

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

16 May 2019

Call to Order

A meeting of the Board of Directors of The Southwest Virginia Chapter, Military Officers Association was held on 16 May 2019 at 1002 hours Eastern Standard Time at the Hidden Valley Country Club, Salem Virginia.

Directors and Chapter Officers Present

President David Gilleran, 2nd Vice President Lee Ensley, Secretary Steve Jamison, Treasurer Scott Van Cleef, Chaplain Roger Talmadge, Personal Affairs Officer and Legislative Affairs Representative Jim Flynn, Awards Chair Robert Habermann, Sergeant At Arms Michael Kasnick, Smith Mountain Lake Satellite Representative Rick Cocrane; Past President Dan Karnes, Director Larry Johnson, Director and interim VCOC Representative John Miller, Surviving Spouse Liaison Mary Lou Summers, Director Emeritus Tom Dalzell.

Directors and Chapter Officers Absent

1st Vice President and Membership Chair Donna Fore, Director Michael Leigh.

Call to Order

President David Gilleran called the meeting to order at 1002 hours. A quorum of directors was present, and the meeting was convened.

Opening Prayer

Chaplain Roger Talmadge led the Directors in prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance

2nd Vice President Lee Ensley led The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag recited by all present.

Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes:

- Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of 21 March 2019 were approved as submitted.

President's Report

- President Gilleran commented on the very successful 18 April membership meeting and lunch at Virginia Tech commenting on the presentation by MGEN Fullhart and the members of the VT Corps of Cadets; and on the VT Corps of Cadets Awards Ceremony held on 25 April and the VCOC Congressional Lunch

on 30 April at the Capitol Hill Club. The SWVC had the largest delegation at the VCOG Congressional Lunch and were present during the presentation of the VCOG “Legislator of the Year” award to 9th District Congressman Morgan Griffith. There was very little “in depth” discussion with the Congressional Representatives just the typical spin “we support the Military.”

Secretary’s Report:

- Secretary Steve Jamison reported on the Chapter membership. One former member departing Mr. Woody Gregory.
- Chapter member name tags with MOAA Logo – cost \$10 each. No minimum number. Still working on the details to order.

Treasurer’s Report:

- Checking account balance - \$6,886.77.
- The Profit and Loss statement, Budget vs. Actual 1 January through 15 May 2019 was presented.
- Leadership and savings fund balance - \$7,430.58, of which \$3,250 is in savings, \$3,750 from the VFW gift and \$630.58 in the Leadership Awards fund.
- Treasurer discussed a change in his report on moving money from the leadership account to the prime checking account to cover this year’s leadership awards (\$800) into savings so as not to have a higher checking account balance that currently.

Chaplains Report

- As CEO of the MFSC addressed multiple of issues on support provided to veterans outside of the Roanoke, New River Valley.
- MFSC has an approved budget and Form 990 filed as required.
- MFSC low on funds and seeking funds through several grant proposals.

1st Vice President’s Report:

- No report.

2nd Vice President’s Report:

- Volunteers still needed for Food Pantry Days. Next volunteer day’s are 16 May, 18 June, 18 July, 15 August and 19 September 2019.

Membership Chair Report:

- No Report

Program Directors Report

- 16 May 2019 - Mr. Dennis Finch - United States Secret Service (Ret). Topic: The Presidential Protective Division.
- 19 September 2019 – TBD - Lunch meeting with Board meeting
- 17 October 2019 – Mrs. Heath Hardage Lee will speak on her book “**The League of Wives**”, the story of how a cabal of indomitable POW and MIA wives

- relentlessly campaigned to free their captive husbands during the Vietnam War. - Dinner meeting
- 21 November 2019 – TBD - Lunch meeting with Board meeting
 - 19 December 2019 – Will ask MOAA for a MOAA Representative for installation of officers and Board of Directors for 2020

Surviving Spouse Representative Report:

- Ms. Mary Lou Summers reported that three lady's attend the lunch and program at VT and one will be at today's lunch.
- The Memorial Service for deceased member Pat Green is still in the planning stage. Details will be promulgated when they are finalized.
- A motion was made, seconded and approved to consider a memorial to Pat Green for all he did to establish the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin. It was originally suggested to rename the Mobile Vehicle in his name. Other suggestions included at Monument with an appropriate Plaque or a Memorial Bench. Estimated cost for the bench was \$1,500. The consensus favored a Memorial Bench. Ms. Summers will gather additional information and report back to the BOD. Funding would be obtained by requesting donations from the membership.

