



**VCOC 1st QUARTER 2017 MEETING**  
**Sunday, 22 January**  
**Virginia War Memorial**  
**621 S. Belvidere St., Richmond VA 23220**

**FINAL MINUTES**

**1. Administration**

The meeting was called to order at 1305 by COL Steve Turner, VCOC President. The invocation was delivered by LTC Ken Ruppard, VCOC Chaplain. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by COL Dan Warren, VCOC 1<sup>st</sup> V.P. The Roll Call was conducted by CAPT Mary Lou Wassel, VCOC Secretary. Thirteen chapters were represented and a quorum was present.

\* The meeting agenda was adopted with a motion.

\* The 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Draft Minutes were adopted as written with a motion.

**2. President's Report**

COL Turner reviewed 4th quarter council activities and meetings with chapters.

- **Governor's approval of new MOAA/JLC Reps** - He reported on the approval of COL Frank Wickersham as MOAA's primary and COL Don Kaiserman as the alternate representatives to the Joint Leadership Council. He thanked COL Stu Williams and COL Vic Pena for their dedicated service in representing MOAA so well over the years.
- **Planning for Presidents Seminar and National Storming** – The dates for the MOAA National Storming the Hill in Washington, DC, are April 3-6. All chapters are invited to attend. Other chapter members can attend but only President's expenses are paid. COL Turner will attend as President for the Council. The conference hotel is the Crowne Plaza in Alexandria. As done last year, two teams of ~6 MOAA representatives divide the list and visit the 13 elected leaders from Virginia.
- **GCMC Annual Golf Tournament** – The George C. Marshall Annual Golf Tournament was held in Lexington and COL Turner and LTC Stephan attended. The charity for the event is the Virginia Veteran and Family Support Services Foundation.
- **Caution on MOAA being non-partisan** – COL Turner reminded everyone of the need to be mindful of being non-partisan in all situations when representing MOAA. Be particularly careful when displaying the MOAA logo at any political campaigns or fundraising social events.

**3. Treasurer's Report**

LTC Stephan presented the following final 2016 year-end report:



VCOC Budget 2016 End of Year Report

4th Quarter Financial Report Income/Expenses

Jan 1, 2016 Balance Brought Forward		\$7,009.18				
Restricted Funds - MOAA Mobile		2,728.00				
Available Funds		\$9,737.18				
		<b>Income Actual/Execution (\$)</b>				
<b>Approved</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>1st Qtr</b>	<b>2nd Qtr</b>	<b>3rd Qtr</b>	<b>4th Qtr</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Chapter Dues	2,300.00	1782.80	479.60	0.00		2262.40
Recruiting	750.00	250.00		250.00		500.00
Quarterly Meetings	1,000.00	312.00	299.00	364.00	325.00	1300.00
Congressional Luncheon	3,500.00	325.00	3390.20	0.00		3715.20
Donations	2,500.00		1150.00		255.00	1405.00
USAA Grant	500.00					
MOA Vacations Commissions			100.000			100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,550.00</b>	<b>2669.80</b>	<b>5418.80</b>	<b>614.00</b>	<b>580.00</b>	<b>9,282.60</b>

VCOC Budget 2016 - 3rd Quarter Financial Report  
Income/Expenses

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		<b>Expenses Actual/Execution (\$)</b>				
<b>Approved</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>1st Qtr</b>	<b>2nd Qtr</b>	<b>3rd Qtr</b>	<b>4th Qtr</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Quarterly Meetings	1,000.00	338.00	299.00	364.00	325.00	1326.00
Recruiting	500.00		0.00	0.00		0.00
Congressional Luncheon	5,600.00		4495.40	0.00		4495.40
Administration	700.00		0	0		0.00
Miscellaneous	100.00		0.00	0.00		0.00
Printing, Supplies, Postage	250.00		63.17	50.04	121.26	234.47
Insurance, SCC Fee	350.00	325.00	0.00	0.00		325.00
Communications	200.00		0.00	158.49		158.49
Newsletter/website/VA-Vet						
Donations (room rental)	400.00	150.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	450.00
Awards/Memento	350.00		186.91	0.00		186.91
Travel (Mileage/parking)	1,200.00	40	0	0		40.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,950.00</b>	<b>853.00</b>	<b>5144.48</b>	<b>672.53</b>	<b>546.26</b>	<b>7216.27</b>
<b>CHECKING BALANCE</b>		<b>11,553.98</b>	<b>11,828.30</b>	<b>11769.77</b>	<b>11,803.51</b>	
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>		<b>2728</b>	<b>2728</b>	<b>2728</b>	<b>2728</b>	
<b>Available Funds</b>		<b>8825.98</b>	<b>9100.3</b>	<b>9041.77</b>	<b>9075.51</b>	



LTC Jim Stephan presented the Proposed Budget for 2017 as follows:

