



**FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA)**



The Falcon Flyer

**Falcons Landing MOAA
Chapter Newsletter
March 2021**



CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, March 2021

I am happy to announce that our Chapter was recognized in the latest issue of MOAA Magazine (April) for the support we provide to Loudoun County veterans in need. We provide this support in partnership with the Community Lutheran Church in Sterling, Virginia by way of the Loudoun County Veterans Support program. This program is possible thanks to your kindness and generosity. I would especially like to thank Don McCarthy, our Director of Public Affairs and Howard Schue, our Chapter LVFS Coordinator.

As you know, Clair Wylie has retired as the Legislative Affairs Director after two years of outstanding service to the Falcons Landing MOAA Chapter community. We wish her the best in her continued journey serving the community as the Secretary of the Falcons Landing Residents Council. I am pleased to announce that the Board approved the appointment of Jim Hardy to the Legislative Affairs position pending formal election by the general membership at the next membership meeting. Jim is a retired Marine Lieutenant Colonel and has been a Chapter member for 10 years. He served as Secretary in 2010



Never Stop Serving!

Bob Manning, Chapter President

Mission Statement

Our Chapter provides programs which support: those who are serving; those who have served; and those who have survived, while placing special focus on community support.

Support of MOAA National

MOAA is a nonprofit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. The Falcons Landing Chapter is one of more than 400-plus local organizations affiliated with National MOAA. We support the national organization through support of legislative priorities and are active in our community supporting two JROTC programs, helping recovering and needy veterans, and providing speakers to community service organizations.

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Chapter and Legislative Information

Chapter Membership Information

MOAA membership is open to those who hold, or have ever held, a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, NOAA, and their surviving spouses. If you know a prospective member, please contact Lowell Jones (703-444-9530) to receive information on the benefits of chapter membership. This is an opportune time to convert to a MOAA Life Membership, because MOAA is still giving a 10% discount on a membership conversion. A MOAA life Membership indicates your strong support for MOAA's goals. For more information, please call a MOAA representative at (800) 234-6622.

How to navigate through our new Chapter website. The website address is falconsmoaa.org. Please note that a password is required to open the Documents Section/Tab and is for use by members only. Members may obtain the password from Lowell Jones at lowsanj@verizon.net.

Legislative Affairs Report Information

Periodically, MOAA will lobby Congress to take legislative action to preserve our retiree benefits. The probability of favorable legislative action is in direct proportion to the number of voters who register support. MOAA sometimes includes postcards and letters in its magazine (Military Officer) for us to sign and mail to our representatives (identified for us). The MOAA Newsletter may also include an online access to act. It is imperative that we do so. To access the MOAA Newsletter for source data, copy this web address <http://www.moaa.org> and paste to your browser's search bar. After on site, click on "MOAA - Home/Official Site," go to "Publications & Media/Email Newsletter," and provide your email address. This will help you register to receive the current newsletters. You can then click on the desired subject in the newsletters and get more details. If you are not registered with MOAA National for this, call the front desk (800) 234-6622, and you'll be guided on how to receive the newsletter on a desired schedule. Have your MOAA National membership number available. If you don't have email or have questions on obtaining this information, contact Jim Hardy, Legislative Liaison, at (571) 239-6843.

Our Chapter publishes a monthly Legislative Update for all members and works with MOAA to recommend to members that they support MOAA legislative initiatives by contacting their legislators. MOAA staff and Chapter members meet with members of Congress annually in a visit called "Storming the Hill," normally in April. You may review important MOAA legislative issues and activities on the MOAA website by visiting the Take Action section at <http://takeaction.moaa.org>. National MOAA and the Falcons Landing Chapter, MOAA, are politically nonpartisan but seek to remain informed on political matters of concern to veterans at both the state and local levels.

MOAA Legislative Priorities

Provide force structure and funding to sustain and strengthen the all-volunteer force. Provide hard-gained benefits for active, guard/reserve, and retired community.

Objectives: Ensure the maintenance of end strength, along with pay increases, tied to employment cost index; maintain current TRICARE benefits and medical support structure; maintain basic housing allowances and decent housing availability; maintain privileges associated with commissary and exchange benefits; maintain veterans quality health care and backlog of disability claims.

