



Military Officers Association of America

**Dover Chapter
Executive Committee Meeting
July 19, 2021
Dovermoaa.org**

I. Call to order

Pres Gene called to order at 1204 in the private dining room of Mission BBQ, Dover DE

II. Roll Call: Exec Cmte mbrs Gene, Greg, Tom, John, Ron present. Lucy absent. Chapter Members: Frank Vavala, Loren A Weeks, Carl Witte. Guests: Kevin Noonan, Cathee Smith, Monica Haven.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting (Waived)

IV. Treasurer's Report: (see attached)

V. New Business: Meeting turned over to MOWW Regional Adjutant General (and Dover Chapter MOAA member) Carl Witte who led a 2-hour open discussion of mutual interests between MOAA and MOWW (Military Order of the World Wars).

- a) Everyone in attendance (except the guests) was a member of both organizations. Criteria for joining each is the same.
- b) Monica asked if the two organizations would merge, after Carl confirmed the mutual difficulty of finding new members. Gene explained the goals of the two national organizations may dovetail but not duplicate. For example, MOAA has advocacy as a key function, but MOWW does not. MOWW has Homeland Security as a key function but MOAA does not. Clearly, members of each organization will benefit from the work done by the other organization.
- c) In some cases, the two organizations have similar functions. For instance, MOWW focuses on youth leadership, which

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extends to the Boy Scouts and HOBY-like leadership workshops. MOAA does through scholarships at the national level; each chapter is allowed to take the chapter in unique directions, so our Dover Chapter offers JROTC scholarships and encourages leadership with medals to underclass high schoolers. MOAA sends reps to graduations and awards banquets and so does MOWW, so economy of force might be helpful among members who present awards and also belong to both organizations.

- d) Lauren is the Regional Commander for MOWW and a new member of Dover Chapter of MOAA. He expressed his role of balancing the needs of the local organizations and National expectations. Gene said that both national organizations have record keeping requirements that give chapters the opportunity to highlight their accomplishments as a chapter or the accomplishments of some individual members. We discussed how joint members who are very active could have their work highlighted on both reports to national.
- e) Ron, the President of the Delaware MOAA Council, had previously provided the various type of affiliations allowed by MOAA National. At issue for the Council is the lack of active members in New Castle County, a county where MOWW has 40 members (at least on paper, how active they were not determined). We discussed that even though members may not attend meetings as they age, they are still interested and proud of their MOAA affiliation. We had a few members pass away in 2020 who asked that MOAA or our scholarship be remembered by those who wished to honor their memories. There are many of us who join organizations and then don't participate except by adding to the strength of the chapter by being on the membership rolls. This is very helpful when advocating with elected officials, one of MOAA's tenets.
- f) Ron, who is the MOAA rep on the Veterans Commission, explained Joining Forces, and mentioned that MOWW had a rep on the Commission. Carl said that individual would soon be replaced and Ron outlined the need for the governor to approve using a letter from the organization. After the new members is seated, this is a great opportunity for that member and Ron to discuss joint initiatives between MOAA and MOWW in the future.

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- g) Carl mentioned his chapter's strength was working with youth, with JROTC specifically. He described the activity of a day-long leadership conference which had been held in NCC before COVID and the next time it would be held at the Air Mobility Museum in Dover. He invited the Dover MOAA chapter to be a cosponsor of this and promised that MOWW would do "90 percent of the work." That got our attention: we took a quick vote and decided we would be interested in this. We have members who volunteer at the museum who might want to be on the committee (e.g. Rich Parker). Gene said it sounded a lot like HOBY (Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership) with which she had some familiarity having been her mother's aide d' camp and clerk typist when her mother ran CLEW for the Dover Century Club. Carl confirmed that MOWW had an affiliation with HOBY and followed that format for their seminars. Gene said that before we could commit, we needed to verify that we would not be stepping on the Dover Century Club's toes...BUT if we are limiting the size and scope to mainly JROTC, this might not be an issue.
ACTION: Gene contact Dover Century Club.¹
- h) Ron mentioned that we cannot host anything without insurance. All agreed. Greg thought we had voted as a chapter to not do insurance and Gene said she would look at the minutes to confirm that. **ACTION: Gene look at minutes to see if Chapter voted against insurance.**² Tom confirmed that we had enough money in the treasury to buy insurance and Ron stated we needed it for when we went to high schools to give awards. Carl said that MOWW had national insurance that covered chapter activities and if insurance was required to host or participate in events, the MOWW National would provide a 'certificate of insurance' to the event organizer. This is not the case with MOAA and discussion all around followed speculating if

¹ MFR: Gene left message on Dover Century Club phone 302 674-3774 on July 22, 2021. On Aug 5, Bobby Jones, President of the Dover Century Club returned the call. Her number is h/302 734 1981 or c/302 399 4775. She said they have not done CLEW/HOBY for several years. IF we do it, please let her know as courtesy. I agreed to do so.

² Gene did word search for "insurance" in exec and chapter minutes and discovered that it was a topic to be discussed but it never was discussed due to COVID. (It was on the tail end of issues Gene picked up for action at the regional MOAA conference she attended in York PA). The executive committee had discussed it, had decided not to expend the money unless we were going to do a community event, then we could buy to cover that event. The general membership had only discussed it in relation to a potential project of MOAA taking the lead on a Pearl Harbor monument, one member (Tom Dix) who was very enthusiastic about that project, said he would buy the insurance (donate the money for the chapter), but since we discovered Smyrna had a Pearl Harbor monument we dropped that project and therefore any plans to codify insurance.)

