

The Patriot



Richmond Area Chapter - Military Officers Association of America - September 2020



The President's Corner by COL Mark Rich

I hope you and your families are healthy and safe. With reduced contact, canceled vacations, unknown and evolving school and childcare situations, and travel restrictions, more than ever it's important to stay connected. Isolation can be a huge issue. Frequent contact – Facebook, email, texting, Zoom, and telephone, are benefits of our modern technology (plus the old standbys of cards and letters). I urge you to use these often to stay connected with friends and loved ones. This applies to our RAC-MOAA family too. We miss the in-person opportunities. Our member events are still on hold – September's brunch is cancelled, and we will see how the fall develops. But it is likely we won't be able to meet in person until 2021. Your board meets via

Zoom and committees are doing what they can. To offer alternative member options we urge you to look at the on-line military programs offered by the Virginia War Memorial. Details for the upcoming September program are listed separately in this newsletter. We plan to continue informing you of future events at the VWM.

A bright spot has been RAC-MOAA's 5-star Level of Excellence for 2019 – our 18th year in a row of the coveted 5-Star award by the Military Officers Association of America.

The pandemic has challenged us to be creative. Zoom is an example – although it started 8-9 years ago it has become a household name starting with the pandemic. I invite you to submit your ideas for ways to help your chapter stay connected and active. We welcome volunteers on committees and the board of directors. IT and newsletter editor expertise would be especially helpful. As always, donations to COL Mel Drisko Leader-Scholar Awards Fund (which supports our JROTC program) and the Military Community Assistance Program or MCAP are always appreciated.

Your board of directors remains committed to the goals of our chapter. We regularly meet via Zoom, emails and telephone. ROTC and JROTC programs are actively monitored and supported. Contact with elected officials are conducted in support of veteran issues. Donations and support of veteran programs continue. I thank you all for continuing to support RAC-MOAA and look forward to when we can get together again in person

RAC-MOAA

**Dinner Meeting
27 SEPTEMBER 2020
CANCELLED
DUE TO COVID-19**

**Next Meeting and Holiday Gala are tentatively Scheduled for
25 October 2020 and 11 December 2020 at the Meadowbrook Country Club**

Watch for updates on our web page as events are fluid due to COVID-19 restrictions and availability of Meadowbrook.

Important News from Headquarters MOAA

For 2019, the Richmond Area Chapter (RAC-MOAA) was selected for the 18th consecutive year as a five-star chapter for excellence. This award has only been available since 2002, which means that RAC-MOAA has won this award every year since it was instituted. Based on our research, we are the only chapter that won this award for all years it was available.

Read this newsletter on our webpage at: <http://www.racmoaa.org/Newsletter>

In This Issue

President's Corner	1
Cdr Baumgarten	2
JROTC and ROTC	3
Chapter News	4

Memorial to CDR JOHN A. BAUMGARTEN, SC, USN, RET

John Alan Baumgarten was born on September 8, 1948 and passed away on June 3, 2020. He was preceded in death by his wife of more than 50 years and the love of his life, Julia Elena. A graveside service was held on July 6, 2020 at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Amelia, VA, where they were buried together.

Commander John A. Baumgarten, Supply Corps, Retired, served in the U.S. Navy from 1967 to 1994 including seven years enlisted and 20 years commissioned service. His duty assignments, to name a few, include posts in Puerto Rico, Connecticut, Hawaii, Rhode Island, Georgia, and Virginia. Highlights include initial enlisted service in military police and criminal investigative assignments before the NESEP Program and transitioning as an officer working in multiple submarine and supply roles. He attended Naval Command & Staff College and served as Supply Officer on the USS John F. Kennedy during the Persian Gulf War.

