

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

POT-CHA-CHA



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, POTOMAC CHAPTER
P.O. BOX 876
MONTROSS, VA 22520-0876 VOL. XXX NO7 JULY 2017

MEETING: WEDNESDAY JULY 19TH, 11:30AM

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(804) 445-0576

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VACANT

2nd Vice Pres
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LTC Jack O'Neil
(804) 472-2849

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LTC John Huber
(804) 529-5186

Treasurer
Capt. Jerry Mulholland
(804) 472-2311

Past President
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Capt. Jerry Mulholland
(804) 472-2311
LTC Christopher Werle
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VCOC Rep
LTC John Huber
(804) 529-5186

Legislative Rep
VACANT

President's Post:

Our June luncheon was held at Hague Winery with good food, good wine and good friends and colleagues. It was enjoyed by all.

Our speaker was Jason De La Cruz, Legislative Assistant of Senator Ryan McDougle.

He brought us up to date on what is going on in the General Assembly and answered many questions and concerns that we have.

We as a Chapter and individuals need to continue to stay in contact with our Representatives so we can stay informed and let them know about our concerns.

We learned that John Golden is stepping down as our Legislative Representative. We need a replacement to continue in this important assignment. Please consider volunteering.

It seems Congress is doing some positive things as well as not so positive for our Military. Keep aware and stay informed and let them know how we feel about their actions.

Interesting July Dates

July 4 – Independence Day

7/21/1969 – First moon walk by Neil Armstrong & Buzz Aldrin

7/27/1953 – Korean Armistice signed

“That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind” – Neil Armstrong

Army Strong – HOORAH!
Bill Jester

- Cost:\$25.00
- Wednesday, July 19, 2017 - Luncheon Meeting, Pancho Villa Restaurant, Dahlgren
- Speaker – Mr. Joseph S. Fordham, Dahlgren Centennial Commemoration Planner
- Cost: \$25.00
- Tuesday, August 8, 2017** Dinner Meeting – Riverboat Restaurant, Colonial Beach
- Speaker – Congressman Rob Wittman
- Cost: \$25.00
- Wednesday, September 20, 2017 Luncheon Meeting – TBA
- Speaker – TBA
- Cost = TBA

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 14, 2017 BOD MEETING

The Meeting was held on June 14, 2017 at the Stratford Hall Library.

President Jester called the meeting to order at 0935.

President Jester led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Director Adams said the invocation.

Secretary Huber stated there was a quorum present.

President Jester asked that the agenda be approved. It was so approved.

President Jester reminded all that today was Flag Day and that we should remember to display our flags.

The minutes for the April 5, 2017 BOD meeting were approved as published in the POT-CHA-CHA.

Treasurer Mulholland reported via e-mail that we have \$3,543.98 in our account. \$1,828.00 is in the Scholarship fund. The unencumbered balance is \$1,715.98.

Old Business:

Our Chapter received a five star rating for our Newsletter. We have not seen any results for Levels of Excellence submission.

The June 21st meeting is scheduled for the Hague Winery.

The July 19th meeting is scheduled for the Pancho Villa Restaurant in Dahlgren. Our speaker, arranged by Director Chris Werle, is Mr. Joseph S. Fordham, Dahlgren Centennial Commission Planner

New Business:

Secretary Huber reported that in discussions with Congressman Wittman's office, the date of Tuesday, August 8th was the best date. The meeting would be dinner at the Riverboat Restaurant in Colonial Beach. It would mean that we would have to shift the BOD meeting date. Director Adams proposed that we cancel the BOD meeting in August. It was moved, seconded and approved that the BOD meeting in August be cancelled.

Secretary Huber stated that Nominations for officers for the 2018-2019 terms will be needed for the October meeting. Our Annual meeting is on November 15, 2017. At that time we will vote on the slate of officers.

Reports:

COMREL Representative Director Werle presented the results of the latest COMREL Meeting. Nice Bridge work is expected to start in 2019. VDOT is conducting a Route 301 corridor study. The Colonial Beach Mayor provided an update on the grants that the town has received to improve the area. The bike weekend is a great money maker. We will be invited to participate in Veterans Day celebrations at Dahlgren. Our speaker for July will fill us in on plans for the Dahlgren Centennial.

Legislative Liaison, John Golden, said that he had to resign due to health reasons.

VCOC Representative Huber reported he will attend the July 12th VCOC meeting. The VCOC biannual meeting on October 11th will be held at Ford's Colony in Williamsburg. Patriots' Colony will fund the meal. More information will be available after the July VCOC Meeting.

Dr. Bigelow reported that she had received the information from MOAA National and it will be in the July POT-CHA-CHA.

The meeting adjourned at 1030 hours.

The next BOD meeting is Wednesday, October 4, 2017 at 0930 hours. It will be at the Stratford Hall Library.

Minutes of the General Membership Meeting held on June 21, 2017

The meeting was held at the Hague Winery, Hague, VA

The gathering period started at 11:30 AM

President Jester called the meeting to order at 1200.

President Jester led the Pledge of Allegiance to open the meeting.

Chapter member Mike Ramming said the invocation.

There were 24 Chapter members, spouses, and guests at the meeting.

