

LCOC OFFICERS

President

CDR Robert T. Douville

1st Vice President

LTC Kenneth J. Kimberly

2nd Vice President

Col David L.Lay

Secretary

LTC Lessie A Griffith

Treasurer

CPT Robert T Pillion

Immediate Past President

LTC Charles "Buddy" Guidry

LCOC DIRECTOR's

MAJ William Bartelme

CWO5 Aaron Senne

LTC Byron J. Guidroz

Vacant

Vacant

LCOC APPOINTED POSITIONS

Associate Treasure

CW5 Aaron Senne

Personal Affairs Liaison

LTC Byron J. Guidroz

Scholarship Chair

LTC Lessie A. Griffith

Legislative Chairman

National

LTC Kenneth J. Kimberly

Louisiana State

COL Fred Palmer

Web Manager

Vacant

Newsletter Manager

MAJ William Bartelme

Council Chaplain

COL Bob Hildebrandt

Council Transition Liaison

Maj Walt Slocombe

Chapter Renewal

Col David L.Lay

Auxiliary and Family

Vacant



LCOC President
CDR Robert T. Douville

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Congratulations to Acadiana, Pelican and Ark-La-Tex chapters on their recruitment efforts reported in the national MOAA listing. As of Sept. 16th Acadiana and Pelican each had four members added, with 4 and 2 incentive qualified new chapter members respectively. Ark-La-Tex, in a class by itself among Louisiana chapters, added 30 members including 20 incentive qualified new chapter members.

Remember there is a cash payment to your chapter from MOAA national for each incentive qualified new chapter member you report. Check the national MOAA website under the Council and Chapter drop down menu for details of the program.

Your LCOC adopted a new constitution and bylaws at its third and final 2016 meeting Sept. 17th, hosted by NELA chapter in West Monroe. The complete new council organic document is printed in this newsletter edition. The LCOC extends thanks to Ark-La-Tex member, retired USAF Col. Mike Dilda, and the two LCOC members who volunteered to work with him, as members of a special review committee, retired Army Major Bill Bartelme (Pelican Chapter) and retired USAF Major Ron Williams (SWLA Chapter).

The new LCOC Bylaws (*attached to at the end of this newsletter*) contain some significant changes; among the highlights:

- Awards Committee (Article IX, Section 5) – Establishes a LCOC awards committee and spells out duties and expectations.
- Annual Reports (Article X) – Requires and spells out details to be included in written chapter annual reports to the LCOC.
- Accounting Standards (Article VI, Section 4) – Adopts, as feasible, accounting industry standards for LCOC financials
- Term Limits (Article V, Section 4) – modified so that, within limitations, a former two term president, 1st VP or 2nd VP may be a candidate for the same office again.



The LCOC also extends thanks to retired Coast Guard Commander and NELA President Skip Cassie and those Chapter members who worked with him to host the LCOC meeting including Frankie Baker, wife of retired Army Lt. Col. John Baker and Carole Greenlaw, wife of retired USAF Major James Greenlaw. Jean Moore, wife of retired USAF Col. Charlie Moore (unable to attend due to illness) stopped by to see how we were doing and ended up saving the day for the LCOC spouses who had been planning to visit a place that would be inaccessible due to a 5K race passing through. Thanks also to Melva, wife of LCOC 1st VP and Ozone Chapter President Ken Kimberley, for volunteering to drive the small group of LCOC spouses, in what turned out to be a very quirky and difficult loaner vehicle.

ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORTS - The new LCOC Bylaws, adopted 17 September 2016, create an annual reporting requirement for each Louisiana chapter to the LCOC. The first annual report under this

WEB LINKS

LCOC

<http://lcoc-moaa.org/>

MOAA NATIONAL

<http://www.moaa.org/>

new provision is due by 20 December 2016. Guidance is in Article X of the new Bylaws. It is not too early to begin now gathering the information to submit your chapter's report. This report and a Levels of Excellence self-nomination will complement each other if prepared at the same time, making it easier to prepare both. Submit annual chapter reports to the LCOC secretary.



LEVELS OF EXCELLENCE - The deadline for submission of 2016 Levels of Excellence self-nominations for chapters and councils is 1 March 2017. Ask your chapter president and other leaders what they are doing to nominate your chapter for a 2016 LOE award. Regrettably I failed to prompt any Louisiana chapter to compete for 2015. However, for the first time, as far as anyone at the meeting could recall, the LCOC has been awarded a five star LOE, (for the 2015 period). I will be going to the LOE awards dinner and annual meeting October 24-25 at Alexandria, Va., to accept the award from national MOAA on behalf of the LCOC. (A copy of the chapter rating sheet is attached to this newsletter.)

HELP WANTED – Volunteers are needed for the LCOC Nominating Committee and for the Awards Committee. See the LCOC Bylaws, Article IX Sections 4 and 5 respectively. The nominating committee needs three members, each from a different chapter, who are not currently elected officers of the LCOC. The 2017 Committee will nominate two persons, one for the position of First VP and the other for Treasurer. Both nominees to begin two year terms beginning 1 January 2018. The Awards Committee needs two currently serving LCOC members to serve with the First VP who is chairman per the Bylaws. If you wish to step up and serve in one of these positions email me at rdouville@bellsouth.net.

*Robert T. Douville, CDR, USCG
LCOC President*

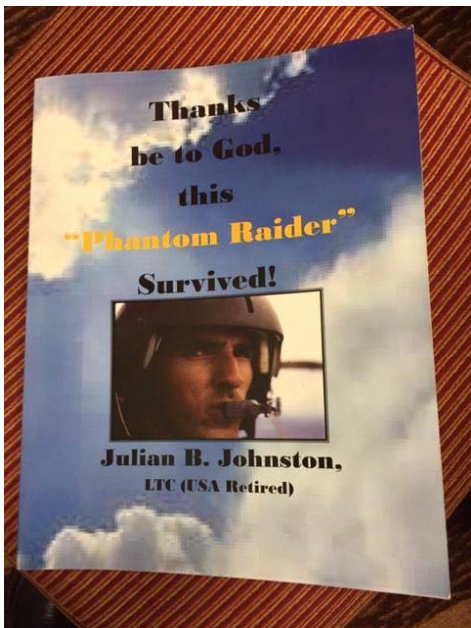
WAKE UP AMERICA Guest column by Huey P. O'Neal

America must wake up. Our country is in a critical period with many divisions in our society and a lack of pride and love of country. It is not the country that many military people shed blood to protect. The American people must speak up and take action in



participating in our political system. We see our great country being influenced and destroyed by a small minority.

