomi, and Harvey will speak very briefly about MOAA and the MMC in Maryland during the comprehensive evening program.

11. The Council discussed in some detail the rationale for establishing a Virtual Chapter in Western Maryland, Southwestern Pennsylvania, and nearby West Virginia. Terri Coles shared the fact that National HQ (Council and Chapter Affairs) wishes to help in such an effort to "energize the membership base" throughout that geographic area. National will assemble an updated listing of MOAA members in the covered area similar in area coverage to the one they prepared for the Council over three years ago. Recent efforts have demonstrated that these members are too widely dispersed to make a geographic chapter viable in that area of the Maryland Panhandle (focal point: Cumberland, MD). A new Virtual Chapter may still need to be a Satellite of the Upper Potomac Chapter (our original Council plan). We had intended to call the new Chapter the Queen City Chapter (for Cumberland's historic title), but a renaming now may be appropriate, as suggested by Matt Clark. We also need to coordinate future efforts with the appropriate leaders in Pennsylvania and West Virginia--both of which states already have concurred several years ago in our objective to provide more meaningful MOAA support to National members living in the lightly populated geographic area. It was noted that MOAA Virtual Chapter affiliation so far has been based on a common interest (i.e., nursing experience or surviving spouse concerns). A "Queen City Virtual Chapter" (by whatever name) would represent a new and innovative variation of the Virtual Chapter concept, as it would be partially based on geography. [Note: This will be addressed in the separately-distributed draft edition of the Maryland Council of Chapters Goals ~ 2019-2020.]

12. Detailed Treasurer's and Secretary's Reports were tabled until the 12 January Council Meeting in Arnold, MD. [Note: The President will compile a concise e-mail of timely and relevant notes for our Maryland Chapters from other sessions of the Annual Meeting in Phoenix.]

13. Charles Rishell was called upon to deliver the Benediction prior to adjournment. [Note: The words for the lovely invocation and most appropriate benediction were furnished for our use at the meeting by our Council Chaplain, Jim Campbell. Thank you, Jim.]

The meeting was adjourned by the President at 1635 hours. Participants left to change clothes in preparation for one of the receptions scheduled prior to the Levels of Excellence Awards Dinner commencing later in the evening.

**Respectfully submitted for the approval of the Maryland Council of Chapters, with my personal wish that you'll all have a meaningful and memorable Veterans Day Weekend** (Naomi's and my photo greeting to all from Phoenix is attached):

Harvey T. Kaplan  
Colonel, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Ret.)  
President, MOAA Maryland Council of Chapters