The meal was catered by Two Fish from Montross.

President Jester introduced our guest speaker: Mr. Jason R. De La Cruz Legislative Assistant to Senator Ryan McDougle (R, 4th).

Mr. De La Cruz discussed the just completed legislative session, issues with rural high speed internet, fracking and other items of interest to the members.

The business portion of the meeting was called to order.

The minutes of the May 17, 2017 General Membership meeting were approved as published in the POT-CHA-CHA.

Treasurer Mulholland provided the treasurer's report via e-mail. The Chapter has \$3,543.98 in our bank account. There is \$1,828.00 in the Scholarship fund. The unencumbered balance is \$1,715.98.

John Narney won the 50/50.

Director Werle provided the smile moment.

The next Membership meeting is Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at the Pancho Villa Restaurant in Dahlgren. Our speaker will be Mr. Joseph S. Fordham, Dahlgren Centennial Commemoration Planner.

The next Board of Directors Meeting is on Wednesday October 4, 0930 hours, at Stratford Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1400.



Beautiful day for a meeting at the Hague Winery



Soup's on!



Lots of good discussions



Guys and dolls

DONATIONS TO THE POTOMAC CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Potomac Chapter is a 501(c) (19) organization. Should you desire to donate funds specially to support the scholarships we award each year, you may do so and receive tax deductions as permitted by law. The funds will be kept separate from our other funds. You may also contribute to the MOAA National Fund. Please see their website for details.

VA REPRESENTATIVE AT DAHLGREN

VA representatives will be at Dahlgren on July 6th and 20th. The representative is there on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Please call 1-800-500-4947 or 540-653-1839 for an appointment. This is also a good time to ask any questions about your benefits. You can also make appointments or visit the offices in Fredericksburg, Richmond, or go on line. In particular, you may want to check your eligibility for caregiver funding. You should see the Caregiver Coordinator to determine your eligibility.

MOAA National LIFE Membership

This is an opportune time to convert to a “**Life Membership**” because MOAA is still giving a 10% discount on membership conversion. In addition you ensure that your surviving spouse would be given full MOAA membership for the rest of their life. The cost of your Life Membership will be reduced by any unused portion of your current MOAA membership. If you desire more information **call 1-800-234-6622** and speak to a MOAA Life Member Service representative. You will need to specify that you are a MOAA member and then give the MOAA representative our Chapter Name (Potomac) and code (VA-14).

NOT A MEMBER OF THE POTOMAC CHAPTER, MOAA NATIONAL OR A LAPSED MEMBER?

MOAA is the United States’ largest Veterans organization for Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, former, and retired military officers and their spouses. It is also open to officers of the Public Health Service and NOAA. If you want to join the Potomac Chapter, call our Membership Chairman listed on the first page or submit the application contained on the last page.

If you are not a member of MOAA National or are a lapsed member, and are not ready to become a Life Member with all its benefits, you need to help your Chapter and the National Organization by joining today as a Premium Member. The cost is as little as \$43.00 per year (savings for two or three year sign ups). Go to www.moaa.org or call 1-800-234-6622. You will be glad you did (and so will we!).

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

The Potomac Chapter is a nonpartisan organization. We encourage our members to participate in the political process. However, members cannot use their membership in MOAA when supporting a candidate or political position. We are an advocacy organization for Veterans and military issues at the local, state, and national level.

Free Science Museum: The Science Museum of Virginia is offering free admission to Active Duty military, to include National Guard and Reserve, and their immediate family members from May 29 through Sept. 4, 2017.

Fort Lee Access/VA Drivers' Licenses

To comply with federal law, Fort Lee (and all other military installations) may have to stop accepting state-issued identification from certain U.S. states, including Virginia, for visitor access to the installation. The Department of Homeland Security granted limited extensions to eight states working toward compliance. Those extensions expired June 6, leaving a little more than one month during a DHS-authorized grace period for these states to either be certified as compliant or granted an additional extension. Otherwise, starting July 11, driver's licenses and identification cards issued by Alaska, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Washington will not be accepted for visitor access to Fort Lee. **Virginia licenses will continue to be accepted until 10 October 2017.** Separate extensions for 18 other states and territories are also set to expire in October.

TRICARE: The 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) brought sweeping healthcare reforms, many of which will take effect in just a few months. The new TRICARE Select option, which replaces TRICARE Standard and Extra, begins Jan. 1, 2018 -- just 6 short months from now. TRICARE Select is the self-managed preferred provider organization (PPO) option. It provides freedom of choice of providers, with reduced/fixed fee beneficiary out-of-pocket costs for care in the network. TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Reserve Select, TRICARE Retired Reserve, and TRICARE Young Adult and TRICARE for Life will remain as is.

Under the new model, beneficiaries must make an active, annual choice of health plan for themselves and/or their family. Because 2018 is the first year of the plan, there will be a grace period, and beneficiaries will be automatically renewed in their existing TRICARE option as of Dec. 31, 2017. This means beneficiaries currently in TRICARE Standard or Extra will be converted automatically into TRICARE Select.