MOAA Chapter Board Meeting, January 25, 2021

This meeting was a virtual presentation to Board members by Chapter President Bob Manning.
Secretary's Report: Board approved minutes using annual meeting presentation slides with the addition of the two reports requested by Phil Walsh (November Legislative Report and letter to membership ratifying the 2021 slate of officers and directors and the results of the email vote).

Treasurer's Report: Peter Scott. Opening Balance, 1 October \$8,594. Income: Dues \$155, Refunds not cashed \$105, Donations \$6,680. Total Income \$6,940. Expenses: Copying \$106, Candy \$16, State Corp. Com. \$56, Postage: \$8. Total Expenses: \$186. Closing Balance, 31 December: \$15,349. Additional \$2K received, 7 January for scholarships. 15 January, received Chapel Committee grant to LVFS for \$5,000. Designated funds: Scholarships (\$3,000 LTG Pustay) \$4,350.

Membership Report: Lowell Jones. Membership Status – January 2021

	Premium Members	Surviving Spouses	Hon	Total
As of December 31, 2020	119	63	0	182
As of January 25, 2021	119	64	1	183

Legislative Report: Bob Manning. December report distributed. January/February report will be published early February. Discussion/agreement to have reports published monthly.

Auxiliary Report: Vicki Estey. Surviving spouse information now available on the Chapter website. Results from last recruitment letter - six spouses of Premium Chapter members have joined and participated and one surviving spouse has participated. Volunteer hours for October through December 2020 - 180. Volunteer efforts include home visits, phone visits, emails, cards sent, cookie baking, personal shopping, counseling visits, meal preparation, walking visits, and outdoor exercise (pickle ball).

Public Affairs : Don McCarthy. Article on Loudoun Veterans Family Support (LVFS) will be highlighted in the April 2021 issue of the MOAA magazine (Military Officer).

Community Speakers Program: Max Johnson. No Updates.

JROTC: Stan King. No Updates.

Personal Affairs: Kathy Trossbach. Sent out five consolation letters, including First Step papers. Answered questions by phone for a number of people.

Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC): Bob Manning. Legislative and General Meeting - January 12. Guest speaker - Captain Jim Carman, USN (Ret), MOAA National Vice President Council/Chapter and Member Support. Covered Strategic focus areas, 2021 legislative priorities, membership concerns - 350,000 members (47% Life, 15% Premium, 35% Basic). Shout out to Falcons Landing for service to veterans in need, \$5000 Grant. 91 members of Congress have military service. VCOC membership - 2342. Proposed budget - \$7500.

Loudoun County Community Veteran Engagement Board (LCCVEB): Jim Mullen. There are a couple of events (virtual) in February designed to assist veterans find a job. Check out at www.lccveb.com.

Loudoun Veterans and Family Support (LVFS): Howard Schue. Total expenditures: General Fund \$8,926.63. Community Outreach Grant \$2,500. COVID-19 Relief Fund Grant \$5,000. Total - \$16,426.63. Average Assistance/Veteran \$821. For 20 Veterans: Assisted rent, utilities, car payment, storage, wheelchair accessibility, mold remediation, mortgage, fuel oil, auto repairs. Peter Scott informed Board that there are other veteran service organizations in addition to LVFS that contribute to supporting Loudoun County veterans in need.

The Gathering: Bill Hilsman. Probably will return to the Gathering after the second round of vaccinations. Initially, program will have similar format as before the last restrictions. Possible to watch the live Mars landing broadcast of the Land Rover (Perseverance), February 18, 2021.

Leadership Recruiting Committee: Phil Walsh.⁴ See separate discussion on page 6.

President's Updates: Bob Manning. Submitted application for the MOAA Communications Award - newsletter and website categories. Levels of Excellence Award - due in May. VCOC newsletter, The Crier, will highlight and publish our Veterans Day program article.

MOAA Chapter Board Meeting, February 18, 2021

President Bob Manning: Called meeting to order via Zoom. Led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary's Report: The January 2021 Board Meeting Minutes were published by the President. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Peter Scott. Financials thru January 2021

Opening Balance (1 January): \$15,349

Income: \$2,134 (Dues - \$134, Donations - \$2000)

Expenses: \$120 (VCOC Dues—120)

Closing balance: \$17,362

New Business: Balanced checkbook and bank statements for January. Received \$90 for recruitment from MOAA. Treasurer's Report was approved.

