

2022 June OCC Legislative Affairs Update

The Importance of a Legislative Chair in Each Chapter

The Chapter Legislative Liaison as outlined in the MOAA Council and Chapters Policies and Procedures Guide is extensive. The guidance, if followed in detail, requires a dedicated chapter member to fill the position. Within the OCC, we urgently need to ensure this position is filled in each of our chapters. It is the link that keeps chapter members up to date on issues MOAA deems critical in carrying out its mission.

Below is the list of legislative liaison duties as set forth by MOAA. As previously stated, the list is extensive. However, if we can get one individual within each chapter to begin working on some of the requirements, it will be better than none. That individual with the help of the chapter board might be able to find other chapter members who might be willing to assist by taking on a specific task. If we can fill the legislative affairs position in each of our chapters, it will give us a total of seven officers including the OCC position to work collectively on issues that are important to not only MOAA, but also our state.

The Legislative Chair ...

- Carries out all duties and ensures that chapter officers and members conduct themselves officially, in a politically nonpartisan manner.
- Registers with MOAA's Legislative Action Center (<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2022-news-articles/advocacy/meet-moaas-new-legislative-action-center/>)
- Coordinates with the council legislative chair to execute the annual legislative plan in applicable congressional districts.
- Establishes and maintains good working relationships with local, state, and national legislators.
- Liaises with other local organizations concerned with military, veteran, or family issues.
- Monitors local, state, and national legislative developments that might affect servicemembers, veterans, and retirees and their families.
- Keeps the chapter's board and members informed about legislative developments.
- Recommends to the board, when appropriate, new or revised policies or legislative objectives.
- Disseminates to chapter members, but not the general public, the records and positions of elected official and their key staff members and candidates for local, state, and national political offices in the chapter's area on matters affecting servicemembers, veterans, and retirees and their families.
- Taking care to avoid any appearance of bias, arranges, as desired, for elected officials and candidates for public office to speak at chapter meetings, so long as opponents are also invited in the case of candidates.
- As desired, prepares and submits written questions on selected issues to the candidates and publishes replies to chapter members.

John Anderson, MOAA OCC Legislative Affairs Representative