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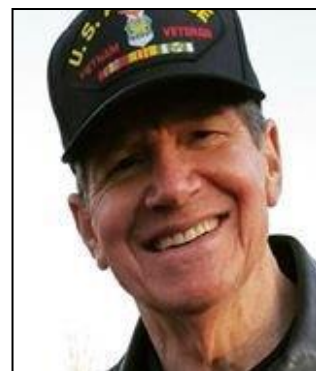
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*The Quarterly Newsletter of the
Virginia Council of Chapters of
the
Military Officers Association of
America*



Happy New Year 2021. We look forward to another productive year with our Virginia Council. Up front, I want to thank each of our council chapters for their enthusiastic participation and dedicated leadership in 2020, albeit in a virtual manner.

To the subject of leadership, I wanted to share an article someone sent to me years ago, entitled, "Teamwork" It is an anonymous article which I have thought about many times. In short, teamwork saved the day when I was a leader during my military career. I believe

there are many lessons for all of us, whether we serve as VCOC Board members, or as chapter leaders and members.

When I was in pilot training, one of my classmate's jet engine sheared an impeller blade and just missed the fuel tank. My instructor took the controls and we flew above, below and around his jet to look for any damage. Fortunately, there was none, but we escorted the wounded "bird" safely back to base.



This experience reminded me of my first year as VCOC President. In February of 2020, I was amidst a procedure in the hospital, then experiencing a stroke. Fortunately, I was able to recover. VCOC Vice President CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret) filled in for me many times during our year of COVID 19, enabling this wounded bird to get repairs and work his way back as the leader.

When I was a commander, there were often times I had to rely on my director of operations and or my first sergeant to help keep me flying straight to execute our mission. Linc and our entire VCOC Board continues as an example of such reliance and leadership.

Finally, caring words of encouragement and compassion for our fellow members can go a long way, when one of ours is unable to fly without help.

Thanks for all of my “wingmen! Now, the story.

Teamwork

When geese fly in formation, they travel about 70% faster than when they fly alone.

Geese share leadership. When the lead goose tires, he (or she) rotates into the “V” and another flies forward to become the leader.

Geese keep company with the fallen. When a sick or weak goose drops out of formation, at least one other goose joins to help and protect.

By being part of a team, we too, can accomplish much more, much faster. Words of encouragement and support (honking from behind) help inspire and energize those on the front lines, helping them to keep pace in spite of the day-to-day pressures and fatigue.

And, finally, show compassion and active caring for our fellow man – a member of the ultimate team: “mankind.”

The next time you see a formation of geese, remember it is a reward, a challenge, and a privilege to be a contributing member of a team.

Author unknown.

Col Boyd Nix, USAF (Ret)



MOAA National Vice Council/Chapter and Member Support Vice President CAPT Jim Carman, USN (Ret) Briefs Virginia Council of Chapters at First Quarterly Zoom Virtual Meeting 4 January 2021



MOAA National Vice Council/Chapter and Member Support Vice President CAPT Jim Carman, USN (Ret) briefed the Virginia Council of Chapters at the First Quarterly Zoom Virtual Meeting, held 4 January 2021.

CAPT Carman's brief, entitled Virginia Council Update January 2021, included review of the MOAA Six Strategic Focus Areas, MOAA Educating and Informing Congress, Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act Update, MOAA State Legislative Consortium, MOAA Membership, MOAA Engagement: Delivering Member Value, MOAA Website Improvements, MNOAA Community Outreach Chapter Grants, MOAA Community Outreach and COVID-19 Grants, MOAA Scholarship Fund, MOAA

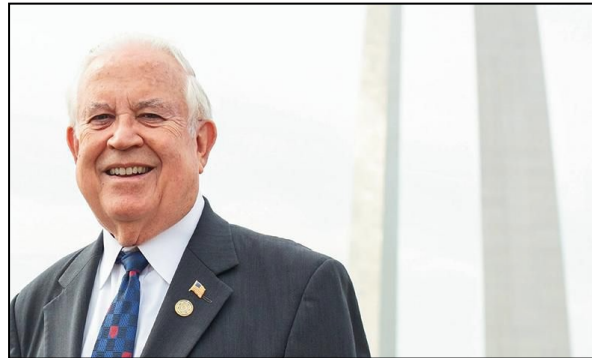


Foundation, MOAA World-Class Headquarters, MOAA Strategic Plan Update, MOAA Board Selection Complete, and finally...Why Join MOAA?

CAPT Carman closed his brief with the statement, “I come to work everyday and count myself lucky to be working in a great organization!”