Membership Report: Lowell Jones.

As of	Premium Members	Surviving Spouses*	Honorary Members	Total
December 31, 2020	119	63	0	182
February 18, 2021	118	64	1	182

*Surviving Spouses = Auxiliary

Total National Members: 175 (96%); **Total National Life Members:** 124, (68%)

Legislative Report: Bob Manning. January and February reports were compiled and published by Bob. He will continue to publish the report while the search continues for a Legislative Liaison Director.

Auxiliary: Vicki Estey. Volunteer hours for January: Premier Chapter Members - 8; Spouses - 38; Surviving Spouses - 3; TOTAL - 49. New memberships for February and March: Spouse of Premier Member - 1; Surviving Spouse - 1. Will be meeting with new prospect. Continued candy purchases for The Johnson Center and West Falls, which are used as prizes for Bingo and other games.

Public Affairs: Don McCarthy. The LVFS article is scheduled to be highlighted in the April issue of the MOAA magazine (Military Officer).

Speakers Program: Max Johnson. No updates.

JROTC: Stan King. Chantilly Academy AFROTC - One \$1K John S. Pustay STEM Scholarship, One \$1K scholarship, and two \$500 scholarships provided. Loudoun High School NJROTC - Two \$1K scholarships and two \$500 scholarships provided. Both schools acknowledged with gratitude. Schools are not yet in session, and training is vital. MOAA depleted their stock of medals, and are not supplying them to us.

Personal Affairs: Kathy Trossbach. Handling more calls than usual from residents and families on personal affairs. All questions were answered. Wrote two sympathy cards and enclosed First Steps guides.

Loudoun Veterans and Family Support (LVFS): Howard Schue. Since last Board meeting, we have assisted 5 veterans - total of \$2,263. Two were impacted by COVID and two needed temporary housing - one sadly died. All contributions were made along with other Veteran Support Officers (VSOs). There are 8 - 10 VSOs. The Chapel Fund grant of \$5,000 was made to Community Lutheran Church, avoiding a conflict of interest with our Chapter. A budgeted \$3000 to LVFS was approved.

Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC): Bob Manning. Each year, VCOC awards "Legislator of the Year" at the State and Local levels. For 2020, Congressman Denver Rigglesman (VA05) as Federal Legislator of the Year and Senator Bryce Reeves (R 17th District) as State Legislator of the Year. Next meeting - April 6th.

Loudoun County Community Veteran Engagement Board (LCCVEB): Jim Mullen. There have been two night meetings and a report from Tom Grant. It has been acknowledged that LVFS and MOAA are key players. Several veterans' organizations are looking for members. We are usually one of the first to step up to help in any request for assistance. The \$3000 we have budgeted will be needed.

The Gathering: Bill Hilsman. The NASA "Mars Rover Landing" event will be shown on local TV on February 18.

Leadership Recruiting Committee: Phil Walsh. Members are: Phil, Lowell Jones, Peter Scott. Compiled a list of potential Board members. Solicitation letters were sent. No direct responses yet. Personal contacts were made. Search continues for current vacancies—2nd Vice President and Legislative Affairs Director. See separate discussion on page 6.

President's Updates: Bob Manning. The quarterly meeting will be taped and edited for airing on local channel 970. Scheduled for March 18, 2:30 PM by Zoom.

The Gathering, February 18, 2021
NASA Mars Rover Landing
By Jim Mullen



The Gathering Presents:
NASA LIVE COVERAGE:
The Mars Rover Landing

Resident Millie Wallace's
son Matt Wallace is
the Chief Engineer
for the project!

MOAA
Military Officers Association of America
FALCONS LANDING CHAPTER

**THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 18
2:15 P.M.—CH. 970**

MARS
PERSEVERANCE

Leadership Recruiting Committee
by Phil Walsh.

