

# The Patriot



Richmond Area Chapter - Military Officers Association of America - January 2019



## The President's Corner by CAPT Mary Lou Wassel

Happy New Year, All!

2018 was a milestone year for RAC-MOAA that ended with a grand celebration of our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a MOAA chapter with 80 participants at our Holiday Gala on December 7<sup>th</sup> at Meadowbrook Country Club. Special thanks are extended to Owen and Betty Waltman who managed so many of the details making the night so amazing including, but not limited to, all the coordination with the club, securing the Meadowbrook Ensemble entertainment, making the beautiful table arrangements (thank you, Betty), and designing the beautiful programs. Please see the photos on Page 5 and more on the website at [www.racmoaa.org/Photos](http://www.racmoaa.org/Photos).

With the launching of our upgraded website last November, individuals can now renew their membership and pay for upcoming events conveniently online. Membership renewal notices have been mailed, and we hope everyone will renew for the coming 1 to 3 years. If you have any questions regarding your membership status, you can check on-line or contact John Baumgarten, Membership Director at 804-379-7586 or [jbaumgarten@verizon.net](mailto:jbaumgarten@verizon.net).

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, RAC-MOAA co-sponsored our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Legislative Forum with Southside Chapter of MOAA. Please see the Legislative Update on Page 2 for more information and a listing of the 2019 JLC Initiatives. All members are encouraged to read the initiatives and ask your legislators for their support.

For a change of pace, our chapter will host a Brunch Meeting and Memorial Service on Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> in lieu of an evening dinner meeting in January. This weekend, daytime format may enable more members to participate, especially during the winter months. We hope to see you there.

Our chapter has a CRITICAL NEED for an individual willing to assist as our webmaster. If you, your spouse, your child or grandchild has computer experience and is willing to assist, please contact me or any member of our Board for further information. The webmaster does not need to serve as a member of the Board to fill this position. Please see the ad on Page 3 for more information.

In closing, I would like to thank all the members of the Board of Directors for their dedication and support of our chapter. Please remember that it is our chapter and we welcome your assistance and participation. Please consider sharing your talents with us. If you have any feedback or questions about any chapter initiatives, please do not hesitate to contact me at [marylouwassel@me.com](mailto:marylouwassel@me.com) or 804-551-1878.

Best wishes to you and yours for a happy, healthy New Year.

## MCAP Desperately Needs Your Support

As of December 2018, the balance in the chapter's Military Community Assistance Program (MCAP) account has fallen to a level that prohibits our ability to assist charitable organizations supporting the military and veterans communities of Virginia.

We recognize that requests for donations this time of year are numerous. If you are able, please consider contributing to our Military Community Assistance Program (MCAP) fund either by using the form on Page 6 or donate on-line at our website at [racmoaa-org.vps-vetventures-org.vps.ezhostingserver.com/Donations](http://racmoaa-org.vps-vetventures-org.vps.ezhostingserver.com/Donations).

## MOAA

Sunday Brunch

3 February 2019

12:30 PM

Meadowbrook Country Club

### Menu

Omelet Station

Waffle Station

Carved Ham

Fried Chicken & More

Fruit Tray

Assorted Desserts

**\$27.00 Per Person**  
(Dress: Business Casual)

### Program

CPT Matt Pinsker

Border Security Briefing

**Annual Memorial Ceremony**

(Reservation form on Page 6)

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## Legislative Update by MAJ Mariah White

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual MOAA Legislative Forum was co-sponsored by the Richmond Area and Southside Chapters of MOAA on Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:00 AM at the American Legion Department of Virginia office on Commonwealth Avenue in Richmond.

MOAA chapter leaders had the opportunity to present and discuss the 2019 Joint Leadership Council (JLC) Policy Initiatives with our Senators, Delegates, and their Legislative Aides in attendance (see photo below). A list of the seven initiatives and a link to the JLC website where the Summary Page and each initiative's position paper can be downloaded is provided below:

- JLC 2019-01 Increased State Active Duty (SAD) Pay
- JLC 2019-02 Income Tax Subtraction for Certain Low-Income 100% Disabled Veterans
- JLC 2019-03 Electronic Return of State Election Ballots by Deployed Virginia Military Personnel
- JLC 2019-04 Personal Property Tax Relief for Certain Disabled Veterans
- JLC 2019-05 Free State Tuition for Virginia National Guardsmen
- JLC 2019-06 Removing Combat Requirement for VMSDEP
- JLC 2019-07 Phased in System for Partial State Tax Exemption for Military Retirement Income

For more information and copies of each initiative's position paper, go to: [www.dvs.virginia.gov/dvs/joint-leadership-council-veterans-service-organizations-2](http://www.dvs.virginia.gov/dvs/joint-leadership-council-veterans-service-organizations-2).

The Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC) of MOAA will be participating the JLC Day at the General Assembly on Wednesday, 16 January, beginning with the General Assembly Military & Veteran Caucus Meeting at 0800 at the Pocahontas Building. Join us if you can and please also schedule a meeting or at least a phone call with your elected leaders to share and ask their support for these important veteran issues. For more information, please contact Mariah White at [mwhite712@comcast.net](mailto:mwhite712@comcast.net) or at (804) 350- 0189.



### Treasurer's Report

Balance on Hand 1 January 2018:	\$ 25,198.00
Receipts:	<u>19,430.00</u>
Cash balance:	\$ 44,628.00
Expenditures:	<u>- 18,807.00</u>
Balance on Hand 31 December 2018:	\$ 25,821.00
Less reserves and payables:	<u>-16,056.00</u>
Unencumbered balance:	\$ 9,765.00

### 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

## Upcoming Events

## Sunday Brunch, 3 February 2019

For our first meeting in 2019, we will try something new and different to make it more convenient for a greater number of members to attend. On Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, a brunch is scheduled to begin at 12:30 PM at the Meadowbrook Country Club to be immediately followed by a short briefing on Border Security and our annual Memorial Service, where we will honor twelve deceased chapter members and spouses.

The brunch will feature a very special speaker, Matt Pinsker, JD, LL.M. Matt is a RAC-MOAA member with a Richmond law practice specializing in criminal defense. Additionally, he is an Adjunct Professor of Homeland Security at Virginia Commonwealth University, teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in this subject. He authored the text book in use for undergraduate students.

Serving as Captain in the Army Reserve Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps, Matt recently returned from a six-month mobilization assignment attached to the Department of Justice working as a federal special prosecutor on southern border crimes and illegal immigration. He will provide a factual update on border security and share select, unclassified portions of his first-hand experience with several hot-button issues involving cartels, caravans, migrants, asylum seekers, the National Guard, and Border Patrol.

The brunch menu includes an omelet bar, waffle bar, ham carving station, fried chicken, potatoes, vegetables, fruit tray, assorted desserts, coffee and tea. The cost for the brunch is \$27 per person including taxes and gratuities.



All guests are welcome. Dress for this meeting will be business casual. We hope you will attend to learn more about this timely topic and help honor and remember those chapter members and spouses who passed away during 2018.



## Annual Memorial Ceremony

In keeping with our chapter's tradition, we will pause after our February brunch to honor and remember those chapter members and spouses who passed away during 2018. The chapter members and spouses to be recognized include:

Patricia Ashlaw, Auxiliary Member  
LCDR Gilbert P. Bowman, USN  
Mary E. Jonas, Auxiliary Member  
Geraldine Koch, Auxiliary Member  
Jean Rose, Spouse  
LtCol Edward Ward, USAF

MAJ Vincent Bass, USA  
CAPT Otis P. Daily, USN  
COL Roland R. Kessler, USA  
LTC Glenn Pratt, USA  
CW4 John D. Velleca, USA  
Bettie Weaver, Auxiliary Member

If any chapter member knows of other members or spouses who passed away during 2018, please contact COL Jim Rose at 804-276-6775 or [jjimrose1@verizon.net](mailto:jjimrose1@verizon.net) by 15 January 2019.

## Webmaster Needed for RAC-MOAA

Our chapter is seeking a webmaster for our updated website launched in November 2018. Our site is now hosted through an external vendor who also hosts several other MOAA chapters and many other military non-profit groups. The webmaster does not need to serve as a board member, and the position can be filled by a member or acquaintance of a member. Individuals with recent basic computer skills are highly desirable. This volunteer position is very flexible and can be performed around the schedule of a busy working or non-working person. Basic training for the new webmaster will be provided by the current webmaster and the President.

Duties for the webmaster include: serving as a key member of the Website Administrative Team along with other key board members; responding to member inquiries received through the website; acting as the chapter point of contact for queries with our vendor on updates that may require programming changes; and assisting in producing reports and e-mails requested by the President or other members of the board. To express your interest, offer suggestions for candidates, or obtain more information, please contact Mary Lou Wassel at [marylouwassel@me.com](mailto:marylouwassel@me.com) or 804-551-1878.