View CAPT Carman’s brief at the bottom of the VCOC Homepage front page by clicking here: [Virginia Council of Chapters](#). Scroll down to the bottom of the VCOC Homepage to the MOAA Multi Media Center, click on Virginia Council Update.

MOAA State Legislative Forum Co Chair William (Don) Wolfinger LTC, US Army (RET) and Delegate Nick Freitas (R-30th) briefs Virginia Council of Chapters at Legislative Affairs Pre Brief



MOAA State Legislative Forum Co Chair William (Don) Wolfinger LTC, US Army (RET) Military Officers Association of America Greater St. Louis Chapter/Missouri Council briefed the Virginia Council of Chapters at Legislative Affairs Pre Brief, held January 12, 2021.

The MOAA State Legislative Forum, which VCOC joined in 2020, has six objectives, as follows:

- Put greater focus on State level programs and legislative issues by facilitating the exchange of information across Councils and Independent chapters
- Federal Legislative process: “Storming the Hill” & “Summer Storm”(at the National-level by MOAA HQ) Work with staffers/legislators at local level for state/federal
- Leverage the MOAA role in the military coalition at the National-level



- Use virtual communications (conference calls, Skype, Facetime, MOAA Regional Training program) as a means to share information
- Does not replace council/chapter legislative affairs activities: augments
- MOAA Legislative Team provides guidance

During his brief, LTCOL Wolfinger also reviewed the objectives of the Defense State Liaison Office, which are as follows:

- Enhanced Military Spouse License Portability
- Military Spouse Occupational Licensure Access
- Licensing Compacts
- Military Spouse Teacher Certification
- Purple Star School Program
- Advance Enrollment
- Virtual School Enrollment
- In-State Tuition Continuity
- Child Abuse and Neglect Identification and Reporting
- Ask the Question Campaign

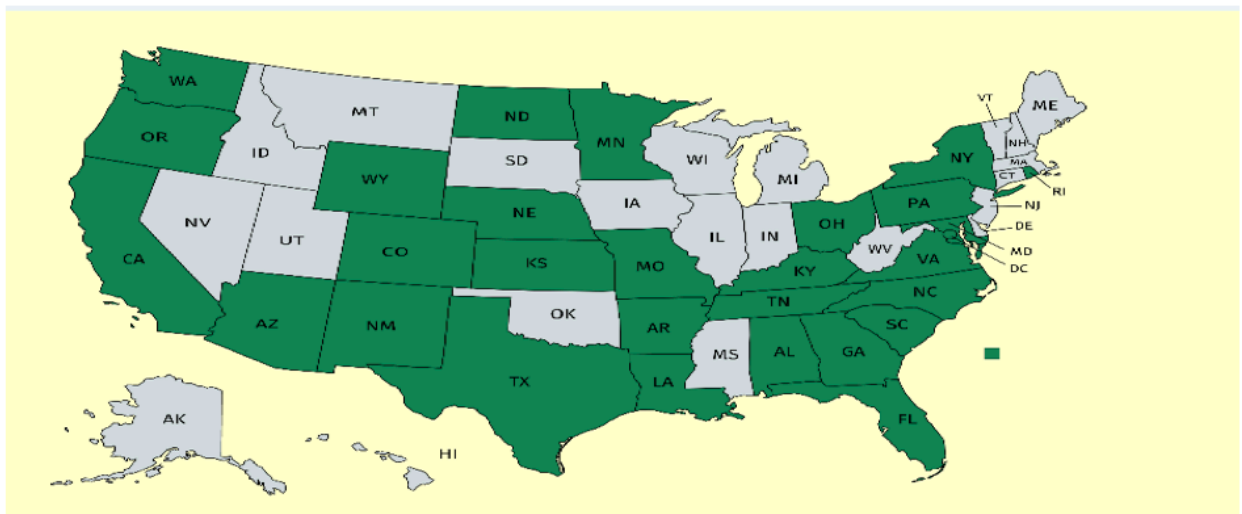
The MOAA State Legislative Affairs Forum meets four times a year, with the schedule for 2021 following:

- Jan 19, 2021 Time: 2030 – 2130 EST
- April 21, 2021 Time: 2030 - 2130 DST
- July 14, 2021 Time: 2030 – 2130 DST
- Oct 19, 2021 Time: 2030 – 2130 DST



