

The Patriot



Richmond Area Chapter - Military Officers Association of America - May 2018



The President's Corner by CAPT Mary Lou Wassel

Greetings All. In February, your Board of Directors met for a half-day Strategic Planning Session. After considerable deliberation, four primary areas were chosen for focused efforts this year through 2019. The 2018 Initiatives including respective Team Leaders are:

- Engaging more involved membership by promoting RAC-MOAA activities and purposes effectively – COL Mark Rich, COL Jim Rose and CDR John Baumgarten
- Identifying, recruiting, developing and training current & future chapter leaders – LTC Ken Ruppard and BG Joel McKean
- Improving overall communications – COL Alan Cunningham
- Continuing and expanding emphasis on community outreach activities – CAPT Hardy Josephson and LTC Craig Pinsker

Our chapter can only be strong through committed and active members. We can use YOUR help. Please seriously consider volunteering to help by serving on one or more committee(s)

including membership, communications, community outreach and legislation (see volunteers wanted info on Page 2). Plans are underway to offer a MOAA Leadership Training course this Fall for interested volunteers. Updates on these strategic plan initiatives will be provided throughout the year.

On May 9th, the Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC-MOAA) will hold its 34th Annual Congressional Appreciation Luncheon at the Capitol Hill Club in Washington, DC. RAC-MOAA hopes to continue the tradition of sending the largest chapter contingent to this event. If you have never attended, please consider joining us this year (see the registration information on Page 2). Chapter members enjoy a unique opportunity to be seated with elected legislators and to discuss important issues for our military community.

Many thanks are extended to our members for their generous contributions to the COL Mel Drisko Leader-Scholar Fund. These monies are used to fund our JROTC Leader-Scholar Awards to be given at the May 30th Dinner Meeting. Please note the date change from May 23rd to May 30th, and plan to join us for this event highlighting the chapter's Youth Programs.

With continued contributions to the Military Community Assistance Program (MCAP), our chapter will provide vital financial aid to the various military and veterans organizations traditionally supported. Again, thank you for your generous support.

Mark your calendars now for July 28th to attend our 3rd annual Summer Outing with the Richmond Flying Squirrels at the Diamond on Military Appreciation Night. Highlights include an all-you-can-eat picnic buffet, admission to the ballpark field level seats, and post-game fireworks. See the article on Page 3 for more details and a reservation form. It's not too early to sign up!

Please plan to attend one or all the upcoming chapter events. If you need transportation, contact any one of the board members. For questions or comments, call me. Thank you for your invaluable support.

Support Needed for MCAP Now!

The latest report from our Treasurer shows the balance in our MCAP fund at a mere \$450. This is hardly enough to provide the more than \$5,000 in support we have historically provided annually to military and veteran programs in our community. Please consider making a donation this month to the MCAP Fund. A donation form is on Page 6.

MOAA - MOWW Dinner Meeting Wednesday, 30 May 2018

**Social Hour 5:30 PM
Dinner 6:30 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

Presentation of annual
COL Mel Drisko
Leader-Scholar Awards
(Reservation form on Page 6)

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Legislative Update by LTC Craig Pinsker

At the state level RAC-MOAA along with other MOAA chapters in Virginia advocated for several military issues. A law was passed to permit a voter referendum for a property tax exemption for surviving spouses of certain disabled veterans (HB 71). Unfortunately, budgetary issues crushed our optimism for other initiatives.

The news headlines about hacking hindered efforts to bring "electronic voting for overseas service members" to a floor vote. We expect to try again next year. Our bill to permit veterans with substantially equivalent training in the military to progress into civilian occupations, progressed from pilot program to permanent. A new law passed, permitting teachers married to a service member and licensed in another state to work in VA. All together there were about 10 bills passed supporting our military community.

Nationally, members of RAC-MOAA will join representatives from the other 17 Virginia MOAA chapters to have lunch with the Virginia Congressional Delegation on May 9th at the Capitol Hill Club in Washington. It is our opportunity to thank them for their efforts and let them know what we believe is important.