Christians are under attack and must speak up to combat the many attacks on religious freedom. The Christian community must step up and make their voices heard during the upcoming presidential election. Not too long ago the Houston National cemetery administrator tried to censor services at military funerals. An attempt was made at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Washington D.C to restrict Bibles being brought into the hospital. An Air Force officer faces investigation over a Bible on his desk. These attacks on Christian beliefs and freedoms must be fought because the foundation of our country was founded on Judeo-Christian beliefs. Founders of our Constitution had great faith in God. After a weeks of heated debate, they adjourned and asked a clergy to pray each day and ask for guidance from Heaven



Julian Johnston was the keynote speaker at the October LCOC meeting where he told the story of his flying in Vietnam

until they completed our Constitution.

Our national security is threatened because of cut-backs in our military and lack of leadership. Reports are that our military is suffering low morale because of the lack of mission clarity and rules of engagements. Low morale leads to accidents and reduced combat effectiveness.

Earlier this year a poll of service personnel by the Military Times favored Donald Trump 2 to 1 over Hillary Clinton because of the current administration lack of leadership. The upcoming election could affect the military and veterans for decades.

Our conflict with Terrorist groups is going to be a long drawn out event. It is extremely difficult to combat an ideology. Our political leaders are combatting each other rather than coming together to solve our security problems.

The upcoming presidential election is one of the most important election in years. It will affect the direction of our country for decades. The elected president and Commander-in-Chief must provide leadership for the country and security for the United States. This will require strong leadership. Leadership requires dedication, trust, setting good examples and obtaining the loyalty of all citizens.

Also, the new president may appoint several new Supreme Court Justices as well as lower court justices. We have justices on the court now that don't interpret the law, but decide on what the law intended. One justice said her culture and background could affect her decisions. We must have justices to interpret the law and not make decisions on personal views.

The military is sworn to defend and protect the Constitution from foreign and domestic enemies. This has required the sacrifice of many lives and resources in the past. All Americans must join in to protect the Constitution by voting. We all must wake up and accept our responsibility by voting.

After the Constitutional convention Ben Franklin said that the founders had given the American people a Republic "if they can keep it." He meant constant participation and vigilance. Voting and participating in our political system is the greatest weapon we have to protect our Constitution. Our Constitution is worthless if elected officials fail to abide by it and are not held accountable. The Constitution cannot protect us unless we elect leaders that will abide by it.

American people must step up and take responsibility for our government by participating and voting. We must not let a minority of people with special agendas rule our country. The silent majority must speak up or be led by a vocal minority. We must speak up and vote for responsible people. We must elect a president that will bring our country together.

There is no such thing as not voting. Failure to vote is a vote for the opposing party. Turnout is the key to winning an election. In 2012, 93 million citizens did not vote. You must vote and vote for the candidate that you think will be the best for the country. Do your research on the candidate and don't listen to the media spin.

It is easy to vote in Louisiana. Go to la.gov and find out about elections. If you are over 65, you may have a ballot

mailed to you. The Secretary of State has a program to honor veterans by voting, the Honor Vets...Vote program.

The Honor Vets ...Vote program honors those who have fought and sacrificed for our freedom and our sacred right to vote. Dedicate your vote by honoring those who have fought and are fighting today. You may get more than a printable certificate, bumper sticker and /or label pin to represent veterans.

Voting is patriotic. Voting is accepting responsibility.

Voting is showing love of country.

CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT MILITARY CAREGIVERS

Elizabeth Dole foundation launched their Hidden Heroes Campaign to support military caregivers who provide invaluable assistance to severely injured and ill veterans and service members. If you are a caregiver or want to join the VFW and the Elizabeth Dole foundation in supporting caregivers, please visit <https://hiddenheroes.org/>.



Louisiana Council of Chapters Military Officers Association of America

Lieutenant Colonel Marvin T. Stewart Memorial Scholarship Fund Protocol

1. Name of Scholarship Fund: The Lieutenant Colonel Marvin T. Stewart Louisiana Council of Chapters Memorial Scholarship Fund is a state-wide scholarship program established by the Louisiana Council of Chapters (LCOC) in memory of Lieutenant Colonel Marvin T. Stewart, USAR (Ret). Lieutenant Colonel Stewart was a long-time member and Treasurer of the LCOC at the time of his death on 28 June 1999. He was a member of the Acadiana Chapter (MOAA) and a Past President of the Chapter. He served as an engineer in the U.S. Army Signal Corps during World War II in the South Pacific. He was an electrical engineer in Industrial Control for Westinghouse Corporation in St. Louis, Missouri until retirement in 1974 and lived in Lafayette, Louisiana for the 23 years preceding his death. The LCOC is honored to name its first scholarship program in honor of Lieutenant Colonel Stewart.

2. Purpose: The scholarship is offered to outstanding high school seniors throughout Louisiana who display exceptional potential for leadership through a combination of academic excellence and participation in leadership activities. Nominees are encouraged to

pursue careers as officers in the Armed Services. Nominees must satisfy one of the following requirements:

- a. Enrolled in a Junior ROTC program and intend to enroll in a Senior ROTC program or a military service academy.
- b. Be recommended and sponsored by a current MOAA member who is also a member of one of the Louisiana Chapters.
- c. Out of State applicants are eligible to apply if meeting criterion as described above in paragraph 2.a. or 2.b. and either:
 - 1) Has a parent or legal guardian of one of the uniformed services currently stationed, living, or serving in the State of Louisiana.
 - 2) Has a parent or legal guardian currently an active MOAA member living in the State of Louisiana.