The Committee is now stood up – Phil Walsh (Chair), Lowell Jones, and Peter Scott. Began with a review of the current chapter membership roster. The plan is to put out a letter to the membership specifically soliciting interest in serving in a Chapter leadership position, review the roster, and receive Board member input and responses to our solicitation letter -- identify “potential chapter office holders/board members.” Committee members will meet to compare respective lists – and then agree on a single list of members to be “targeted” for further recruitment effort. Obviously place particular emphasis on filling our current vacancy – Legislative Affairs. Also prioritize our future potential job vacancies. Committee members conduct one-on-one interviews with each person on the list. Also invite persons with interest to come to Board meetings to observe what we do and how we do it. Consolidate results and come up with a final list of potential new Chapter officers/board members for discussion at a special Board meeting. At that meeting, attempt to align interested people with jobs expected to become vacant at the end of 2021. Prepare a slate of officers/board members for the fall 2021 Chapter election meeting. Committee to report progress at each Board meeting in 2021.

At the invitation of the Recruiting Committee, five residents (deemed potential future Board members) attended the March Board meeting as guests: Joe Cestaro, Harry Furney, Jim Hardy, John Kuspa, and Tom Owens. It was announced at the meeting that Jim Hardy had agreed to serve the Chapter as 2nd VP/Director, Legislative Affairs – with the Board reaffirming its desire to retain the definition of that officer position as stated. At the March 18th Board meeting, the Board subsequently approved the appointment of Jim to that position pending formal election by the general membership at the next membership meeting.

MOAA Chapter Quarterly/Board Meeting, March 18, 2021

By Bob Manning

President Bob Manning: Called meeting to order via Zoom. Led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary's Report: The February 18, 2021 Board minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Peter Scott. Financials through February 2021

Opening Balance (1 February):	\$17,362
Income: \$90 (MOAA Recruitment)	
Expenses: \$3,088 (Auxiliary - \$36, LVFS - \$3,000, Reproduction - \$52)	
Closing balance (28 February):	\$14,364

New Business: Balanced checkbook vs. bank statements for February. Scholarships: \$4,350 (\$4,000, LtGen Pustay). Donations: \$500 - Scholarships, \$500 - LVFS. Treasurer's Report was approved.

Membership Report: Lowell Jones.

As of	Premium Members	Surviving Spouses*	Honorary Members	Total
December 31, 2020	119	63	0	182
March 18, 2021	118	63	1	181

*Surviving Spouses = Auxiliary

Total National Members: 174 (96%); **Total National Life Members:** 121 (68%)

Legislative Report: Bob Manning. March report published and distributed.

Auxiliary: Vicki Estey. Volunteer hours for February: Premier Chapter Members - 8; Spouses - 53; Surviving Spouses - 24; TOTAL - 85. This includes phone and coffee visits, emails or notes, personal shopping, orientation of new residents, etc. Met with 2 potential members: Spouse of Premier Member - 1; Surviving Spouse - 1. Received a member donation of Easter candy and acknowledgement of candy purchases for The Johnson Center and West Falls, which are used as prizes for Bingo and other games.

Public Affairs: Don McCarthy. The LVFS article will be highlighted in the April issue of the MOAA magazine (Military Officer).

Speakers Program: Max Johnson. No updates.

JROTC: Stan King. Chantilly Academy AFROTC unit will have a virtual awards ceremony on May 1. Loudoun High School NJROTC has not announced a ceremony date yet.

Personal Affairs: Kathy Trossbach. Sent 3 sympathy notes. Enclosed First Step notes. Answered First Step calls from 6 in family of resident category.

Loudoun Veterans and Family Support (LVFS): Howard Schue. Since 2016, partnered with Community Lutheran Church to work directly with Loudoun County veterans support coordinator, Tom Grant. Through October 2020, LVFS provided \$17,400 of support to 31 Loudoun County veterans and families in need.

Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC): Bob Manning. Participated in the VCOC virtual leadership session 2021, March 9. Guest speaker, Peninsula Chapter member Col. Joe Sylso, USAF, adjunct faculty member at Rappahanock Community College. Cmdr. Linc Smith represented VCOC at the virtual retirement of the MOAA Senior Director, Council and Chapter Affairs, Terri Coles, USA, (Ret.) Next meeting, April 6 2021.

Loudoun County Community Veteran Engagement Board (LCCVEB): Jim Mullen. No report.

The Gathering: Bill Hilsman. Gatherings so far this year: • Douglas MacArthur's Farewell to the Corps • Indivisible • I Love My Soldiers, Part I and Part II • Kaminski Initiative—AF Academy: The Institute for Future Conflict • NASA Perseverance MARS Launch • An Air Attaché in Latin America • Desert One, Part I and Part II • The Battery Technology Revolution.

