



**New Mexico Council of  
Chapters  
Military Officers  
Association of America**



Subject: Council of Chapters Minutes, 7 October 2017

The New Mexico Council of Chapters meeting was preceded by a luncheon which included a presentation by BG Jack Fox, Secretary, New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services. He spoke about the current Department programs and the Legislative Agenda for 2018.

The following Chapters were represented at the subsequent Council of Chapters meeting: Albuquerque, Mesilla Valley, Don Root - Tularosa Basin, Totah and Roadrunner.

The following Council of Chapters members were present.

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Name</b>		<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Position</b>
LTC	Walter	Paul	Albuquerque	CofC President
MAJ	Jason	Peete	Totah	CofC Vice President
LCDR	Neal	Harris	Road Runner	CofC Treasurer
CAPT	Tom	Williams	Mesilla Valley	CofC Secretary
Lt.Col.	Don	Root	Tularosa Basin	Past Pres CofC
Lt.Col.	Mark	Perusse	Tularosa Basin	Chap President
LTC	Max	Johnson	Roadrunner	Chap President & LL
LTC	Henry	Bullock	Totah	CofC Chap Rep
COL	Chuck	Hartman	Tularosa Basin	CofC Board Member
COL	A.J.	Kessel	Roadrunner	CofC Chap Rep
Col	R. "Mac"	Sikes	Tularosa Basin	CofC Chap Rep
Col	Scott	Tippin	Tularosa Basin	CofC Chap Rep
Civ	Dolores	Morgan	Albuquerque	Surviving Spouses

**Call to Order:**

- The General Meeting was called to order at 1400, October 7, 2017 by Secretary Tom Williams (due to the resignation of President Jim Harbinson)

## **The Pledge of Allegiance:**

- The meeting began with an acknowledgement of the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer conducted at the luncheon.

## **Installation of New Officers:**

- Secretary Tom Williams presided over the administration of the Oath of Office for:
  - o President Walter Paul
  - o Vice President Jason Peete
  - o Treasurer Neal Harris
  - o Surviving Spouses Dolores Morgan

## **President's Comments:**

- President Paul welcomed all who were in attendance and thanked them for coming. He expressed his appreciation to the Tularosa Basin Chapter for setting up and hosting the conference at Pepper's Grill and arranging the reception on Friday night. The Chapter was able to obtain a grant in the amount of \$400 from a MOAA partner, USAA for this meeting and reception.

## **President's Report:**

- President Paul addressed the #1 challenge facing all the Chapters - Recruiting and Retention.
- He explained with the demise of the Roswell and Clovis Chapters and the decrease in members in all the other Chapters in NM it is important we find new ways of attracting members.
- The proposed program would include:
  - o determining what programs and activities would make the Chapters relevant to post Vietnam & post Gulf War officers (retired and other categories)
  - o publicizing those events and programs in each Chapter's community to attract new member.
  - o Continuing the program of sending letters of invitation to National members who are not part of a Chapter.

- He also proposed a NM State wide MOAA Convention in April/May 2018 time frame in Albuquerque hosted by the CofC & the Albuquerque Chapter. Invitees would include:
  - All Chapter members
  - All National members (who are not Chapter members)
  - All National Guard officers

The purpose is to get more exposure for MOAA in New Mexico and to give the National members an opportunity to join their local Chapter once they have seen all the programs & events available to them in the Chapters

### **Secretary's Report and Minutes:**

- Copies of the minutes of the April 29, 2017 meeting minutes were provided for review. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as published. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- Secretary Williams presented Council of Chapters Past-President pin to: Don Root, Chuck Hartman & Neal Harris.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- The Treasurers report was submitted by Neal Harris Council Treasurer (see separate report).
- A motion was made and seconded to reimburse the Roadrunner Chapter for \$168.61 for their Chapter Recruiting Program. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- A motion was made and seconded to reimburse the Albuquerque Chapter for \$411.22 for their Chapter Recruiting Program. The vote to approve was unanimous.

### **Committee Reports:**

- **Legislative Affairs Committee**
  - Max Johnson provided a detailed overview of the upcoming legislative session and the priorities of the Department of Veterans Services.
  - There will be no Personal Income Tax (PIT) exemption legislation in the 2018 session due to lack of funds.

- Max also explained that he will send out all email blasts he receives from National to contact your Congressional Rep or Senator. Please make the effort to respond to the requests.
- Federal legislators are chipping away at the Tri-Care benefits and they still have not gotten rid of Sequestration.
- **Surviving Spouses**
  - Dolores Morgan had no report at this time.
  - She plans to gather data from the Chapters before she can make a detailed report.
  - She plans a detailed report for the next CofC meeting.

### **Chapter Reports:**

- Each Chapter made a presentation of the "State of the Chapter". The written versions will be on the albumoaa.org website under "NM Council of Chapters".
- The Mesilla Valley Chapter is holding a meeting before the end of October to decide whether to remain a MOAA Chapter. The problem is no one wants to commit to taking any leadership positions.

### **Old Business:**

- None

### **New Business:**

- The Council of Chapters received \$800 from our USAA sponsor to hold CofC meetings. After some discussion a motion was made and seconded to split (\$400/\$400) between Totah (for April 2017) and Tularosa (for Oct 2017) CofC meetings. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- Draft ByLaw changes to stream line the Council of Chapters and to address the future Semi Annual Council of Chapters meetings were presented. They will be discussed and finalized between now and the next CofC meeting.
- The Council of Chapters discussed the next CofC meeting location and date. The motion was made and seconded to hold the next CofC meeting in Albuquerque in conjunction with the proposed State wide MOAA Convention in the April/May time frame.

## **Good of the Order**

- Every member on the Council of Chapters was given the opportunity to bring up any other issues they wanted to discuss. None were brought up.
- President Paul asked Treasurer Harris to purchase a plaque for immediate Past-President Harbison which will be presented to him by President Paul when he is in Arizona in January 2018.

## **Adjournment**

- The Council of Chapters meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm

## **Banquet Information**

- The banquet was hosted by the Tularosa Basin Chapter in the Peppers Grill Banquet room where the social hour began at 1800 pm and dinner at 1830 pm. State Representative Herrell was the guest speaker. She spoke passionately about the legislatures responsibility towards the military & veterans. Her talk was very well received.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Paul  
LTC-USA (Ret)  
President