3. Selection Criteria: Recipients must be graduating seniors who will attend college as a full-time student in the fall semester. Preference will be given to those nominees who plan to enroll in a Senior ROTC program or a military service academy. Financial need will not be a consideration. The selection criteria shall be based on:

- a. Academic achievement
- b. Demonstrated leadership qualities
- c. School and community service
- d. Personal initiative
- e. Typed essay (length ½ to 1 page) on how you plan to serve your country

4. Funding and financial management of the Scholarship: Scholarships will be funded through investment earnings on the funds and assets donated to the scholarship fund. The scholarship principle will not be used for scholarships. A goal has been established of awarding one (1) \$1,500.00 scholarship per year. The LCOC Board of Directors will recommend to the council the dollar amount for the scholarship based on the earnings of the funds. Multiple scholarships may be awarded when and if funds are available. Funding of the scholarship will be from a variety of sources and may include an assessment on each member chapter as well as donations by individuals and businesses. The fund will be established as a tax-exempt IRS 501 (c) to encourage future and continuous donations. The funds may only be invested in financial institutions protected by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), SIPC, or similar organizations. The LCOC Board of Directors will oversee the management of the funds and the LCOC Treasurer will manage the funds on a daily basis per the directions of the Board of Directors and will include the status in the Treasurer's report at each council meeting.

5. Administration of the Scholarship: The LCOC President will appoint a Scholarship Committee Chair person. Two (2) other individuals will be selected to work with the Chairperson.

These individuals serve at the pleasure of the President. When possible, individuals should be rotated to consider Chapter representation; however, this does not preclude them from serving successive terms. The Scholarship Selection Committee (a committee of three persons) will coordinate on nominees for the scholarship and inform the President of their recommended selection. With the President's approval, the scholarship will be awarded. The ideal situation would be to make this announcement at one of the Tri-annual meetings.

6. Applications and Publicity: Each Chapter will ensure that they have scholarship applications available. They will distribute the applications throughout their communities to the targeted recipients. Chapters should include information about the scholarship in their newsletters and local media. Applications will be available on the LCOC website.

7. Applicant Folder: The Scholarship Selection Committee will prepare a folder on each applicant. The folder will contain the student's scholarship application, photo, ACT or SAT scores, high school transcript and two letters of recommendation from the student's high school faculty or staff and a letter from the sponsoring MOAA member if applicable.

8. Disbursement of Funds: The scholarship funds will be mailed to the college where the student has been accepted. It will be the responsibility of the nominating Chapter to insure the student is enrolled in school before sending the money to the college.

Approved 17 September 2016

West Monroe, Louisiana

CDR Robert T. Douville, President



**The Greater Baton Rouge Chapter
of the
Military Officers Association of America**

**Announcing
"Story of the Louisiana National Guard"**

**Guest Speaker
MG Stephen C. Dabadie**

**October 25th, 2016
Drusilla's Restaurant, Baton Rouge**

CHAPTER RECRUITING PROGRAM

September 30th marked the close of the second period 2016 Chapter Recruiting Program competition. As of the close of this cycle, we have recruited **1,384** new monetary incentive qualified chapter members. Congratulations to everyone!

As always, we encourage you to aggressively recruit and report new chapter members, but you should be aware some new recruits may not have qualified for an incentive. You also should understand each new chapter member is eligible for only one monetary incentive. Your chapter will not receive a monetary incentive qualified credit if the new chapter member :

1. is not eligible for national MOAA membership or failed to join MOAA
2. is submitted as a new chapter member gain but previously was reported to MOAA as a chapter member within the past three years;
3. is a cadet or newly commissioned officer who was eligible and received incentive credit under the ROTC Cadet/Gold Bar program.

However, you can still get future incentive credit for those newly recruited chapter members that you have reported but have failed to join national MOAA as a BASIC, PREM or LIFE member. You can do this by having them sign-up online by clicking the "JOIN" banner at <http://www.moaa.org/> or you can download and complete a printer-friendly application form to [MOAA Application Form](#). In addition, you can request hard copies of all forms and brochures, (limit 25) by calling MOAA's Member Service Center at (800) 234-MOAA (6622) or email them at msc@moaa.org.

Congratulations to our 2016 Chapter Recruiting Program award winners! Under the 2016 program rules for council competition, this recruiting incentive can be achieved by more than one council in each region. For the 2016 awards program, we have one more cycle left of awards competition: Oct 1 through Dec 31. A \$250 incentive is awarded to each council whose chapters recruit 35 or more new chapter members during those time periods. The independent chapters can also win by recruiting 8 new chapters members in the period to earn \$100 incentive – the same standard for new chapter membership incentive eligibility applies.

2016 Chapter Recruiting Program Council winners for the second period closing out on Sep 30:

Ohio Council – 87
 Florida Council – 79
 California Council – 77
 Alabama Council – 57
 Louisiana Council – 38

2016 Chapter Recruiting Program Independent Chap-

ters winners for the second period closing out on Sep 30:
 Minnesota Chapter - 11
 New Hampshire Chapter – 10
 Southeastern New England Chapter-9

Council winners will receive an incentive electronic funds transfer (EFT) for \$250 and independent chapters for \$100. Note: if you do not have an EFT account contact us at chapters@moaa.org to set one up today.

As a reminder, the next competition for councils and independent chapters is already underway as of **Oct 1 and will close-out on Dec 31**. To help you track the progress of your recruiting efforts, we will continue to post a weekly Chapter Recruiting 2016 update to our website on Fridays. Check out your results here [Chapter Recruiting Tracker](#) and then scroll down to the recruitment tracker.

Best of luck with your recruiting efforts. Thank you for your continued support.

