



The **COUNCIL CRIER**

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

For leaders of Virginia's
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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The New Year of 2010 started off on the right foot. So, far we had three very successful VCOC events: An important VCOC business meeting, a very enjoyable dinner to celebrate last year's success in the Give Me Ten program, and an extremely productive "Storming of the Hill" in Richmond.

At our 8 January quarterly meeting, the council voted on a number of important issues. We approved the **Goals and Objectives for 2010** that we as a council will undertake to achieve. We agreed that we would continuously try to improve. We approved a new VCOC Awards Policy, updated our By-Laws, approved the VCOC National Legislative Objectives for 2010, reaffirmed our VCOC MOAA "Uniform", adopted a **new chapter report format** and approved a new budget for 2010. We also agreed to **reduce the amount of paper used** and to rely more upon e-mail and the web site. Finally, upon suggestions from chapter representatives we will have a focused discussion at our meetings designed to help chapters improve their operations. All of this represents a huge accomplishment.

On Sunday, 24 January, leaders from all chapters gathered at Richmond's Five Star hotel, the Jefferson. We had a delicious dinner and enjoyed great camaraderie at the expense of MOAA. Because of our recruiting efforts in 2009, the VCOC won **A Night Out With MOAA** and it was well deserved. One of our recruiting objectives is to win it again in 2010.

The day following the dinner many participants joined others from their chapter to come to Richmond and "**Storm the Hill**". We had a great line up of speakers who talked to us. The "star" was Governor Bob McDonnell, who is a MOAA member! We also had the Lt. Governor, the Speaker of the House, the Attorney General, the Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness, and four General Assembly senators/delegates. The recurring theme from all of the legislators is how much they appreciate not only our past service but how important it is for us to come to the capitol to **advocate for veterans and the military community**. It is clear that we have earned their respect and admiration. We know that this is another terrible year economically and we may not succeed in getting all that we are advocating for but they knew MOAA was in town. We achieved our objective of increasing attendance by more than 10% over last year. We had a total of **66** people present. Even more importantly we obtained an astounding **74 co-patron signatures** for our JLC priority legislative objectives. For the first time, we received newspaper and radio **coverage** of our Day on the hill. Thanks to the perseverance of our "Storm Troopers", **we not only "stormed" the hill – we captured it!**



VCOC President, Colonel Sam Wilder at center.
Left: LTC John Clickener, USMC, Ret, VCOC Legislative Vice Chair for State Legislation.
Right: Col Don Kaiserman, USA, Ret, VCOC 1st VP & Legislative Chair.

STORMING RICHMOND 2010

Photo by VCOC PAO

VCOC GOALS FOR 2010

IMPROVE LEGISLATIVE EFFECTIVENESS – National & State
IMPROVE RECRUITING – Members & Leaders
IMPROVE PUBLIC AFFAIRS
IMPROVE VITALITY & EXCELLENCE – Chapters
See Goals & Objectives on VCOC website (in home section).
Objectives for each goal are included in this newsletter.

As this goes to press, the state legislative process is not over. I hope that we will all stay engaged and when an alert comes out to contact key legislators, that we'll have maximum participation. We are a **powerful voice in the Commonwealth and we need to use it.**

We will next turn our attention to Washington and our **Congressional Appreciation Luncheon** on 27 April. We are the only council in MOAA that does this. The purpose is twofold: First, to let our congressmen know we appreciate their efforts over the past year and also to tell them how much more still needs to be done. Again this is an event where we need to have a lot of participants and we need to have each chapter represented. Remember.... **NUMBERS COUNT!** More details will be forthcoming. Watch the web site for information.

We have the best Council in MOAA because we have the best chapters. Let's just keep getting better.

/ Sam Wilder, COL, USA, Ret, VCOC President 2010-2011