### Proposed VCOC Budget 2017

<b>24-Feb-16</b>	<b>Balance Brought Forward</b>		<b>11,803.51</b>
	<b>Restricted Funds</b>		<b>2,728.00</b>
	<b>Available Funds</b>		<b>9,075.51</b>
<b>Income</b>	Chapter Dues	2,300.00	
	Recruiting	500.00	
	Quarterly Meetings	1,300.00	
	Congressional Luncheon	3,500.00	
	Donations	1,400.00	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,000.00</b>	
<b>Expense</b>			
	<b>Quarterly Meetings Lunches</b>	1,300.00	
	<b>Recruiting</b>	500.00	
	<b>Congressional Luncheon</b>	5,000.00	
	<b>Communications</b>	200.00	
	<b>Donations (room rental)</b>	500.00	
	<b>Awards/Memento</b>	300.00	
	<b>Travel (Mileage/parking)</b>	500.00	
	<b>Administration</b>	700.00	
	printing, supplies, postage (\$250)		
	Insurance, SCC fee (\$325())		
	Miscellaneous (\$100)		
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,000.00</b>	

\* The Proposed 2017 Budget was approved with a motion.



LTC Stephan also reported on the 2017 VCOC Budget.

**VCOC Budget Report 2017**

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial Report Income/Expenses**

<b>Jan 1, 2017 Balance Brought Forward</b>		<b>\$9,075.51</b>				
<b>Restricted Funds - MOAA Mobile</b>		<b>2,728.00</b>				
<b>Available Funds</b>		<b>\$11,803.51</b>				
		<b>Income Actual/Execution (\$)</b>				
<b>Approved</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>1st Qtr</b>	<b>2nd Qtr</b>	<b>3rd Qtr</b>	<b>4th Qtr</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Chapter Dues	2,300.00	156.40				156.40
Recruiting	500.00					0.00
Quarterly Meetings	1,300.00					0.00
Congressional Luncheon	3,500.00					0.00
Donations	1,400.00					0.00
MOA Vacations Commissions						0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,000.00</b>	<b>156.40</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>		<b>156.40</b>

**VCOC Budget 2016 - 3rd Quarter Financial Report Income/Expenses**

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		<b>Expenses Actual/Execution (\$)</b>				
<b>Approved</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>1st Qtr</b>	<b>2nd Qtr</b>	<b>3rd Qtr</b>	<b>4th Qtr</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Quarterly Meetings</b>	1,300.00					0.00
<b>Recruiting</b>	500.00					0.00
<b>Congressional Luncheon</b>	5,000.00					0.00
<b>Administration</b>	700.00					0.00
Miscellaneous	100.00					0.00
Printing, Supplies, Postage	250.00					0.00
Insurance, SCC Fee	350.00	325.00				325.00
<b>Communications</b>	200.00					0.00
Newsletter/website/VA-Vet						
<b>Donations (room rental)</b>	500.00					0.00
<b>Awards/Memento</b>	300.00					0.00
<b>Travel (Mileage/parking)</b>	500.00					0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,000.00</b>	<b>325.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>325.00</b>
<b>CHECKING BALANCE</b>		11,633.91				
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>		2728				
<b>Available Funds</b>		8906.91				



The 2017 Chapter Dues were discussed. The 2016 rate was \$0.80 per regular member and \$0.40 per surviving spouse member.

\*A motion was made, seconded and carried to maintain the same 2016 dues rate for 2017.

#### **4. Standing Committee Reports:**

- **Communications & Public Affairs:** COL Dan Warren, VCOC 1<sup>st</sup> VP, requested chapters continue to send in articles with pictures for the VCOC website. Pictures are especially helpful and make the website more informative and enjoyable to read.
- **Membership & Chapter Affairs:** COL Warren reported for LCDR Dolly Cherrington who was unable to attend due to a family emergency. Chapters have reported similar issues with lack of volunteers to assume leadership positions. Also chapters are having trouble recruiting new members and in some cases retaining members. These issues are placing burdens on aging leaders who continue to rotate officer positions to keep chapters going.

#### **5. Legislative Chair**

- **Legislative status report – Jan 2017 Storming Richmond** - COL Frank Wickersham, VCOC 3<sup>rd</sup> VP, provided an update on the JLC Initiatives for the 2017 General Assembly. He reviewed the issues that were discussed just the week before when the JLC members had their opportunity to Storm the General Assembly. COL Kaiserman reviewed the plans for van transportation to and from hotel to General Assembly Building. He also shared the schedule of speakers for the Storming.
- **2017 JLC Proposed Legislative Objectives for General Assembly** – COL Wickersham provided copies of the single page summary sheets recommended for use at appointments with elected leaders and staffers on Monday 23 January. Highlights were given on patrons who have sponsored the individual bills in support of the initiatives and many of the sponsors were already scheduled to speak to our group in the General Assembly 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room. Majority Leader, Delegate Kirk Cox, was MOAA's host schedules to be our opening speaker. COL Wickersham went through all the initiatives and provided background and the latest information available from JLC and DVS. He also welcomed members who were willing to sign up for the JLC "Hit List" if they are willing to volunteer and appear on short notice in support of a committee or subcommittee working on one of the JLC Initiatives.