MOAA Council and Chapter Affairs

MOAA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Congress Leaves Government on Idle

On fourth down and 2 (days before shutdown), Congress punted the appropriations football until Dec. 9. The continuing resolution (CR) Hill and Administration leaders finally approved will keep the government operating past Sept. 30 and let legislators race home to campaign for re-election.

Getting to this 70-day extension deal wasn't easy.

Senate leaders wrangled the past two weeks over inclusion of funding for disaster aid and combating the Zika virus.

For most federal departments - including the Defense Department - the CR caps spending at current levels for the next two months. That's frustrating, because it prevents any new program starts.

It also means Congress must return for a "lame duck" session after the election to work out a new agreement to fund the government for the rest of FY 2017.

The VA got a better deal, as the CR included full VA funding for 2017 and advance funding for 2018. This will allow planned improvements in benefit claims processing and

medical research. It also will let the VA cover in vitro fertilization for veterans with injuries causing infertility.

"MOAA is grateful this legislation will provide a \$2 billion increase over the current year, with additional funding to address treatment of hepatitis C, long-term care for veterans, caregiver support, and reduction of the claims backlog," said MOAA President Lt Gen Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret).

CVS to Leave TRICARE Pharmacy Network

TRICARE pharmacy contractor Express Scripts, Inc., announced today that CVS pharmacies, including those in Target stores, will no longer process prescriptions for TRICARE

as of Dec. 1, 2016.

The good news is that Walgreens pharmacies will return to the TRICARE network on Dec. 1.

You may recall Walgreens left the TRICARE network in 2011 after Walgreens declined to accept TRICARE payment levels.

After experiencing drops in store revenue, Walgreens had a change of heart and has agreed to accept TRICARE payments.

Now it's CVS that's balking over the same issue, and TRICARE's answer is the same as it was previously for Walgreen's - pharmacies that don't agree to the TRICARE payment can't be in the TRICARE network.

The return of Walgreens means the TRICARE network will still include 57,000 retail pharmacies, and 98 percent of TRICARE beneficiaries will have a network pharmacy within five miles of home.

Beneficiaries who have been using CVS will be notified about how they can transfer their prescriptions to a nearby network pharmacy. Those who use certain specialty drugs will receive additional assistance.

If beneficiaries chose to fill a prescription at CVS after Dec. 1, it will be a non-network pharmacy. This means they will have to pay the full cost of the medication upfront, and file for partial reimbursement from TRICARE

TRICARE Fees, Pay, Housing, and SSIA Update

House and Senate Armed Services committee leaders have said they've nearly completed negotiations on the FY 2017 Defense Authorization Bill.

That's the mammoth bill that will determine TRICARE fee changes, troop levels, the size of the military pay raise, housing allowance changes, and survivor benefit payments, among many other things.

In recent years, those negotiations have dragged into November or December, so it would seem encouraging that progress has been faster this year.

But a lot depends on whether Congress will allow extra money in the DoD budget above the spending caps set under last year's budget deal.

Congress has yet to resolve inter-party disputes on overall federal spending, and whether a rise in DoD spending would have to be matched by a rise in non-defense spending.

Until that's resolved, the defense bill - and the final action on all of the personnel and benefit issues - remains in limbo.

So we're back where we were last year, waiting for a lame duck Congress to work these issues out in November and December

House Passes VA Appeals Modernization

This spring, the VA Secretary told Congress the backlog of initial disability claims had been reduced significantly,

but there was an enormous and growing backlog of appeals.

Senate Veteran Affairs Committee Chairman Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.) demanded VA come up with a solution so he could introduce legislation by Memorial Day.

In March, the VA convened a working group of veteran service organizations (VSOs) and other stakeholder groups, including MOAA, to develop a new proposed procedure.

The resulting plan would create three "lanes" for appeal after an initial ratings decision. A veteran could choose to:

1. Submit his or her own additional information to have the VA reconsider the claim (termed by VA as a "supplemental claim");
2. Request a review of the claim by a more senior VA rater using the same evidence the initial decision was made on, with an option for an informal hearing; or
3. Submit the appeal directly to the Board of Veterans' Appeals, without the extra interim steps required now.

One other important change is the VA's current "duty to assist" the veteran in developing the claim would end after the initial VA decision.

VA Secretary Bob McDonald has spared no effort in trying to get this legislative proposal through Congress.

On Sept. 14, 2016, HR 5620 passed the house by a 310 - 116 vote. The final bill also included whistleblower protections, authority to share veterans' medical information with community care providers to facilitate treatment, and honoring certain members of the reserve component as veterans.

While the bill isn't perfect (MOAA has some qualms about eliminating the VA's duty to assist the veteran in developing an appeal), it's the only bill with a chance to make real progress in easing the current ridiculous situation where an appeal takes years.

MOAA is hopeful the Senate also will approve the bill so vets can get timely appeals decisions.

Coalition Honors Legislative Champions

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of 33 military and veterans groups co-chaired by MOAA, presented its highest awards on Sept. 22 to two legislators and a congressional staff member who have championed the causes of health care and compensation for military families and veterans.

Senator Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mac Thornberry (R-Tex.) received TMC's 2016 Award of Merit. Murray was recognized especially for her leadership in seeking remedies for wounded veterans suffering from service-caused infertility.

Thornberry was honored for his leadership in protecting military members and families against large, unwarranted fee increases for military health coverage.

TMC also presented its annual Freedom Award to the Staff Director of the House Armed Services Military Personnel Subcommittee, Ms. Jeanette James, for her work in support of military compensation and benefits issues.

The Jewish War Veterans' Herb Rosenbleeth, President of The Military Coalition, lauded Murray's efforts.

"For years, Sen. Murray has pursued legislation to allow the VA to cover in vitro fertilization to provide wounded warriors access to treatment that might otherwise be out of reach due to prohibitive costs," Rosenbleeth said. "She ensured inclusion of this initiative in the FY17 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill."

