



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.
Published March, June,
September & December.
Editor: M. Mallison
VCOC Website: <http://www.VirginiaMOAA.com>

Volume XXVI No 2

SEPTEMBER 2010

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Levels of Excellence Awards: Congratulations to the chapters who earned Four and Five Star status for their efforts in 2009! The five-star winning chapters are: Richmond Area, Hampton Roads, Mount Vernon, Virginia Peninsula, GC Marshall, Southside Virginia, and Potomac Chapter. The four-star winning chapters are MOAA SW Virginia and Heritage Hunt. Kudos are particularly appropriate for SW Virginia and Heritage Hunt for their first time awards. Level of Excellence Awards are certainly good indicators of excellence in chapter activities and the chapter members can be justly proud of their accomplishments. While we did not accomplish our objective of raising the number of five-star chapters we have again made a very respectable showing. Let's start looking at what it will take to make your chapter a five-star chapter for next year. *See page 3*

State Legislative: The JLC has voted on its top priority legislative objectives for the 2011 General Assembly and the VCOC made a significant contribution to the selection of these objectives. As in past years, the VCOC is playing the major role in the JLC to spearhead the accomplishment of these objectives. I am particularly pleased that the JLC unanimously voted to make the establishment of a **veterans' lottery our number one priority**. If we are able to get this passed, it would provide funding for so many needed veterans' programs that are currently going un-funded. Its impact could be huge. Please plan to meet with your state legislators this fall to advocate for our state legislative agenda.

National Legislative: We will be focusing on updating our VCOC National Legislative Objectives at our October VCOC meeting. The VCOC Legislative Committee has begun to work on them and I expect that we will vote on new objectives then. The outlook for defense spending does not look good. I hope that we can resolve the problem of the 21% Medicare/TRICARE cut to providers this fall. We must have a final resolution of this problem.

Recruiting: Again congratulations are in order for the great effort in winning the 2nd Quarter bonus for the Give-Me-Ten program. I received the \$1000 check and a very nice letter from Admiral Ryan. Cdr John Baumgarten and I have been invited to attend a meeting at HQs MOAA on 22 September to review the Give Me Ten program. If you have any suggestions that you would like passed on to HQs MOAA about the program, please let either John or I know.

VCOC Meetings: We had an excellent meeting on 8 July at the Globe and Laurel Restaurant in Quantico. Marv Harris from MOAA attended and led an excellent discussion on Public Affairs. Thanks to the many chapter PAOs who attended. Also, we had attendance from all of the chapters, which we would like to continue for all of our future meetings. Our next VCOC meeting will be at the **Petersburg Country Club on 14 October**. We will discuss, and probably vote on, our updated **VCOC National Legislative Objectives**. I plan to invite someone from **MOAA Government Affairs Department** to lead a discussion. We will also need to finalize a decision about a **Convention Cruise** – if we should decide to do it.

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