



The Communiqué

Southwest Virginia Chapter
Military Officers Association of America



VOLUME 7 NUMBER 2

ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

APR-MAY-JUN 2015

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER MEMBERS “STORM THE HILL”



Storming the Hill, MOAA Southwest Virginia Chapter John Miller, John Newby, the new Commissioner, Commonwealth Department of Veterans Affairs, along with Todd Dodson and Jim Flynn. (Photo Courtesy John Miller)

The Virginia Council Of Chapters (VCO) kicked off the year with a two-day campaign on 25 and 26 January to solicit support for military and veteran issues at the Virginia General Assembly. This is the 19th consecutive visit to the Virginia Assembly by MOAA members of the 18 chapters in the Commonwealth. On Sunday, 25 Jan, council officers and chapter representatives met at the Virginia War Memorial located in the state’s capitol city of Richmond for their 1st Quarter, 2013 VCO meeting with the focus being on preparation for the following day's "Storming" visit at the Virginia Assembly. Delegate Kirk Cox (R-66th District) hosted the VCO Day at the Assembly with his staff offering assistance where needed. Virginia’s new Commissioner of Veteran Services, John Newby, welcomed the VCO representatives and was followed during the day by remarks from Delegate Cox, Del. Bill Howell, Del. Chris Stolle, Del. David Toscano, Congressmen Randy Forbes and Rob Wittman, Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam and Governor Terry McAuliffe.

Opening Comments (Courtesy HRCMOAA)

- 1. State Long Term Care Centers are an important issue;** the money is available, however, space/land is needed. Delegate Chris Stolle is working that issue.
 - 2. There is a need to expedite the hiring of veterans from Global War on Terror.** Need 100K jobs over the next few years for returning veterans. Unemployment in ages 18-24 years old is presently 13%.
 - 3. Virginia Values Vets (V3) program** is making good headway in both state and corporate hiring.
- Commissioner John Newby (DVS)
- 1. Outlined the need for \$1.75M** to fund five additional Veterans Services officers/claims agents and two more claims offices.
 - 2. Stated homeless veterans will need additional funding.**
 - 3. Observed that the V3 Program’s veteran’s transition program is working** to get pledges for 10K jobs for veterans.
 - 4. Stressed the need for 2 long term care facilities;** one in Hampton Roads area, another in northern Virginia. Discussed the need for legislation for Veterans Court Bill to create a link between the veteran and the existing Court System.

President’s Corner



The Southwest-ern MOAA Chapter would like to express our deepest sympathy to Maj Dave Helmer’s family. M.O.A.A. and the Roanoke community will always be grateful for all of Dave’s contributions. Dave’s energy will be missed in the Roanoke area.

This past month I had the privilege to attend the Northeast Regional Leaders’ Workshop in Dover, DE. The workshop was designed to “bridge the gap between symposiums”. The discussions included: grass roots support of MOAA legislative goals, how to mobilize members, strategies to get Legislators to listen to our concerns, and MOAA giving back to the community. We also discussed telling the MOAA story and bridging the civilian & military gap.

The Big Question is “How do we recruit the next generation of chapter members and how do we retain current chapter members”. First we need to answer – what is our chapter mission/vision? Then we need to build a recruiting plan. We need to have a

Contd. on page 3: “President’s Corner”

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★ WELCOME ★

★ NEW MEMBERS ★

★ CPT Mike Flint, USA ★

★ (former) ★

★ Mrs. Grace Helmer - ★

★ Auxiliary ★

★ Bring a friend to our next meeting ★

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**2015
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MOAA
Southwest Virginia Chapter
P.O. Box 3090
Roanoke, VA 24015-1090
Webpage: <https://sites.google.com/site/moaswvchapter/home>

CHAPTER CALENDER

Thursday, 26MAR thru Sunday, 26 APR, Vietnam Combat Art, Moody Center, Hollins University, Ballator Gallery

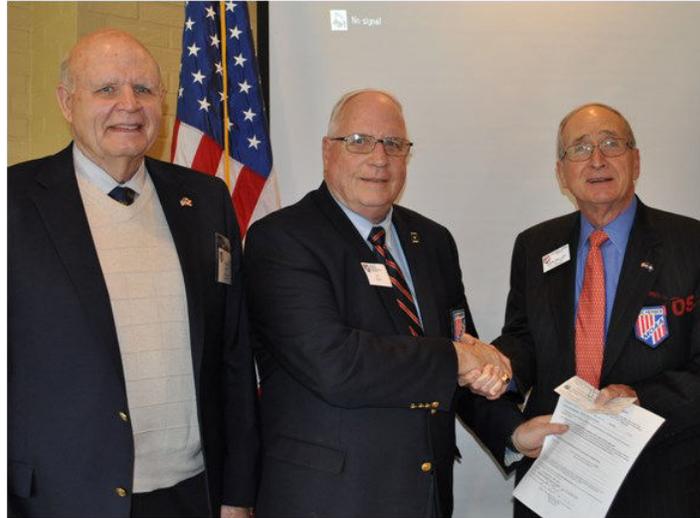
Thursday, 16 APR 1200, MOAA SW VA Chapter Meeting and Luncheon, Hidden Valley Country Club. Speaker- Ms. Patti Smith, Virginia Veterans Care Center, Salem

Friday, 17 APR 1830, MOAA SML Chapter meeting and dinner, The Westlake. Speaker, Linda All, Secretary of the Jubal Early Trust. Topic: "Jubal Early: The Man and His Home."

