

MINUTES - FIRST QUARTER MEETING

Friday - 8 January 2010

The Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC) held its 1st Quarter 2010 meeting at the U.S. Army Quartermaster Museum on Ft. Lee, Virginia. All VCOC Officers and Appointees and all identified VCOC Chapter Representatives had been notified of this meeting 31 days prior via electronic means and written documents including "The Council Crier." Anyone desiring a copy, please contact the secretary by e-mail.

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM by Col Sam Wilder, the VCOC President. In the Chaplain's absence due to physical problems, President Wilder provided an invocation, and 1st V.P. Col Don Kaiserman led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

A Quorum was determined after the chapter representatives introduced themselves and any others attending with them. Only one Chapter, Northern Virginia, was not represented.

Approval of the Minutes of the 4th Quarter, 2009, was discussed; 2nd V.P. Maj Melva Mallison requested that the Personal Affairs briefing she had submitted be referenced herein and be made an attachment to the record copy of the minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes subject to other minor changes being made. The Minutes were approved as amended by unanimous vote.

President Wilder then made his report discussing the mission of the VCOC, the importance of providing support to the chapters and to MOAA Headquarters, and the vital necessity for effective, open communications within VCOC. He believes VCOC is the most valuable and most effective of all the Councils of MOAA, but he thinks we should not rest on our laurels and that we should continuously improve.

President Wilder proposed four specific VCOC Goals for 2010. These goals were moved, seconded, and unanimously approved as presented. Next, specific objectives to accomplish these goals were moved, seconded, and discussed. In the discussion several amendments were made and approved. The objectives were then approved as amended.

He then discussed the need for a standardized awards policy, which had not been formalized previously. Upon motion made and seconded, the VCOC Awards Policy for 2010-2011 was unanimously approved as presented.

President Wilder addressed the need for the By-Laws to be updated. Since the proposed changes to the By Laws had been distributed to the Council 30 days prior, a motion was made and seconded to approve the changes to the By Laws as presented. The changes to the By Laws were unanimously approved as presented. He then discussed Chapter Vitality and Levels of Excellence. This area has a requirement right out of the MOAA Council/Chapters Policy and Procedures Guide, that "All chapters do a Self Evaluation quarterly." After much discussion, the requirement was changed to "All chapters do a Self Evaluation at least annually." The vote on this last element of the President's Goals and Objectives was unanimous, as amended. More on this later.

1st V. P. COL Don Kaiserman, Chair of the Legislative Committee, gave his report. First he covered several purely informational items concerning the functioning of the legislative committee. He then moved that the Legislative Committee's recommended National Top Priority Legislative Objectives for 2010 be adopted by the Council. The motion was seconded and with very little discussion, the National Top Priority Legislative Objectives for 2010 were unanimously approved as presented. Then seven VCOC Legislative Objectives were discussed and agreement was reached to amend #3 as follows: "All Legislative liaisons meet with each Virginia US Senator or Representative at least once each year to discuss VCOC and MOAA national legislative objectives." The seven VCOC Legislative Objectives were then approved as amended.

Col Kaiserman then discussed the Storming the Hill operation and reminded everyone of the need for attendance numbers and names for logistical purposes by 19 Jan 2010.

Visitor Mr. Vince Burgess, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, addressed budget implications, project rankings, and gubernatorial transition requirements for 2010.

Past VCOC President Col Bill Flanagan spoke briefly about the gubernatorial transition team and his role in the process.

2nd V. P. Maj Melva Mallison, Public Affairs Officer, Chair, Public Affairs Committee, Web Site Manager, and Editor of the Council Crier, discussed public affairs and the background of the VCOC Dress Code. She moved for approval of the Dress Code, motion was seconded, discussion ensued. Agreement was reached on wording that follows: "VCOC Dress Code for Public Events." Approval was unanimous. Maj Mallison discussed publicity for Storming the Hill on 25 Jan 2010 and input of articles, pictures, info, etc., to the Council Crier by 10 Feb 2010 due date.

Maj Mallison also gave a Personal Affairs briefing on behalf of LTC Blair Smith who could not attend the meeting due to a church commitment. She attended the Personal Affairs portion of the MOAA Chapter Presidents Symposium in September at Hershey PA and picked up some good tips, the most important of which is "**Do not take on a power of attorney,**" offer only advice/counsel. Her full report is attached.

3rd V.P. Cdr John Baumgarten, Chair, Membership/Chapter Affairs, presented the membership status and a hand-out. He discussed the Membership Committee Concept, provided the 2009 results of and reminded the chapter representatives of the advantages of the Give-Me-10 program, and presented tips to help chapters achieve success in the program. He discussed the new Chapter Report Form and Instructions. Discussion ensued, and agreement was reached allowing Chapters to conduct the Chapter Vitality assessment at a time of their choosing during the calendar year. The requirement for the Levels of Excellence assessment was changed to be done by the chapters in the first quarter of each year, since the competition submissions are due to MOAA during the

second quarter of each year. He moved adoption of the form, motion seconded, vote called, the Chapter Report Form was unanimously approved. The Gold Bar program was also discussed.

Approximately 20 minutes behind schedule the meeting broke for lunch, arranged by Col Bill Barrett, of the Quartermaster Foundation, and reconvened at 12:55 pm.

Treasurer Col Victoria Revilla handed out the 2009 VCOC Financial Statement, Budget Guidelines for 2010, and the Budget for 2010. She pointed out differences between the 2009 budget and the 2010 budget. She emphasized that fiscal conservatism will be the dominant principle for 2010. She stated that arrangements and payment for costs at VCOC meetings must be committed in advance and "If you don't pay, you don't eat," and "when you pay and don't come, no refunds." VCOC officers and/or representatives of VCOC will be reimbursed only for travel that is absolutely required for the advancement of VCOC goals and objectives. The budget was unanimously approved.

Secretary Col Jim Rose announced that the handout package for each attendee cost more than half his budget for printing, and that there will be no more "package" handouts. "If you don't bring it with you, you won't get it at the meeting," he said. We are emphasizing maximum use of the internet, the VCOC Web Site, and the Council Crier for communication and information exchange. He also mentioned the need to get the names and numbers of members attending the Storming the Hill event by 19 Jan.

An Open Discussion period followed during which President Wilder requested suggestions to improve VCOC meetings from the Chapter Reps. Cdr Baumgarten suggested that VCOC meetings contain discussions focused on how to accomplish our VCOC goals and suggested the next meeting focus on membership and chapter levels of excellence. There was general consensus that this was a good approach.

The next VCOC meeting locations and key dates were discussed, a good map of directions to the Defense Supply Center was requested. A motion was made and seconded to approve 2010 meeting locations and dates, and approval was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned almost on schedule, shortly after 1400 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

James T. Rose
James T. Rose, Jr.
Colonel USA (Ret)
VCOC Secretary

Attachments will be with the VCOC Record Copy.