



The Bugle

Central Virginia Chapter



Volume 50, Issue 6

June 2022

MOAA, including the Central Virginia Chapter, is a nonprofit nonpartisan veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and to preserving the earned entitlements of members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. Membership is open to those who hold or have ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the U.S. Army, USMC, USN, USAF, USCG, USPHS, USSF or NOAA and their surviving spouse.

Community advocate Lettie Bien addresses Chapter at May luncheon

Chapter member Colonel Lettie Bien, U.S. Army Reserve (Ret), addressed attendees at the 26 May luncheon. Colonel Bien, an attorney and community advocate, serves as the Defense Affairs Program Manager for the Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce, working to strengthen the alliance of relationships among the Chamber network, the community and the regional defense and intelligence community and veterans.


Using a series of slides, she provided insights to the complex set of military and DOD organizations in the greater Charlottesville area and the even more complex set of community groups that interact with these organizations. She concentrated on four areas where she has a direct role in managing and influencing:

- Support for UVA students (primarily undergrads) who are military veterans.
- The Army Reserve Ambassador Corps: Who they are and what they do.
- The Defense Community in Central Virginia: Federal, Public, Private and Non-Profit.
- The unrecognized economic impact of military related individuals and organizations to the community and the state.

Additionally, Colonel Bien identified several volunteer opportunities for CVC MOAA members on local issues:

- National Defense Cadet Corps (NDCC) at Monticello High School, with 37 students, lacks resources for training equipment and uniforms. They need help recruiting new students to reach a corps of 100, which is the minimum required to become a JROTC program.
- Attend events like UVA football games for which there are free tickets for veterans.
- Provide support to Army reservists and their families through www.chamberofcommerce.com.

The complexity of her comments is reflected in the Stakeholders slide she presented and which is reproduced on page 5. All in all, this was an extremely useful discussion that could result in more effective interaction by organizations like MOAA and its members. Specifically, it may help to inspire some to consider additional opportunities to volunteer in support of our military and veteran community.

Photos of the luncheon appear on page 4. 

This article was co-authored by Lucy Johnson and Tad Oelstrom. All photos of the luncheon were taken by Mike McKee.

MOAA awards 5-star honors for Chapter newsletter and website


MOAA recently announced the winners for the best council and chapter print newsletters and websites for 2021.

Every year, national MOAA holds a communications award competition to identify those councils and chapters that do an outstanding job communicating with their members and community. The award is named after Colonel Marvin J. Harris, USAF (Ret), who served as MOAA's Director of Public Relations 1996 – 2011.

The notification email from MOAA's Senior Director of Council and Chapter Affairs stated:

"...The number of nominations submitted for this award has continued to grow each year; this year we received 227 nominations. As you know, effective communications are critical to recruiting and retention as well as keeping your members connected and engaged. Thank you and your team for prioritizing superior communications and for taking the time to submit a nomination..."

The Bugle, edited by Carl Huebner, has earned the five-star award each year since 2015. Previously, in 2013 *The Bugle* was selected best MOAA print newsletter in the nation for chapters with 200-299 members, and it was named second runner-up nationally the following year.

The Chapter website, managed by John Warnecke, has been awarded five-star honors each year since its inception in 2015. 



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The Bugle

2021 Col Marvin J. Harris 5-Star
Communications Award Winner

Editor: Carl R. Huebner

Contributors:

John Warnecke – Printing & Distribution
Chapter Webmaster



New member joins Chapter

Candace “Candy” Wagner (the late Jerry T. Wagner, Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired). Candy was born in New York City and moved to the Boston area as a young girl.

During Jerry’s 26 years of active duty, the Wagners were stationed at Ft. Benning, Ft. Rucker, Ft. Bragg, Ft. Leavenworth, Ft. Campbell, Ft. Hood and Carlisle Barracks (War College) and an ROTC assignment in Baltimore. Their overseas postings included Augsburg, Germany and SHAPE Headquarters in Mons, Belgium

After Jerry retired from active duty, his work as a financial planner/advisor took them from Ft. Hood to Arkansas, California, Arizona and, ultimately, Charlottesville. Since moving to Charlottesville, Candy was active in the Judge Advocate General School’s Wives Club where she served as membership chair for 2-3 years.

In case you missed it...



At the April luncheon, the Chapter’s ROTC Liaison Director John Swartzwelder (left) presented a book of Air Force history to Colonel Michael S. Hough, UVA’s Professor of Air Science and Commander of AFROTC Detachment 890. Colonel Hough was the guest speaker at the luncheon, and the book was a gift to the ROTC unit from Chapter member Duncan Campbell on behalf of the Chapter.

In memoriam...