Saturday, 25 APR, National Rebuilding Day 2015

Saturday, 09 MAY, 0900, Annual Virginia Wounded Warrior Shoot, Quail Ridge Sporting Clays, Lexington, VA. (next column)

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER TO SPONSOR VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



In a signing ceremony, MOAA Southwest Chapter's Tom Dalzell and President Jim Flynn hand over a signed agreement and check to John Miller for presentation to the Commemorative Committee.

As approved by the Board of Directors, the Southwest Virginia Chapter will assist in sponsorship of the Vietnam War Moveable Wall Exhibit to be placed at the Virginia Veterans Medical Center from 16 through 20 September 2015. The Chapter received a donation of \$500 from USAA and in a ceremony, signed a sponsorship agreement with the donation to the Vietnam War Commemoration relative to events to be held during 2015-2017 in the Roanoke Valley of Virginia. John Miller presented the agreement and donation to the Commemorative Committee.

CHAPTER CALENDER (cont'd)

Thursday 21 MAY, MOAA Congressional Luncheon, Capital Hill Club, Richmond, VA.

Thursday, 21 MAY 1830, MOAA SW VA, Dinner and presentation, The Shenandoah Club. Speaker-MAJ Jeffrey Clemens, "Operation Celestial Flight".

16-20 SEP, Vietnam War Moveable Wall Exhibit, Virginia Veterans Medical Center

04 OCT, Botetourt County Military Appreciation Day—Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team Tournament

VIETNAM COMBAT ART EXHIBIT



In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, Roanoke County, the cities of Roanoke and Salem, the Stonewall Jackson Chapter/AUSA and the town of Vinton present the exhibit "Vietnam Combat Art."

The exhibit opens March 26 and will run through April 26 at the Ballator Gallery, which is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Hollins University's Moody Center, 7916 Williamson Road in Roanoke.

This artwork is on public display for the first time in the United States. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER TO PARTICIPATE IN "REBUILDING TOGETHER ROANOKE"

The Southwest Virginia Chapter will again be participating in Rebuilding Together Roanoke on Saturday 25 April 2015 for the sixth year. Rebuilding Together Roanoke brings volunteers and communities together to improve the homes and lives of low-income homeowners. They provide critical home repairs for homeowners in need in the Roanoke Valley ensuring they can live independently in safe and healthy homes. Rebuilding Together Roanoke completes renovation work including re-roofing, weatherizing, plumbing and electrical repairs, and accessible home modifications. The focus is on providing critical repairs to low-income homeowners in need with a special focus on homeowners over the age of 65, living with a disability, have children living in the home, and homeowners who are active or retired members of the armed services. Last year, over 500 volunteers come together throughout the month of April to rebuild 34 homes in the Roanoke Valley! We hope you will be able to participate in this year's National Rebuilding Day and help RTR rebuild the homes and lives of low-income homeowners in our community.

The Southwest Virginia Chapter has teamed with the West Point Society, USAS and local congregations to make repairs on homes of military veterans. This year the Southwest Virginia Chapter will be working on a veterans home in Glade Hill, Virginia. Some of the work will be accomplished in the weeks prior to 25 April 2015. Volunteers are requested to assist in this project.



From pg 1 **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

seconds on how our chapter meets member needs. We need a priority on recruiting the MOAA family. The list goes on and the Board will be putting together an inclusive plan to roll out this year.

Our meeting agendas remain focused on informing our membership of our Chapter's progress and outreach activities with various veteran organizations in Southwest Virginia. If you have not attended a meeting recently, you should attend! For the rest of the year, we have notable guest speakers and activities that focus on celebrating our military and veterans. This Spring we will be recognizing our senior ROTC cadets and awarding Gold Bars and Leadership scholarships.

In closing, we are a professional organization recognized in Southwest Virginia for its wholehearted belief in our military organizations and those individuals who have so freely served and sacrificed for this great country. With your continued support and involvement we will remain a chapter whose efforts will make a difference in the lives for our fellow veterans.

Jim Flynn

AUXILIARY NOTES:

THE SURVIVOR'S GUIDE (EXCERPTS)

By Sharon A. DeVaney, vice chair, Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee

Later this year, MOAA will launch a new publication titled 'The Survivor's Guide'. The purpose of The Survivor's Guide is to assist surviving spouses as they accomplish actions following a loved one's death. It will be available in print and as a download from the MOAA Web Base.

