

Past President & Legislative Report
12-06-23

Past President:

Participated in the MOAA Southwest Regional Leadership Conference – Phoenix 17-18 Nov 2023. Represented both the ABQ Chapter & Council of Chapters as past president & legislative chair.

Deadline for Communication & Level of Excellence Awards is 16 Feb 2024 (this is a change from previous years).

Jason Peete (CofC President) will discuss key points of meeting during 12/9/23 Council of Chapters online (ZOOM) meeting.

Legislative:

State:

Participated in 12/5/23 MVLC members meeting. Discussion was centered on the Homeless Veterans initiative. Brock Wolff – Exec Director Veterans Integration Center is now a member of the MVLC and he will help us draft an initiative.

CSM William Griego (NMARNG Ret) the president of the MVLC is now also a member of the newly created NM Veterans Advisory Council and will be promoting our legislative agenda in that forum.

Also discussed were the other two legislative priorities:

- Retiree Tax Exemption Fixes – adding Surviving Spouses & eliminating the sunset.
- 2024 Ballot initiatives to increase the Veterans Property Tax Exemption. There will be 2 initiatives on the ballot: one to increase the exemption from \$4000 to \$10000 the other to have the exemption be based on the % of disability. We have a commitment from the Military/Veterans House & Senate Interim Committee that they will sponsor legislation in 2024 to combine the two initiatives.

There will be an information campaign by the MVLC through all the member organizations to educate our Veterans on the two initiatives to make sure they pass next November.

National:

Participated in the Legislative Break-outs at the MOAA Southwest Regional Leadership Conference.

The main point of discussion was getting as many MOAA members possible to sign up for the Legislative Action Team - <https://moaa.quorum.us/>

This web page also lists all the Legislative initiatives that MOAA is supporting.

Each item has a [Write] button. Clicking on the [Write] button for any of the initiatives will generate letters to both Senators and your Congressman/Congresswoman. You can leave the letters as is or edit them before clicking the SUBMIT button.

Email me at wfrpaul@gmail.com if you have any questions.