Minutes-Michigan Council of Chapters, MOAA
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom, 1-230PM, September 8, 2025

1. The Michigan Council of Chapters of MOAA met on September 8, 2025, 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.
   - Dave Kennedy, Army-Navy Club of Grand Rapids.
   - Mark Benjamin, Northwestern Michigan Chapter.
   - Jim Sigmon, Capital Area Chapter.
   - Rich Higgins, Southeastern Michigan Chapter.
   - Roy Yaple, Southeastern Michigan Chapter.

3. A motion to approve the minutes of the 16 June 2025 meeting was made, seconded, and approved by vote.

4. The Treasurer's Report of September 8, 2025, was submitted by Treasurer Mel Flikkema. No expenditure had been made. The current balance is $3773.96. A motion was made to accept the report, seconded, and approved by vote.

5. President's Report. Mary Johnson provided a summary of the August 13, 2025, MOAA Virtual Leadership Meeting. She also provided a summary of the upcoming October Total Force meeting in Baltimore, MD. A discussion of allocation of zip codes to Michigan chapters developed: Rich Higgins agreed to contact MOAA and obtain a list of zip codes allocated for membership in chapters.

6. Committee Standing Reports.

   a. Legislation Committee. Jim Sigmon and Rich Higgins encouraged members to make use of the MOAA Legislative Action Center for Congressional Legislative Advocacy and the use of the Michigan Commander's Group site for state legislative advocacy. Jim also spoke about the role of the Defense State Liaison Office and the Military One Source Policy Office resources regarding legislation to support the needs of military service members and their families. Rich requested that each chapter provide him with a nominee to participate in the Council Legislative Committee.

   b. Membership Committee. Mary Johnson led attendees in discussion about current individual chapter viability. All chapters reported that they considered chapter operations stable.

c. Communications Committee.

Rich Higgins requested that each chapter submit a nominee to sit on the Council Communications Committee.

d. Finance Committee.

The Council discussed annual payments to the State of Michigan (LARA) and annual Council membership in the Commanders' Group. These payments were approved in the June 2025 Council minutes.

7. Chapter Reports.

a. Northwestern Michigan. Mark Benjamin discussed plans for their annual meeting on September 18, 2025 featuring chapter elections. They thanked Rich Higgins for his work in developing their chapter website. Mark also reported positive feedback associated with the use of MOAA dues payment system, Cheddar Up.

b. Southeastern Michigan. Rich Higgins reported that the chapter has 32 members. The chapter will meet September 18 at the Rusty Bucket in Troy, Michigan and will discuss initiatives under consideration including support for the Coast Guard AUP program at the University of Michigan and Operation Triage, a veterans housing program. The chapter will hold is annual meeting with elections on November 6, 2025.

c. Army/Navy Club of Grand Rapids (ANGR). ANGR continues efforts to find a painter to paint a mural on the Heroes/Sheroes Corner facility it supports. The chapter is reviewing its budget and looking at fundraising opportunities. The chapter's Christmas Dinner will be at the Heroes/Sheroes facility on December 4, 2025.

d. Capital Area Chapter. Jim Sigmon reported on the chapter's June 2025 picnic with scholarship awards of $10K. A September picnic is also planned. The chapter also intends to provide a presentation in October to summarize participation in Advocacy in Action. The chapter reports five new members. The chapter will also participate in Wreaths Across America in December this year, Jim Sigmon also encouraged interested parties to sign up for Thrive training to occur on September 15, 2025; 10 slots remain for this training.

8. Old Business.

a. Fisher House. Mary Johnson has been contacted by Kate Melcher of the Fisher House and plans to move ahead to work towards a position for serving on their Board of Directors or within one of the Fisher House Committees.

b. Roy Yaple sought to verify names of those listed as Board Members for the annual organization report to LARA within the State of Michigan. Mark Benjamin took this for action and will provide name and contact information so the report can be submitted.

9. New Business.

   Mary Johnson proposed a slate of officers for elections at the next meeting; motion was approved:

   NOMINATION SLATE OF OFFICERS
   MOAA MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

PRESIDENT	Rich Higgins
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT	CAPITOL CITY
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT	NORTHWEST MICHIGAN
THIRD VICE PRESIDENT	ARMY AND NAVY CLUB
SECRETARY	Roy Yaple
TREASURER	Mel Flikkema
SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON	Mary Johnson
LEGISLATIVE LIAISON	Jim Sigmon

10. The meeting was adjourned at 214 PM.

Roy L. Yaple
CDR, US Navy (Retired)
Secretary, Michigan Council of Chapters, MOAA
September 24, 2025