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the chapter is a vendor at an event where the event has insurance, are we covered? Or should we be required to produce a certificate of insurance such as what Greg's Knights of Columbus is sometimes asked to produce. If MOWW was insured and the Air Mobility museum was insured would we need to be to participate? We did not want to monopolize the discussion about MOWW lash up with MOAA internal issues, Gene said she would clarify this with MOAA. **ACTION GENE confirm with MOAA National if we need insurance if we are presenting awards or buying a table at activities where the organizers have insurance. Or if the main sponsor/coordinator of the activity has insurance were we covered?**³

- i) Gene said we would need general membership consensus to support the HOBY/MOWW Youth Leadership daylong conference, and the insurance would also have to be resolved, so it would not be until after the Sept meeting where we could confirm. **(ACTION: Gene for general membership concurrence)**. For more on HOBY and the CLEW (one day leadership seminar) please review: <https://www.hoby.org/>. Gene said there would be publicity and a timeline so if MOAA were to get involved, planning could not really begin until after September. Carl said no date had been set, the Air Mobility calendar has not been consulted, etc. MOAA can sit the planning committee.
- j) Carl mentioned another new interest of MOWW which is the Delaware Military History Museum. Most of the Dover group was unaware of the existence of this museum. They have speakers on a monthly basis and are still curating for their collection. Gene invited Kevin Noonan to be LNO with the museum, to have them provide a speaker to our chapter, and then for us to schedule a bus to go see it (Limestone/Kirkwood area). We might need to add Hagley to make a full day plus lunch. We would open this to others to make a full bus. **(Action: Gene for MOAA membership concurrence)** Gene asked John, JRTOC coordinator, if he thought they might be interested and he said we should not count on it. For more information about the Delaware

³Since MOAA National makes money by selling insurance, pretty sure the answer is that we need insurance. Gene had previously looked into local purveyors of insurance and determined that the MOAA product was superior and cost less due to their arrangements with the provider. IF we do a bus trip or co-sponsor the Youth Leadership Day, this will be moot since we will need insurance to do both of these activities. Gene will contact MOAA National IF and WHEN the Chapter wants to pursue these community events.

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History museum please see:

<https://www.delawaremilitarymuseum.org/>

- k) Lauren expressed an interest in growing the MOWW in Kent and Sussex, and Ron expressed an interest in growing MOAA in NCC. We tossed around some ideas as to how to make this happen with joint membership.
- l) General Vavala, a new member to MOAA, could see the potential for us working together to support each other and urged us to get more into the details of how it could be done. Carl thought that might require a MOU, as he has an MOU with other organizations. Ron reminded everyone to be mindful of the legal ways we can officially join forces. Gene thought maybe just encouraging joint membership and having open communication might be enough. Someone **Tom moved** we offer a discount to MOWW members who wish to join MOAA. **Greg seconded, the motion carried to offer 50% chapter dues discount to members of both organizations.**
- m) Carl mentioned linking to MOWW initiatives and vice versa on both our webpages. (hyperlink to MOAA website is in masthead of this letter) Gene said we would only promote events if the membership wanted to join forces on those initiatives (such as the HOBY/MOWW youth leadership project), not the museum. But Gene is happy to mention the guest speakers at the museum in her newsletter as she mentions the Archives guest speakers and other things of general interest to military folk. Someone from the museum would have to provide this data to Gene. **ACTION: CARL to coordinate for Gene to get information to put in newsletter.**

VI. Old Business: Carried forward from March 19, 2019 Exec Meeting, Ron Sarg transferred several boxes of historic documents to Gene.

VII. Final Thoughts:

If MOWW members join MOAA, we would welcome them and give them a 50% discount.

As appropriate, some of the projects done for MOWW by MOAA members might qualify as worthy of adding to our annual chapter report.

We would also appreciate the support of individual MOWW members for MOAA advocacy initiatives, such as the 100 percent

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disabled tax exemption for school tax (in a bill currently), and exemption for county tax (was in a bill, got eliminated). Also for SB 188, a bill to eliminate taxes on retired military pay (writing letters and emails of support, possible attendance at events at leg hall, calling member's senators and representatives urging a yes vote). Since MOWW is already a member of the Veterans Commission, they will have this same list already, but they do not have advocacy in their charter, which MOAA does.

MOAA would appreciate MOWW buying Wreathes Across America from the MOAA website. See wreathesacrossamerica.org/ to donate now and share on your social media. **(ACTION ALL, especially new MOAA members and CARL to share link with MOWW members.)**

Dover MOAA would also appreciate contact with MOWW members in NCC to see if they are already in MOAA National and if they would help pump up the struggling MOAA NCC Chapter **(ACTION Carl and Ron)**.

In return, MOAA Dover general membership will very likely vote to support the MOWW CLEW at the Air Mobility Museum, will help raise awareness of the Military Museum in Kent County and will look for other opportunities to support MOWW initiatives, especially those in Kent County.

Ron suggested that if we wanted to help with the CLEW, we might apply for community activity grant from MOAA national. TBD.

Other opportunities will be discussed as they arise. **(ACTION ALL)**

VIII. Adjournment at 2pm

Respectfully submitted,

Gene

COL Eugenia Thornton, USA (Retired)

President and Acting Secretary, Dover Chapter of MOAA

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