Legislative Liaison Report:

- Recent Commonwealth Legislation of Interest To MOAA. Attached below are some of the current Bills signed by Governor Northam. Thanks to Frank Wickersham III, W3, USMC (Ret.).
 - **House Bill 1988 - Military retirement benefits; marital share.** Requires that the determination of military retirement benefits in a divorce be made by the federal Uniformed Services Former Spouses' Protection Act (10 U.S.C. 1408 et seq.).
 - **House Bill 2161 - Department of General Services; disposition of surplus materials; veteran-owned small business and veterans service organizations.** Provides that the Department of General Services shall permit surplus materials to be sold to (i) small businesses certified by the Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity that are (a) military spouse-owned or (b) veteran-owned and (ii) veteran's service organizations.
 - **House Bill 1675 - Service members Civil Relief Act; attorney fees.** Provides that, where the appointment of counsel is necessary under the Service members Civil Relief Act, any attorney fees assessed shall not exceed \$125.
 - **House Bill 2672 - Department of Veterans Services; Virginia War Memorial division.** Provides that only the names and homes of record designation of those Virginians "Killed in Action" (i) as a result of military operations against terrorism, (ii) as a result of a terrorist act, or (iii) in any armed conflict after December 6, 1941, can be placed on the Shrine of Memory on the grounds of the Virginia War Memorial. The names and homes of record designation of all Virginians "Missing in Action" as a result of the Vietnam War and all other Virginians who served honorably but did not meet the criteria for placement on the Shrine of Memory are required to be honored elsewhere at the Virginia War Memorial. The bill also provides that the Board of Veterans Services will advise the Department Veterans Services on policies related to the War Memorial. This advisory authority currently rests with the Virginia War Memorial Board.

- **House Bill 2685 - Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program; eligibility.** Extends the benefits of the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program to the spouse or child of a veteran with at least a 90 percent permanent, service-related disability. Under current law, the spouse or child would be eligible for benefits only if the veteran's disability was incurred during military operations against terrorism, on a peacekeeping mission, as a result of a terrorist act, or in any armed conflict. Under the provisions of the bill, eligibility for stipends from the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Fund is unchanged.
- **House Bill 2169 – Physician Assistants; licensure by endorsement -** Authorizes the Board of Medicine to issue a license by endorsement to an applicant for licensure as a physician assistant who (i) is the spouse of an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States or the Commonwealth, (ii) is a graduate of an approved physician assistant education program, and (iii) holds a license as a physician assistant that is in good standing, or that is eligible for reinstatement if lapsed, under the laws of another state, the District of Columbia, or a United States possession or territory.
- **House Bill 1636 - Trespass; unmanned aircraft system; military airfield or military helicopter landing zone; penalty.** Provides that any person who knowingly and intentionally causes an unmanned aircraft system to enter the airspace within one mile of the boundary of any military airfield or military helicopter landing zone in the Commonwealth, for any reason, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.
- **House Bill 1265 - Department of Veterans Services; Virginia War Memorial division.** Provides that only the names and homes of record designation of those Virginians "Killed in Action" (i) as a result of military operations against terrorism, (ii) as a result of a terrorist act, or (iii) in any armed conflict after December 6, 1941, can be placed on the Shrine of Memory on the grounds of the Virginia War Memorial. The names and homes of record designation of all Virginians "Missing in Action" as a result of the Vietnam War and all other Virginians who served honorably but do not meet the criteria for placement on the Shrine of Memory are required to be honored elsewhere at the Virginia War Memorial. The bill also provides that the Board of Veterans Services will advise the Department of Veterans Services on policies related to the War Memorial. This advisory authority currently rests with the Virginia War Memorial Board.

