



OKLAHOMA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS
MEETING MINUTES
18 MAY 2024



Council President, Dennis Clippinger, called the meeting to order at 1000L at the La Madeleine restaurant, in Norman, OK.

Representatives and guests who were invited and attended the meeting (Listed in alphabetical order):

Bob Bahr	Cimarron Chapter President
Ken Bartels	Past Council President and Cimarron Chapter
Barbara Bowman	Council Surviving Spouse Liaison and Norman Chapter, Surviving Spouse Liaison
Dennis Clippinger	Council President
Don DuRant	Southwest OK Chapter President
Pat McGaugh	Council Legislative Liaison and Norman Chapter, Legislative Liaison
Ed Petersen	Past Council President
Chris Sartorius	Council 1st Vice President, Secretary, and Norman Chapter President
Alta Segovia	Guest - Green Country Chapter President Spouse
Mark Segovia	Green Country Chapter President
Janet Skelton	Southern OK Chapter President
Jerry West	Council Treasurer and Past Council President

Dennis Clippinger led the Council in the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: Members present reviewed the Feb 2024 meeting minutes. No changes were noted. The council approved the meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Dennis Clippinger summarized the Treasurer's Report. The bank account balance is \$6389.23 as of 28 Mar 24. The council approved the treasurer's report. 2024 Council dues are due after 1 Jan 2024 and based on 31 Dec 2023 membership roster. all chapters have paid dues as of 18 May 2024.

Chapter Reports:

- Cimarron Chapter - Bob Bahr provided an oral report. see his written report on the Google Drive.
- Green Country Chapter - Mark Segovia provided an oral report. See his written report on the Google Drive.
- Norman Chapter - Chris Sartorius provided an oral report. See his written report on the Google Drive.
- Southern Oklahoma Chapter - Janet Skelton provided an oral report. See her written report on the Google Drive.

- Southwest Oklahoma Chapter - Don Durant was absent due to illness. Dennis Clippinger provided an oral Report. See written report on the Google drive.

Council President's Comments:

OK Travel Highlight - Tulsa - The Boxyard shopping center made of repurposed shipping containers at 502 E. 3rd St. Interesting shops and restaurants. Lawton area - Medicine Park has a similar experience using shipping containers.

New Leaders Workshop - 27 Mar 24 - Gen Lynch emphasized we are a non-partisan organization. DoD - Military Service Seals and Logos are not authorized for local MOAA use. Be careful using photos you did not take. Photo copyright issues might be in play and result in charges for use of these types of photos.

Advocacy in Action - 3 focus issues Richard Star Act, BAH Restoration Act, Protecting Tricare for Life. Uploaded three issues papers to Google Drive. Richard Star Act - passed out of committee, hopefully this will pass as part of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) or as a stand-alone act. BAH restoration has a little way to go in terms of passage. Dennis Clippinger met Congressmen Lucas and Hern and staff members for the rest of our OK congressional delegation.

Everplan is a MOAA partner and for a fee helps collect information and serve as a repository for key service member documents (to assist in estate planning).

VA Cemeteries - VA can evaluate eligibility for VA burial prior to death.

MOAA HQ Communications Committee (member, HQ MOAA National Board of Directors) - Guest Speaker - LTC Aric Raus, US Army (Active DUTY) - Traveled from Ft. Leavenworth to Norman to speak with the OK State Council. He has worked on the board for four years. Key Issues:

Currently Serving Members - Active members often don't realize what MOAA is doing and has done to advocate and secure military and veteran benefits. LTC Raus discussed several examples of how MOAA has been successful in reversing adverse congressional actions affecting active duty and retired members.

Current MOAA Priorities

MOAA President - USAF Gen Kelly - final assignment focused on family and airman programs. Six MOAA focus areas

Advocacy (17 years straight listed as a top advocacy organization from the Hill magazine)

Richard Star Act - deals with offsetting benefits (retirement and veteran benefits)

Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) - 95% is current payment level and this adversely affects junior military service members. \$400-600 shortball in many cases.

