



THE MILITARY COALITION

Office of the Coordinator
201 N Washington St
Alexandria, VA 22314-2539
Tele: 703-838-5807 FAX: 703-838-8173

Corporation President: Herb Rosenbleeth, JWV, 202-265-6280
Co-Chairmen: Mike Hayden, MOAA, 703-838-8103
Coordinator: Jamie Naughton, MOAA 703-838-5807

Corporation Secretary: Phil Odom, MOAA, 703-838-8534
Morgan Brown, AFSA, 301-899-3500 x227
Treasurer: Mike Blum, MCL, 703-207-9588

MINUTES OF May 7, 2015 MEETING

125 N West St Alexandria, VA 22314

1. The monthly TMC meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman Hayden. All member organization representatives were present except: AMVETs, AAA, VFW, and WWP

- a. Pledge of Allegiance: Co-Chairman Hayden
- b. Introductions: NMFA introduced Kelly Hruska and Patricia Contik. NERA introduced Dolores
- c. Presentations: none
- d. Minutes approved for April 2, 2015 meeting.
- e. The Treasurer's report approved.

2. Co-Chair Discussion Items: Co-Chair Hayden (MOAA) thanked IAVA and ROA for their work in setting up a meeting with TMC and VA Secretary Bob McDonald. The meeting will be May 15 at 2 PM at ROA. Limited space is available. The invite should go to your association's executive director, national president, or designee and a plus 1. Please RSVP to Mike at mikeh@moaa.org.

The HASC mark of the defense bill blocked many of the White House recommendations on personnel costs, but moves forward with retirement reform. The Senate expects to complete its mark of the defense bill by the end of next week. The SASC-P marks on May 12.

Co-Chair Brown (AFSA) provided details on the budget resolution. Thanks to AFA for highlighting the TMC in their magazine.

Co-Chair Hayden discussed a contentious House amendment awarding the Purple Heart to victims of the Oklahoma City bombing. TMC declines taking a position, but individual organizations are welcome to take positions.

3. Coordinator Announcements: Congressional directories are here for organizations that did not pick them up at the last meeting. Please wait until after the meeting to collect. Make payments

available to:

MOAA
201 North Washington St
Alexandria, VA 22314

Please note on the memo line: Congressional directories

4. Committee Co-Chairs briefed on key issues since the last TMC meeting. Highlights are noted below.

a. Awards. Co-Chair Huck (NMFA) asked associations to submit nominees. No nominations have been received yet.

b. Guard and Reserve. Co-Chair Madison (TREA) discussed recent vets status legislation that has been introduced. There is no update on a Guard and Reserve Caucus breakfast.

Co-Chair McElligott (COAUSPHS) met with Sen. Whitehouse (D-R.I.) regarding S. 602, S. 743, and S. 1152.

The next committee meeting will be May 14 at 10:00 AM at TREA.

c. MilCon/MWR. No report.

d. MilPersonnel/Compensation/Commissaries. Mike Hayden (MOAA) announced that the HASC mark is silent on the active duty pay raise. The mark did not cut commissary funding or housing allowances. He provided an update on the White House response to MCRMC proposals and noted that DoD rejects the commission's TRICARE changes.

Brooke Goldberg (NMFA) said that opposition to keeping BAH rates and commissary funding as-is will be in the SASC.

e. Retired Affairs. Co-Chair Barron (MOAA) provided information on an amendment by Rep. Chris Gibson (R-N.Y.) that delayed implementation of retirement changes. The amendment was defeated in committee.

The next committee meeting will be May 19 at 9:00 AM at FRA.

f. Survivor Benefits. Phil Odom (MOAA) announced a Senate companion bill eliminating the SBP-DIC offset. A TMC letter of support is being worked.

Rick Jones (NAUS) discussed recent legislation by Duckworth (D-Ill.) and Rigell (R-VA.) about Fry Scholarships.

The next committee meeting will be May 22 at 10:00 AM at TREA.

g. Taxes, Social Security. Co-Chair Odom (MOAA) said tax measures may move in Congress this summer.

h. Veterans. Co-Chair Brown (AFSA) invited TMC organization to meet with VA Secretary Bob McDonald at ROA.

Co-Chair Norton (MOAA) invited interested parties to attend a meeting with Census Bureau

about their American Community Survey, a tool used to measure local veterans' populations. The meeting will be May 15 at 10:00 AM at MOAA.

i. **Health Care.** Co-Chair Washington (FRA) announced that DoD rejected the MCRMC health care proposals.

The next committee meeting will be May 28 at 8:30 AM at FRA.

j. **Membership and Nominations.** No report.

k. **Website.** The website redesign has launched. Please visit www.themilitarycoalition.org to see the new site.

5. Old Business. None.

6. New Business. Mike Blum (MCL) made a motion to recognize FRA's donation of coffee and donuts to monthly meetings by contributing \$20 a month. The motion passed without objection.

7. Good of the Order. NERA reminded organizations about the WWII flyover on May 8. Rick Jones announced NAUS has a new president. IAVA thanked organizations for their interest in meeting with the VA Secretary, and depending on the success of the event, said that McDonald would like to make the meeting a reoccurring event.

For organizations that ordered congressional directories and did not pick them up, please contact Jamie Naughton.

a. Appreciation was extended to FRA for hosting today's meeting. The next TMC meeting will be **10:00 AM, June 4, 2015 at AFA.**

8. Adjournment: 11:10 AM this date.

Respectfully,
Jamie Naughton, Coordinator