John earned the following professional degrees: BS in Applied Science, Miami University, Oxford, OH; MBA in Business Analysis, Miami University, Oxford, OH; MA in National Security & Strategic Studies, Naval War College, Newport, RI; and MA in Internal Relations, Salve Regina University, Newport, RI. Many members of the Richmond Area Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (RAC-MOAA) remember John being the first person to contact them and recruit them to the chapter. He was a long-term, committed volunteer leader in both the Richmond Area Chapter and the Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC). His leadership positions included:

Richmond Area Chapter:

President (2005; 2008 –2009)
Vice Pres (2000-2004; 2006-2007; 2009-2011)
Secretary (1993 – 2004)
Program Chair (2004)
Webmaster (1998-2018)
Membership Chair (1993-2019)
Newsletter Editor (1998-2019)

Virginia Council of Chapters:

2nd VP (2012 – 2014)
3rd Vice Chair (2010 – 2011)
Membership Chair (2011 – 2014)

MOAA Awards Received:

Oct 12, 2011 – Outstanding Service Award
Nov 9, 2015 – Chairman’s Award
Dec 7, 2018 – Distinguished Service Award



John Receiving Distinguished Service Award from Dana Atkins, Lt Gen, USAF (Ret), President and CEO of MOAA, at 60th Anniversary of RAC-MOAA, 7 December 2018.

John also served for many years as a dedicated volunteer leader for the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) including commander of the MOWW Region IV, commander of the Richmond Chapter, and Newsletter Editor for many years.

Serving as a leader throughout his lifetime, John touched the lives of many. We wish our friend “Fair Winds and Following Seas.”

Treasurer’s Report

Cash Balance on Hand 18 Aug 2020:	\$ 26,800.32
Prepaid Expenses—2020 Gala Deposit	500.00
Encumbered Funds	
Drisko Leader/Scholar Fund (JROTC)	4,730.04
MCAP	2,880.27
Prepaid Dues	2,286.00
Total Encumbered and Payables:	9,896.31

Unencumbered Balance

\$ 16,904.01

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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: COL Alan Cunningham)



Like all academic programs, the COVID-19 Pandemic has had, and continues to have, a major impact on our supported high school JROTC Programs. Notwithstanding, given your generous support and the endeavors of the respective high school faculty members, we awarded two (2) scholarships under the Colonel Mel Drisko JROTC \$1,000 Leader-Scholar Award and recognized eight (8) JROTC awardees under the Award of Merit Program.

Scholarship Awards were presented to: Cadet Captain Joseph Moore, a product of the NJROTC Program at Patrick Henry High School, who received a \$1,000 Scholarship and joined the United States Air Force Academy Cadet Wing in June; Cadet Lieutenant Alexander S. Wade, Meadowbrook High School and the NJROTC Program at James River High School who also received a \$1,000 Scholarship and is enrolled at Old Dominion University. He is presently attending New Student Indoctrination (NSI) in Great Lakes, Illinois.

The eight (8) JROTC Awards of Merit were presented to the following Rising High School Seniors for their demonstrated academic excellence and potential of military leadership: Cadet Walter Dickerson, Charles City High School; Cadet Ens Caleb Bourne, Lee Davis High School; Cadet Miles Moten, Benedictine College Prep; Cadet Petty Officer Amaya Mayo, Henrico High School; Cadet Chief Petty Officer Shaun Finchum, James River High School; Cadet MSgt Dustin Marshall, Monacan High School; Cadet 2nd Lt. John Drilling, J. R. Tucker High School; and Cadet Deja Graham, Franklin Military Academy.

The RAC-MOAA Board is currently engaged with the JROTC staff members at the remaining seventeen high schools in anticipation of making additional Merit Program Awards early in the upcoming academic year.

Your continued support of our RAC-MOAA JROTC/Youth Programs is appreciated.

The ROTC Awards Program was put on hold as all classes and the awards ceremony were cancelled by the University of Richmond. The UR's Spider Battalion consists of students from the following host university and partnership schools: University of Richmond; Virginia Commonwealth University; Longwood University; Randolph-Macon College; Hampden-Sydney College; and Virginia Union University. RAC-MOAA provides six outstanding junior cadet awards representing the best cadets in the Spider Battalion. This year the six juniors selected for the MOAA Awards are: John R. Barton – UR; Emilio A. Deltoro Calderon – UR; Khalid E. Elshowaya – VCU; Nathanael E. Gaines Jr. – VCU; Riley R. Carrigan – Hampden-Sydney College; and Curran P. Atkinson – Longwood University. These outstanding cadets will be presented their awards when classes resume and the Military Science Department notifies us of the rescheduled awards ceremony.

