



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



Subject: New Mexico Council of Chapters (NM CC) Minutes, 28 April 2018

The NM CC meeting was preceded by a 1000 brunch which included a presentation by BG Eric Judkins, Assistant Adjutant General, NM National Guard (NG). He spoke about his career and related it to the past, present, and future of the National Guard. For the future he briefed the top 10 NM Adjutant Generals legislative priorities: 1. Unit Equivalent Wing with operational flying wing. 2. TRICARE parity for Technicians; State/Fed Employees. 3. Increase to 4,500 force structure. 4. Increase Army NG full time manning (17%). 5. Change law on State Guard use similar to states like California. 6. NM Personal Exemption State Income Tax. 7. NG Equity Act for work injuries on par with other states. 8. Enhanced medical and dental care. 9. Enlisted Association. 10. Medics get pay for Continuing Education. There were lots of questions.

The following CC members were present at the 1400 meeting:

Rank	Name	Chapter	Position
LTC	Walter Paul	Albuquerque	NM CC President
LCDR	Neal Harris	Roadrunner	NM CC Treasurer
LTC	Max Johnson	Roadrunner	Chap. Pres & CC LL
LT COL	Mark "Speedy" Perusse	Tularosa Basin	NM CC Secretary
COL	R. "Mac" Sikes	Tularosa Basin	Chap. President
CDR	Mike Cochrane.	Albuquerque	Chap. President
MAJ	Marvin Swink	Tularosa Basin	Chap. Vice President
COL	Chuck Hartmann	Tularosa Basin	CC Board Member
CIV	Dolores Morgan	Albuquerque	Surviving Spouses
LCDR	Ed Brawley	Albuquerque	Past VP ABQ chapter
MAJ	Richard Wright	Albuquerque	ABQ Chapter
LTC	Ed Bullock.	Total	Farmington Sec./Treas.
CAPT	Chuck Vaughn	Albuquerque	Ch. Member
COL	Bob Lynd	Pecos Valley	Ch. Member
CIV	Nancy Lynd	Pecos Valley	Spouse

### Call To Order:

The General Meeting was called to order at 1400, 28 April, 2018 by President Walter Paul.

## **The Pledge Of Allegiance:**

The meeting began with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and a Prayer.

## **Installation Of New Officers:**

President Walter Paul administered the Oath of Office to Mark "Speedy" Perusse as our NM CC Secretary.

## **President's Comments:**

President Paul welcomed all who were in attendance and thanked them for coming. He especially thanked the Albuquerque Chapter for hosting the 1st Annual NM MOAA convention at the Albuquerque Marriott. He expressed his appreciation to CDR Michael Cochrane for setting up and hosting the conference. The NM CC Neal Harris was able to obtain an \$800 grant from USAA for our convention.

## **President's Report:**

Recruiting and retention is our # challenge nationwide and locally and also all organizations for that matter. New Mexico MOAA Chapters have 416 regular members and 86 Surviving Spouses for a total of 502 members. Albuquerque chapter accepts associate 71 associate members who are particularly active with our tours packages. There are 3,061 National MOAA member in New Mexico and this is an ongoing emphasis item for the last 3 years to get these members to join our local chapters.

Last week President Walter Paul went to annual "Storming the Hill" in D.C. Spent 3 and a half days there with one day on Capitol Hill with appointments with the Military Liaisons of our 5 representatives (2 Senators and 3 House our Representatives Officials). There were 4 issues advocated and we provided timely data to give to the staffs:

1. Support 2.6% annual pay raise increased to cost index
2. Chapter 61 Medical Retirees get offset eliminated on concurrent pay
3. Get Widow's tax offset relief
4. Advocate for less TRICAR fee increases

New National MOAA Members that sign up for a lifetime membership get a voucher for 2 years towards local chapter dues. Those that sign up for a Premium Annual membership get a voucher for 1 year towards local chapter dues. Presidents please let Walter know if any of your members are getting this?

15% of National members are local members. In New Mexico it is encouraging that it is higher at 16.4%.

Surviving Spouses are have new “Virtual Web and phone Chapter” starting 5 June. Dolores Morgan has more information.