VCOC Representative Report

- COL John Miler represented the Chapter at the VCOC meeting on 3 April 2019 in Richmond. The following issues were discussed:
 - Congressman Morgan Griffith was selected “Legislator of the Year”; Delegate Luke Torian, “State Legislator of the Year”; and, Terri Cole, MOAA Minuteman Award—these VCOC awards were presented at the Congressional Luncheon.
 - VCOC is looking for someone to take secretary role next term.
 - Reminder: 501(c) 19 must maintain minimum 75% regular members, NMT 25% surviving spouses; SWVC chapter numbers are good.
 - 1 May deadline for submitting Chapter of Excellence packet. **SWVC submission forwarded on 25 April 2019.**
 - Members “potential list” sent to Chapter Presidents 11 March.
 - Of 7 JLC initiatives, 6 became draft legislation, 2 signed by governor and one became a study.

- September 6-7 NE Regional Training Workshop, Hershey, PA. President/Membership Chair/Legislative Rep/Surviving Spouse Rep invited with lodging and meals paid by National. Transportation expense not covered. Replaces planned VCOC training in Richmond. More info expected from National. **SWVC needs to determine who will attend. TBD.**
- VCOC Congressional Lunch was held on 30 April 1100-1400, Capitol Hill Club. Chapter members John Miller, David Gilleran, Dan Karnes, Jim Flynn, Steve Jamison and Lee Ensley attended. **Feedback to VCOC on Chapter attendance and lack of formal procedures at these Congressional Luncheons for meeting Congressional members.**
- Cost of MOAA 4420. VCOC will donate \$2,800 and solicit remaining funds from chapters Mobile is \$ before third quarter meeting to raise money for second vehicle at Amelia and accrue for future vehicle. **SWVC to request donations from the membership.**
- With MOAA Mobile, no funds available to provide “grant” to chapters to help recruiting.
- Next VCOC meeting, 17 July 1000, American Legion, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond. **John Miller and David Gilleran will attend.**

Public Affairs Report

- Communiqué Newsletter – APR-MAY-JUNE edition currently in the works. Need a volunteer to assume this task.
- Chapter Website & Face book – Need a volunteer to assume this task. **Donna Fore indicated she would take on upkeep of the Chapter Face Book page. Need to see if the Website platform can be switched from Apple to Windows. Check Face Book Administrator for access from Gary Powers.**
- Public Affairs/Media – Need a volunteer to assume this task.
- Sponsorships - Need a volunteer to assume this task.
- Upcoming PR opportunities – Need a volunteer(s) to assume this task.

Sergeant At Arms Report

- No report.

Past President's Report:

- No report.

Director Reports

- Smith Mountain Lake Satellite representative Rick Cocrane reported:
 - Thanked those responsible for LTC Art Sommer's award and those who attended his ceremony.
 - Due to activities during the 75th anniversary of D-Day, the SML Satellite June meeting is cancelled.
 - On Tuesday, September 10, we will host cadets from the Franklin County High School JROTC. VADM Van Mauney (former Deputy Commander, US Strategic Command) will provide a presentation.

- At the Friday night dinner meeting on October 11, the speaker will be CDR Youssef Aboul-Enein. He will speak on "Mid East 101"
- Jim Caskie is the new Program Director, responsible for coordinating the monthly speakers.

Committee Chairperson's Report

- Awards Chair.
 - JROTC and ROTC Medal Awards. Nominations received from 16 high school JROTC programs. JROTC Medal Awards and presentation folders mailed to the respective schools. Chapter members volunteered to make the presentations. ROTC Metal Awards presented by Tom Dalzell to VT ROTC Cadets Harrison Barone, Kimberly Hoffman and Isabelle Pfund at the VT Corps of Cadets Awards Ceremony on Thursday 25 April 2019.
 - Chapter Leadership Awards 2019. At the VT Corps of Cadets Awards Ceremony on Thursday 25 April 2019, LTC David Gilleran presented the Chapter General William B. Rosson Leadership Award to Cadet Colleen Pramenko of the VT USAF ROTC Unit.
 - CDR Lee Ensley presented the Chapter General Lloyd B. Ramsey Leadership Award to Cadet Djamila Lou of the VT USAF ROTC Unit. CDR Ensley also presented Chapter Certificates of Recognition to the four other Cadets who submitted Leadership Award applications.
 - The William Byrd High School JROTC program has been cancelled due to lack of funding support from the Air Force. The Roanoke City Patrick Henry High School Air Force JROTC program will now include the William Byrd High School JROTC Cadets.