The Survivor's Guide is similar to a worksheet. It includes a place to record burial or cremation arrangements, such as the name of a funeral home and a cemetery. There is a place to list names and phone numbers of attorneys, certified public accountants, insurance agencies, and other service providers. The guide includes phone numbers for agencies such as the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, the Social Security Administration, the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, and others.

Both spouses should work together to fill in the guide before it is needed. One of the most helpful advice offered is to keep a notebook to record phone calls. Some agencies do not respond as promised and a written record is valuable.

AMAC members emphasize the importance of telling family mem-

Continued on page 4

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



You Reap What You Sow

- If you plant dishonesty, you will reap distrust.
- If you plant selfishness, you will reap loneliness.
- If you plant pride, you will reap destruction.
- If you plant envy, you will reap trouble.
- If you plant laziness, you will reap stagnation.
- If you plant bitterness, you will reap isolation.
- If you plant greed, you will reap loss.
- If you plant gossip, you will reap enemies.
- If you plant worries, you will reap wrinkles.
- If you plant sin, you will reap guilt.

- If you plant honesty, you will reap trust.
- If you plant goodness, you will reap friends.
- If you plant humility, you will reap greatness.
- If you plant perseverance, you will reap victory.
- If you plant hard work, you will reap success.
- If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation.
- If you plant openness, you will reap intimacy.
- If you plant patience, you will reap improvements.
- If you plant faith, you will reap miracles.

Anonymous



Gone West

MAJ David G. Helmer, USAR(ret)

3/5/42 - 2/21/15

Not alone into the sunset but into the company of friends who have gone before him.



SML MEETING SCHEDULE

17 APRIL: Speaker, Linda All, Secretary of the Jubal Early Trust. Topic: "Jubal Early: The Man and His Home." The meeting will be at The Westlake, and is a dinner buffet that begins at 1830 hours; cost is \$25 per person. For details, contact Art Sommers at (571) 236-7775 or arts741089@aol.com

RESERVATION FORM FOR SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER MEETING

★ 11:45 AM THIRD THURSDAY EACH MONTH AT HIDDEN VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB, SALEM ★

MEMBER NAME _____

NUMBER ATTENDING: _____ GUEST NAME: _____

Meal cost is \$25 per person. To reserve your place, complete and mail this form to MOAA-SWVC, PO Box 3090, Roanoke, VA 24015-1090. Make checks payable to: MOAA-SWVC. The deadline for reservations is Monday before the meeting. Last-minute reservations, call Steve Jamison at: (540) 989-3502. Or via email to: jamisons@cox.net. Un-cancelled "No-show" reservations will have to be charged.

MY CHECK FOR \$ _____ IS ENCLOSED. MY PHONE NUMBER IS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____ IS THIS A CHANGE? Y _____ N _____

Bars & Stripes



The "old" and "new" Marine Corps...

There has been lots of speculation about when the "Old Corps" ended and the "New Corps" began. I researched this and found the answer.

In 1775 the Marine Corps was formed at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia.

In the beginning they announced that any new recruit would get a free tankard of rum.

But they didn't get as many recruits as they wanted so they announced that from now on all new recruits would get two tankards of rum,

A Marine in the back ranks said,

"We didn't have it that good in the Old Corps"

One more for the Marines..

As a group of marine recruits stood in formation at a Marine Base, the Drill Instructor yelled, "All right! All you idiots fall out."

As the rest of the squad wandered away, one recruit remained at attention.

The Drill Instructor walked over until he was eye-to-eye with him, and then raised a single eyebrow. The recruit smiled and said,

"Sure was a lot of 'em, huh, Sergeant?"

From p. 3 Auxiliary NOTES (cont'd)

bers or a friend about The Survivor's Guide, where it is located, and what it contains. AMAC members also stress the guide is not intended to replace other methods of record keeping. However, the guide is different because it includes information on both military and civilian agencies.

While the guide is in development, MOAA members can refer to the shorter Survivor's Checklist or the Personal Affairs Action Guide available on MOAA's website. These publications also can be ordered by calling MOAA's Members Service Center at (800) 234-MOAA (6622).

AWARD PRESENTATION OPPORTUNITIES

Again this year the Southwest Virginia Chapter is supporting (19) area high school JROTC programs with the MOAA JROTC Medal Award and supporting (4) ROTC programs, the Army, Navy and Air Force ROTC units at Virginia Tech and the Army ROTC unit at Radford University with the MOAA ROTC Medal Award. The Southwest Virginia Chapter is also presenting two Leadership awards to ROTC Cadets/Midshipmen from either Virginia Tech or Radford University. Volunteers are needed to represent the Southwest Virginia Chapter to present these awards. Contact Tom Dalzell for more details.



**Bring a fellow officer
and their spouse to
our next meeting.**

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