

September 6, 2013

Dear Colonel Garman:

For nearly 60 years, MOAA nationwide chapter system has provided exceptional support to the association in the form of legislative advocacy and community service. Over the years the contributions of the chapters system has been a significant part of the success achieved by MOAA. Today there are 35 state councils and over 400 chapters, along with 57,000 chapter members, that gives MOAA a presence and relevancy every day in building an even more powerful voice in your state and community.

As you are acutely aware, military compensation and veteran benefits are under attack and MOAA is actively engaged in the fight. MOAA's council and chapter system are critical in helping us do this by building grass roots support for MOAA's legislative goals. Council and chapter members let their legislators know what's on their minds and open doors for MOAA's legislative team here in Washington.

However, less than 300 of the 435 congressional districts have an established MOAA chapter relationship. In an effort to enhance our legislative advocacy efforts, national MOAA is working to better align our nationwide chapter system with congressional districts. First, we are asking you to ensure that you have designated a legislative chair and/or legislative liaison for each congressional district for which you have a presence. Second, we would like to grow and expand the MOAA nationwide geographic and satellite chapter system to afford MOAA a voice in those congressional districts where we currently do not have a presence.

Our interest is in positively influencing this process and we have been steadily increasing our involvement and support for individuals and groups interested in starting new chapters. In addition, to the guidance contained in the Council and Chapter Affairs Policy and Procedures Guide, our current policy is to work with any MOAA member(s) who are interested and where there is a sufficient recruiting base to support a new chapter. Going forward, we expect to work closely with your Council to provide you with information on efforts to better align our nationwide chapter system with your congressional districts to ensure a MOAA presence throughout your state.

To help in the overall effort, we will continue with the new chapter development incentive program that makes available incentives to state councils who actively engage in helping to start a new geographic chapter. The three tiered incentive program is based on how many charter members are on the rolls of each new chapter chartered. Councils supporting a new chapter with 20 members will earn \$500, 50 members earn \$1000 and 75 new members will earn \$1500. Please note this incentive does not extend to the creation of a satellite or virtual chapter at this time, although we view new satellites as a potential pipeline to a fully chartered affiliate.

In addition to providing you information on groups currently working in your state, we will conduct an in-depth analysis on our legislative advocacy coverage across the United States and provide you with the preliminary information on the congressional district alignment within your state. We look forward to your inputs to this important initiative to make MOAA an even more powerful voice. Thanks for your consideration and warmest regards!

Respectfully,  
Barry Wright  
Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret)  
Director, Council and Chapter Affairs  
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)