Old Business

- Volunteers needed for MFSC pantry dates. 5/16; 6/18; 7/18; 8/15; 9/19.
- 2018 Community Outreach Grant Final Report – competed and submitted to MOAA 9 May 2019.
- 2019 Communications Award submitted 28 February 2019.
- 2019 Level of Excellence Award submitted to MOAA on 25 April 2019.
- SWVC fund raiser to raise \$5,000 from the membership to support the MFSC. **Secretary Steve Jamison will develop a way forward.**
- Future program recommendations.

New Business

- **Memorial Day events planned.** There will be a Memorial Day ceremony at 0930 hours on Monday 27 May at Lee Plaza downtown Roanoke. Martinsville and Rocky Mount are also conducting Memorial Day events.
- AUSA, Stonewall Jackson Chapter is sponsoring a Flag Day and Army's 244th Birthday celebration on 14 June 2019 at 1900 hours at the Stonewall Brigade Museum, in Verona, VA.
- At the O Winston Link Museum there is an exhibit from 17 May to 8 September "**Proud To Serve**" honoring Military Members past, present and future.

- The entire membership needs to help us find a member to step in at this time, on a temporary basis, to fill the role of newsletter editor, webmaster, handle news releases or press releases and be the chapter Virginia, Council of Chapter (VCOC) representative. Gary Powers indicated that he is willing to assist with the transition of responsibilities. We are looking for an immediate short term action plan thru May and can look to regroup over the summer. Please let me know as soon as possible if you can take on any of these responsibilities. We all need to work together at this time to ensure these functions are taken care of.
- **There will be a Board of Directors planning meeting at 0900 hours on Thursday 18 July at the Shenandoah Club.** The event will be facilitated by Board Member Mike Leigh to identify chapter strengths, weaknesses, resources and develop a path forward for the Chapter. All Chapter Officers and Board members are requested to attend. Selected Chapter members will also be invited. Lunch will be available.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Directors, the meeting was adjourned at 1134 hours. The next Board of Directors meeting will be at 1000 hours on Thursday, 19 September 2019, at Hidden Valley Country Club.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen L. Jamison

Legislative Matters

Commonwealth of Virginia Level

Summary of 2019 JLC Policy Initiatives

The Virginia General Assembly convened on January 9th for the 2019 Session. The 2019 Joint Leadership Council (JLC) Policy Initiatives for the collective military and veteran community include its status in the following in priority order:

1. JLC 2019-01 - Increased State Active Duty (SAD) Pay.

Recommendation - That the Governor and General Assembly appropriate \$50,000 to ensure that all Virginia National Guardsmen are paid at least at the E6 rate.

Status: January 25, it passed the Senate (40-0) and referred to House Appropriations Committee

2. JLC 2019-02 - Income Tax Subtraction for Certain Low-Income 100% Disabled Veterans.

Recommendation - That the Governor and General Assembly approve an individual income tax subtraction for 100% service-connected disabled veterans with a federally adjusted gross income, not exceeding 150% of the federal poverty level for a four-person household, who have not already claimed another exemption.

Status: January 30, the Senate Finance Committee referred it to the House Appropriations Committee where it died.

3. JLC 2019-03 - Electronic Ballot Return.

Recommendation - That the Governor and General Assembly enact legislation and provide budget support of a pilot program at the Virginia State Board of Elections for \$100,000 and funding for one FTE, for a limited pilot program for the electronic return of absentee ballots by Virginia's deployed military service members.

Status: the Senate failed to report it out of committee, and it died.

4. JLC 2019-04 - Personal Property Tax Relief for Certain Disabled Veterans.

Recommendation - That the Governor and General Assembly approve legislation creating a standardized, statewide personal property tax exemption for one vehicle for 100% service-connected, total and permanent disabled veterans.

Status: It passed the House with substitute language creating a local option (92-4) and sent to the Senate which agreed to the modification (38-0) and referred back to the House for legislative action.

5. JLC 2019-05 - Free Tuition for Virginia National Guardsmen.

Recommendation - That the Governor and General Assembly provide budget support of approximately a \$1 million increase in the annual State Tuition Assistance program for a pilot program to cover the estimated 3.5% of Guardsmen seeking a degree who are not currently entirely covered by federal and state tuition assistance.