National MOAA has two 501(c)3 organizations

1. Scholarship fund
2. MOAA Foundation. Check out the new Military Family Initiative on [MOAA.org](http://MOAA.org)

See Secretary’s report for information below on updating your membership on National [MOAA.org](http://MOAA.org)

Last two items from Storming the Hill was information on Chapter rescue/closing. See Presidents book on Chapter Procedures Guide, page 41 on notifying National procedures and also please ask for a rescue visit. Dormant status is also available. See MOAA national for information on Vision 2023 initiative.

President Walter Paul is a member of the United Veterans Council of NM and represents Albuquerque Chapter and by default also for all of MOAA in NM.

In closing the President's report our important legislative affairs (LA) advocacy will be briefed by Max Johnson. It is critical to our MOAA mission to have more than 500 MOAA members going to the Roundhouse so membership increase will be our priority to get the most benefit for our LA.

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

- Sec report: October 2017 CC minutes approved as written with one modification of Roswell Chapter is now “Dormant” versus “Closed”. For more information see page 41 of MOAA National Procedures manual given to all Presidents.
- Presidents please give any changes to Excel roster of officers to our Secretary (Mark Perusse) but Chapters need to also update with National on your own. Go to [MOAA.org](http://MOAA.org) and upper left list click on Council of chapters link, then in middle of page click on “In this Section” then Council Management link, then committee module. You can also click on your account profile after you login on upper right and under your profile look for “My Groups”. This is very useful to update your chapter membership data. Contact Speedy via email, cell, or text and he will gladly talk you thru anything you need to update or do on [MOAA.org](http://MOAA.org).

### **Treasurer’s Report:**

- Approved. On file.
- Copy of USAA sponsor \$800 application to NM CC Secretary.
- IRS filing to NM CC Secretary.

## National Update:

Outstanding 1 hour briefing by Lt. General Dana Adkins, our MOAA National President. Transcript will be available before next CC meeting in fall. Here are highlights.

- When he took over several years ago from the outstanding Admiral Norb Ryan he first focused on the Strategic plan of MOAA. The Strategic plan was not robust and lacked an OPS plan. All areas of MOAA national are now incorporated into an operational plan.
- Example: Scholarship fund very strong, however card board boxes of student files for 4,000. One person staff. Lost significant amount of money and not able to be recovered. Law needs recovery NLT 6 years.
- [MOAA.org](http://MOAA.org) Web on track for major overhaul by end of 2018. Their were non-compete issues to address, slowly updating many areas.
- MOAA government agency advocacy strong; Working to improve relationships.
- Back into many Organizations and back on the "island" like many other veteran service organizations (the "island" is the group of Veterans and Military Service Organizations that, as a group, coordinate and have a voice at the Pentagon & Congress. Big 6: AL, DAV, VFW, AFA,NL,AUSA very active and MOAA needed to get back on island with these VSOs. MOAA is 4<sup>th</sup> largest VSO)
- Membership: Basic, Premium, Life
- Current national membership approx 335,000. Conversion rate 4-6% from Basic to Premium. Overall number holding steady.
- Communication and marketing: very detailed briefing and very significant changes for the better including world class employees added with amazing skill sets.
- General Adkins has passionately led National team to create world class videos with new video studio and staff. Go to MOAA You Tube Channel or MOAA web site ([MOAA.org/WhyMoaa](http://MOAA.org/WhyMoaa)) for short video. The why MOAA 1 minute video is also at this link on You Tube: [https://youtu.be/CDmi\\_JmPuS8](https://youtu.be/CDmi_JmPuS8)
- Briefed National organization org chart changes. Going from 12 departments to significantly less divisions with no pay cuts and no forced reduction in staff.
- Transcript of his full presentation in the works before next CC meeting.