## Chapter News

### Projected 2019 Calendar of Events

3 February - Sunday Brunch  
 27 March - Program TBD  
 22 May - JROTC Night  
 27 July - Squirrels Baseball  
 25 September - Program TBD  
 13 November - Veterans Day  
 6 December - Holiday Gala

All events (except the baseball outing) will be held at the Meadowbrook Country Club at 3800 Cogbill Road in Richmond.

Event times, programs, menus and dress code will be specified in future newsletters.

All chapter members are welcome and encouraged to attend as well as any invited guests.



Pictured above, chapter member LTC Ken Rupp presents a check for the Families of the Wounded Fund to Bill Beedenbender of the Birkdale Country Club on Veterans Day 2018. The money was donated from the RAC-MOAA MCAP Fund.

### Chapter Membership Report

	Regular	Auxiliary	Honorary	Total
January 2018:	449	82	8	539
Gains:	10	4	1	15
Losses:	20	8	0	28
December 2018:	439	78	9	526

# Happy New Year 2019

### Welcome New Members

**LTC Peter Plourd, USA**  
**LTC Michael Werner, USA**  
**Mrs Margaret Velleca**  
 Auxiliary Member

### Chapter Contacts - 2018 thru 2019

#### Elected Officers & Directors

President	CAPT Mary Lou Wassel	804-551-1878
1st Vice-President	Vacant	
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
Director-at-Large	MAJ Mariah White	804-350-0189
Director-at-Large	MAJ Paul Willard	540-793-0153

#### Appointed Directors

Member Services	CDR John Baumgarten	804-379-7586
Legislative Affairs	MAJ Mariah White	804-350-0189
Youth Programs	MAJ Paul Willard	540-793-0153
Personal Affairs	COL Jim Rose	804-276-6775
Transition Services	Vacant	
Publicity	COL Jim Rose	804-276-6775
Auxiliary Affairs	Mrs Rosemary Salcedo	804-938-9945
Hospitality	LTC Joe Tarantino	804-276-5393
Trips & Tours	LTC Owen Waltman	804-796-1113
Chaplain	LTC Ken Rupp	804-639-0179

### In Memoriam

**CW4 John D. Velleca**  
 United States Army  
 December 2018

**Mrs Bettie Weaver**  
 Auxiliary Member  
 December 2018

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

## 60th Anniversary Holiday Gala Photos



RAC-MOAA President CAPT Mary Lou Wassel receives the 60th Anniversary certificate from MOAA President LtGen Dana Atkins



Our 60th Anniversary cake which was cut and served to all who attended the Holiday Gala



LTC Joe Tarantino, Pencye Bailey and CDR John Baumgarten make the ceremonial cut into the anniversary cake.



LTC Joe Tarantino, Pencye Bailey and COL Don Kaiserman with LtGen Atkins and CAPT Wassel after receipt of MOAA's Distinguished Service Award.



Pencye Bailey and her family who attended the gala to accept a posthumous MOAA Distinguished Service Award on behalf of their late patriarch MAJ Ryland Bailey.



LtGen Atkins congratulates CDR John Baumgarten on his receipt of the MOAA Distinguished Service Award.

## 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:

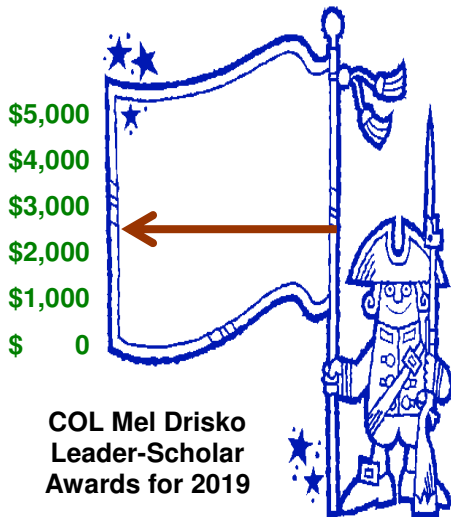
**Richmond Area Chapter  
MOAA  
P. O. Box 72604  
Richmond, VA 23235-8017**

Members can also update contact information, register for events, pay chapter dues and make donations on our website at [www.racmoaa.org](http://www.racmoaa.org)

## 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 2019 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: support for wounded warriors and their families; memorials for troops killed-in-action; 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## February 2019 Brunch Meeting Reservation

Please make reservations for \_\_\_\_\_ persons for the brunch meeting on **Sunday, 3 February 2019 at 12:30 PM** 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): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Omelet Station  
Waffle Station  
Carved Ham  
Fried Chicken  
Potatoes & Vegetables  
Assorted Desserts  
Beverages**

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  
Wednesday, 29 January**