Our contingent for the Congressional Luncheon will meet at the upper parking lot of Green Top Sporting Goods located off I-95 at 0815 on 9 May, to depart for Washington. The Google map address is 10150 Lakeridge Parkway, Ashland, VA 23005. We will form carpools for our transportation. If you plan to participate in the Congressional Luncheon, please complete the registration form below and send it to the VCOC Treasurer along with your payment as appropriate.

Please send out the post cards in the MOAA magazine. On national issues, these cards are customized for specific legislators. They will be counted. Numbers count. A major value of MOAA is to show that there are a large number of constituents who feel strongly about specific issues. Consider getting involved with our legislative committee. Keep on serving. For more information contact me at cpinsker@gmail.com.

WANTED!

Willing Volunteers
to assist with these
chapter committees:

- Membership
- Communications
- Community Outreach
- Legislation

Contact: marylouwassel@me.com

SERVICE WILL BE YOUR
REWARD

Virginia Congressional Delegation Luncheon

9 May 2018 - Capitol Hill Club, Washington, DC - 11:00 AM

Rank and Name: _____

Guest Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Tel: _____ Congressional District: _____ Chapter: **RAC-MOAA**

Cost: \$20.00 per person (RAC-MOAA members and spouses)
\$25.00 per person (Non-chapter members)

Amt enclosed: \$ _____ (Make check payable to "VCOC-MOAA")

- **Do not** send reservation and payment to the chapter. **Mail to:**
LtCol Jim Stephan USAF (Ret)
1707 Beach Rd
Hampton, VA 23664
- RAC-MOAA will coordinate group transportation to Washington
- Contact LTC Pinsker at 804-301-1222 to reserve your space

Treasurer's Report

Balance on Hand 1 January 2018:	\$ 25,197.56
Receipts:	<u>5,254.85</u>
Cash balance:	\$ 30,452.41
Expenditures:	<u>- 4,760.08</u>
Balance on Hand 17 April 2018:	\$ 25,692.33
Less reserves and payables:	<u>-11,008.28</u>
Unencumbered balance:	\$ 14,684.05

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

(Asst. Editor: CDR John Baumgarten)

Upcoming Events

MOAA - MOWW "ROTC Night" 30 May 2018

Come and join us for the annual MOAA - MOWW "ROTC Night" on Wednesday, 30 May 2018, with the social hour at 5:30 PM and dinner at 6:30 PM, at the Meadowbrook Country Club. The program for this meeting will feature the MOAA presentation of its annual COL Mel Drisko Memorial "Leader-Scholar" cash awards to several outstanding Junior ROTC cadets who have elected to pursue collegiate careers as military officers.

The dress for the event is "coat & tie" (ladies as appropriate). The menu will be our traditional three-entrée buffet, with salad bar, dessert bar, rolls, butter, coffee or tea. The cost is \$27.00 per person payable in advance to "RAC-MOAA." A reservation form for this event is on Page 6.



"Come Fly With the Squirrels"

Saturday, 28 July 2018

"Military Appreciation Night at The Diamond"

Please join your MOAA and MOWW comrades for a very special summer outing at the Richmond Flying Squirrels Baseball Game at "Military Appreciation Night" on Saturday, 28 July. The event will begin in The Diamond "Picnic Zone" located on the main concourse third-base side. The picnic buffet features a delicious two-hour, all-you-can-eat buffet from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. The baseball game starts at 6:00 PM.

Patrons can come and go to the Picnic Zone from their seats until 7:00 PM. At the conclusion of the game there will be a special fireworks display! The seats reserved for our group will be on the field level to afford a bird's-eye view of the game.

The buffet menu will include: grilled chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers and pulled pork sandwiches, with garden salad, cole slaw and mac n' cheese, cookies, water and Coca-Cola products.

The cost for this event will be \$30.00 per person (payable in advance to "RAC-MOAA") for all attendees over the age of four years. Attendees younger than four years (no charge for admission) must sit on their parent's lap during the game and cannot occupy a seat. There is an additional \$5.00 charge for parking payable at the stadium.

Please mark your calendars for this great event, invite friends or family members, and plan to join us. Complete and return the reservation form below using the envelope provided not later than Wednesday, 18 July. For questions or additional information, please contact LTC Owen Waltman at 804-796-1113 or owaltman@verizon.net.

