



New Mexico Council of Chapters Military Officers Association of America



Subject: New Mexico Council of Chapters (NM CC) Minutes, 27 October 2018

The NM CC meeting was preceded by a 1130 Lunch which included presentations by CSM William Griego of the NM National Guard (NMNG) and President of the Enlisted Associate of the New Mexico National Guard (EANMNG), CSM Rudolph Checkley, NMNG and Legislative Committee Chair of EANMNG, and LTC Scott Weaver of the NMANG and incoming President of the NM New Mexico National Guard Association (NMNGA). These members spoke about the wisdom for all veteran organizations within NM to form a common set of priorities and speak with one voice to the state legislators. It is believed that each organization, when acting alone, does not have the total membership sway enough members of the NM House or Senate. The general consensus of opinion is that working together and in agreement, there would be a large enough voting block to influence a significant number of the state House and Senate.

The following CC members were present at the business 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
LTC	Nick Mezins	Santa Fe	Member
COL	R. "Mac" Sikes	Tularosa Basin	Chap. President
LTC	Richard Goodyear	Roadrunner	Chap. 1 st Vice President
MAJ	Jason Peete	Roadrunner	CC Vice President
COL	Chuck Hartmann	Tularosa Basin	CC Board Member
CIV	Dolores Morgan	Albuquerque	Surviving Spouses
LTC	Ed Bulloch	Total	Farmington Sec./Treas.
CWO I USN	Bob Gaupel	Mesilla Valley	Chap. President
LCDR	Fred S. Moore	Total	Chap. President

Call To Order:

The General Meeting was called to order at 1330, 27 Oct, 2018 by Council President Walter Paul.

The Pledge of Allegiance:

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

President's Comments:

President Paul welcomed all who were in attendance and thanked them for coming. He also thanked the NM members of NGAUS and EANMNG for their presentation and for listening to our business meeting. He understands the utility of synchronizing actions with all veteran organizations within New Mexico to work towards a single set of agreed-upon goals. Pres. Paul also expressed his thanks to the Santa Fe Chapter for all their efforts in setting up the Council of Chapters meeting.

Pres. Paul also expressed a desire to visit each chapter during the upcoming year.

Secretary's Report and Minutes:

- April 2018 CC minutes distributed to all members present for their review. The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report:

- The Treasurer's Report was distributed to all members present for their review and was approved as written. The Report is on file.
 - The CC has supported the New Mexico Veterans home in Truth or Consequences New Mexico with \$250 award. This Veterans Home has now become supported by the State of New Mexico.
 - **Action Item:** The treasurer has been asked to determine if these funds still provide a worthwhile benefit to the Veterans Home.

MOAA National Update:

President Paul delivered the Update for MOAA National. The slides and notes will be attached to CC Minutes and kept on file with the CC Secretary.

MOAA National is attempting to increase support to the local chapters with the goal of increasing membership at the local chapter level. Currently, currently only 1 in10 national members belong to a local chapter. Terri Coles is the Senior Director for Council and Chapter Affairs (terric@moaa.com) at MOAA National will be leading the effort to increase support to gain membership at the state level.

There are four programs that MOAA National will be using to support the local chapters.

- **Member database.** National now allows our chapter leaders a have direct input to our membership database. Your membership chair and president should have been contacted and granted access to input selected member information in our member database.

- **Note:** Several of our members have reported that there are still significant issues with the database.
 - Database is out of date.
 - Difficult to use.
 - Does not track surviving spouses.
 - Is not responsive to queries about surviving spouses.
- **Available funding.** Sponsorship dollars are available from USAA and Mercer, MOAA's insurance administrator, to supplement your chapter revenue stream.
 - It is important for our chapter members to understand where the resources are for available funding and what are the compliance requirements to access these funds. Bottom line: funds are available, we need to learn what where the funding is and how to be eligible.
 - Contact Terri Coles or her team at headquarters if you need more details on these chapter programs.
- **Revenue-sharing.** Brenncoco offers revenue sharing opportunities for members booking travel with MOAA Vacations.
- **Outreach.** Chapter leaders will be invited to attend one of our quarterly regional leaders' workshops scheduled throughout the year in various regions.

