

The Patriot



Richmond Area Chapter - Military Officers Association of America - November 2017



The President's Corner by CAPT Hardy Josephson

Greetings to all! These are my final comments as I close out my two-year tenure as your chapter President. First, and foremost, my deepest appreciation for the support I have received from our Board of Directors. Their commitment, dedication, and participation at our board and dinner meetings is truly the reason why our chapter was awarded its 15th-consecutive 5-Star award by MOAA. That achievement places our chapter among the best in the country.

Noteworthy external achievements include: our continued support of the ROTC/JROTC and Gold Bar programs in our geographic area; outreach to multiple veteran-centric support programs such as the USO, the Spinal Care Unit at McGuire VA Medical Center, the Families of the Wounded Fund, the Fisher House, the Sitter-Barfoot Care Center, the VA National Guard Foundation and the Virginia War Memorial; and our work with the General Assembly on military and veterans matters, highlighted by our annual Legislative Forum and "Storming the Hill" during the annual Virginia General Assembly session.

I also recognize and appreciate the essential internal workings of the chapter which include our interface with the Meadowbrook Country Club for our dinner meetings and arranging for our guest speakers; the formation of operating budgets and monthly financial reports; the keeping of accurate minutes; the maintenance of our membership database and website, the editing, printing and distribution of our print and electronic newsletters and the maintenance of our electronic interface with MOAA, to sustain our recruiting and retention efforts and competition for MOAA awards and cash bonuses.

We have a slate of officers who have agreed to lead our chapter for the next two years. You will be asked to vote them into office at the November dinner meeting. Please make every effort to attend, or vote by mail or website so that your vote may be counted. In addition, we still need two interested chapter members to step up to fill vacant slots as Directors-at-Large. Contact me or any member of our Board of Directors if you would like to lend your leadership talents to our chapter's governing body.

Also, don't forget to use the form on Page 4 to make your reservations soon for our annual Holiday Gala on 8 December. The cost this year will be somewhat greater due to inflation, covering all the ancillary costs for hosting this special dinner and to guarantee you a delicious meal that will please your palates.

While the chapter's Leader-Scholar Fund is in good financial shape for the coming year, we desperately need your support for our Military Community Assistance Program (MCAP) which has experienced a decline in donations during 2017. See the article below.

In closing, I thank you for your support of our chapter and wish you all "Fair winds and following seas."

MOAA - MOWW Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, 8 November

6:00 PM

Meadowbrook Country Club

Menu

Salad Bar
Three-entrée Buffet
Seasonal Starch
Vegetable du Jour
Gourmet Dessert Bar

\$27.00 Per Person

(Dress: Coat & Tie)

Program

**Mr. Steve Combs
Virginia DVS**

(Reservation form on Page 6)

MCAP Needs Your Support Now

Due to a significant decline in donations for our Military Community Assistance Program (MCAP) during 2017, your chapter cannot sustain the level of support it has traditionally provided to the various military and veterans organizations which depend on RAC-MOAA to help fund their operations.

Therefore, we encourage you to focus your charitable giving to RAC-MOAA on the MCAP program vice our Leader-Scholar Program, at least for the short term. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. A donation form can be found on Page 6. Thanks.

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Legislative Update by CAPT Mary Lou Wassel

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend our **10th Annual "Legislative Forum."**

When: Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Where: American Legion Headquarters, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond VA 23230-3700

Start: 0800 - Meet and Greet with a Continental Breakfast

Program: 0815-0945 - Presentations of Key Legislative Initiatives with Question and Answer Session

Adjourn: 0950

This invitation has been extended to members of the General Assembly representing the 5-star Central Virginia, Richmond and Southside Chapters of MOAA. Attendees will receive a comprehensive overview of the 2018 Legislative Initiatives that support the entire military and veteran community of the Commonwealth. These initiatives were developed through input from the Joint Leadership Council (JLC), 23 Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs), and the Board of Veteran Services Council. Please advise me of your plans to attend this important legislative event.

If you plan to attend, please contact Mary Lou Wassel, marylouwassel@me.com, mobile 804-551-1878. To aid planning, the favor of a reply is requested before close of business Wednesday, November 29th.