We are sad to report the death of Chapter member **Eugene Joseph “Jeep” Meyung, LTJG, USN**, on 15 May 2022 at the age of 97.

Lieutenant Meyung was called to active duty in 1943 in the V-2 program at Emory and Henry College. After his release from active duty, he served in the reserves for 18 years, earned a JD degree from UVA and was employed by State Farm, GEICO and the Plymouth Rock Group insurance companies.

MOAA board member to speak at June luncheon

Our Central Virginia Chapter will complete its 2021-2022 social season with a luncheon at the Club at Glenmore on Thursday, 23 June. MOAA's Council and Chapters Communications Chair, LTC Walter J. Smiley, Jr., USA (Ret), will address the Chapter's members and guests at the luncheon.

Although the focus of his remarks may change as the luncheon draws near, we expect Colonel Smiley will address MOAA's new five-year strategic plan including an update on the work MOAA is doing in each of the focus areas of the plan. MOAA's six strategic priorities are: Advocacy; Membership; Councils and Chapters; Philanthropy; Engagement; and Resources.

(See the Legislative Review column on page 6 of this edition of The Bugle to learn what our Chapter has been doing within our Congressional district to further our legislative advocacy goals.)

Colonel Smiley graduated from Prairie View A&M University, Texas, in 1993 with a bachelor's degree in information systems management and, in 2004, earned a master's degree in public administration management from Central Michigan University.

During his 25 years as an Army officer, he served tours of duty in South Korea, Iraq and Afghanistan. Since his retirement from the Army in 2019, LTC Smiley served on MOAA's Currently Serving Advisory Council and has participated in several Storming the Hill events.

Colonel Smiley is currently a Program Manager for Huntington Ingalls Industries. Huntington Ingalls Industries is America's largest military shipbuilding company and a provider of professional services to partners in government and industry. He manages the Army Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate (NVESD) Counter Mine, and Army PM Ground Sensors worth \$82M.

He is currently the president of Huntington Ingalls Industries Veteran Alliance Network (VAN) which promotes recruiting and retention of qualified veterans and creating a military friendly work environment.

Luncheon details, including menu selections, are on the reservation form, page 7. 



LTC Walter J. Smiley, Jr., USA (Ret)

Join MOAA's Central Virginia Chapter

To learn more about the nationally recognized
Central Virginia Chapter



contact

Membership Director
Carolyn Still

Email: carolynmassie@hotmail.com

Phone: 540-221-0015



Community Calendar

Tuesday, 14 June

Flag Day

Wednesday, 15 June

CALClub informal luncheon buffet. The Charlottesville Aviation Luncheon Club (CALClub) monthly meeting at the Blue Ridge Café, Ruckersville will begin at 12:00 noon with a buffet. Lunch price is \$20.00 cash per person. Make reservations by 12 June with David Hilty Davidahilty@comcast.net or call him at 434 328 2323. Bill Crutchfield will speak on "21st century avionics and IFR procedures-a new world in aviation." All aviation enthusiasts welcome.

Sunday, 19 June

Father's Day

Thursday, 23 June

CVC/MOAA Luncheon. The Club at Glenmore. 11:00 a.m. social hour; 12:00 noon lunch. Guest speaker will be LTC Walter J. Smiley, Jr., MOAA's Council and Chapters Communications Chair.

Monday, 4 July

Independence Day.

At the May luncheon...



