

CHAPTER INPUT INVITED - STATE ISSUES

An important VCOC Legislative Committee meeting will be held at Ft Lee Quartermaster Museum on June 10 (beginning at 10 AM) to discuss state **priority legislative objectives** (PLOs) for 2011. This is an opportunity for chapter members to play a role in our legislative process to support the military in the Commonwealth by submitting suggestions to **your chapter Legislative Representative***. The VCOC Legislative Committee will review, discuss and vote upon suggestions which will then be presented for approval at the 8 July VCOC meeting. **VCOC-Approved PLOs will be passed to the Joint Leadership Council (JLC) at JLC 21 July meeting.** After discussions by the JLC, a final selection will be made on the state PLOs for 2011. In late December the listing and the one-page “Position Papers” will be sent to ALL 140 members of the General Assembly and the Governor for their consideration and passage of legislation to address the needs/requirement of the military community in the Commonwealth during the 2011 session

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT SUBMISSIONS INCLUDE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF:

- (1) CLEAR AND VALID JUSTIFICATION.
- (2) FISCAL IMPACT UPON THE COMMONWEALTH.
- (3) FOCUS ON THE ENTIRE MILITARY COMMUNITY, TO INCLUDE ACTIVE DUTY, GUARD/RESERVES SURVIVING, SPOUSES, RETIREES, VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS. Addressing only retiree and veterans issues, while important – may be viewed as self-serving by the General Assembly and impact the respect the VCOC and JLC have gained. We do not wish to lose this respect which has taken years to develop. (PLOs should not all be limited to veterans/retiree issues, though one or two may).



PLEASE HONOR THESE GUIDELINES TO PROTECT OUR IMAGE

* Email to chapter Legislative Reps asked them to email Vice Chair, John Clickener, a short description of suggested state PLOs by 5 June.

GOVERNOR SIGNED VETERAN-FRIENDLY LEGISLATION

On April 29, Gov. Bob McDonnell signed a number of pieces of legislation addressing military community issues, several of which were 2010 Joint Leadership Council (JLC) state legislative priorities. The event capped a highly successful year for the JLC and its 23 Veterans Services Organizations (including the Virginia Council of Chapters – MOAA) and for our military families in Virginia. Of the 6 Objectives and 10 issues recommended by the JLC, the General Assembly and our Governor took positive action by making our objectives state law on all but one (Veterans Courts). Gov McDonnell signed the constitutional change for real estate tax exemption for 100% disabled veterans and the referendum for the November election to gain public approval of the exemption. It is essential that members “GET OUT THE VOTE”, not just their vote but “spread the word” to family members, friends, fellow-workers, etc. Without public approval in November, nothing will have been gained for our disabled veterans after all the efforts. The Gov. also signed into law the elimination of tax on funds from the Military Family Relief Fund for emergency needs of families of deployed troops along with funding required to open, equip, operate and maintain the Virginia War Memorial’s Paul and Phyllis Galanti Educational Center. Two Budget Amendments addressing the Virginia Wounded Warrior program and automated system for veterans disability claims were also signed.



VCOC VP, Don Kaiserman with Virginia Governor, Bob McDonnell, 29 April 2010.

photo by Michaele White of Governor’s Office

Article condensed – see VCOC website VirginiaMOAA.com “Legislative State” section for more info and photos



VCOC AWARD to VINCE BURGESS

Retiring Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Veterans’ Services (DVS), Vince Burgess, was given a stamp plaque as an award for his service to Virginia veterans and their families. The award was presented by VCOC President, Col Sam Wilder, USA, Ret, at the Congressional Appreciation Luncheon, 27 April 2010.

photo at left courtesy of MOAA, by Steve Barrett

photo at right courtesy of VCOC, by Melva Mallison