## Legislative Affairs Report:

- Max Johnson went over how advocacy works at Legislature up in Santa Fe. You really have to have your data and ducks in line and people you need to meet lined up. Have not been able to meet directly with Governor Martinez or staff due very busy schedules with pressures of our state funds and short legislative sessions cram packed with activities.
- The next Legislative session is 60 days. He sends emails for all legislative sessions. Very detailed
- It is important before June to get MOAA list and have list of priorities before Max
- Secretary Fox may change and Governor changing. That is a challenge.
- Personal income tax (PIT) is no 1 critical priority, get inputs from everyone statewide. Use MOAA national product, Cooley product. Hopefully work with Deputy Secretary Martinez. Repeated need for all MOAA members help and statewide talking to your representatives before session.
- List of recent legislative accomplishments:
  - Representative Bob Wood from Roswell got bill passed that mis-representing being a military member is now law; misdemeanor. Passed and signed by the Governor
  - Gold star members auto plates (If lose a member in service to our Country) support bill passed. Signed by Governor
  - Removed 31 Dec 2012 deadline for filing Native American Veterans NM income tax withheld was passed by both houses but not yet signed by Governor.
  - Endorsing the name of USS Los Alamos passed and signed by Governor.
  - Nurse licensure off of active duty allows their credits in military to be accepted. This bill passed and signed by Governor.
  - Department of Military Affairs changed the previously lowered Adjutant minimum to Lt Col changed back to Col or above. Since General Officers will provide better leadership.
  - Military Spouse Teacher licensure support for military spouses passed.
  - Veterans Suicide Prevention bill passed.
  - Not signed by Governor: main one and discussed at MOAA brunch by General Judkins is the State Guard bill (not passed). One thing that held it back is training requirements more clearly defined. Work needs to be done.

- NM Supreme Court overturned Governor Martinez vetoes.

### **Surviving Spouses:**

- Dolores read emotional vision statement. New Product published Vision for supporting surviving Spouses. The publication will be available on NM CC Albuquerque [Albumoaa.org](http://Albumoaa.org) web site.
- Dolores and Walter Paul will send out links to new Virtual Chapter starting 5 June.
- MOAA has two Spouse pamphlets and Dolores discussed these, National Member service center can send them out and call them.

**Chapter Reports:** Chapter reports: Please submit to Speedy and instead of each Chapter briefing entire report Walter had each Chapter brief one highlight of Chapter.

**Alamogordo:** New initiative to award \$500 scholarship to High School Junior ROTC

**Albuquerque:** Robust cash flow from tours and activities give out \$15,000 cash donations to multiple areas that need cash like Veterans Integration Center, Honor Gaud, Scholarships, Awards.

**Farmington:** Helping Junior ROTC support and increase membership. Attendance up.

**Las Cruces:** Not present. Tom Williams relayed to Walter that they signed up 57 new members at White Sands sponsored Bataan Death March Marathon.

**Santa Fe:** Increased members by 7. Used Veterans Booth festival to sign up in part.

**NM CC President** asked for All presidents to have a telecon this coming month. ACTION to have membership telecon with all Presidents.

**Old Business:** None.

## **New Business:**

- Max asked for future go to round house to support legislative
- Next NM CC meeting: Santa Fe or National Convention was discussed. Walter request chapter president Telecon in future (date to be determined).
  - National membership convention in Phoenix this year in 1-3 Nov 2018; Golden Arizona resort near airport. ACTION for Chapter Presidents: give inputs to Walter Paul on next NM CC meeting location? Do you prefer Council meeting off to side, it would be at National Conference vs Santa Fe?
  - Input by Ch Presidents by end of June. (MOAA National President, Lt. Gen Adkins offered to provide meeting space). Talk to Chapters and Boards. Walter Paul will be attending National Convention.

## **Good of the Order:**

Michael Cochrane thanked by Walter Paul for setting up this 1<sup>st</sup> Annual MOAA State Convention. Every member of NM CC was given the opportunity to bring up and other issues. Nothing else new for good of the order.

## **Adjournment:**

The NM CC meeting was adjourned after 2 hours and 18 minutes at 4:18 pm.

**Banquet Information:** Dinner attendance was 38 and hosted by the Albuquerque Chapter in the Albuquerque Marriott Sandia room where the social hour began at 7 pm and dinner at 7:30 pm. Lt. General Dana Adkins (President of MOAA National from Alexandria Virginia) was the guest speaker. He spoke about significant successes in new successful advocacy at National level, membership at national level strength, and very heartbreaking story on how passionately he has been called to lead MOAA and support in particular advocacy for Military families. He recounted the loss of his staff member Major David Brodner, Husband, F-16 pilot, father of two killed in a HQ attack in Afghanistan. Remember our fallen heroes.

**Next Meeting Santa Fe or Phoenix National Convention (TBD either Santa Fe, Oct. or Phoenix, Nov. 2018). Chapter Presidents Contact Walter Paul for your preference NLT Jun 2018**