Chapter News

UPCOMING VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL EVENTS

Virginia's Annual Patriot Day Ceremony Friday, September 11th. Due to the ongoing public health concerns, this event will be livestreamed from this webpage beginning at 7 p.m. The ceremony will include remarks by War Memorial Director, Dr. Clay Mountcastle, and a moment of silence to remember and honor the people killed on September 11, 2001 in the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and the airplane crash in Pennsylvania that combined, claimed more than 3,000 lives. For further information go to:

<https://vawarmemorial.org/events/patriotday2020/>

Never Forgotten: The Mission to Bring our MIAs Home—A discussion with COL (ret) Bob Gahagan Taking place on National POW/MIA Day, 18 September 2020 at 1 pm. This program will feature a discussion with Bob Gahagan, a former leader with the Joint Task Force - Full Accounting (JTF-FA) on the ongoing mission to locate all missing American servicemen and to bring them home. Points of discussion will be the history behind the task force (now Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency), how the search for missing Americans is conducted, and the importance of never forgetting. Here is the link for registering for the POW/MIA livestream event:

<https://vawarmemorial.org/learn/livestreams/>

To view some of the past programs go to:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/6977688>

Chapter Contacts - 2020 to 2021

Elected Officers & Directors

President	COL Mark Rich	804-706-6650
1st Vice-President	Vacant	
2nd Vice-president	LTC Craig Pinsker	804-301-1222
Past President	CAPT Mary Lou Wassel	804-551-1878
Secretary	LTC Terry Moore	804-739-8112
Treasurer	LTC Owen Waltman	804-796-1113
Director-at-Large	COL Ken Childers	804-739-5581
Director-at-Large	LTC Clay Mountcastle	804-786-2060
Director-at-Large	MAJ Mariah White	804-350-0189
Director-at-Large	CW4 Mike Werner	215-757-1144

Appointed Directors

Member Services	CAPT Mary Lou Wassel	804-551-1878
Legislative Affairs	MAJ Mariah White	804-350-0189
Youth Programs	COL Ken Childers	804-739-5581
Personal Affairs	CW4 Mike Werner	215-757-1144
Transition Services	Vacant	
Publicity	Vacant	
Auxiliary Affairs	Mrs Rosemary Salcedo	804-938-9945
Hospitality	LTC Terry Moore	804-739-8112
Special Programs	LTC Owen Waltman	804-796-1113
Chaplain	LTC Ken Ruppard	804-639-0179
Webmaster	COL Alan Cunningham	804-796-7818

Membership Report

	Regular	Auxiliary	Honorary	Total
15 Aug 2020:	294	41	10	345

Forms

If the reply 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

Changes and contributions can be made online.

Chapter Database or E-mail Address Corrections

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

Request you add Zip Code Plus 4. The Plus 4 gives you faster mail delivery. Thanks, 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 2016 program goal for the chapter's *COL Mel Drisko Memorial Leader-Scholar Fund*. Join this philanthropic group today by making your personal contribution.

COL Mel Drisko Leader-Scholar Awards Contribution

I wish to contribute \$ _____ to support the *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.*

Enclose check payable to RAC-MOAA & put Leader-Scholar Award in comments.

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: Wounded warriors and their families; The Fisher House at McGuire VAMC, Sitter-Barfoot Veterans Center, The Spinal Cord Injury Unit Recreation Services, USO, and other means of worthwhile support for the military and veterans communities of Virginia. *All contributions are tax-deductible.*

Enclosed check payable to RAC-MOAA & put MCAP in comments.

Printed Name and Rank: _____