The following is a summary of the 2018 JLC Policy Initiatives as approved on 6 Sep 17:

JLC 2018-01 Residency Requirement, Constitutional Amendment, 2nd Resolution

JLC 2018-02 Electronic Return of State Election Ballots by Deployed Virginia Military Personnel

JLC 2018-03 Veteran Entrepreneur Capital Resources Program (VECRP)

JLC 2018-04 Income Tax Subtraction for Certain Low-Income 100% Disabled Veterans

JLC 2018-05 Removing Combat Requirement for VMSDEP

JLC 2018-06 Increase State Income Tax Subtraction for National Guard to \$5,000 annually

JLC 2018-07 In-State Tuition Eligibility for members of the Guard and Reserve Components

JLC 2018-8 State Tax Exemption for Military Retiree Income

Again, please remain attuned to national legislative developments as many important issues are currently in play in Congress. As the defense bill heads to conference committee, your earned benefits are at stake. Congress will decide on the military pay raise, Tricare pharmacy fees, and significant changes to the military health system. Check the MOAA websites at www.moaa.org or www.racmoaa.org for the latest information, as much is changing at the time of this writing.

We also ask you to mark your calendars for the 2018 "Storming the Hill" at the Virginia General Assembly, which will be held on Monday, 22 January 2018. For questions or comments, please contact Mary Lou Wassel at 804-551-1878. or by e-mail at marylouwassel@me.com

MOAA - Our One Powerful Voice - Make Yours Heard!

Treasurer's Report

Balance on Hand 1 January 2017:	\$ 21,826.97
Receipts:	<u>12,088.01</u>
Cash balance:	\$ 33,914.98
Expenditures:	<u>- 13,639.77</u>
Balance on Hand 19 September 2017:	\$ 20,275.21
Less reserves and payables:	<u>- 8,878.09</u>
Unencumbered balance:	\$ 11,397.12

The Patriot

A non-partisan publication issued five times each year in January, March, May, September and November

Send articles or comments to:

Richmond Area Chapter - MOAA

ATTN: Newsletter Editor

P. O. Box 72604, Richmond, VA 23235-8017

(Editor: CDR John Baumgarten)

**8 November Meeting - Mr. Steven J. Combs
DVS Deputy Commissioner**

The members of MOAA and MOWW welcome Mr. Steven J. Combs, Deputy Commissioner of Virginia's Department of Veterans Services as the keynote speaker for our Veterans Day dinner meeting on Wednesday, 8 November at the Meadowbrook Country Club at 6:00 PM.

The son of an Air Force veteran, Deputy Commissioner Combs received his commission and Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Virginia. He served 10 years in the US Air Force in operations and logistics, including a tour as a squadron commander at Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany. Other assignments took him to California, Korea, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, and Nevada.

Following his military service, Deputy Commissioner Combs earned Master of Business Administration and Master of Public Policy degrees from the College of William & Mary. In the summer between his 2nd and 3rd years at William & Mary, he was a Governor's Fellow under then-Governor Mark Warner.

In April 2004, he joined the Virginia Department of Veterans Services as the Director of Policy & Planning, where he led the Department's budget and legislative development initiatives and support for four citizen boards. He became the Deputy Commissioner in April 2015. In this role, he supports the work of DVS Commissioner John L. Newby II, the directors of the Department's six service lines, and the 700+ employees of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services.

He and his wife Brigitte live in Ashland, Virginia. They have six children, including daughters who are Navy and Air Force veterans. He is a member of the Military Officers Association, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Air Force Association. In his spare time, he enjoys travel, reading, and the study of historic coast defense forts.

It is expected that Mr. Combs will address our members on the facilities, programs and initiatives operated and conducted by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. A reservation form for this dinner meeting can be found on Page 6. Dress for this event is coat and tie, ladies as appropriate.

**A Tribute to Veterans**

*I stand at the gates of Arlington;
The crosses row on row...
Some have been laid here recently,
Some so long ago.*

*The soldiers - husbands, sons and friends
Who fought for you and me;
Who gave all that they had to give
To keep our Country free.*

*Yes, war is hell - no glory
In the battle, in the strife;
But in knowing each loved freedom so
He bought it with his life.*

*When you think of them this Veterans Day
Will your heart fill up with pride?
Will you raise your hand in one salute
To the men who fought and died?*

*And don't forget the ones who live.
They are not hard to find,
Who wear the scars of battle
On their bodies, on their minds.*

*Boys who went to fight a war;
Men when they returned
Trying to forget the terrible things
They saw and learned.*

*Will you shake their hands and thank them
For their living sacrifice?
Their lives are changed forever...
Would you have paid that price?*

*The World Wars I and II,
Then Korea, Vietnam.
Do you ever stop to think of them,
Or don't you give a damn?*

*Afghanistan, the Persian Gulf,
Now fighting in Iraq;
White candles lit by Freedom's torch
For those who don't come back.*