Status: January 28, it passed the Senate (40-0) and referred to House Appropriations Committee

6. JLC 2019-06 - VMSDEP.

Recommendation - That the Governor and General Assembly remove the requirement that a veteran's disability rating be combat related. Instead, a permanent service-connected disability rating of at least 90%, plus the satisfaction of the other requirements currently in the Code, would qualify a veteran's spouse or child for VMSDEP benefits.

Status: January 30, it passed the Senate (40-0) and referred to House Appropriations Committee

7. JLC 2019-07 - Phased-in System for Partial State Tax Exemption for Military Retirement Income.

Recommendation - That the Governor and General Assembly support changes to the current Virginia tax laws for a phased-in system to reduce state tax on military retirement income up to \$40,000 for retirees 65 years of age or older.

Status: no movement recently.

Other Commonwealth Legislative Initiatives

Approximately thirty additional pieces of legislation involving issues of the military, members of the armed forces, and dependents are pending before the House and Senate. These run the full gambit of subjects, such as tax exemptions, drones, retirement benefits, tuition refunds, taxation matters, and duty pay. Should you wish to learn more about these matters, please contact me.

Storming the Hill Day

On the Commonwealth level, the ongoing 4-year renovation of the original General Assembly and the move to Pocahontas Building has resulted in reduced space for conducting an annual 'Storming the Hill' Day as done in previous years. This year VCOC representatives were invited to join in several events on the JLC Day at the General Assembly on January 16. The day began with the Military, and Veteran Caucus mentioned above at 0800, followed by individually scheduled meetings with delegates, senators, and legislative aids from 0900 to 1115. Visits to either the House or Senate Galleries then followed before lunch.

COL John Miller represented our Chapter at 'Storming the Hill' during JLC day at the General Assembly. MOAA joined JLC instead of hosting its own 'Storming' session. Eight MOAA representatives attended the meeting with about 30 other individuals.

In an after-action message dated January 18, 2019, COL Miler reported on the events and noted that our representatives had the opportunity to meet personally with several of our local legislators to keep them fully informed on matters which impact the memberships of MOAA and the other military groups and organizations.

COL Miller also advised that all of our legislators indicated support for the JLC initiatives, but they caveated that budgetary constraints would be the biggest hurdle, especially this year with much General Assembly time devoted primarily to 'tax conformity' with federal legislation, broadband access, redistricting, expanding I-81, etc.

Finally, COL Miller noted that all of our legislators expressed support for our local agenda.

Federal Level

The 2019 MOAA Initiatives for the collective military and veteran community include the following in priority order:

1) Ensure that any TRICARE reform sustains access to top-quality care.

Recommendation – Strengthen our partnership with The Defense Health Agency (DHA) working groups and executive sessions. Engage The Military Coalition's Healthcare Committee. Continue to administer and drive the results of MOAA's healthcare surveys. Closely monitor the new role DHA has for oversight of The Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs).

2) Prevent disproportional TRICARE fee increases.

Recommendation – Reverse or significantly decrease the 2018 TRICARE Prime copayment for grandfathered/Group A beneficiaries to reduce out-of-pocket costs for successive specialty appointments, such as physical therapy or mental health care. Protect TRICARE For Life as a second payer to Medicare Part B.

3) Sustain Military pay comparability with the private sector.

Recommendation – Maintain continuous, unified messaging to legislators and service leadership, advising annual military pay raises approved by Congress correlate with the Employment Cost Index (ECI). Correlate with The Military Coalition to address this wide-reaching imperative of support to those in uniform, and seek closure of the 2.6 percent gap as soon as feasible.

4) Stop erosion of compensation and non-pay quality-of-life benefits.

Recommendation – Continue to oppose proposals to reduce compensation or undermine long-term retention. Assess the progress of The Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation and potential changes to a salary system.

5) End financial penalties for military survivors.

Recommendation - Ensure that legislation is introduced in the 116th Congress to address survivor benefits. Educate legislators, staffers, and other stakeholders about the inequities. Mobilize the members of MOAA and The Military Coalition to engage and press for legislation to be included in The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

6) End concurrent receipt penalties for military retirees.

Recommendation – Ensure that legislation is introduced in the 116th Congress to address Chapter 61 inequities. Educate legislators and congressional staffers about the impact these penalties have on some of our most vulnerable retirees. Mobilize our membership and The Military Coalition to engage Capitol Hill.

7) Achieve equity of benefits for Guard and Reserve members with their active duty counterparts.