For years, Chairman Thornberry has stood up for our troops, families, retirees and survivors to protect their quality of life and to ensure their compensation package is commensurate with the demands imposed upon them," said TMC Co-chair Morgan Brown of the Air Force Sergeants Association. "He is their lead representative in continuing negotiations to improve force levels and the military pay raise, and protect against undue erosion of their housing allowances, healthcare, commissary, and survivor benefits."

"The legislators are the champions," said Steve Strobe, TMC Co-Chair and Vice President for Government Relations of the Military Officers Association of America, "but their staffs expend huge amounts of effort in researching the issues, crafting the legislation, and working with DoD and the military associations to find the right answers. A retired Army nurse, Jeanette James has a particular empathy for the military community, not just in matters of health care, but across the broad range of personnel and compensation programs."

TMC represents the interests of more than 5.5 million members around the world, including active duty, National Guard, Reserve, and retired members and veterans of the seven uniformed services, plus their families and survivors.

Surviving Spouse Corner: Aging in Place

By Patricia Bergquist, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee member



Statistics show 1 in 3 Americans now is over age 50, and by 2030, 1 in every 5 will be over 65. Nearly 90 percent of those over 45 want to age at home, referred to as aging in place. Often, home modifications to improve accessibility and livability help to ensure a safe, independent, and actively engaged lifestyle.

It is important to think proactively about the aging process rather than react once an event occurs. Consider

whether your home will work for you as you age. Ask yourself: What is your goal for your house? How long do you want to live there?

Often this is a head, heart, and financial decision. Life is a journey of adaptation, and our homes tell us what we need to do. The best living environment is safe, comfortable, fosters and preserves independence, accommodates the potential need for assistance, supports the way you live, and will continue to be affordable down the road.

Experts say the three most dangerous areas in a home ; the kitchen, bathroom (the No. 1 place for accidents in the home), and stairs. While individual needs vary, some home modifications to consider include installing:

- ramps at home entrances to eliminate steps;
- handrails at existing steps and porches;
- remote-controlled blinds/shades;
- lever-style door handles;
- adequate indoor and outdoor lighting;
- lever-style handles on all faucets, including a pull-out sprayer in the kitchen;
- a front-control cooktop;
- side-by-side refrigerator (with slide-out shelves and a water/ice dispenser);
- larger, user-friendly cabinet and drawer pulls;
- pullout shelves in cabinets;
- a raised dishwasher;
- a front-loading washer and dryer;
- raised toilets
- a curbless shower (no step over and wheelchair-friendly, if necessary later) with grab bars, a slide-bar-type handheld shower nozzle, tub and shower controls close to the entry point, anti-scald devices, and entry doors at least 32-inches wide; and

Modifications can be made in all areas of your home, even in closets and garages. (Find more ideas in the AARP Home Fit Guide (<http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/livable-communities/documents-2015/HomeFit2015/AARP%20HomeFit%20Guide%202015.pdf>))

As you begin to examine your home and its condition, ongoing maintenance needs, and necessary changes, consider a variety of solutions and make informed decisions. Unbiased assessments by a certified aging-in-place specialist (CAP) can be helpful (\$300 average cost for home assessment).

Some CAPs are remodelers, but a growing number are health care professionals, designers, architects, or contractors who are trained to identify the unique needs of the older adult population, aging-in-place home modifications, common remodeling projects, and solutions to common barriers. CAPs provide a service, but eventually you'll need a professional remodeler to modify your home. Visit www.nahb.org/caps to find a CAP in your area.

CHAPTER RATING SHEET

SECTION I – “OBJECTIVE” SCORING

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Points Possible</u>
1. All chapter officers* are members of national MOAA (see * below)	10
2. % of membership who are members of national MOAA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 98% and above 25 points • 95% to 97% 15 points • 92% to 94% 5 points • Less than 92% 0 points 	25
3. Membership rosters were provided to Council & Chapter Affairs Department by Feb 1? (membership for the previous calendar year ending Dec 31) Provide submission date.	20
4. Did chapter submit an updated chapter officer list during year of competition? Provide submission date.	10
5. Does chapter have a designated “Legislative Chair/Liaison” with e-mail address in the national MOAA database? Provide name.	10
6. Does chapter have a designated “Membership Chair”? Provide name.	10
7. Does chapter have a “Surviving Spouse Liaison” with an e-mail address in the national MOAA database? Provide name.	10
8. Does the chapter have an Electronic Funds Transfer account established with national MOAA?	5
9. Did chapter sponsor at least 10 programs/events during the year of competition? (Includes full membership meeting, board meeting, and special meetings)	10
10. Did the chapter publish at least six newsletters (digital or print) during the year of competition and maintain an active chapter website?	10

SECTION I TOTAL **120**

* Spouses, who are married to a national MOAA member in good standing, are exempt and receive credit

SECTION II – “SUBJECTIVE” SCORING

(Address each of the items in order in a complete but concise fashion)

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Points Possible</u>
1. Did the chapter conduct a “pro-active” legislative affairs program during the year of competition? (Briefly describe level of effort and results.)	0-25
2. Was an active chapter recruiting/retention program conducted during the year of competition? (Briefly describe level of effort and results.)	0-25
3. Briefly describe your chapter’s leadership succession plan?	0-10
4. Does the chapter have an established personal affairs program? (Indicate if a “Personal Affairs Officer” or “Committee” has been appointed and briefly describe the chapter’s overall program.)	0-10
5. Did the chapter actively engage in programs/projects that enhanced the image of the chapter and MOAA during the year of competition? Consider the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active participation with state council, attendance at scheduled meetings and conventions, when held • DEDUCT 10 points if the chapter does not belong to the state council and one exists • DEDUCT 5 points if they did not attend scheduled meetings and the state convention, if one was held • Support of local ROTC/JROTC programs, if they are available • Scholarship initiatives, either local or in support of MOAA National • Designated chapter Transition liaison to facilitate local networking and employment assistance • Community involvement and civic activities, to include interaction with local community such as Community Blueprint, A Soldier’s Child, etc. and/or currently serving military, veterans and family programs • Utilize MOAA Connect 	0-25
6. Evaluator’s Rating: overall impression of chapter’s “vitality” based on documentation presented.	0-25

SECTION II TOTAL

120

EXTRA CREDIT (10 POINTS MAXIMUM): The best ideas come from our chapter leaders. Please identify and briefly describe a management best practice that we can share with other chapter leaders.

**CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS of
THE LOUISIANA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS (LCOC)
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA), INC.
as amended 17 September 2016**

ARTICLE I: NAME

SECTION 1: The name of this organization shall be The Louisiana Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), hereinafter referred to as the Council or LCOC.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE. The purpose of this Council shall be to:

- Promote the purposes and objectives of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
- Foster fraternal relationships among retired, active duty, reserve component and former officers of America's uniformed services and their spouses and surviving spouses
- Protect the rights and interests of all members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors
- Support and serve the community and the nation
- Foster the integrity and prestige of the Uniformed Services
- Participate in activities of a patriotic nature
- Provide the assistance necessary to member chapters to enable them to effectively serve their members, their communities, and the nation

ARTICLE III: STATUS

SECTION 1: NONPROFIT. The Council will be a 501(c)(19) nonprofit organization, operated exclusively for the purposes specified in Article II above.

SECTION 2: UNCOMPENSATED SERVICE. Officers and appointed officials shall not receive any stated compensation for their services, but the Council may by resolution authorize reimbursement of expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

SECTION 3: LIABILITY. Nothing herein shall constitute Member Chapters as partners for any purpose. No Member Chapter, officer or agent of this Council shall be liable for the acts or failure to act on the part of any other Member Chapter, officer or agent. Nor shall any Member Chapter, officer or agent be liable for its or their acts or failure to act under these bylaws, excepting only acts or failure to act arising out of willful misfeasance or malfeasance.

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SECTION 4: USE OF FUNDS. The Council shall use its funds only to accomplish the purposes specified in Article II above, and no part of said funds shall inure or be distributed to members.

SECTION 5: DISSOLUTION. In the event of final dissolution or liquidation of the Council, and after the discharge of all its liabilities, the remaining assets of the Council, including all of its various specifically designated funds, shall be given to one or more nonprofit organizations, as defined in the Internal Revenue Code, whose purposes and objectives are similar to those of the Council, such organizations to be designated by a vote of two-thirds of all officers and directors serving as such at the time of dissolution.

SECTION 6: RESOLUTIONS. Duly adopted resolutions of the Council which are not contrary to this constitution and bylaws may be permitted.

SECTION 7: QUORUM. Any meeting of a quorum with notice, as elsewhere provided herein, shall be a duly constituted Council meeting.

ARTICLE IV: COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: COMPOSITION. Membership of the Council shall be composed of local organizations, hereafter collectively referred to as “chapters,” of officers, commissioned or warrant, of the seven uniformed services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service). These local organizations must be located in the State of Louisiana and be affiliated with the National Military Officers Association of America.

SECTION 2: CHAPTER COUNCIL AFFILIATION. Any chapter affiliated with MOAA may, upon application to and approval by the Council, become affiliated with the Council. Such affiliation does not authorize the Council to participate in the organizational or managerial affairs of the Member Chapter unless requested by a Member Chapter.

SECTION 3: MEMBERSHIP CANCELLATION. The affiliation of a Member Chapter with the Council may be cancelled either by the chapter or a two-thirds vote of the Council.

SECTION 4: INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP. Any member chapter person who is a member in good standing of MOAA or the spouse, including a surviving spouse, of such a person may serve in any position on this Council subject to any other applicable provisions of these bylaws.



SECTION 5: HONORARY MEMBERSHIP. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these bylaws, individuals, including persons not members nor eligible to be members of MOAA, who have rendered exemplary service to the United States, to Louisiana, to the LCOC, to one or more member chapters or to furtherance of Council purposes may be elected to the Council by a majority vote of a quorum named at a duly constituted meeting. Any Council member may nominate a person for honorary membership. Such nominations shall be referred to the Awards Committee which will consider and provide a recommendation report to the Council. Honorary members shall not be required to pay dues nor be entitled to vote on the Council. Honorary membership may be terminated by a duly adopted resolution of a majority of the Council.

SECTION 6: DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITED. There shall be no discrimination in membership or participation in the affairs of the Council by reason of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

SECTION 1: OFFICERS. The Council officers shall be:

- President
- First Vice President
- Second Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Immediate Past President of the Council

SECTION 2: DIRECTORS. Not more than five (5) persons may be appointed as Directors of the Council, each of whom shall be a member of a Member Chapter and also a National member of the Military Officers Association of America.

SECTION 3: TERMS OF OFFICES. The President, Second Vice President, and Secretary shall be elected to a two year term starting on January 1 of odd numbered years. The First Vice President and Treasurer shall be elected to a two year term starting on January 1 of even numbered years. Directors shall serve at the pleasure of the incumbent President, subject to the Council's approval.

SECTION 4: TERM LIMITS. President, First Vice President and Second Vice President shall serve a two year term and shall be eligible to serve one consecutive additional two year term. A person who has served two consecutive terms as President, First Vice President, or as Second Vice President, shall not again be eligible to so serve in that same position until not serving in the position for at least two years on the date next sworn in.



SECTION 5: ELECTION PROCEDURE. The elective officers shall be elected at the last yearly meeting. Election may be by written secret ballot. Each elected officer shall take office as of January 1 following election and shall be sworn in at the first meeting in the year following election.

SECTION 6: VACANCIES. A vacancy in the office of the President shall be filled automatically by the First Vice President. A vacancy in the office of the First Vice President shall be filled automatically by the Second Vice President. Vacancies in other elective offices shall be filled as the President may decide, with concurrence of the Council.

SECTION 7: UNAVAILABILITY OF OFFICERS. In the event of the President's temporary disability or absence, the First Vice President shall perform the duties of the President. In the event of the temporary disability or absence of both the President and First Vice President, the Second Vice President shall perform the duties of the President. In the event of the temporary disability or absence of the treasurer or secretary, the President may appoint, with concurrence of the council, an individual to perform those duties.

