Minutes-Michigan Council of Chapters, MOAA
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom, 2:00 - 3:10PM, June 4, 2026

The Council met on June 4, 2026, via Zoom at 2PM with a quorum established. Roy Yaple provided the invocation and Rich Higgins led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Meeting attendees:
- Rich Higgins, Southeastern Michigan Chapter
- Larry Powell, Southeastern Michigan Chapter
- Jim Sigmon, Capitol Area Chapter
- Bruce Bahr, Capitol Area Chapter
- Mark Benjamin, Northwest Michigan Chapter
- Roy Yaple, Southeastern Michigan Chapter

3. The Council approved minutes of the February 2026 Council meeting.

4. Rich Higgins provided the President's Report described above including 15 new members since December 2025, his attendance at the MVAA Conference between 11 and 13 May, and his efforts to allocate chapter zip codes using CHAT-GPT. Rich also reported on use of Zeffy for a broad effort to recruit new chapter members based on an April 24 email to 1471 prospects. The Council Finance Committee was discussed, and it was agreed that the Committee would need to include the Council Treasurer and at least one additional person.

5. The Capitol Area Chapter and Army-Navy Club provided chapter reports. Mel Flikkema regrettably will resign as Council Treasurer. The Army-Navy Club will have a chapter picnic on August 15, the day after the Michigan MOAA Convention. Bruce Bahr reports the Capitol Area Chapter has added a few new members. The chapter will seek a new meeting venue as their current venue is closing.

6. The Council approved setting a convention registration fee of $35/person and allocating $1000 of Council funds to support the August 14, Michigan MOAA Convention.,

7. The Council approved a motion to confirm plans for future chapter officer coverage responsibility for offices of the President and the three Council Vice-Presidents. Under the motion, current Council President Rich Higgins is completing the final term year of former President Mary Johnson. At the end of 2026, Rich will begin a two-year term. Following that, the Northwestern Michigan Chapter will be responsible for a Council President candidate followed by the Capitol Area Chapter and the Army-Navy Club of Grand Rapids.

DRAFT

8. The Council reviewed the Convention Flyer developed by Larry Powell. There was discussion about the photo of Congressman Tom Barrett regarding if the photograph had been released by his office. Larry will contact the office to resolve this question. It is understood that either the Congressman or his staffer will participate at the convention, but the Congressman's attendance cannot be confirmed until 30 days prior to the convention.

9. The Council discussed logistics associated with the in-person attendance of Gail Joyce. MOAA will not fund her attendance. Attendance cost is estimated at $800 to $1500. Various attendees provided various opinions regarding cost and benefits as well as the opportunity to ask Christina Bahr, the Capitol Area Chapter Surviving Spouse Liaison, to provide a presentation.

10. The Council is pushing to complete the Convention Flyer and get word out to Chapter members as soon as possible.

11. The next Convention Planning Meeting will be via Zoom at 7 PM on July 7, 2026.

12. The meeting adjourned at 3:38 PM.

Roy Yaple
Secretary
Michigan Council of Chapters, MOAA
June 18, 2026

DRAFT