Tricare for Life - Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has been recommending requiring retiree payments to help reduce budget deficit.

MOAA Foundation - Veteran Crisis Fund, Scholarship Fund, Local Programs Fund are funding mechanisms to support local chapters and MOAA members

Membership - More than half of MOAA members are Life Members. Basic membership is free and doesn't expire. Current recruitment efforts focus on 30-60 year old potential members. Surviving Spouses gain full membership benefits as survivors. Spouses are key influencers regarding new members and promoting life memberships. ROTC programs and mentorship outreach activities are important ways of

recruiting new members. Military posts/bases are now more open to hosting meetings and this can help recruiting active duty members. Chapter and Council members are the most active MOAA members. Promoting the MOAA free membership is a great way to educate people on MOAA benefits and providing a pathway for future, paid membership.

MOAA Transition Programs - MOAA offers resume reviews, interview training sessions (mock interview), transition workshops (online or in-person for DC area).

AMS System - New membership management system at MOAA HQ replacing the Committee Module. This transition is taking a long time to come online. Full functionality and access is improving with time. Users will have to reset password using their e-mail address registered at MOAA HQ as the userid and then resetting their existing password to a new password.

OK Veterans Council Report: OK has the only state-level veteran's Council in the US. Dennis has attended two meetings in the past three months. Congressional liaisons are not sending representatives but Sen Lankford did send a rep to discuss the Veterans History Project. Director Velosich (sp) provided an update. He is scheduled to testify to the OK state Senate on rural veteran medical care. 68,000 veterans have received care so far this year. Capacity is an issue (nursing care). PACT Act outreach events and claims continue. Dale Graham Veteran Foundation opened a new facility in Lawton, OK (helps people file VA benefits paperwork). meetings are conducted on the first meeting of each month at St. Luke's Methodist Church (near the state capital) in OKC.

2023 Level-of-Excellence (LOE) Awards - Dennis Clippiner and LTC Raus presented the following awards:

Green County - Five Star Award

Southern OK - Five Star Award

Southwest OK - Five Star Award and Col Marvin J. Harris Communication Award (9th consecutive year these two awards were earned)

OK Council of Chapters - Five Star Award

MOAA HQ is no longer providing LOE medallions for MOAA streamers. Medallions listing the award year are available for purchase on the MOAA website.

Legislative Update: Pat McGaugh was absent but provided a written report. See written report for details on bills introduced for the 2024 OK Legislature session. Please send Pat news about new legislative initiatives so he can research them for future updates.

Surviving Spouse Liaison: Barbara Bowman presented an oral report. Please get your service related paperwork together to help survivors in the event of your death. This helps garner benefits for surviving family members. Tell people where this paperwork is located. See VA and MOAA websites for survivors. Different cemeteries have different rules concerning who can be buried in a military/veteran cemetery. See the VA and MOAA websites for planning checklists. Tricare for Life and pharmacy information is also found on the MOAA website along with surviving spouse information TAPS is another good organization for survivors. Consider filing paperwork only through an official Veteran Service Organization (VSO) to avoid fraud and ensure better service. Don't go to a lawyer first for this type of help. Veterans History Project is administered by the Library of Congress to chronicle service member personal history. The In Memory Project recognizes those who died due to Vietnam Service but are not included on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, DC.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Past President's Comments: No Comments

Announcements:

Next Meeting Date: Wed, 14 Aug 2024, 1000-1700 plus dinner, Location Tulsa Hardesty Library, Maple Meeting Room. Meeting will coincide with HQ MOAA Senior Leader Workshop. Catered Lunch and possible off-site dinner. Open invitation to all chapter members and council officers.

Adjournment: Dennis Clippinger adjourned the meeting at 1205L.

Respectfully submitted by:

Chris Sartorius
Council Secretary
MOAA / Oklahoma Council of Chapters