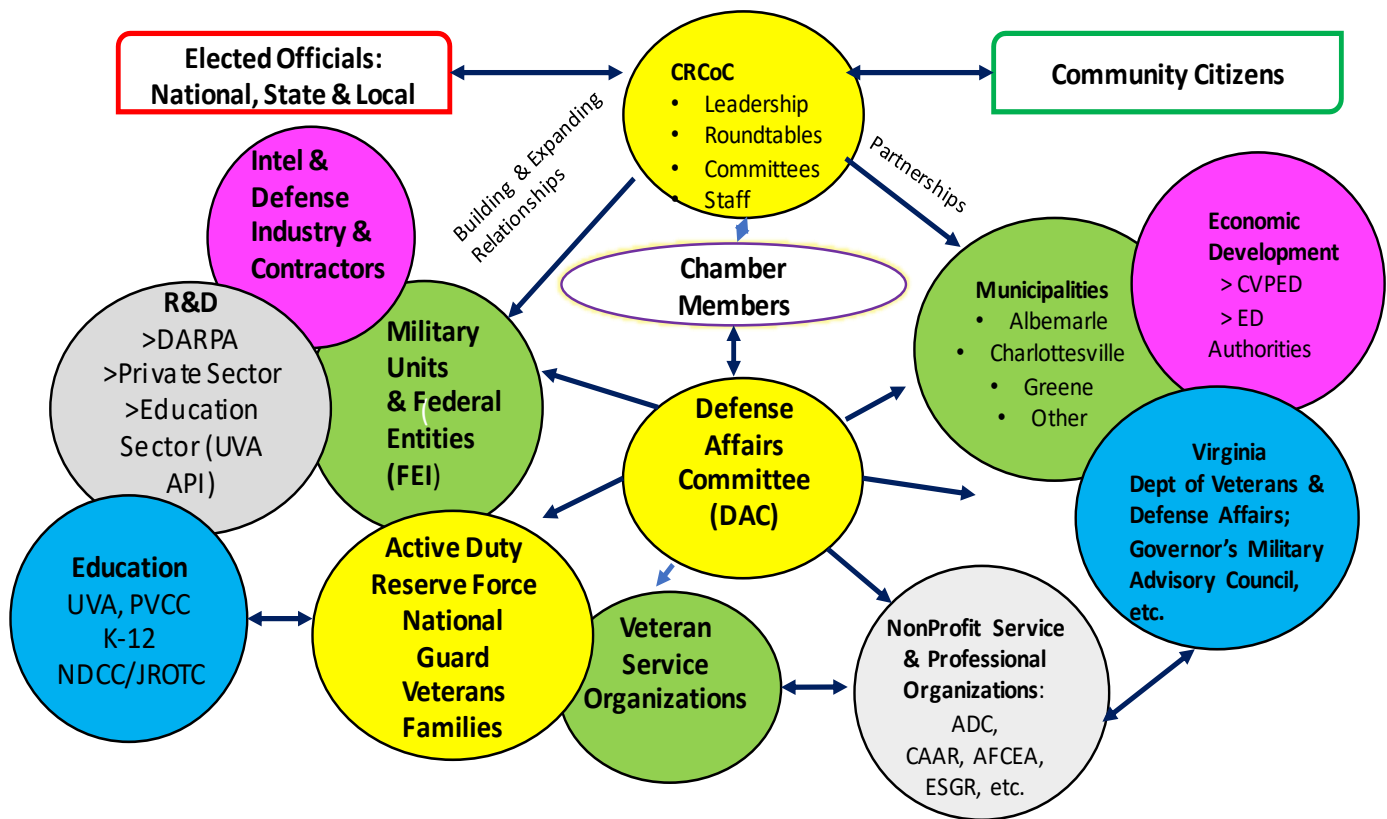
Photos clockwise from top left.

- Bill O'Leksy and Bill Adams
- New member Candy Wagner and Carolyn Still
- Guest speaker Lettie Bien
- Roman Cybak, Maurie Roesch, Dr. David Schmitt, and Lettie Bien
- Chapter President John Warnecke presents a Jefferson Cup to Lettie Bien in appreciation for her participation in the Chapter's luncheon.

All photos by Mike McKee.



Defense Affairs Committee Stakeholders



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This chart was presented by the Chapter's May luncheon guest speaker, Colonel Lettie Bien (USAR, Ret). It depicts the interrelationships between and among numerous military-related organizational entities and the Chamber of Commerce in the Charlottesville area.

In addition to her appointed position as the U.S. Army Reserve Ambassador to Virginia, Colonel Bien also serves as the Defense Affairs program manager for the Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce. She is pictured here at the Chapter luncheon with Andrea Copeland (right), Vice President of the Charlottesville Chamber of Commerce.

It is hoped that this depiction of the many military service-connected entities will inspire our MOAA Chapter members to consider the opportunities for volunteering and to "Never Stop Serving."

Legislative Review...

This Legislative Review was compiled and written by Chapter Vice President & Acting Legislative Committee Chair

John Down

For up-to-date information about legislative issues that affect you, go to the MOAA website <https://www.moaa.org/takeaction>

As noted in the May 2022 edition of *The Bugle*, our Chapter Legislative Committee now turns its attention to military issues before Congress. MOAA's annual "Advocacy in Action" campaign provided us with the opportunity to meet with a key staff member of 5th District Congressman Robert Good. We had originally been scheduled to meet with the congressman on 12 May, but he pushed the date back a week. At the last minute he was called away, so we met with his Senior Legislative Assistant Peter Holland. Present were Mr. Holland and John Down, Acting Chair of the Legislative Committee. John Down provided the congressman's staff with read-ahead materials the previous week.

