MOAA MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

Communications Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, January 19, 2026
Time: 4:00 PM (Zoom)

Attendees:

- LCDR Richard L. Higgins, USN (Ret.) - SE Michigan Chapter President
- Col Bruce Bahr, ARNG (Ret.) - Capitol Area Chapter President and Newsletter Editor
- LTC Chris Johnson, USA (Ret.) - NE Michigan Chapter President
- LTC Peggy Joyner, USA (Ret.) - NE Michigan Chapter Newsletter Editor

1. Meeting Summary

The meeting focused on communications and public affairs coordination among Michigan MOAA chapters. Rich shared a 2026 communications plan and discussed the veteran suicide reduction article that chapters should include in their January newsletters. Bruce and Chris reviewed MOAA's legislative priorities for 2026 and discussed informed consent issues regarding psychotropic medications for veterans. Rich also shared the new MOAA Public Affairs and Communications guide. The group discussed chapter missions and newsletter editing roles.

2. Communications Plan and Newsletter Updates

Rich discussed the 2026 Council Communications Plan and shared a veteran suicide reduction article for use in first quarter newsletters. Chris and Bruce agreed to include the article in their newsletters. They also discussed the different roles of Facebook and websites for event reservations and social engagement.

3. MOAA Legislative Priorities Discussion

The group discussed promoting MOAA's legislative priorities in their 2nd Quarter newsletters, with Rich sharing MOAA's five 2026 priorities, which will be narrowed down to three for April's Advocacy in Action.

4. Veteran Suicide Research Communication

Rich discussed Michigan Commanders Group member Derek Blumke's work on veteran suicide and pharmaceuticals, highlighting the need for informed consent when prescribing psychotropic drugs. Rich is working with Derek to help communicate informed consent legislative efforts.

The meeting concluded at 4:30 PM

Submitted

LCDR Richard L. Higgins, Jr., USN (Ret.)
Chairman, Communications Committee
Michigan Council of Chapters, MOAA