Legislative Affairs Report:

Max Johnson discussed how advocacy works with New Mexico State Legislature. Unlike other state legislature, if you are attending a session for a bill that is scheduled at 1500 on 02 February, your session may not begin at that time but could be delayed for 5 to 6 hours. This creates difficulty in providing experts to speak to the legislature when it is an unknown when their needed expertise will be called upon.

- 1 of NM MOAA's legislative priorities for this next Legislative session is the Personal Income Tax (PIT). As it will be defined in this session, PIT is an attempt to exclude some or all of military retirement pay for any veterans that wore uniform from state income tax.
 - ISSUE: New Mexico is 1 of the 9 states that do not offer some form of PIT.
 - ISSUE: New Mexico, as a state, is currently rated in 48th place for a place for veterans to retire.
 - Note: New Mexico Senate is planning on introducing a PIT bill this session that has the support of both gubernatorial candidates.
 - Note: We learned later from Mr. Allen Martinez, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Department of Veteran Service that

- New Mexico is pushing an economic development program which highlights the benefits of encouraging veterans to retire in New Mexico.
- This encouragement includes a gradual approach with a 25% PIT exemption on military retirement pay the 1st year the bill is passed. This amount will increase every year until 100% is reached.
- The program is based on a percentage of actual retirement pay capped at \$50,000 per year.

Associate members (Surviving Spouses):

- The New Mexico Council of Chapters is in full agreement and supports MOAA National's purpose for the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter (SSVC) which is as follows:
 - Provide information and exchange ideas
 - Find solutions to problems or issues affecting Surviving Spouses
 - Reach out to younger Surviving Spouses and those who do not have access to a MOAA chapter.
 - The Virtual Chapter does not take the place of a MOAA chapter
- Also, we will then continue to explore NMSS's presence in local communities, while checking MOAA magazine's Military Veterans' Obituary Section, NM newspapers and Online obituaries for the names of NM veterans.
- We all need to make the Surviving Spouse Program presence known in New Mexico, while honoring their privacy issues.
- Dolores expressed her frustration with the current methods and processes to be able to gather current and correct information on surviving spouses. This information is critical so we can reach out to other SS in a timely manner to help them as we can.
- President Paul wanted all members and their spouses to understand that if member departs this earth, the surviving spouse will:
 - **Spouses of Life Members:** These spouses will automatically become Life Members. No action is required by the surviving spouse.
 - **Spouses of Premium Members:** These spouses will automatically be members for the length of time that their spouse had enrolled. No action is required by the surviving spouse.
 - **Example:** If the spouse had enrolled as a Premium member until 01 June 2020, the surviving spouse would automatically be enrolled until 01 June 2020.

Chapter Reports: Complete chapter reports will now be attached to the CC minutes. Please submit to an electronic copy to the CC Secretary.

Alamogordo: Chapter contributes to "Toys for Holloman Tots" giving over 100 toys for the children of deployed and needy servicemembers, as well as scholarships to the local JROTC and support to the Holloman Honor Guard.

Albuquerque: Chapter provided charitable funds in the amount of \$19,400 in 2019 to support several well deserving charitable causes such as Blue and Gold Star Mothers, New Mexico Veterans Programs, Junior ROTC Programs, and Honor Flight Recipients for Northern New Mexico.

Farmington: Chapter is continuing community outreach by supporting Toys for Tots from Christmas Party, the Meals on Wheels Program, and several of the local community's support of Homeless Veteran Program.

Las Cruces: Chapter continues community outreach programs participating in the Veterans Day Parade, speaking at McAfee Health Clinic at WSMR, speaking with ROTC cadets about Ranger Challenge Team, and participating in scholarship ROTC awards programs.

