Minutes-Michigan Council of Chapters, MOAA
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom, 1-230PM, April 29, 2024

1.The Michigan Council of Chapters of MOAA met on April 29, 2024, via Zoom. Council President Mary Johnson called the meeting to order at 1PM.

2. Council members present:

Mary Johnson, Army-Navy Club of Grand Rapids.
Mel Flikkema, Army-Navy Club of Grand Rapids.
David Kennedy, Army-Navy Club of Grand Rapids.
Jim Sigmon, Capital Area Chapter.
Mark Benjamin, Northwestern Michigan Chapter.
Nancy Sims, Southeastern Michigan Chapter.
Roy Yaple, Southeastern Michigan Chapter.

2. Minutes of the January 29, 2024, meeting were motioned for approval, the motion seconded, and approved.

3. The Treasurer's Report of April 29, 2024, was submitted by Treasurer Mel Flikkema and accepted. There were no receipts or expenditures since the previous Council meeting of January 29, 2024.

Current balance	$4022.96

4. President's Report by Mary Johnson.

AIA (Advocacy in Action) was held April 15-18 in Washington DC. Mary Johnson attended the event and provided a summary including a meeting with Representative Bergman and efforts to advocate for the Major Richard Star Act, restoration of Basic Allowance for Housing to 100%, and efforts to protect TRICARE For Life.

Mary also indicated that during the final day of AIA that chapter and council leaders agreed that they would pursue increasing the allocated time to discuss various leadership issues in chapter and council administration.

5. Jim Sigmon provided an update on activities within the Michigan Commanders' Group.

6. Chapter Reports:

Northwestern Michigan Chapter. Mark Benjamin discussed the annual May Miniature Golf Outing (Putting for Patriots) as well as the June 10 Quarterly Chapter Dinner Meeting. Guest speaker will be John Van Etten who participated in the Bat 21 rescue during the Vietnam War. The chapter will also have a golf outing on 14 June to raise funds for the Reigning Liberty Ranch which raises animals for PTSD therapy. The chapter also plans to participate in the Coast Guard Air Show as a recruiting effort. The chapter is also making use of radio advertising to recruit new members.

Capital Area Chapter. Jim Sigmon provided the chapter report with a May Dinner meeting planned for 9 May at Coral Gables in East Lansing with a speaker from the VA Medical Center in Battle Creek. The chapter plans a picnic, then a summer break, and then a September picnic.

Army-Navy Club of Grand Rapids. Mary Johnson reported on an award presentation on May 7 with an all-member meeting on May 16 and Chapter Dinner on May 22.

Southeastern Michigan Chapter. Roy Yaple reported the chapter has 35 members and recently met at Mulligans at Selfridge Air National Guard Base on April 18. The chapter plans to have volunteers at the Freedom Center Golf Tournament on June 7 as well as the Selfridge Open House/Air Show on 8 and 9 June. The chapter is also encouraging members to participate in the 5K Walk/Run at the Chesterfield Township Veterans Home on May 11. The chapter has purchased liability insurance with AMBA.

7. Jim Sigmon led discussion about support initiatives for the Fisher House, a support facility for families of veterans receiving treatment at the VAMC in Ann Arbor. Jim has made positive initial contact with Kate Melcher at the facility. It was agreed that this would be discussed more at the August Council meeting and that members should come to that meeting with proposals.

8. Mary Johnson discussed the need for additional support of chapter viability for the Southeastern Michigan chapter. The chapter reported that chapter member Jim Higgins has assumed duties as Treasurer and Legislative Aide and efforts continue to transfer duties from the chapter President to other chapter members, schedule a MOAA national visit, and establish a chapter standard location for in-person meetings.

9. Roy Yaple raised the issue of reviewing and revising the Council By-laws. Mary Johnson indicated she would take the lead on this project.

10. Old Business. None.

11. New Business. 2024 Meeting Dates 1-230PM:

August 19, 2024.
November 18, 2024.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 230PM.

Roy L. Yaple
CDR, US Navy (Retired)
Secretary, Michigan Council of Chapters, MOAA
May 13, 2024