

**Richmond Area Chapter – MOAA
Board of Director Minutes
16 April 2025**

Meeting was called to order by CAPT Wassel.

Invocation was led by LTC Ruppar followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of MIDN Anthony (Ant) Williamson 3/C, USMMA Class of 2027. Ant was one our 2023 Drisko Award winners. He gave us a very interesting update on his activities at the USMMA. He is a very personable young man and we all enjoyed meeting him.

The minutes were accepted with slight amendments.

LTC Waltman presented a financial update and his report was accepted. He reported that revenue for the year is \$400 in excess of expenses, and there is over \$4,000 available for the Drisko leader scholar award, allowing for three \$1,000 scholarships next month. He reported an outstanding \$400 payment to the Sitter Barfoot Veteran Care Center that has not yet cleared. He noted that interest rates on savings certificates are decreasing, but the organization's savings continue to earn reasonable interest. He confirmed that the recent fraudulent transactions against their accounts have been resolved without any financial loss to the organization. We discussed the issue of audits and concluded an internal review was all that is needed. A subcommittee was formed to include LTC Waltman, LCDR Sine, and LTC Ruppar to review the financials.

LCDR Sine provided a legislative update.

Next steps

Find and upload missing 2024 newsletter to the website (Nahm).

Research and coordinate the purchase
of a chapter Zoom subscription
(Wassel)

Contact Dorothy Verde regarding potential outreach to former Southside chapter members (Wassel)

Add Prince George High School
JROTC program to the database for
next year's awards program (Sine)

Amend March meeting minutes to update section 3c regarding financial review discussion (Rich)

Maintain contact information of ROTC award recipients for future engagement (Sine)

Follow up with Fort Greg Adams about recruiting retiring military personnel and ROTC members (Nahm).

Set up PayPal link on the website for meeting payments (Wassel and Nahm)

Zoom Account Subscription for Board Meetings

The board discussed the possibility of obtaining a Zoom account subscription for the chapter. The cost of the annual subscription is \$160, and it would allow members of the board to use the account for meetings. A motion was passed to purchase the Zoom account for the organization, with Alan suggesting that the webmaster should manage it. The board agreed to the motion, with John volunteering to learn more about Zoom. The annual subscription would provide a slight savings compared to a monthly subscription.

Chapter Membership and Outreach Discussion

CAPT Wassel reported that the chapter has 182 paid members, with 119 being paperless, 42 regular, and 21 surviving step files for life. She also mentioned that there were 17 members who did not renew and one who renewed late. Mary is working with MOAA to contact former members of the disbanded Southside chapter and invite them to join the current chapter. LCDR Sine shared a conversation with a surviving spouse who might be able to reach out to some former members. CAPT Wassel plans to call the surviving spouse for further discussion.

MOAA Legislative Update and Advocacy

LCDR Sine provided a legislative update focusing on MOAA's advocacy efforts. The report covers five key areas: unaccompanied housing improvements, addressing toxic waste exposure acknowledgment, military health system access, veteran caregiving support improvements, and related legislation. The update includes links for members to easily express support to their legislators on these issues. He emphasized that advocacy is one of MOAA's primary functions.

JROTC Medal Distribution

LCDR Sine gave an update on the JROTC medal distribution process. 19 out of 24 schools have received their medals and certificates, with some challenges in reaching certain schools. The group discusses potential interactions with Benedictine's JROTC program, including the possibility of attending a drill team exhibition. LTC Waltman suggested adding Prince George High School's JROTC program to their support list, as it is a strong program with over 350 cadets. The group agrees to consider this for next year.

MAJ Nahm reported on website updates, including adding newsletters and membership reports, and discusses potential improvements to the homepage banner.

MISCELLANEOUS

COL Rich reported on the upcoming VCOC meeting on July 15 via Zoom and an in-person meeting on October 14 at the Virginia War Memorial. We discussed the need for nominations for various VCOC board positions and the challenges of finding volunteer leadership. LCDR Sine inquired about liability insurance for chapters, and CAPT Wassel said that Central Virginia has a policy, but more information is needed. The group also discussed COL Rich's upcoming Honor Flight on the 26th and expresses appreciation for the midshipman who attended today's meeting. LTC Waltman suggested offering free membership to cadets and academy students to encourage early involvement in the organization.