*For Duty, God and Country
They lay it out each day
And never keep a tally
Of the price they had to pay.*

*They also serve who fight the war
Of Hurricane and Flood.
Shining rays of hope to thousands
Through the thick New Orleans mud.*

*Whenever Duty calls them
They'll be ever on the scene
The Army, Navy, Coast Guard,
Air Force and Marines.*

*When you see a man in uniform,
Remember that he stands
For all the freedoms we enjoy -
The blessings of this land.*

*Respect him as he so deserves -
His fallen brothers too.
Remember that they fought and lived
And died for me and you.*

*By
Jorja Ruggles
Green Bay, Wisconsin*

(Reprinted with Permission)

Veterans Day Observance

Due to ongoing construction at the Virginia War Memorial and the Anthem Richmond Marathon, the Commonwealth Veterans Day Ceremony will be held at the Dogwood Dell, 600 South Boulevard, at 11:00 AM on Saturday, 11 November. The guest speaker will be Mr. Carlos Hopkins, Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs.

More Chapter News

Chapter to Elect New Officers

At the 8 November 2017 dinner meeting, RAC-MOAA members will elect and install officers to serve the chapter for 2018 through 2019.

To cast your vote for the officers listed on Page 5, you have three options:

- You can complete and mail-in the ballot form on Page 5
- You can use the electronic ballot form which is available on the chapter website
- You can vote in person at the 8 November dinner meeting

Whichever option you choose, please remember that you may vote only once. Any duplicate votes received cannot be counted.

Please be sure to play your part in the management of our chapter by casting your vote for our slate of elective officers. Thanks.



Pictured above, RAC-MOAA President, CAPT Hardy Josephson (left) and Richmond Chapter MOWW Senior Vice-commander, LTC Joe Tarantino, present the MOWW "Law & Order" award to COL Karl S. Leonard, Sheriff of Chesterfield County at the 27 September dinner.



Joint Holiday Gala - 8 December 2017

Mark your calendars and be sure to join us for the annual Joint Holiday Gala on Friday, 8 December 2017, at the Meadowbrook Country Club at 6:00 PM.

This year we will again have a sumptuous holiday buffet featuring: Salad Bar; Hand-carved Prime Rib of Beef; Chicken Williamsburg (stuffed with crabmeat and Virginia ham); Potatoes; Two Seasonal Vegetables; Gourmet Dessert Bar; Hot Rolls, Coffee or Tea - all for \$50 per person.



Dress for the event again this year will be informal to accommodate the "buffet" setting. Dress will be coat & tie for men - ladies as appropriate. We will have live holiday music by the Meadowbrook High School Chorus, raffle-off a few valuable door prizes and will also have great food, good service, camaraderie with your fellow members and lots of holiday cheer. A "cash" bar will also be available - hope to see you there!

Holiday Gala Reservation Form

Please make reservations for ____ persons for the Joint Holiday Gala on **Friday, 8 December 2017** at **6:00 PM**, at the Meadowbrook Country Club. Enclosed is my check payable to "**RAC-MOAA**" for \$____ (\$50.00 per person). The deadline for reservations and cancellations is **Sunday, 3 December 2017**.

Rank and Name: _____

Guest: _____

Guest: _____

Guest: _____

If you have more than three guests, please list their names on a separate sheet of paper and send along with this form

Check here if you need a ride to the meeting _____ Check here if this is the 1st meeting you have attended _____

More Chapter News

RAC-MOAA Election Ballot

(Place a check mark in the spaces at left for each nominee, write-in an alternate or check the block for **ALL** nominees)

_____ **To vote for ALL officers nominated for election, check the space at left.**

_____ For President: CAPT Mary Lou Wassel Write-in: _____

_____ For Past President: CAPT Hardy R. Josephson Write-in: _____

_____ For 1st Vice-president: BrigGen Joel M. KcKean Write-in: _____

_____ For 2nd Vice-president: LTC M. Craig Pinsker Write-in: _____

_____ For Secretary: LTC Terrence M. Moore Write-in: _____

_____ For Treasurer: LTC Owen L. Waltman Write-in: _____

_____ For Director: COL Donald B. Kaiserman Write-in: _____

_____ For Director: COL Mark S. Rich Write-in: _____

Your Printed Name: _____

Please return your completed ballot to the chapter by using the return-mail envelope provided with this newsletter or send to: Richmond Area Chapter - MOAA, P.O. Box 72604, Richmond, VA 23235-8017. All ballots must be received not later than 5 November 2017.