MOAA State Legislative Forum

31 States 82 Participants

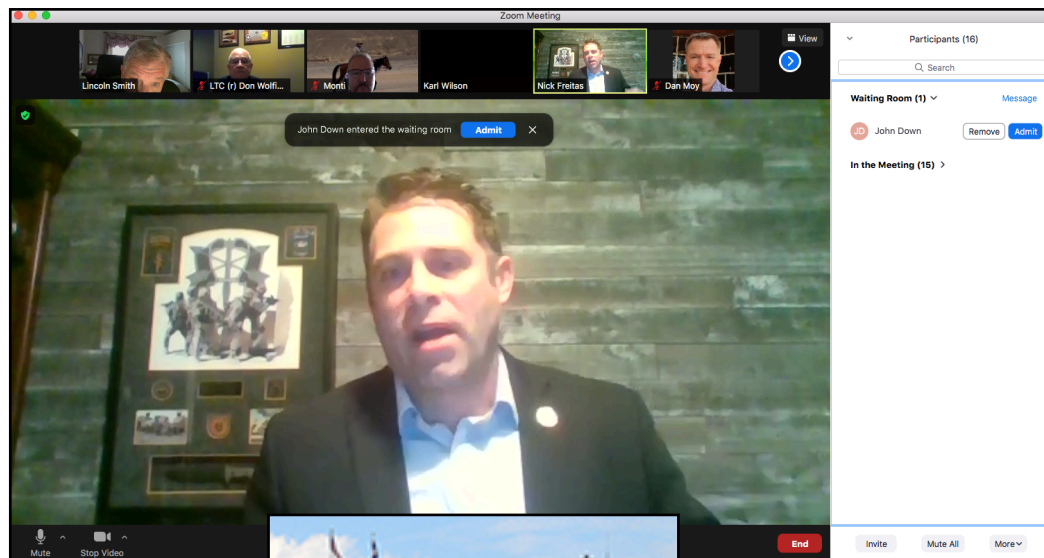




View the MOAA State Legislative Affairs Forum brief at [VCOC Legislative Affairs](#). Scroll down to the bottom of the page, and click on MOAA State Legislative Forum Brief.

At the invitation of VCOC Secretary and State Legislative Affairs Committee Chair COL Monti Zimmerman, USA (Ret), Delegate Nick Freitas (pictured below) also joined the VCOC Legislative Affairs Zoom Virtual meeting pre-brief on 12 January. During his brief, Delegate Freitas highlighted the top Veterans initiatives as presented by the Joint Leadership Council to the Virginia General Assembly in 2021. Delegate Freitas, Co-Chair of the Virginia Military Caucus is sponsor of JLC #2, "That the Governor and General Assembly approve \$50,000 to create a grant program to incentivize small to medium-sized Virginia employers to hire members of the Virginia National Guard and Armed Forces Reserves."

View the entire list of Joint Leadership Council 2021 Initiatives at: [JLC Initiatives 2021](#) As part of his brief, Delegate Freitas fielded questions from meeting attendees, thanking VCOC for support of the Virginia Veteran.





Chapters In the Spotlight

Falcons Landing Chapter Veterans Day Celebration, November 11, 2020

By COL Bob Manning, USA (Ret), Falcons Landing Chapter President

On behalf of the Falcons Landing Chapter of the Military Officers Association in America (MOAA), Bob Manning, President, welcomed the Falcons Landing Community on November 11 to this year's Veterans Day Celebration. Due to the COVID-19 protocols and restrictions, the program was televised on channel 970 for the benefit of the Independent Living, Johnson Center, and West Falls residents.

Bob Manning led the viewers in the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the National Anthem. Chaplain Jeff Payne followed with the Invocation. Phil Walsh was the first speaker and summarized the History of Veterans Day, formerly known as Armistice Day, and the Presidential Proclamation on National Veterans and Military Families Month, 2020. Bob Manning continued the program by showing an emotional and yet uplifting video entitled "Today's Veteran". Following tradition, he then asked the veterans at home to stand and be recognized as their service song (Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard) was played. Of special note this year, the temporary service song of the newly established Space Force was played.





The highlight of last year's program was the Tribute to our WWII Veterans residing at Falcons Landing. The veterans honored included Merle Allen, Henry Bodson, Lyle Bowman, Lewis Clement, Steacy Hicks, Jack McQuillen, Fred Moore, Dale Reed, John (Jack) Scharfen, and Herb Stern, seen in above picture.

Max Johnson provided a heartfelt Benediction followed by a moment of silence during the playing of Taps. The Veterans Day program concluded with a wonderfully produced music video of God Bless the USA performed by Lee Greenwood, Home Free, and The US Air Force Singing Sergeants.

