

The Patriot



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



The President's Corner by CAPT Mary Lou Wassel

Greetings All. At our January dinner meeting we honored and celebrated the lives of 24 departed friends and comrades concluding with a very special memorial service and taps. LTCs Joe Tarantino, Owen Waltman, and Ken Ruppert deserve individual commendations for all their efforts in coordinating the many details and arrangements. Thank you to all who attended.

On our local legislative front, it's been a very interesting session in the Virginia General Assembly. The presence of many newly elected delegates and staff combined with the move to the Pocahontas Building led to some major last minute adjustments for all as the session began.

At the time of this writing, positive progress has been made on three Joint Leadership Council (JLC) Initiatives. Please see LTC Pinsker's Legislative Update for more details. On February 2, CAPT Hardy Josephson, LTC Craig Pinsker and I joined District 1 Congressman Rob Wittman at his Veterans Advisory Council Meeting at VFW Post 9808 in Mechanicsville. This meeting and the following session with Congressman Wittman were valuable (see photo below).

As I write this message, it's a cold and rainy Saturday in mid-February, but I'm hopeful that we will soon say goodbye to winter and welcome spring. Spring is generally considered the season of new beginnings.

Our Board of Directors will soon be meeting for a half-day Strategic Planning Session, and I look forward to sharing our results in the May newsletter. We are still recruiting additional people for our Board and Committees. Please contact me directly or any Board member for more information or if you'd like to serve. Additionally, we are very interested in new ideas for member meetings or social activities. I welcome hearing from **YOU!**

Please register today for our March 28 dinner meeting featuring Art Wingo, a talented historian who will discuss the famous Richmond Chimborazo Hospital. Bring a friend to join us!



RAC-MOAA Led VCOC in Recruiting for 2017

According to MOAA's year-end Chapter Recruiting Report, RAC-MOAA recruited more new members than all the other 17 MOAA chapters in Virginia combined. All told, our chapter recruited 41 new members which helped earn the VCOC a fourth-quarter 2017 recruiting bonus of \$250. RAC-MOAA will also receive a payment of \$390 for its efforts.

MOAA - MOWW Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, 28 March

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. Art Wingo
History of Chimborazo
Hospital

(Reservation form on Page 6)

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Legislative Update by LTC Craig Pinsker

RAC-MOAA members have been advocating for our state initiatives. Our legislature got a late start this year because of delays in determining which party would be leading the House of Delegates. Because of construction of the new General Assembly building, we were unable to secure space for our usual "Storming the Hill" at the General Assembly.

In addition, the hotel where we had reservations for representatives from other Virginia chapters, was sold and that was also lost. But MOAA members have been advocating individually and attending the weekly Wednesday Military and Veteran Caucus. These meetings are open to all of us. It is nice to see our elected officials working together on our non-partisan issues (anyone interested in these meetings should contact me at cpinsker@gmail.com or call 804-301-1222).

Although nothing is final until bills are passed by both houses and signed by the Governor, there is reason for some optimism. Our three highest priority issues look good. Legislation to provide parity for surviving spouses of 100% disabled veterans and those killed in action, is moving along. We are optimistic that electronic voting for troops overseas will move forward. Hopefully administrative action will create the establishment of the Veteran Entrepreneur Capital Resources Program without new legislation. The Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program is still a work in progress. Income tax subtraction for military veterans with a permanent service-connected disability legislation was punted to next year. You can find more information through this link: <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?181+lst+INT2018-01-10e>.

National MOAA has ten issues that we can summarize as follows: (1) Strongly support the Guard and Reserve, as they are not just in reserve, but a part of our active force. (2) Health care support for all aspects of the military community. (3) Understand that in an all volunteer force, reimbursement competes with the private sector. (4) End financial penalties to survivors and dependents.

Anyone concerned about the future for our children and grandchildren would be wise to get involved in advocacy. I think you would find it as interesting as I do

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	COL Bill Barrett	804-245-4724
Publicity	COL Jim Rose	804-276-6775
Spouse Liaison	Mrs Rosemary Salcedo	804-538-9945
Hospitality	LTC Joe Tarantino	804-276-5393
Trips & Tours	Vacant	
Chaplain	LTC Ken Ruppard	804-639-0179

Chapter Membership Report

	Reg	Aux	Hon	Total
1 January 2018:	449	82	8	539
Gains:	3	0	0	3
Losses:	1	1	0	2
20 February 2018:	451	81	8	540

Welcome New Members

COL Kevin M. Jones, USA
COL Morton C. Mumma, USAF
MAJ Donald Nicholas, USMC

In Memoriam

MAJ Vincent Bass, USA
LTC Edward Ward, USA
LTC Glenn Pratt, USA
Jean Rose, Wife of COL James T. Rose Jr.