Welcome New Members

Mrs Susan Houston, Auxiliary

Mrs June Brown, Auxiliary

Mrs. Cathy Contreras, Auxiliary

Chapter Membership Report

	Regular	Auxiliary	Honorary	Total
January 2017:	496	93	9	598
Gains:	11	10	0	21
Losses:	68	22	1	91
November 2017:	439	81	8	528

Note About 2017 Decedents

All 2017 deceased officer and auxiliary members of our chapter and deceased spouses, will be honored and remembered at our annual Memorial Ceremony in January 2018.

In Memoriam

LtCol Phillips K. Foote
United States Air Force
August 2017

COL James M. Brown
United States Army
August 2017

LtCol L. W. Houston
United States Marine Corps
September 2017

LTC James E. Contreras
United States Army
September 2017

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of these esteemed patriots of our chapter

Chapter Contacts - Thru 2017

Elected Officers & Directors

President	CAPT Hardy Josephson	641-9578
Vice-President	COL Guy Roberts	752-4859
Past President	COL Alan Cunningham	796-7818
Secretary	LTC Terry Moore	739-8112
Treasurer	LTC Owen Waltman	796-1113
Director-at-Large	BG Joel McKean	562-8475
Director-at-Large	LTC Craig Pinsker	364-3164
Director-at-Large	COL Mark Rich	706-6650

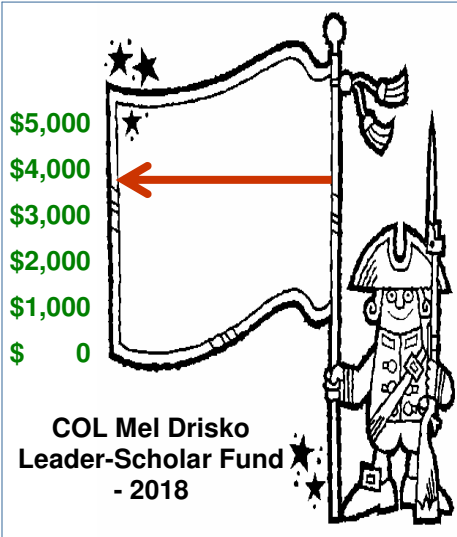
Appointed Directors

Member Services	CDR John Baumgarten	379-7586
Legislative Affairs	CAPT Mary Lou Wassel	551-1878
Youth Programs	COL Alan Cunningham	796-7818
Personal Affairs	COL Marilyn Floro	346-0506
Transition Services	COL Bill Barrett	245-4724
Publicity	COL Jim Rose	276-6775
Spouse Liaison	Mrs Rosemary Salcedo	360-0957
Hospitality	LTC Joe Tarantino	276-5393
Trips & Tours	Vacant	
Chaplain	LTC Ken Ruppard	639-0179

Forms & Reservations

An envelope addressed to the Chapter is enclosed. If the envelope is missing mail correspondence to:

Richmond Area Chapter
MOAA
P. O. Box 72604
Richmond, VA 23235-8017



COL Mel Drisko Leader-Scholar Fund Contribution

I wish to contribute \$ _____ to support the *COL Mel Drisko Memorial Leader-Scholar Fund*. This fund provides monetary awards for senior-year JROTC cadets who have demonstrated the leadership potential to pursue collegiate careers as military officers and for our ROTC/JROTC and Gold Bar programs. *All contributions are tax-deductible.*

Printed Name and Rank: _____

Military Community Assistance Program (MCAP) Contribution

I wish to contribute \$ _____ to support the Military Community Assistance Program (MCAP). This fund provides money to support one or more of the following initiatives: postage for care packages to deployed troops; support for wounded warriors and their families; memorials for troops killed-in-action; expenses for "Welcome Home" ceremonies and events for troops returning from deployment; and other means of necessary and worthwhile support for the military and veterans communities of Virginia. *All contributions are tax-deductible. Your Help is Needed NOW!*

Printed Name and Rank: _____

November 2017 Dinner Meeting Reservation

Please make reservations for _____ persons for the dinner meeting on **Wednesday, 8 November 2017** at the Meadowbrook Country Club. My check for \$ _____ (**\$27.00 per person**) payable to "**RAC-MOAA**" is enclosed. The deadline for reservations is Friday, 3 November 2017.

Rank and name: _____

Guest(s): _____

Buffet Menu

Salad Bar
Three-entrée Buffet
Seasonal Starch
Vegetable du Jour
Rolls & Butter
Gourmet Dessert Bar
Coffee or Tea

Are you attending a Chapter meeting for the first time? ____ Yes ____ No

Check here if you need a ride to the meeting