



The Patriot

Richmond Area Chapter - Military Officers Association of America - May 2023



The President's Corner by COL Mark Rich



It's definitely spring – some warm and even hot days and some surprisingly chilly mornings and nights. This is a season of change – especially for many area high school students. Rising JROTC juniors will be entering their final high school year and hopefully go on to college ROTC programs. But graduating JROTC students will be going on to senior ROTC study and become our future military leaders. RAC-MOAA supports these students. Please join us May 24th as we conduct our annual JROTC dinner meeting.

Our March dinner meeting was very successful and we thoroughly enjoyed a presentation by Colonel Christopher Noe, an active-duty transportation officer stationed at the Pentagon.

LCDR Sine has ably updated us on MOAA's and RAC-MOAA's legislative efforts.

In addition, I invite you to lend your personal effort by mailing letters of support to Congress. Letters are included in your April edition of the MOAA Military Officer magazine.

We have several possibilities for additional social events this summer, to include the annual military appreciation night at the diamond where we will have a chance to support our local baseball team, the Flying Squirrels. We are also considering attending the races at Colonial Downs. We will have more information on our website when details are available.

We have secured a brunch date in November on Sunday, the 12th, rather than our traditional evening dinner events. Also, this November we will return to the regular schedule of electing new board members for two-year terms. As always, we ask for your support of MCAP (Military Community Assistance Program), the Drisko Scholarship Fund, RAC-MOAA membership, membership events and volunteer opportunities. This continues our mission to support our active-duty troops, veterans, their families and survivors.

Lastly, RAC-MOAA has received 5-Star Communications awards again for 2022 for both our website, racmoaa.org and our newsletter, *The Patriot*. Special thanks to our editor and webmaster for these honors!

I hope to see you at our coming events. As always, please contact me or any board member for questions or to volunteer.

SAVE THE DATES FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR

24 May—JROTC Awards Dinner Meeting at Meadowbrook CC

29 July—Squirrels Baseball game at the Diamond

TBD—Horse races at Colonial Downs

20 Sep—Dinner Buffet Meeting at Meadowbrook CC

12 Nov—Sunday Brunch Meeting at Meadowbrook CC

8 Dec—Holiday Gala at Meadowbrook CC

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance 01 January 2023:	\$ 24,866
Receipts	4,472
Expenses	(3,304)
Ending Balance 27 April 2023:	\$ 26,034
Encumbrances	(9,886)
UNENCUMBERED BALANCE	\$ 16,148

OUR MAILING ADDRESS

**Richmond Area Chapter—
MOAA
P. O. Box 985
Chesterfield, VA 23832-9998**

RAC-MOAA

**Next meeting is a dinner
buffet on Wednesday,
24 May!**

We are having a Wednesday Night Buffet.

Social Hour starts at 1700 (5pm) with dinner at 1800 and the meeting immediately following. This meeting is our annual Junior ROTC Leader/Scholar Awards recognition night. More details on page 2.

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

24 MAY 2023 DINNER MEETING

The May 24th Dinner Meeting is our annual Junior ROTC Awards night with a buffet dinner. We will be honoring COL Mel Drisko Leader-Scholar Awards winners for the year. The Drisko Award and \$1,000 scholarship is presented to outstanding seniors who have been accepted for admission to a four-year institution, with the express purpose of pursuing a career as a military officer through a Senior ROTC or service academy course of study.

Social Hour starts at 1700 (5pm) with dinner at 1800 and the meeting immediately following.

The chef is preparing a special meal for everyone to enjoy.

Sliced Steamship Beef, Chicken Parmesan
Steamed Vegetable Medley, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Garden Salad
Rolls & Butter, Assorted Desserts, Coffee & Tea

Come to the Meadowbrook Country Club to enjoy the speaker and comradery with all of your RAC-MOAA friends. The price per person will be \$32. RSVP by May 17 with credit/debit card via PayPal on the RAC-MOAA website or check mailed to P.O. Box 985, Chesterfield, VA 23832.

Questions to treasurer@moaa.org. [Click here for reservations](#).

MOAA AWARD OF MERIT MEDALS AND CERTIFICATES



Our RAC-MOAA Chapter supports JROTC programs at 24 local high schools. Through its Award of Merit Program, RAC-MOAA representatives present Medals and Certificates to one rising senior in each JROTC program. Candidates receiving the award are selected by their Senior Instructor based on seven criteria, including the demonstration of exceptional potential for military leadership, and holding a cadet officer billet or Senior NCO position for their senior year. RAC-MOAA also solicits applications from 24 local JROTC high schools, on a competitive basis, for the COL Mel Drisko \$1,000 Leader-Scholar Award. Among other rigorous criteria, scholarship candidates must have been accepted into a Senior ROTC program at a four-year collegiate institution or

service academy. Successful candidates receive their award at RAC-MOAA's May dinner meeting.