SECTION 8: DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT. The Council President shall:

- Provide timely official notification of all regular and special meetings of the Council
- Preside at all meetings of the Council as an ex officio member without voting rights except in the case of a tie
- Be an ex officio member on all committees
- Not serve on the Nominating Committee
- At the regular meetings and at such other times deemed proper, communicate to the Council such information or proposals that would, in the President's opinion, tend to increase the effectiveness of the Council
- Process recommendations from the Awards Committee for Council, Chapter or individual recognition.
- Appoint Directors and other specified appointed positions, with concurrence of the Council, to serve in accordance with the LCOC Constitution and By-Laws
- Appoint specified Committee Chairs and establish committees, with concurrence of the Council, to function as needed and in accordance with the LCOC Constitution and Bylaws
- Perform such other duties as necessarily incident to the office of the President

SECTION 9: DUTIES OF THE VICE PRESIDENTS. The Council Vice Presidents shall perform such duties as specified elsewhere herein and as the President may assign.



SECTION 10: DUTIES OF THE TREASURER. The Council Treasurer shall:

- Collect annual dues and maintain a record of all sums received and expenses by the Council and shall make such disbursements as are authorized by the Council
- Prepare all required tax forms for the Council
- Deposit all funds received in a federally insured financial institution. Funds may be withdrawn only upon the signature of the Treasurer and after receiving authorization from the President. In the event of the Treasurer's disability or absence from the area, the signature of the President is authorized
- Maintain the Council's funds, accounting books and vouchers under the Treasurer's control at all times and keep them available to inspection and verification by the Council
- Be responsible for a biennial review of Council funds and shall present results of the review to the Council.
- Be responsible for a financial audit performed by an independent CPA once every four (4) years.

SECTION 11: DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY. The Council Secretary shall:

- Keep a record of all proceedings of regular and special meetings
- Prepare such correspondence as required and maintain the Council's correspondence files
- Prepare whatever administrative reports that may be required
- Safeguard all records, documents, and valuable equipment belonging to the Council
- Maintain Council membership records
- Perform such other duties as are commensurate with the office.

SECTION 12: ASSISTANT SECRETARY. An Assistant Secretary or Recording Secretary may be appointed, without voting privilege, at the discretion of the Council.

SECTION 13: RIGHTS & DUTIES OF THE DIRECTORS. Appointed Directors shall exercise rights and privileges as provided elsewhere herein and perform such additional duties as the President may assign, with the concurrence of the Council.

SECTION 14: UNILATERAL ACTION PROHIBITED. The elected officers and appointed directors of the Council shall not be authorized individually to adopt resolutions or to establish positions in the name of the Council; only the Council in a quorum meeting is authorized to adopt resolutions, establish positions, or otherwise take any action in the name of the Council.

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ARTICLE VI: FINANCES

SECTION 1: CASH BASIS. The Council shall operate on a cash basis and shall not obligate or expend funds not on hand.

SECTION 2: DUES RATE. During the Council's first meeting of the year, the dues rate for the current calendar year shall be determined for its Member Chapters by a two-thirds vote of the Council. Only those eligible Member Chapters who have paid their Council dues by the 31st of March shall be considered a Council Member Chapter. Chapters in arrears shall not be entitled to Council membership and privileges until such time as the Treasurer certifies to the Council that all unpaid dues plus any accrued interest have been paid. Dues not paid prior to the due date shall accrue simple interest at a rate set by the Council, not to exceed 6 percent per year unless waived by the Council.

SECTION 3: DUES COMPUTATION. The 31st of December of each year shall be the cutoff date for computing dues owed to the Council. The annual dues payable by the Member Chapters to the Council shall be based on the size of the chapter's regular membership only. Members residing outside the State of Louisiana shall not be included when determining size of a Member Chapter.

SECTION 4: ACCOUNTING STANDARDS. The Council, the Council Treasurer, financial reviewers and auditors should be guided to the extent practicable by the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 117, "Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations," of June 1993 or subsequent date, published by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), Financial Accounting Foundation.

ARTICLE VII: VOTING

SECTION 1: MAJORITY VOTE. Except as otherwise provided in these bylaws, all questions coming before the Council shall be decided by a majority vote of a quorum named at a duly constituted meeting.

SECTION 2: VOTING RIGHTS. Voting rights shall be vested in designated delegates of each Member Chapter and the LCOC Officers and appointed Directors as provided in Article V, Sections 1 and 2. Each Member Chapter shall be permitted two (2) voting delegates; the Council encourages one of the two delegates to be the Chapter President. LCOC officers and Directors shall not vote as a Member Chapter delegates.

SECTION 3: RECORD OF VOTING MEMBERS. Voting members present at a Council meeting shall be identified to the attending Secretary, Assistant Secretary or Recording Secretary prior to the opening of the Council meeting. (i.e. Name, Chapter and voting position represented). Voting members will be recorded and tallied to support roll call voting or counts as needed during the Council meeting.

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SECTION 4: PROXY VOTING PROHIBITED. Proxy voting shall not be permitted at meetings of the Council.

SECTION 5: QUORUM. A duly constituted Council meeting must have at least six voting members present. This constituted Council meeting is also considered a quorum.

SECTION 6: URGENT MATTERS. In urgent matters, the Council President shall be authorized to put questions to vote by mail, telephone or other electronic means or when a quorum was not available at any Council meeting.

ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS

SECTION 1: REGULAR MEETINGS. There shall be a regular meeting of the Council in January and thereafter, every four months of the calendar year. Notice of the time, place, and agenda shall be mailed to each Council officer, each appointed Council official, and each Member Chapter President at least 20 days in advance of every meeting.

SECTION 2: FIRST ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA. The January or first regular Council meeting of each calendar year shall be for, but not limited to: Installation of officers, summary review of annual reports, establishing the dues rate for the current calendar year, approval of an annual budget and naming of a nominating committee.

