

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – NATIONAL PLAN A POWERFUL SHOWING AT CONGRESSIONAL LUNCHEON



National Legislative Priority Objectives:

STRENGTHEN THE ALL VOLUNTEER FORCE

1. Increase size of ground forces
2. Prevent erosion of TRICARE
3. Help Widows & Wounded

When we hit the road for D.C. 27 April 2010 for our 25th Annual Congressional Luncheon, let's repeat results achieved at the Virginia General Assembly "Storming." Goals established at our January VCOC meeting were to have **ALL 18 chapters present**, a visual show of MOAA badges on "our uniform" (red tie, white shirt and blue blazer (red scarf for the ladies), all **13 Virginia members of Congress** joining our event and **supporting our National Objectives**, friendly conversation with those who represent us in Congress, a reporter attending, and **news stories published** afterwards. All these goals can be achieved.

VCOC has established a reputation with our focus on legislative affairs and promotion of needs of our entire military family in Virginia. As in the past the VCOC web site contains all the details required by our membership. Note the firm requirement for both pre-registration and advance payment to eliminate any financial loss resulting from "no-shows." We ask that you accept these requirements to keep our VCOC in a strong and viable financial state. Melva (our Public Affairs Officer) requests each chapter **bring a camera** to obtain photos while meeting with our guests. Stu Williams made an excellent suggestion and action was taken on **letters to key Congressional members** (i.e. our two Senators and members on the House Armed Services Committee for their support of VCOC National Objectives. We ask the letters be presented to the cited members of Congress in their home offices **PRIOR TO OUR LUNCHEON** to insure Congress men and women are aware, understand and express their support when they give their presentations during our hosted event for them.

We encourage Chapters to make these visits to improve the effectiveness of support of our National Objectives. These efforts along with our past Luncheon activities will continue to earn the respect and image that VCOC has with MOAA HQ staff, some who will be attending our event. Plan to attend our 25th Annual Congressional Luncheon with other MOAA friends/members along with your elected members of Congress.

Let's go for a "**large body count**" this year. See you in D.C.



/Don Kaiserman-VCOC 1st VP

27 APRIL
Senate Office Bldg, Russell Caucus Room
RESERVE-PAY BY 13 APR

See National Legislative Section of website VirginiaMOAA.com

LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP OBJECTIVES:

Increase **grass roots support** at national/state level. (people who contact legislators).

Increase chapter legislative team members to at least **3 per chapter**.

All **legislative liaisons** meet with assigned Virginia US Senator or Representative at least once each year to discuss VCOC & MOAA national legislative objectives.

Every chapter meet with all state senators and delegates from their area **prior to start of the General Assembly**.

Increase attendance at storming of Hill and Congressional Luncheon **by 10%** with representation from **every chapter**.

Use a **VCOC alert system** for state objectives during the General Assembly with a "counter" to show strength of grass roots support.

Send **VCOC National Objectives to MOAA President** (Admiral Ryan) as "consolidated input" per the new Council/Chapter guide.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – STATE

WHERE WE STAND ON STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Approaching the "CROSSOVER DATE" at the General Assembly (Feb 16), we appeared to be on-track for better-than-expected support on VCOC/JLC State Legislative Priority Objectives. At least 5 of our 6 Objectives, collectively **addressing 9 issues**, are **moving thru the General Assembly** in spite of the fiscal condition of the Commonwealth. Those involved with these objectives have maintained a positive attitude and aided by VCOC success signing co-patrons during our "Storming" event and visits with legislators in their home offices, we see traction on a significant number of our state legislative objectives. **We may not achieve all the requested funding but should be successful in moving these objectives forward**, thus meeting the legislative goals agreed to at the last VCOC meeting. Some of the objectives may be carry-overs into our 2011 program but again we expect to surpass expectations in this session of the Assembly. We continue to refine our legislative programs, gaining from "lessons learned" from earlier activities.

An excellent example of progress is in the area of chapter participation on Legislative affairs: Some chapters now have both a Legislative Chair and an Alternate chair and chapter committees with 4 or more members providing essential back-up while added consistency to chapter legislative programs. We encourage other chapters to follow this trend and get membership involved in legislative and other committee activities. **I personally thank those chapters** which addressed our requests in these areas. We've often heard the comment "**NUMBERS COUNT**" (a favorite statement from Bill Flanagan) and a very valid statement. So keep up the progress to permit overall improvement in **addressing the needs/requirements of the military community in Virginia**. Watch for future articles in "The Crier", check the VCOC web site and emailed up-date reports on General Assembly activity on our legislative objectives sent out by John Clickener (of Potomac Chapter) and Steve Combs (Department Veterans Services). These reports are sent out often to chapter legislative members for discussion/review with chapter members. Please keep up on those visits to the home offices of your elected legislators. All these activities add to the success we achieve on VCOC/JLC Legislative programs. **Thanks again for chapter cooperation on above.**

/Don Kaiserman, COL, USA, Ret, VCOC 1st VP & Chair, VCOC Legislative Committee