As the date for the event approaches, we will contact you about how to obtain your tickets for the ball game. On your reservation form please provide your telephone number and e-mail address to facilitate our communication with you.

Flying Squirrels Reservation Form

Please make reservations for the persons listed below for the Richmond Flying Squirrels "Military Appreciation Night" picnic and ball game on Saturday, 28 July 2018. My check payable to "RAC-MOAA" is enclosed in the amount of \$_____ (**\$30.00 per person**). Reservation deadline is Wednesday, 18 July 2018.

Name and Rank: _____

Guest: _____

Guest: _____

Guest: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Chapter News

Changes Coming to Tricare Retiree Dental Program

Do you have TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) coverage? If so, you need to know that the TRDP will end on December 31, 2018. But, don't worry. Anyone who was in TRDP this year, or who would have been eligible for the TRDP plan, will be able to choose a dental plan from among 10 dental carriers in the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP).

You can begin reviewing program options now at www.opm.gov/fedvip. You'll be able to enroll in FEDVIP during the 2018 Federal Benefits Open Season, which runs from November 12 to December 10, 2018; coverage will begin on January 1, 2019.

Previously, FEDVIP wasn't available to Department of Defense beneficiaries, but it will now be available to those who would have been eligible for TRDP. As an added bonus, they will also be able to enroll in FEDVIP vision coverage, along with most active duty family members.

More than 3.3 million people are currently covered by FEDVIP. You can choose from dental plans offered by 10 different carriers. To enroll in FEDVIP Vision, you must be enrolled in a TRICARE health plan. You can decide if one of four vision plans meets your family's needs.

You may only enroll in a FEDVIP plan outside of open season if you experience a Qualifying Life Event that allows you to do so. Any election in a FEDVIP plan remains in effect for the entire calendar year.

For more information, visit the FEDVIP website at <https://tricare.benefeds.com> and sign up for e-mail notifications. You'll get an e-mail when new information is available and key dates approach. Future updates will include eligibility information, plans, carriers, rates, educational webinars and more.

(Information provided by DFAS Retiree Newsletter)

Membership Renewals Needed

Please look at Page 5. If there is a "RED" label there, it means you have not renewed membership for 2018. If you wish to renew membership complete and mail the form on Page 6 along with your check to us.

In Memoriam

Mrs Geraldine Koch
Auxiliary Member

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of this esteemed patriot of our chapter

Chapter Membership Report

	Regular	Auxiliary	Honorary	Total
January 2018:	449	82	8	539
Gains:	7	0	0	7
Losses:	1	2	0	3
May 2018:	455	80	8	543

"Walkway of Honor" Remembrance Ceremony & Reception

On Sunday, 27 May 2018, the Virginia War Memorial Foundation will host a special ceremony and reception to re-dedicate the "Walkway of Honor" which has been re-located from its original location to the Shrine of Memory.

This no-cost event is being held to honor the veterans whose names are displayed in the Walkway of Honor and to thank you for helping the War Memorial to honor Virginia veterans, preserve history, educate youth and inspire patriotism in the Commonwealth and throughout the Nation.

If you plan to attend this most patriotic event, please make your RSVP by calling 804-786-2176 or by e-mail to kbelleman@vawarmemorial.org. Please submit your RSVP not later than 21 May 2018 to facilitate planning of the ceremony.

Welcome New Members

CAPT Karl Leonard, USCGR

Capt Steven Combs, USAF

COL Norman Camp, USA

Chapter Contacts - 2018 thru 2019

Elected Officers & Directors

President	CAPT Mary Lou Wassel	804-551-1878
1st Vice-President	BG Joel McKean	804-562-8475
2nd Vice-president	LTC Craig Pinsker	804-301-1222
Past President	CAPT Hardy Josephson	804-641-9578
Secretary	LTC Terry Moore	804-739-8112
Treasurer	LTC Owen Waltman	804-796-1113
Director-at-Large	COL Don Kaiserman	804-338-3423
Director-at-Large	COL Mark Rich	804-706-6650