Treasurer's Report

Balance on Hand 1 January 2018:	\$ 25,198.00
Receipts:	<u>2,685.00</u>
Cash balance:	\$ 27,883.00
Expenditures:	<u>- 3,522.00</u>
Balance on Hand 19 February 2018:	\$ 24,361.00
Less reserves and payables:	<u>- 12,743.00</u>
Unencumbered balance:	\$ 11,618.00

The Patriot

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Send articles or comments to:

Richmond Area Chapter - MOAA
ATTN: Newsletter Editor

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

(Editor: CDR John Baumgarten)

Upcoming Events

28 March 2018 Beyond the Fame and Notoriety: Medical Marvels at Richmond's Chimborazo Hospital

Please mark your calendars today for the 28 March dinner meeting at Meadowbrook Country Club. Our guest speaker will be Art Wingo, Master Volunteer with the National Park Service Richmond National Battlefield and a featured interpreter at the Chimborazo Medical Hospital Museum.

Mr. Wingo will discuss this famous hospital's construction, management and closing. This presentation will also highlight the doctors, staff and medical practices during the civil war in the context of Chimborazo's operation. Models of the past and present structures will be displayed.



23 May 2018 Annual ROTC Night

Be sure to join us at the Meadowbrook Country Club on 23 May for our annual "ROTC Night," where we present \$1,000 Leader-Scholar awards to senior-year Junior ROTC cadets who have been accepted into collegiate ROTC or service-academy programs in pursuit of careers as military officers.

Since these awards were established in 2002 by the late COL Melville A. Drisko Jr., our chapter has presented these awards to several dozen outstanding cadets. As you will note on Page 6, we are close to achieving our goal of \$5,000 for this year's awards, but your continued financial support will allow us to recognize even more deserving JROTC students.

Come Fly With The Squirrels - 28 July 2018

Make a tentative mark on your calendars for what we hope will be our third-annual mid-summer outing to The Diamond baseball park for "Military Appreciation Night" on Saturday, 28 July. This event is still in its early planning stages, so nothing is firm as yet. If we succeed in planning and scheduling this event, which includes the ball game and a picnic buffet, details and a reservation form will appear in our May 2018 newsletter.



RAC-MOAA Continues to Support Our Military Community

Shown below is a summary of the donations made from the chapter's Military Community Assistance Program (MCAP) during calendar year 2017:

• Families of the Wounded Fund	\$1,000
• The Fisher House	500
• McGuire VA Spinal Cord Injury Unit	1,000
• National Guard Foundation	250
• Virginia Tech For Troops	500
• USO Facility at Richmond Airport	1,000
• Virginia War Memorial	250
• Veterans Services Foundation	<u>500</u>
Total donations:	\$5,000

Our chapter very much appreciates the MCAP contributions made by our members to make these donations possible. As you may expect, these donations have largely depleted our MCAP funds. Therefore, we encourage you to consider making additional generous tax-deductible contributions to the MCAP so we may continue and expand these charitable giving activities during 2018.

A donation form for this purpose can be found on Page 4. Thanks.

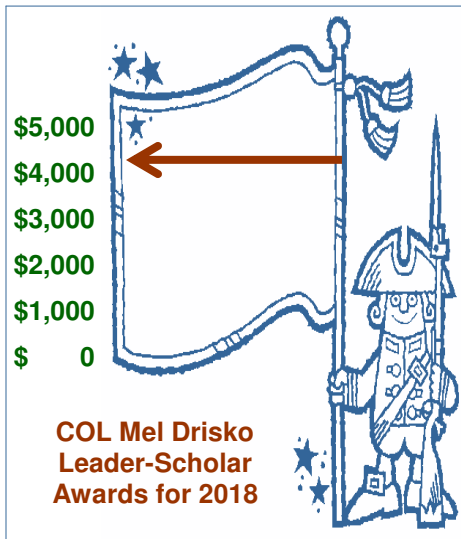
Volunteer to Help Your Chapter

As mentioned by our President on Page 1, we have several vacancies on our Board of Directors which need to be filled to help operate and administer the programs of RAC-MOAA. We also need chapter members to volunteer to serve on various committees. With 540 members on our roster, we are confident that there are many who have the skills we need. Contact us and get involved today!

Forms & Reservations

To reply, use the envelope enclosed. If the envelope is missing, or you read our newsletter via e-mail or on our website, send 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.

Help Recognize America's Future Officers

Why not take this opportunity to help RAC-MOAA reach its Year 2018 program goal of \$5,000 for the chapter's *COL Mel Drisko Memorial Leader-Scholar Fund*. As shown by the flag on the left, some chapter members have already helped us make progress toward our goal. Join this philanthropic group today by making your personal contribution to the Leader-Scholar Fund.

COL Mel Drisko Leader-Scholar Awards Contribution

I wish to contribute \$ _____ to support the *COL Mel Drisko Memorial Leader-Scholar Awards Fund*. This fund provides monetary awards for senior-year JROTC cadets who have demonstrated the leadership and scholastic ability to pursue collegiate careers as military officers. *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.*

Printed Name and Rank: _____

March 2018 Dinner Meeting Reservation

Please make reservations for _____ persons for the dinner meeting on **Wednesday, 28 March 2018** at the **Meadowbrook Country Club**. My check for \$ _____ (**\$27.00 per person**) payable to "**RAC-MOAA**" is enclosed.

Buffet Menu

Rank and name: _____

Guest(s): _____

**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

**Deadline for reservations or cancellations
Friday, 23 March 2018**