

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Military Officers Association of America's Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOA) is one of the **23 organizations** working with-in Virginia's Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) to **speak with one voice on state legislative issues**. VCOA's representative to the JLC, BG Wes Edwards, USMC, Ret, presented the VCOA's proposed legislative objectives for 2011 (ranked in order of importance by Virginia chapters and approved by VCOA at our July 2010 meeting) to the JLC at their July 21st meeting. All but one (Homeless Veterans) were adopted as a JLC Priority Legislative Objective (PLO). All JLC organizations are asked to promote the JLC top PLOs, with any additional objectives ranked after the agreed-upon JLC top PLOs.



/ VCOA PAO, Melva Mallison, Maj, USAF, Ret

2011 STATE

PRIORITY LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES:

- **Alternative Dedicated Revenue Sources.**
- **Restore Staffing at State-wide DVS Offices.**
- **Fund State Veteran Cemetery Requirements.**
- **Address Veteran Court Requirements.**
- **Virginia War Memorial - additional funding.**
- **In-state Tuition Fees for Veterans.**

Joint Leadership Council Picks Top priorities for 2011:

At left are the Priority Legislative Objectives approved by the JLC. Priority ranking will be reviewed/addressed by the JLC in October. In the meantime when the briefing papers and point papers have been edited they will become available to post on JLC and VCOA Web sites.

/ VCOA's JLC Rep, Wes Edwards, BG, USMC, Ret

Initial Prep for 2011 General Assembly:

The Joint Leadership Council (JLC) Primary Legislative Objectives (PLOs) were selected at their 21 July Meeting. JLC activity during the next month will focus on the JLC Sponsors for each PLO refining and submitting a one-page point paper, the JLC Legislative Committee selecting House and Senate patrons for each PLO, and the JLC Legislative Chair preparing the one page list of the Objectives. These work products should be delivered to each Chapter Legislative Representative before the end of September.

The Governor's Budget Amendments will not be available until the end of the year. Although the PLOs will have an initial priority ranking, the JLC will establish the final ranking after reviewing the proposed changes.

Your Chapter Legislative Representative will distribute the information as it becomes available. You can help get the PLOs passed by urging your Delegate and Senator to co-patron the PLOs. After you receive the info use VAVET to contact your state legislators during the legislative session, and sending a "Thank You" after the session adjourns..

/ VCOA Legislative Committee Vice Chair, John Clickener, LTC, USMC, Ret

FYI:

Selection of PATRONS has become a JLC responsibility to select best qualified Patrons (based upon JLC selection factors). JLC has established a "Patron Selection Committee" to insure we have Patrons that can carry legislation thru passage by the General Assembly (GA). The JLC Selection Committee welcomes any VCOA member's input on a GA legislator expressing interest in being a PLO Patron but members SHOULD NOT make any commitment. JLC does not wish to miss a valid opportunity to have the best qualified patrons, insuring a successful 2011 Legislative Program with the Assembly.

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

State Constitutional Amendment:

VCOA and the JLC spent 2008, 2009, and 2010 working to obtain **Real Estate Tax Relief** for the Primary Residence of **100% Disabled Veterans**. This legislation was strongly opposed by the cities and counties. However, we prevailed and the Tax Relief Objective, which must be passed as an Amendment to the Virginia Constitution, will be on **YOUR ballot on November 2**. **YOU** (and you family, friends, neighbors, etc.) have to vote yes on November 2nd to achieve our objective. (*Think about climbing Mount Suribachi.*)



The VCOA Legislative Committee will be discussing additional grass roots measures at our next meeting. Gen. Wes Edwards, the VCOA Representative to the JLC, will also propose that the other 22 Veterans Service Organizations join in the grass roots effort to ensure passage of the Amendment.

/ VCOA Legislative Committee Vice Chair, John Clickener, LTC, USMC, Ret

The Council Crier – SEP 2010 – INSERT A