Recommendation – Encourage Congress to advance equal pay and benefits for similar services performed by Guard and Reserve components relative to active duty troops. Build partnerships with Federal Agencies such as The Department of Labor, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves, and state governors to expand and strengthen

employer support for Guard and Reserve Members. Appeal to The Military Coalition to expand influence and reach in all areas affecting pay and benefits issues.

8) Strengthen DoD-VA collaboration and services to support wounded warriors and expanding populations of women veterans.

Recommendation – Monitor the FY-2019 NDAA requirement for a review and assessment of DoD and service wounded warrior programs. Seek legalization forcing the VA to address known gaps in benefits to veterans. Involve The Military Coalition’s Veterans’ Committee to expand influence and reach in all areas affecting veterans’ issues. Engage and advocate of the behalf of the VA – when needed – to ensure that the agency is adequately resourced and equipped to deliver benefits to the veterans without backlogs or delays. Preserve the integrity of and access to DoD and VA health systems for dually eligible beneficiaries.

9) Ensure timely access to service-earned VA benefits.

Recommendation - Oppose efforts to use veteran’ disability benefits compensation or other benefits to pay for VA system improvements and diminish or restrict access to service-earned benefits. Press DoD and the VA to improve true interoperability of electronic media, personnel, and benefits records to improve medical outcomes and delivery of benefits. Mandate DoD and the VA to develop protocols and establish a mechanism to address service-connected illnesses and environmental exposures and institute a framework for managing toxic exposures that might happen in the future.

10) Protect military and veteran family support programs and policies.

Recommendation – Educate Members of Congress and their staffers on the importance of military family readiness and issues affecting military and veteran families. Protect programming and subsidies essential to MWR and family readiness. Eliminate health and safety hazards in military based housing. Decrease military spouse unemployment and underemployment. Ensure their quality of life and health of military and veteran families.

Recent Federal Legislative Gains

Active / Reserve Force Issues – the principal legislative achievements are as follows:

- 2.4 percent active duty pay raise.
- Unchanged Basic Allowance for House (BAH) calculation.
- Increase in force end strength levels.
- Won increased travel reimbursement for Guard/Reserve training beyond commuting distance.
- Extended Post 9/11 GI Bill eligibility to Guard/Reserve serving on pre-planned missions and medical hold.

- Eliminated 15-year time limit thus making Post-9/11 GI bill permanent for service members entering the military beginning Jan 1, 2018, and other educational enhancements for families-survivors.

Military Family / Survivors / Veterans / Other Issues – the principal achievements are as follows:

- Protected individual unemployability/COLA benefits for disabled veterans.
- Permanently extended the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) and indexed future increases to COLA.
- Improved VA claims appeals to reduce long waits and complex decisions.
- Won legislation to provide VA additional authorities to hold employees accountable
- Extended VA Choice Program authority and funding to provide health care in the community.
- Ensured veterans affected by chemical testing attain presumptive status for claims.
- Actively engaged Commissary reform efforts.

Matters that are still pending and which will need to be resolved in FY 2019:

- Will Congress pass a full-year VA appropriation or adopt a 3-4 month short-term appropriations?
- Will VA replace the Choice Program and reform community care?
- Will Congress pass a full year appropriations bill for the FY 2018 NDAA?
- TRICARE: Despite yearlong efforts to prevent TRICARE fee increases, the final NDAA included progressive year-over-year increases in pharmacy copayments. Beneficiaries will see steady gains in their cost shares across all medication tiers, which will save DoD more than \$2.1 billion by 2022 and fund improvements in military readiness and SSIA. Most of the increases will be through the retail pharmacy sector, but beneficiaries still can obtain medications at military pharmacies free. The new fees will include mail-order generic prescriptions as well, and begin on Jan 1, 2018.

Storming the Hill in DC

On the national level, MOAA will hold their Annual Storming in April on a date to be announced in Washington, D.C. Dates are also being discussed for the Annual Congressional Appreciation Luncheon and will be shared when available.

Several of Our Local Legislators

- 1) John Edwards – John@edwardsva.com – Senator
- 2) Chris Head – chris.head@homeinstead.com - Delegate
- 3) Sam Rasoul – sam@envigor.net - Delegate
- 4) Chris Hurst – Christlhurst@gmail.com - Delegate