

Susquehanna Chapter MOAA
Board of Directors Meeting
4 June 2025
Greene Turtle, Aberdeen

President Bob Beahm called the meeting to order at 6:51 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Bob Beahm, Ted Newing, Cathy Hampton, Keith Reagan, Bill Beddow, Larry Archer, Bill Whitford,
A quorum was established.

Chapter member Tim Byrne, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), attended as a guest as he considers joining the Board as a Director.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present, followed by a moment of silence for fallen comrades. The invocation was given by Chaplain Bill Whitford.

Secretary's Report: Connie Richardson (in absentia)

The minutes of the 28 May General Membership meeting were reviewed. Bill Beddow moved, and Cathy Hampton seconded the motion that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.

The minutes of the 7 May Board of Directors meeting will be reviewed at the 2 July Board of Directors meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Beddow

1. Bill reported a total funds available of \$7,641.78: Checking account - \$4,917.64, Share account - \$2,064.41, Special Account - \$659.73.
2. Cathy moved and Larry seconded that the treasurer's report be approved. Motion carried.

President's Report: Bob Beahm

1. Bob announced the following Army 250th Birthday events:
 - Sunday 8 June, 4 PM, Military concert and vehicle display, Shamrock Park . Governor Moore scheduled to speak
 - Saturday, 14 June, 6:30 PM- 10:00 PM, Army Birthday and Flag Day Celebration, Legion Post 39. Cost is \$30. Probably sold out by now.
2. Bob announced that Connie was recognized by APG for her volunteer hours devoted to the Post Chapel and Spouses Club.
3. Del Mike Griffith was guest speaker at 28 May membership meeting. Very informative talk on State legislation concerning veterans. Especially insightful remarks concerning the implications of Maryland's budget deficit.

SPECIAL STAFF

Membership: Ted Newing

1. Ted reported that there are 54 active, paid members. Three members still owe dues.
2. Three new members have been added to the rolls, Ned Hoedebecke, LTC, USA (Ret), Dianne Payne (Surviving Spouse), and Joe Hall, CDR, USN (Ret).
3. Ted presented his 10-question membership survey that he created after reviewing several other formats.

Programs: Keith Reagan

Keith purchased 20 tickets for the 18 June Ironbirds baseball game and will make arrangements to get them to the attendees. Having met the 20 person "group" requirement, our organization will be recognized during the game.

Keith reached out to the handler for MG Birckhead to confirm arrangements for the 9 July general membership meeting.

Keith announced that Bob Brown received the MOAA National Leadership Award for having been a nominee for the 2024 Colonel Steve Strobridge Legislative Liaison Award.

Keith announced that Mark Hampton has volunteered to help with the Chapter Poster and Essay contest.

Publicity: Keith Reagan

Keith will prepare the flyer for the 13 September annual picnic.

Legislative Affairs: Bob Brown**VA Updates**

1. Baltimore VAMHCS is undergoing façade renovation. Sidewalks will be closed in places. Project will complete by EOY.
2. 45000 appointments completed in April, the most ever.
3. Clinical
 - a. VA is working for approval to add robotics in some of the operating rooms.
 - b. Weight loss programs are being expanded at the VA. This includes some medication prescription and appointments in the community. Contact the VAMHCS for more details.
4. Homeless Program
 - a. The FY 25 Homeless goals are to place 761 veterans in permanent housing. So far 366 have been housed. 15 have returned to homelessness.
 - b. There is a goal of 614 engagements with unsheltered homeless veterans. So far they have reached 297.
5. June 11 Claims clinic at Anne Arundel Community College. See the VAMHCS website for details.
6. Home and Community Based Care representatives are asking that veterans apply to get into the VA healthcare system before they need long term, in home, nursing home, etc. care. Generally speaking, a veteran must first be in the VA Healthcare system and usually at a 70% service-connected rating for these services. Too many veterans wait until they need the care immediately, but it takes a long time to have a claim adjudicated and then apply for care.

MOAA Legislative

MOAA State Legislative Exchange Forum mentioned that we have been given the opportunity to provide input to the Defense-State Liaison Office to shape future issues.

a. To be considered, your input MUST be submitted to Harold E. Cooney no later than June 15.

b. They will consolidate the inputs by looking for a common thread and submit three or four items to MC&FP following our 15 July Forum meeting. Send it to me as Don is out of the net for several weeks.

The format for input is:

Problem: A one to two paragraph narrative capturing the overall gist or theme of the policy priority the states should adopt for military service members and their families. Define the problem in terms of threats and opportunities for DOD.

Current State Legislation / Best Practices: Examples and citations to enact state statutes which define the desired outcome and are perceived to be the best practice to solve the problem. If you don't have current legislation, do some research to find examples. Reach out to Harold if you need some help.

Please crosscheck your input with DSLO: Reach out to your RL, if you have a relationship, or check the DSLO website to ensure your proposed issue isn't already on their list.

<https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil/>

Newsletter: Larry Archer

Larry would like any information for the newsletter by this weekend.

Webmaster: Bill Beddow

Website stats were 118 pages with 14,281 hits.

Surviving Spouse Liaison: Connie Richardson

No report.

Unfinished Business:

- 1) The proposed By-Laws change will be distributed to the membership NLT 23 June so that it can be voted upon at the 9 July general membership meeting.
- 2) Bob has the JROTC award certificate and medal and will deliver it Joppatown High School ASAP.

New Business: There is an offer by Chief Moore, Bel Air Police Department, to meet in his headquarters.

Open Floor: None.

Directors' Remarks: Cathy Hampton

MOAA National is asking for volunteers to help with the Total Force Plus conference. Conference fee will be waived but rooms will be on their own.

Closing Remarks: None.

Next Board of Directors meeting: Wednesday, 2 July 2025, Green Turtle.

Benediction: Benediction was given by Chaplain Bill Whitford.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith Reagan

FOR: Connie Richardson, Secretary