Santa Fe: Chapter is pushing for new and younger members as well as supporting the JROTC. The chapter also had a review and streamlining of its current bylaws.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

- Pres. Paul expressed some concern that sponsoring the Council of Chapters meeting has become a cost burden to the local chapter. A motion was made and seconded to have one CC physical meeting per year. Additional CC meetings would be virtual / internet-based meetings and held on an as needed basis. These additional meetings should be focused single topic meetings.
 - **Discussion:** Almost all chapters that sponsor the CC meeting have lost several hundred dollars from their chapter treasury.
 - There are currently 2 models for hosting a CC meeting.
 - Model 1: CC meetings have been held in hotel meeting rooms. Costs have been somewhat deferred by supporting the hotel by having dinner and supper meals at that hotel.
 - Attendance has not been enough to compensate the hotel for the cost of the meeting rooms. The Hotel then charges the host chapter a (often) large fee for the use of meeting rooms.
 - Logistically and administratively, this is an easier option because of "one-stop shopping." The CC member arrives at the hotel, stays at the hotel, has all meals at the hotel, and all meetings are at the hotel.

- Model 2: CC meetings are held in a restaurant's meeting room. The restaurant is not associated or co-located with the hotel.
 - The restaurant provides the meeting room at no cost when the CC agrees to have dinner and supper at that restaurant.
 - This is a more difficult administratively and/or logistically, but it is a much cheaper option because:
 - The host chapter must find a willing restaurant and prearrange conditions with that restaurant.
 - CC members will require transportation from the hotel to the restaurant.
- The motion passed to hold one meeting per year with a vote of 8 members for and 4 members against.
- Local chapters are requested to determine the number of JROTC medals to be awarded and forward the medal count to Neil Harris of the Santa Fe chapter. He should be able to provide these medals from recruitment funding.
- Ensure our local members are aware that Warrant Officers are eligible and encouraged to join MOAA as full members.
- MOAA National has funds available to support recruiting. All members should review the requirements at the MOAA web site to determine what activities and procedures will be reimbursable under the existing funding mechanisms.

Next NM CC meeting: The next CC meeting will be held in conjunction with the National Guard Association of New Mexico on April 2019. According to the NNANM.ORG website the conference will be held at the Santa Ana Star Casino, Rio Rancho, NM.

Adjournment:

The NM CC meeting was adjourned at 1526 hrs.

Banquet Information: Dinner was hosted by the Santa Fe Chapter in the Santa Fe Courtyard Marriott with the social hour began at 1800 hrs. and dinner at 1830 hrs. Mr. Allen Martinez, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Department of Veteran Services, State of New Mexico was the guest speaker. He spoke about his early childhood and family's military service to the nation, and his overwhelming desire to take care of those that have served this nation. The main topic of his presentation was the current dealings with the state legislature and the pending changes from the upcoming election. He has been able to meet with both gubernatorial candidates and convinced both candidates it would be wise to have a veteran services plank in their platform. He also spoke extensively about the preparation for the Personal Income Tax (PIT) Bill to be introduced in this year's legislature. It was his opinion that best way forward is to frame the upcoming PIT bill as an Economic Enhancement bill.

This bill if passed, would encourage veterans to move/stay in New Mexico which would have the following benefits:

- Would increase the training and education level of the available workforce
- Would provide a stable/quality workforce for new and existing industries, businesses, and manufacturing
- As a minimum, this bill would increase the quantity of federal funding to:
 - Universities (G.I. Bill)
 - Hospitals (TRICARE and VA funding)
 - Housing (VA home loans)

Overall, this was a very good and well received presentation.

Respectfully Submitted By

Roy Y. Sikes

Standing in for CC Secretary

Attachments:

1. Stay Connected CouCiV4 Sep 18.pdf
2. Stay Connected Council V4A Sep 18.docx
3. Council of Chapters – Attend Sheet
4. Chapter Reports – Don Root TB
5. Chapter Reports – ABQ
6. Chapter Reports – Totah
7. Chapter Reports – Mesilla Valley
8. Chapter Reports – Roadrunner (will add later)