There was considerable discussion around the first initiative related to the Virginia Veteran and Family Support Services. Questions arose regarding the Foundation and financial support for veterans. COL Wickersham explained the recent reporting of a Working Group to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) and the group's recommendation to reorganize VVFS Staff Roles/Responsibilities and implement an all state-employee model under the Department of Veteran Services (DVS). A suggestion was made to invite a speaker from DVS to explain how VVFS works and how funds are awarded to qualified recipients.



Concerns were also raised regarding the new JLC initiative on Entrepreneurship Grant Pilot Program and the issue of redundancy with other programs. COL Wickersham indicated this initiative was added late by Secretary Harvey with the Governor's support, and procedures have not been yet provided.

- **Call for issue papers from Chapters** – COL Wickersham encouraged chapters to submit new legislative issues to propose in support of the military and veteran community. For example, Northern Virginia Chapter has one to propose for no tax on military retirement pay. Chapters are asked to use a point paper format. It's time now to be working on important issues to propose for FY 2018.
- **Planning for Congressional Appreciation Luncheon (nominees for Leg of the Year)** – Tuesday, May 16, is the date and the Capitol Hill Club is the place for the 2017 Congressional Appreciation Luncheon. A seated luncheon in the Eisenhower Room was planned again based on good reviews from last year. The room is small and seating will be limited. All chapters are encouraged to send member representatives.

## 6. Old Business

- **Status of MVC national legislative objective** – COL Stu Williams of the Mount Vernon Chapter expressed concerns on continuing resolutions without the passing of a National Defense Authorization Act. He urged that information be distributed to chapters, and there be a mechanism for getting information on National Objectives. COL Wickersham indicated he has spoken with COL Dan Merry at MOAA National regarding the MOAA objectives. COL Wickersham plans to distribute the objectives so chapters can look at them as a group, and members can discuss them with their national elected representatives.
- **Critical water exposure issue at Camp Lejeune** – LTC Phil Short of Heritage Chapter urged chapters to share information regarding A Rule by the Veterans Affairs Department on 01/13/2017 appearing in the Federal Register establishing that veterans, former reservists, and former National Guard members, who served at Camp Lejeune for no less than 30 days (consecutive or nonconsecutive) during this period, and who have been diagnosed with any of eight associated diseases, are presumed to have incurred or aggravated the disease in service for purposes of entitlement to VA benefits. For more info, use this link -- <https://www.federalregister.gov/agencies/veterans-affairs-department>. Disseminate broadly.

## 7. New Business

- **Digital Wisdom for the VA Vet Domain and Website Retention** – This system is a site used to preserve a website for VCOC and for individuals to vote on issues. It has not been used by VCOC for the past two years. There is a \$15 annual cost to preserve the website address and a \$150 cost for voting. After input from the current and past president and other officers, a decision was made to drop these services.  
\* A motion was passed to drop the services in 2017.



- **ROTC/JROTC Gold Bars and medals** – Many chapters’ members expressed their displeasure at the recently announced National MOAA decision to discontinue offering the complimentary ROTC/JROTC Gold Bars and Medals effective 1 January 2017. Chapters value these programs and the good will earned in their respective communities. A letter written by the Richmond Chapter President to the CEO/President Dana Atkins at National MOAA was shared with chapters. Chapters had not budgeted for the expenses they would now incur in 2017 for purchasing these gold bars and medals. Some chapters report plans to continue the JROTC Medals but drop the ROTC Gold Bars as they have never received any thank you from recipients.

The MOAA National decision to drop the programs was a financial choice. Some thought maybe MOAA might reconsider if a letter came from the VCOC President who represents 18 chapters. COL Turner agreed to take writing a letter to National MOAA on the issue as an action item with a strong focus on the JROTC Program. A list was passed so chapters could list the number of universities and gold bars and the number of high schools and medals each generally award annually. This list was given to COL Turner for reference. Past President COL Revilla talked about the monetary MOAA Awards still offered for the Ambassador Program that she donates to VCOC quarterly.

- **Nominees for Annual Awards** - Chapters are encouraged to submit names for 1) the State Legislator of the Year, 2) the National Legislator of the Year and 3) the Minuteman Award for a MOAA Staff person. These nominations are needed prior to the April Meeting for consideration and selection at that meeting.
- **Chapter Award Reminder** - Communications Nominations are to due MOAA National February 1<sup>st</sup> and Level of Excellence Nominations are due March 1<sup>st</sup>. COL Turner said these awards can be done on the website and take about 30 minutes to complete. All chapters are encouraged to apply. Submissions are encouraged by email.
- **VCOC Officers 2018-2019** – COL Turner encouraged chapter members to consider running for Council officer positions in the upcoming election to be held at the October meeting. All officer positions are to be elected for a two-year term. He is happy to answer any questions potential candidates may have. Past President Victoria Revilla will serve as this year’s Nominations Chair.
- **Any open discussion/Items from the floor – Concerns about the Opiate Epidemic in VA** – COL Stu Williams cautioned that the current opiate epidemic in Virginia could impact the “all-volunteer force” readiness.

**8. Adjourn** - The meeting adjourned early at 1530. The Annual New Year’s Reception to followed immediately in Undercroft.