The half-hour meeting focused on the top three issues that MOAA has identified for advocacy for 2022. These three issues were detailed in the May edition of *The Bugle*. The top priority is to pass the Major Richard Star Act, H.R. 1282/S.344. This act, when signed into law, will correct the injustice done to veterans who are forced into retirement due to injuries and whose vested longevity pay is reduced by the amount of the disability pay, called an off-set. This Act will eliminate the off-set and provide veterans, and in turn, their families, with the full pay compensation they should have received along with any disability pay. I asked Mr. Holland to put this on the congressman's priority list for support, noting that Rep. Good is not on any military-oriented committees on The Hill, but he could still be a co-sponsor or at least vote when the bill "hits the floor." I note here that as of this month, there are 139 Democrats and 90 Republicans who are co-sponsors of this bi-partisan bill. Rep. Elaine Luria (D) of the 2nd Congressional District is the only co-sponsor from Virginia currently. Also noted, there are about 1,555 combat-injured retirees in Virginia that this bill could help.

The second issue we discussed was the "Stop Copay Overpay Act," H.R. 4824. Basically, TRICARE beneficiaries pay far more for mental health care than those who are covered by commercial plans. According to MOAA, because mental health treatment typically requires multiple visits, the cumulative impact of TRICARE's mental health increases creates a potential barrier to mental health care access, especially for retirees and their families who face the highest out-of-pocket costs. Surging

demand for mental health services exacerbates the problem. Since 2017, TRICARE copays have more than doubled. The bill before the House would cap mental health copays at the same level as for primary care visits. In effect, this shifts part of the cost of mental health care from families back to DoD.

Last, but certainly not least, military pay and benefits require meaningful increases if the all-volunteer force is to recruit and retain an effective force. Between 2014 and 2016, the president reduced the pay raise citing serious economic conditions, thus leaving us a cumulative shortfall which impacts us today. According to the annual Economic Cost Index, or ECI, a pay raise of 4.6% is needed for all uniformed services, given that our nation is faced with an ever-shrinking pool of recruits. Of the nation's 31.8 million 17-24 year olds – a prime recruiting demographic – only 9.1 million meet the initial requirements to join the military, about 28%. (At our most recent chapter luncheon, we learned from chapter member and guest speaker Lettie Bien, COL, USAR (Ret.), that according to the real numbers, only about 23 percent of our young people qualify for military service, key factors being obesity and drugs.)

To support needed recruitment and retention, as well as help retirees and the Survivor Benefit Plan annuities for surviving family members, we need to support a minimum 4.6% pay increase for the next fiscal year. We can all agree that recruiting, developing and retaining a high-quality military force is essential for our national defense and warfighting capability. We are challenged to accomplish that strategy by civilian companies offering work from home, flexible schedules, and compensation packages that military recruiters cannot offer. Between 2014 and 2016, the president reduced the pay raise citing serious economic conditions, and in doing so, has left a 2.6% shortfall which is with us today.

I emphasized to Mr. Holland that Representative Good needs to know that there are thousands of veterans and their families in the 5th District who could use his support for all these issues. Your Chapter's legislative committee will stay abreast of all and will continue to advocate for their passage in Congress.



Summer Break...

The Bugle is going to take some time off for the summer. The next edition will be published in mid-August. In the meantime, best wishes for an enjoyable and safe summer.

The Editor

LUNCHEON MEETING RESERVATION FORM

Thursday, 23 June 2022

11:00 a.m. social hour. 12:00 noon lunch

The Club at Glenmore

Guest speaker: Walter J. Smiley, Jr.

MOAA Council and Chapters Communications Chairman

*Directions from Charlottesville: Route 250 East. One mile past Shadwell turn right into Glenmore. Turn right on Piper Way. If you are not a resident, please tell the gate guard that you are attending the MOAA luncheon. Proceed on Piper Way. The Club is on the right just past the tennis courts. **Attire for men is suit/sport coat and tie or military uniform.***



Menu Selections

Gazpacho

Choice of entrée:

A. Slow Cooked Meatloaf

or

B. Trout Amandine

or

C. Mushroom and Asparagus Puff Pastry

Rice Pilaf --- Steamed Broccoli

NY Cheesecake with Fruit Compote



Please Circle Entrée Selection

Member Name: _____ **A B C**

Guest Name(s): _____ **A B C**

_____ **A B C**

_____ **A B C**

Please note that members may not order meal items not listed on the menus above.

Please make reservations for ____ @ \$40.00 each.

My current email address (if changed) is: _____

Please remit with check payable to CVC/MOAA. Reservations must be received NO LATER THAN Friday, 17 June 2022.

CVC - MOAA

P.O. Box 6455

Charlottesville, VA 22906-6455

Due to mail uncertainties and a need to ensure a timely head count, please confirm your attendance numbers with John Warnecke by 17 June via email (warneckeja@comcast.net) or phone (434) 981-8554.



Central Virginia Chapter
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