Appointed Directors

Member Services	CDR John Baumgarten	804-379-7586
Legislative Affairs	LTC Craig Pinsker	804-301-1222
Youth Programs	COL Alan Cunningham	804-796-7818
Personal Affairs	COL Jim Rose	804-276-6775
Transition Services	Vacant	
Publicity	COL Jim Rose	804-276-6775
Spouse Liaison	Mrs Rosemary Salcedo	804-938-9945
Hospitality	LTC Joe Tarantino	804-276-5393
Trips & Tours	LTC Owen Waltman	804-796-1113
Chaplain	LTC Ken Ruppard	804-639-0179

Urgent Chapter Dues Reminder

Our chapter records indicate that there are still members who have not yet renewed membership for 2018. Member dues are instrumental to assist RAC-MOAA with generating our newsletters, maintaining our website, funding our dinner meetings, engaging in legislative affairs and supporting community and youth programs.

It is possible that those members who opted to pay chapter dues for three years, may have resulted in some being uncertain when their membership renewals were due.

If there is a “RED” label pasted below, it means you have not renewed your membership for 2018. To renew your membership please complete the renewal form on Page 6 and send the renewal form and your dues payment in the appropriate amount for your membership category by check payable to “RAC-MOAA” using the return-mail envelope provided. **Please renew by 30 June 2018 to sustain your membership in your chapter.**

If there is no “RED” label below, it means your dues are paid-up to date or beyond and no action is required. To all chapter members, your continued support is deeply appreciated. If you have any questions concerning your membership status, or wish to discontinue your membership, contact CDR John Baumgarten at 804-379-7586 or at jabaumgarten@verizon.net.

“Regular and “auxiliary” members who need to renew chapter membership for 2018 received individual notices in their “hard-copy” newsletters mailed on 4 May 2018

“Paperless” members who need to renew chapter membership for 2018 will be contacted by e-mail

Golf Outing Silent Auction

Our chapter Treasurer has again acquired more local golf packages that are offered by silent auction for a tax-deductible minimum bid to support our Military Community Assistance Program (MCAP). Each package includes green fees and carts for 4 players (* except as noted):

- Magnolia Green – play Mon–Fri, min. bid \$175, exp. 12/31/18
- Meadowbrook CC – play Mon-Fri, min. bid \$225, exp. 11/30/18
- * Mill Quarter – play any day, pay for carts, min. bid \$150, no exp.
- Salisbury CC – play Tue-Fri, min. bid \$225, exp. 11/4/18
- Stonehenge CC – play Tue-Sun, min. bid \$200, exp. 12/31/18
- * Willow Oaks CC – play Tue-Thr, pay for carts, min. bid \$160, exp. 12/31/18

Bidding closes on 14 June. Winning bidders will be notified by LTC Waltman to send their payment to RAC-MOAA and will receive a certificate for the package.

Submit bids by email to owaltman@verizon.net. Questions: Call LTC Waltman at 804-796-1113.

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

Chapter Database or E-mail Address Corrections

Please make the following changes to the RAC-MOAA Membership Database and/or my e-mail address:

Request you add ZipCode Plus 4, if this is not already on your address label, or of this is a change of address. The Plus 4 gives you much faster mail delivery service. Thank you. Keeping us informed of address changes saves money.

Richmond Area Chapter 2018 Membership Renewal

Select Dues Amount
From the Table Below

Your name & rank: _____

- Regular Membership: _____ 1-year \$20.00 _____ 3-years \$50.00
- Paperless Membership: _____ 1-year \$10.00 _____ 3-years \$25.00
- Auxiliary Membership: _____ 1-year \$10.00 _____ 3-years \$25.00

Please select and check the membership category for which you are renewing membership. Please send this form and your check in the selected amount to: Richmond Area Chapter - MOAA, P. O. Box 72604, Richmond, VA 23235-8017.

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.*

Printed Name and Rank: _____

May 2018 Dinner Meeting Reservation

Please make reservations for _____ persons for the dinner meeting on **Wednesday, 30 May 2018** at the Meadowbrook Country Club. My check for \$ _____ (**\$27.00 per person**) payable to "**RAC-MOAA**" is enclosed. The deadline for reservations is Friday, 25 May 2018.

Buffet Menu

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

Rank and name: _____

Guest(s): _____

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

Check here if you need
a ride to the meeting