Southside Virginia Chapter Brings Christmas Spirit to Town



By COL Victoria Revilla, USA (Ret), Southside Chapter President

Enter the "Winter Wonderland" for the holiday season — December 11-30, 2020 — at the 41st Annual Trees of Christmas exhibition with the indoor art galleries filled with decorated trees and brightly lit outdoor trees and reindeer in the Art Park of the downtown Petersburg Area Art League (PAAL). There was no lack of Christmas spirit on the Southside team as they entered their display shown here. COL Victoria Revilla, chapter president, and LTC Amy Blumenthal designed the entry and the chapter donated \$200 to the Trees of Christmas Match Challenge.



COL Revilla also serves as the president of the Art League and LTC Blumenthal is a regular volunteer. They participated in getting this major operation underway, with numerous participating organizations, supporting elements and detailed planning. This event is one of the major fundraisers for the Petersburg Art League. COVID restrictions have resulted in new methods, which still make it enjoyable to the public.

The grand opening saw 102 visitors to the event. People voted for their favorite entry with one dollar per vote. All funds raised will be used for the mission as the Petersburg Art League gets ready to celebrate its 90th year in service to the city in 2021. The event raised a total of \$5200.00 for the Petersburg Arts Center.

Portsmouth Area Chapter (PACMOAA) Officers

VCOC Vice President CDR Linc Smith, USNR (Ret) installed the Portsmouth Area Chapter Officers on January 14, 2021. As part of the PACMOAA installation, CDR Smith briefed the VCOC mission, highlighting the new VCOC Homepage.

The new PACMOAA Leadership Team is as follows:

- President: COL William Smith, USA (Ret)
- 2nd Vice President: MAJ Sherry D. Ferki, USA (Ret)
- 3rd Vice President: CDR Kenneth G. App USN (Ret)
- Secretary: LCDR Paul R. Lucas USN (Ret)
- Immediate Past President: MAJ Sherry D. Ferki, USA (Ret)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Through December 2021 COL Harold R. Hostetler, Jr., USA (Ret)
- Through December 2022 CAPT Robert Brewer, USN, (Ret), CAPT Roger Hirsh, USN (Ret)

PACMOAA, a five star level of excellence chapter affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America, serves Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Smithfield, Franklin, Isle of Wight, Southampton, and Surry, Virginia, since 1983. Dinner meetings are held the Second Thursday of each month except July and August. As with all MOAA Chapters, PACMOAA actively lobby legislatures for US uniformed service members and their families, nonpartisan, absent participation in political activities.

View farewell letter of longtime PACMOAA Chapter President MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret) here: [The Salute Online](#).



VCOC Meeting Schedule 2021

Due to the COVID 2019 Outbreak, the 2020 VCOC Meeting Schedule for the remainder of 2021 remains subject to modification. Until further notice, all meetings are scheduled to remain virtual. At time of this writing, the VCOC schedule is as follows:

January JLC Day:
Virtual Zoom meetings throughout General Assembly

Tuesday, April 6:
Second Quarter Meeting
1000 to 1200

April, Date TBD:
Congressional Appreciation Luncheon
1100 to 1400
Capitol Hill Club, 300 First Street SE, Washington, DC 20003

Tuesday, July 13:
Third Quarter Meeting
1000 to 1200

Tuesday, October 5:
Fourth Quarter Meeting and Biennial Awards Luncheon
1000 to 1200

In Reminder

MOAA Non Partisanship

In Reminder MOAA and its affiliates must avoid engaging in partisan political activities. View guidance here: [MOAA Guidance on Partisan Political Activities](#)

MOAA Take Action Center

View MOAA Take Action Center here: [MOAA Take Action Center](#)



Sponsors

A photograph of a chef in a white uniform and grey hat standing behind a table, smiling at a group of four people (three men and one woman) seated at the table. The table is set with plates of food, glasses of water, and a small vase of flowers. In the background, a woman in a red shirt is standing. A logo for "PATRIOTS COLONY At Williamsburg" is overlaid in the top left corner of the image.

*For those who have served us,
only the best will do.*

We invite you to experience the camaraderie and the enriching lifestyle at Patriots Colony. Schedule a tour and enjoy a complementary lunch on us.

855-376-3800 | patriotscolony.org | 

Patriots Colony Independent Living, sponsored by Riverside Health System, is a Continuing Care Retirement Community exclusively for retired and former military officers and retired and former federal employees and their spouses. 

NEVER STOP SERVING