



2009  
Runner up  
Council Newsletter & Web Site.  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Legislative in Newsletter.

# The *COUNCIL CRIER*

Quarterly Newsletter of the  
**Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC)**  
**Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)**

For leaders of Virginia's  
**18 MOAA chapters.**  
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## *PRESIDENT'S COLUMN*

**Council President's Seminar:** The annual seminar for Council Presidents and the Storming of the Hill in Washington D.C. was held 19 – 22 April. Don Kaiserman and I visited all members of the Virginia delegation or their staff to advocate for our national legislative priorities. Overall, our reception was friendly and supportive. The overriding theme, however, seemed to be one of great concern about the level of national debt. This concern will likely manifest itself in reduced spending for national defense and veterans' benefits. I'm afraid the situation is only going to get worse in the coming year.

At the seminar, the annual **MOAA communications awards** were presented. Most councils were presented only one or two awards. The Virginia Council was presented 14 awards (second only to Florida with 15). This is a great tribute to all those in the council and chapters who produce newsletters, e-newsletters, web sites, and other forms of communication. Congratulations to all the awardees!

**State Legislative:** On 29 April, Governor McDonnell signed all the military/veteran related legislation that was passed by the General Assembly this year. Of the top six objectives of the JLC, five were passed. The VCOC, as in the past, continued to be the spearhead for this effort. Job well done by all of our council and chapter legislative committee members!

**Congressional Appreciation Luncheon:** Our congressional luncheon on 27 April was a very good success. We had an excellent turnout of both VCOC chapter members as well as the Virginia delegation. All total we had over 160 attendees, which more than accomplished our VCOC objective of increasing attendance by 10% over last year. I thought the comments from our Congressmen, as well as Admiral Ryan, were excellent and showed their appreciation for all we in MOAA and the VCOC have done and are continuing to do. Some great pictures were taken and are on our VCOC website. Hopefully, chapters have used the pictures and the news release template to get coverage in their local press.

**Levels of Excellence:** One of the objectives approved by the Council for this year was to increase the number of 5 Star Chapters. Being a 5 Star Chapter is a great morale boost for chapter members as it recognizes all that they do. The deadline for submission is 1 June. I hope that we have several new chapters submitting this year.

**VCOC Meeting 8 July:** We have an important meeting coming up in July. It is important because at that meeting we will vote on our submission of state legislative objectives to the JLC. The Legislative Committee will meet separately on 10 June at Ft. Lee to discuss and make recommendations. The chapters will have a chance to discuss these recommendations before we have a council vote on 8 July. At that meeting, we will also have a discussion on how to do public affairs well. So, I would invite all the chapter Public Affairs Committee chairs to attend. The meeting will be hosted by the Heritage Chapter at the Globe and Laurel Restaurant (which is a veritable museum of Marine Corps lore) near Quantico. Attendance at VCOC meetings by all of our chapters is also a VCOC objective. Let's see if we can attain this objective in July!

**Long Range Planning:** A month ago, I would not have been very interested, but after the Council President's Seminar, I'm now somewhat enthused about the possibility of having a "Convention Cruise" in October of 2011 in lieu of our usual Bi-Annual Dinner. Other councils have done it. It's fun, informative, and a fund raiser for the Council. More details to follow. Be thinking about it and we'll discuss it at the meeting in July and see if there is enough interest.

VCOC President, Sam Wilder, meets with US Senator Mark Warner, D-Virginia.  
*photo courtesy of Wilder's team.*



*/ Sam Wilder, COL, USA, Ret, VCOC President*