SECTION 3: SPECIAL MEETINGS: Special meetings of the Council may be called by the Council President. Notice of any special meeting shall be communicated (mail, phone, e-mail, text message, etc.) to each council Officer, Director and each Member Chapter President at least 5 business days in advance with a statement of meeting date, time, place, and information as to the subject or subjects to be considered. A special meeting need not be in person; it may be by telephone conference call or other electronic means. The Council may waive advance notice entirely if not considered practicable in the circumstances. The record of a quorum and minutes of a special meeting or urgent matter shall be kept and reported at the next regular Council meeting

SECTION 4: ACCOMMODATIONS. The meeting room for regular Council meetings shall be funded by the host Member Chapter. Coffee, soft drinks, etc. shall be at the Chapter's discretion.

ARTICLE IX: APPOINTMENTS AND COMMITTEES

SECTION 1: APPOINTED POSITIONS. Appointed persons shall advise and interact with all Council members. All appointments, unless terminated sooner, shall expire upon completion of the appointing President's term of office, resignation or permanent unavailability. The President may appoint, with concurrence of the Council, such named positions as the President may deem appropriate; including but not limited to all or some of the following:



- **Personal Affairs Chair**
- **Parliamentary Chair**
- **Legislative Chair - National**
- **Legislative Chair - Louisiana**
- **Scholarship Chair**
- **Chapter Renewal Chair**
- **Auxiliary and Family Chair**
- **Council Chaplain**
- **Council Web Manager**
- **Council Newsletter Editor**
- **Council Transition Liaison**
- **Council Representative to the Louisiana Veterans Coalition**

SECTION 2: APPOINTED LIMITATIONS. Individuals appointed pursuant to Article IX (infra) shall be considered ex officio members of the Council without voting rights, unless otherwise eligible to vote as provided under a different position or authority such as chapter delegate, council officer or director. Appointed individuals may be seated at Council meetings, recognized to speak at Council meetings and introduce motions based on their own appointed work; however, they are not entitled to second any motion made in Council meetings. When appointed persons work in an assigned committee they shall have such voice as the committee may decide is appropriate.

SECTION 3: COMMITTEES. The President shall appoint such standing and special committees as may be required, with concurrence of the Council.

SECTION 4: NOMINATING COMMITTEE. At the first calendar year Council meeting, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three persons, one each from three different Chapters, each of whom shall be a member of a Member Chapter, but not currently an elective officer of the Council. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee shall present the Committee's report to the Council Secretary in writing at the second calendar year Council meeting; naming the candidates it proposes. Following the Secretary's receipt of the Nominating Committee report, the floor shall be opened to any other nominations by voting Council members. Any such nominations, made and seconded by another voting Council member, shall be recorded by the Secretary and added to the ballot for the election. Following closure of nominations from the floor, the President shall call for a Council vote on acceptance of the nominating committee's report and closure to any further nominations for the pending election.

SECTION 5: AWARDS COMMITTEE. There shall be an awards committee chaired by the First Vice President and include a minimum of two other council members. The committee shall:

- Establish procedures to keep member Chapters informed of annual and other recognition opportunities, deadlines and submission formats as may be appropriate to foster recognition and acknowledgement of Chapter or individual actions and activities
- Review award nominations and select a primary nominee/winner, or alternate when appropriate
- Submit timely and properly executed and prepared recommendations to the President for:
 - Annual Council recognition to MOAA National
 - Recognition of deserving chapters or individuals, including non-MOAA members, for contributions in furtherance of Council and MOAA purposes

The President may return recommendation packages to the committee for correction or modification and will, as appropriate, forward to MOAA with endorsement for consideration of national MOAA award.

ARTICLE X: ANNUAL REPORTS

SECTION 1: GUIDELINES. Member Chapters shall prepare and submit to the Council written calendar year annual reports. The annual report will be submitted to the Secretary no later than thirty (30) days prior to the first Council meeting of the year following the report year. Reports will be presented by each member Chapter at the Council meeting per Article VIII Section 2, and prepared in accordance with the following guidelines:

- The Member Chapter shall be identified at the opening of the report
- A list or table of all report period elected or appointed officers, directors and committee chairs shall be included. This section shall also include the name of the individual, title or office held, beginning and ending date, and current contact phone and e-mail as available.
- A full membership roster and status or classification of each member
- A summary of the Chapters activities and programs over the past year broken out by tri-annual periods over the preceding year (Jan-Apr, May-Aug, Sep-Dec)
- Recommendations, if any, for Best Practices or Lessons Learned
- If needed, requests for assistance or guidance on issues or problems encountered or currently impacting the Chapter
- Documents and reports prepared for other Chapter business which include any or all of the required data may be submitted as properly identified attachments

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ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1: These bylaws may be amended, repealed, or altered, in whole or in part, by a two-thirds vote at any duly organized meeting of the Council. Any amendment proposed for consideration must be included in writing with the notice of the meeting.

SECTION 2: These bylaws shall be reviewed in entirety by appointed committee, led by the Parliamentary Chair, once every four (4) years. The committee review and recommendations shall be completed as needed prior to the second (2nd) tri-annual meeting of the Council to allow Member Chapters appropriate notice and review of proposed amendments.

ARTICLE XII: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

SECTION 1: ROBERT'S RULES. The rules contained in the current edition of "Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised" shall govern the Council in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Council may adopt.

SECTION 2: INTERPRETATION. The Parliamentary Chair shall be the President's authority on proper parliamentary procedure as described in Robert's rules insofar as practicable during council meetings.

ARTICLE XIII: THE FLAG. The American Flag shall be displayed and honored at all meetings of this Council.

This is to certify that this constitution and bylaws were approved and adopted at the organizational meeting of the LCOC on 17 September 2016.

Robert T. Douville
CDR, USCG (Ret)
President

Lessie A. Griffith
LTC, USA (Ret)
Secretary


President's Signature


Secretary's Signature