On 18 April 2023, Chapter members Navy Captain Hardy Josephson and LCDR Wayne Sine presented the MOAA medal and certificate to Cadet Lindsey Gholson, incoming Commanding Officer in the Navy JROTC program at Patrick Henry High School.

SENIOR ROTC AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING THIRD YEAR CADETS

On 20 April 2023 RAC-MOAA presented MOAA Award of Merit Certificates and Medals to one outstanding Junior Cadet at each of the six colleges in the ROTC Battalion at the University of Richmond (U of R). The other schools in the battalion are: Virginial Commonwealth University, Longwood University, Randolph-Macon College, Hampden-Sydney College, and Virginia Union University. The awards were presented by COL Alan Cunningham, Past President of RAC-MOAA, at the U of R annual awards ceremony.

The Patriot

The Richmond Area Chapter (RAC-MOAA) is an independent nonpartisan affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), a member of the Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC-MOAA), and a non-profit, non-stock corporation registered in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Patriot is published 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 985, Chesterfield, VA 23832-9998

Email: editor@racmoaa.org

Editor: COL Alan Cunningham, USAR (Retired)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

MOAA National held its Advocacy In Action event in Washington, D.C. on 25 and 26 April 2023. Due to COVID pandemic restrictions in the past, this was the first national, in-person, advocacy event in several years. MOAA Chapter representatives from across the U.S. attended advocacy training by MOAA national staff on 25 April 2023, then met with their congressional members at the U.S. Capitol on 26 April 2023. This year's program focused on two primary goals:

- **Restoring Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) to 100%.** As a result of skyrocketing housing rentals, the goal was to relieve stress on our military and help reverse challenges to recruitment and retention.
- **Reversing TRICARE Pharmacy Cuts.** In late 2022, the Tricare network announced the loss of 14,000 pharmacies across the U.S. Despite efforts to reduce this number, many beneficiaries – including the elderly and those with serious, chronic conditions – have been denied proper access to prescriptions.

On 12 April 2023, several RAC-MOAA members participated, virtually and/or in person, in a Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC) meeting held at the General George C. Marshall home in Leesburg, VA. The keynote speaker for the meeting was MOAA's Vice President of Government Affairs, COL Dan Merry. COL Merry discussed this year's Advocacy in Action program, including background discussions which led to the two primary goals enumerated above.

HELP WANTED!

Are you committed to sharing your time and talents to help sustain our Richmond Area Chapter? Do you have specialized skills and expertise that could benefit our board's work? Are you willing to be an enthusiastic advocate and encourage others to get involved?

Serving on a board is a wonderful way to support a cause that you care about. But it also can be a powerful way to build your own skills and expertise. Individuals who serve on a board can develop and grow as leaders, cultivate new skill sets, and expand their network of peers, professionals, community leaders, and community thought leaders.

RAC-MOAA needs **YOUR** help! Our chapter can only be viable with committed and active members. Board of Directors elections will be conducted again this Fall for President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two Board Members At Large. Current officers have now served for at least 4 continuous years.

Attendance at monthly Board ZOOM meetings is open to any member to observe how things operate. Generous mentors are available. Perhaps you are not sure about volunteering for a board officer position but would like to help by serving on one or more committee(s) including membership, communications, legislative affairs, and community outreach. Past President, CAPT Mary Lou Wassel, will chair the Nominating Committee and is willing to address any questions or concerns about board and committee roles. Please contact her at membership@racmoaa.org and seriously consider volunteering. We need you.

VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL UPCOMING EVENTS



Annual Memorial Day Ceremony

Please join us on Monday, May 29th at 11:00 a.m. for the Commonwealth of Virginia's Annual Memorial Day Ceremony. On this important holiday we gather to celebrate, honor and remember all those who have given their lives in service to our country.

Go to <https://vawarmemorial.org/events/memorialday2023/> for more information.

Summer Pops with the Richmond Philharmonic Orchestra

Show tunes, light classics, American favorites—all the best music to usher summer in! Under the baton of Assistant Conductor Will Pattie, the Richmond Philharmonic will perform music to uplift your spirits in the beautiful and moving outdoor setting of the E. Bruce Heilman Amphitheater. This event is free and open to the public. **Date: June 18, 2023 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm**



RICHMOND FLYING SQUIRRELS

We are organizing a chapter outing to [attend a Richmond Flying Squirrels baseball game](#) on Military Appreciation Night, Saturday, July 29th with fireworks after the game. Tickets are \$14 each for all ages and guests. Food and beverages are on your own. Send checks to RAC-MOAA, P.O. Box 985, Chesterfield, VA 23832, or pay by credit/debit card through [PayPal on our website](#) by July 21st. Tickets will be handed out before the game at the stadium. Contact LTC Waltman at Treasurer@racmoaa.org with questions.