Active duty family members newly entitled to TRICARE will be automatically enrolled in TRICARE Prime if they live in a Prime Service Area (generally around a military treatment facility). If not, they will be enrolled in TRICARE Select.

Two populations may be at risk of losing coverage:

- Active duty members who retire and do not elect to enroll in an option.
- Retiree beneficiaries who fail to pay their enrollment fees. Officials have stated that eligible beneficiaries will never lose their benefit, as they will always be eligible for care at military hospitals (most likely be on a space-available basis).

Blended Retirement: The military retirement system was a factor in many making the decision to make the military a career and that system is now changing.

Starting Jan. 1, 2018, all new entrants to the military will receive a new retirement system, known as the Blended Retirement System. This system is a dramatic departure from the military's current retirement system, which awards a pension of at least 50 percent of base pay to qualifying service members immediately upon retirement. The Blended Retirement System combines the military's defined benefit plan with what is known as a defined contribution plan, which is similar to the retirement offering found in most civilian 401K plans. Service members who joined the service from Jan. 1, 2006 to Jan. 1, 2018 will have a choice: stay with the current defined benefit plan or opt into the new blended system.

MOAA "Take Action: [MOAA Legislative Update <legis@moaa.org>](mailto:legis@moaa.org)

John Golden, Legislative, Chair

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We'll be There.



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The Surviving Spouses of MOAA

DATE: June 5, 2017
TO: Chapter and Council Surviving Spouse Liaisons
FROM: Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee (SSAC)
SUBJECT: SSAC Storms the Hill

By Patricia Bergquist, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee (SSAC) member

On April 5, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee members joined over 165 participants — including members of MOAA’s board of directors and staff, council and chapter leaders from almost every state, and members of the Currently Serving Advisory Committee, and Currently Serving Spouse Advisory Committee — for MOAA’s annual Storming the Hill event in Washington, D.C. The storming teams provided congressional legislators detailed fact sheets on sequestration, the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset, and TRICARE.

The return of sequestration in FY 2018 will cut billions from the defense budget and impose increased risks to U.S. national security. Debt reduction is a national responsibility, and the budget should not be balanced by placing a disproportional burden service members and their families. Sequestration puts our national defense at risk with reduced spending on readiness and modernization, hollows our uniformed forces, and affects morale. A bipartisan debt-reduction package is needed to avoid disproportionate penalties to DoD that impact service members and military retirees and their families.

SBP is an insurance annuity to provide a military spouse up to 55 percent of the service member’s retired pay upon death for any reason. For active duty post-9/11 deaths, the coverage automatically is provided to the spouse. Under current law, survivors of deceased active duty and retired service members must forfeit DIC dollar-for-dollar from their SBP when military service causes the death and DIC is awarded by the VA, currently \$1,258 a month (\$15,095 a year). Those impacted by this inequity (64,100) lose all or part of their SBP. MOAA has been fighting for full repeal of the offset for 16 years.

In 2008, Congress approved a Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) to partially compensate for the SBP/DIC injustice with incremental increases over 10 years (October 2017) toward eliminating the offset. The SSIA was extended last year at \$310 a month (\$3,700 a year) and ends May 2018.

MOAA Hill stormers ask legislators to cosponsor and support current legislation (H.R. 846 and S. 339) and engage House and Senate Armed Services, Appropriations, and Budget committee members, as their support will be needed for a solution to fully repeal the offset. If a full repeal cannot be funded, the SSIA should be extended.

Stormers also provided a document on TRICARE fee increase prevention to each congressional office. MOAA believes congressional actions should remain consistent with current philosophy and prevent disproportionate TRICARE fee increases.

Please contact your legislators on these issues using MOAA's toll-free line to the capitol switchboard, (800) 272-6622. Ask the operator to connect you with your legislator's office, then ask to speak with the legislative assistant or military legislative assistant, and request co-sponsorship of H.R. 846 or S. 339.

Potomac Chapter Luncheon Meeting

Wednesday July 19, 2017

Pancho Villa Mexican Restaurant

4589 James Madison Pkwy

King George, VA 22485

Social 11:30 AM, Lunch 12:00 PM

Guest Speaker

Mr. Joseph S. Fordham

Dahlgren Centennial Commemororative Planner

Menu

Select from Lunch Menu at Restaurant

Cost: \$25.00 per person, Includes: Coffee, Tea , Soft Drinks, Dessert, Tax & Gratuity

Lunch Meeting, Wednesday July 19, 2017

Reservation Deadline: Saturday July 15, 2017

Please send your check payable to **Potomac Chapter, MOAA** to:

John Huber

1134 Glebe View Lane

Lottsburg, VA 22511-2524

(804) 529-5186, huberjr@earthlink.net

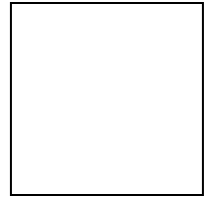
Reservations Form for the July 19, 2017 Meeting

Your Name _____ Name Tag Needed _____

Guest Name _____ Name Tag Needed _____

\$25.00 X _____ Total enclosed \$ _____

Pot-Cha-Cha



Potomac Chapter Chatter



MOAA

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION *OF* AMERICA

ONE POWERFUL VOICE

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