Leadership Recruiting Committee: Phil Walsh.⁷ Members are: Phil, Lowell Jones, Peter Scott. See separate discussion on page 6.

President's Updates: Bob Manning. The application for the MOAA Level of Excellence Award has arrived. Suspense is May 1. National Vietnam Veterans Day program is March 29.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day, March 29, 2021

By Bob Manning

ALL FALCONS LANDING RESIDENTS AND STAFF ARE INVITED TO JOIN TOGETHER AS WE CELEBRATE NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY ON MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2021. THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL SHOWING OF THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTARY INSIDE THE VIETNAM WAR. BOB MANNING, PRESIDENT OF FALCONS CHAPTER, MOAA WILL PROVIDE INTRODUCTORY REMARKS. THE PROGRAM WILL BEGIN AT 1030 ON FLN, CHANNEL 970

NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY



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THE PROGRAM WILL BEGIN AT 1030 ON FLN, CHANNEL 970.



Important Chapter Events, Officers & Directors, Member Status

General Membership Meets Quarterly.

The Gathering - special briefings (sponsored by the MOAA Chapter) open to all Chapter members and Falcons Landing residents. Nominally, one event per month in the Falcons Landing Ballroom.

Board of Directors (BOD) meets monthly, as required.

Chapter Executive Committee (President, 1st VP; 2nd VP, Secretary, Treasurer) meets as required; acts on behalf of Board on immediate issues.

Committees meet at discretion of Committee Chairs.

**2021 Meeting Schedule: Locations will vary among Zoom, TV Channel 970, or Ballroom
BOD nominally 10:00 A.M. on third Thursday of scheduled month
Quarterly Membership Meetings at 2:30 or 7:30 PM**

January 25 - 2021 - Board Meeting

February 18 - Board Meeting

March 18 - Quarterly Chapter Meeting

April 15 - Board Meeting

May 20 - Board Meeting

May 31 - Memorial Day

June 17 - Quarterly Chapter Meeting

July - No Board Meeting

August 19 - Board Meeting

September 16 - Board Meeting

October 21 - Quarterly Chapter Meeting

November 11 - Veterans Day

November 23 - Annual Chapter Meeting

December - No Meeting

2021 Officers and Directors

President/Director/Programs: Bob Manning, Col, USA, Ret. (703) 543-9158

First Vice President: Phil Walsh, Col, USMC, Ret. (703) 978-4328

2nd Vice Pres./Director/Legislative Affairs: Jim Hardy, Lt Col, USMC, Ret. (571) 239-6843

Secretary: Mrs. Genevieve Pustay, (703) 444-5284

Treasurer: Peter Scott, Col, USA, Ret. (703) 715-7396

Director Membership: Lowell Jones, Col, USAF, Ret. (703) 444-9530

Director/Surviving Spouse/Auxiliary Affairs: Mrs. Vicki Estey, (512) 749-2810

Director/Personal Affairs: Kathy Trossbach, (703) 430-1342

Director/Public Affairs: Don McCarthy, Capt, USN, Ret. (703) 430-5608

Director/LVFS: Howard Schue, Col, USAF, Ret. (703) 433-2220

Director/The Gathering Coordinator: Bill Hilsman, Lt Gen, USA, Ret. (703) 433-1284

Director/JROTC/Scholarships: Stanley King, Col, USA, Ret. (703) 281-0825

Director/Speakers Bureau: Max Johnson, Col, USA, Ret. (703) 508-3788

Member at Large: Bill Suter, Maj Gen, USA, Ret. (703) 909-9810

Founder, Past President: John Pustay, Lt Gen, USAF, Ret. (703) 444-5284

Past President: Glenn Carus, Col, USAF, Ret. (703) 444-3269

Past President: Leo Childs, Maj Gen, USA, Ret. (703) 430-2884

Past President: Howard Schue, Col, USAF, Ret. (703) 433-2220

Past President: James Mullen, Lt Col, USA, Ret. (703) 444-4741

Members Deceased (1st Quarter, 2021)

Merle Allen (01/01/2021)

Fred Moore (02/03/2021)

Patricia Schneider (02/26/2021)

Welcome New Members (1st Quarter, 2021)

Dave Hopkins (01/08/2021)

Rojan Robotham (03/20/2021)