ANOTHER OPTION FOR FUN THIS SUMMER AT COLONIAL DOWNS

If you're looking for a new way to unwind, 2023 may be the year to acquaint yourself with the workings of the fast-paced sport of horse racing. [Colonial Downs](#) has a new energy, thanks to bigger purses for bettors and the addition of three prestigious thoroughbred races to its calendar. The 2023 race season will be the New Kent County facility's first under new owners Churchill Downs Inc., also the owners of the Kentucky Derby. The sale was finalized in November 2022 as part of a \$2.75 million purchase that also included six Rosie's Gaming Emporium locations.

Live horse racing returns to Colonial Downs for the 2023 season every Thursday – Saturday from July 13 – September 9. Post time is 1:30PM EDT. Colonial Downs has plenty of options to suit everyone. General admission, which allows access to ground level outdoor trackside viewing, is free. There are plenty of reserved seating options as well, both outdoors and indoors. Outdoor grandstand seats and viewing boxes, under cover, are available for purchase. Indoor seats, in air-conditioned dining areas, are also available. Choose from a reserved table or lounge seats in the third floor Jockey Club, or a reserved table one level higher in the fourth floor's 1609 dining room. Private Sky Suites, each with a balcony overlooking the track, are available as well. Seats for all levels can be purchased at colonialdowns.com.

Patrons must be 21yrs of age to enter the Rosie's Gaming Emporium. For questions, call 804-557-5684. Races are open to all ages! Parking and General Admission are free and families are welcome. General admission allows access to ground level outdoor track and paddock-side viewing. Outdoor grandstand seats and viewing boxes, under cover, are available for purchase at \$5/seat. Outdoor concessions are available.

DETAILS ON NEW VIRGINIA RETIREE EXEMPTIONS

Virginia military retirees 55 years and older will be able to keep more of their retirement income thanks to language in the state budget passed last year by the state's General Assembly.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin on June 21, 2022 signed [the two-year budget](#), which exempts the first \$10,000 in military retirement income in the 2022 tax year. This number will jump to \$20,000 in 2023, \$30,000 in 2024, and \$40,000 in 2025 and beyond. The new law also applies to surviving spouses of military retirees.

That's an estimated \$575 in tax relief per \$10,000 of exemptions, according to MOAA Virginia Council of Chapters State Legislative Affairs Chair Col. Monti Zimmerman, USA (Ret).

For more information about Virginia's income tax exemptions and other states efforts, go to the MOAA site [here](#).

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As Of	Regular	Surviving Spouse	Life/Honorary	TOTAL
20 Apr 2023	201	26	4	231

Gains 2 Louise Metcalf, Surviving Spouse
Betty Williams, Surviving Spouse

Losses 2 CPT Roland B. Metcalf, USAR, Ret – deceased 11/21/22
LtCol Stanley M. Williams, USMC, Ret – deceased 3/27/23

For membership questions/info or if you are willing to work with our Membership Chair, please contact CAPT Mary Lou Wassel at 804-551-1878 or by email at membership@racmoaa.org.

New Chapter Contacts for 2023

Elected Officers & Directors

President	COL Mark Rich	804-706-6650
1st Vice-President	COL Vincent Cammarata	804-338-8975
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	LCDR Wayne Sine	804-363-5406
Director-at-Large	LTC Clay Mountcastle	804-786-2060
Director-at-Large	MAJ Paul Willard	540-793-0153

Appointed Directors

Member Services	CAPT Mary Lou Wassel	804-551-1878
Legislative Affairs	LCDR Wayne Sine	804-350-0189
Youth Programs	Vacant	
Personal Affairs	Vacant	
Transition Services	CAPT Hardy Josephson	804-883-5955
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

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 Zip Code Plus 4. The Plus 4 gives you faster mail delivery. Thanks, keeping us informed of address changes saves money.

Reservations for the 24 May Dinner Meeting at the Meadowbrook CC

Please make reservations for ____ persons for the buffet dinner on **Wednesday, 24 May 2023 starting at 1700** at the Meadowbrook Country Club. My check for \$_____ (**\$32.00 per person**) payable to "**RAC-MOAA**" is enclosed.

Please respond by 17 May!

Rank and name: _____

Guest(s): _____

Are you attending a RAC-MOAA Event for the first time? _____

If you are mailing a check, please call 804-796-1113, or email the treasurer (treasurer@racmoaa.org) to let him know to expect your check. Registration on web page is preferred method.

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.

Enclose check payable to RAC-MOAA & put Leader-Scholar in comments. *All contributions are tax-deductible.*

Print 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: Virginia Veterans Services Foundation; the VA National Guard Foundation; The Fisher House at McGuire VAMC; Sitter-Barfoot Veterans Center; The Spinal Cord Injury Unit Recreation Services; USO; and other worthwhile military and veterans' communities of Virginia.

Enclose check payable to RAC-MOAA & put MCAP in comments. *All contributions are tax-deductible.*

Print Name and Rank: _____