**Mid Atlantic Leadership Workshop- Raleigh NC August 13-August 14**

Dr. Vivianne C. Wersel and Barbara Smith -Presenters on August 15, 2022.

MOAA’s Surviving Spouses Advisory Council members, Barb Smith, and Dr. Vivianne Cisneros Wersel presented at the Mid-Atlantic Leadership Workshop.

* Twenty-three MOAA Members participated in the Surviving Spouses (SS) Liaison Training at the Mid-Atlantic Leadership Regional and Chapter 6 Workshop. The room filled up quickly and chairs were added to accommodate participates! It was a successful training with consistent and active interaction amongst the group.
* Participant’s Concerns: Unsure if they have a liaison in their chapter? Challenges connecting with elderly members, physically challenging surviving spouses. Answer: Phone calling SS was an option (everyone agreed). If there is a gathering, other SS who are not so challenged and can drive, will offer a ride.
* Understanding SS legislation, increase of DIC bill. Dependency Indemnity Compensation. Participants advised to follow the Surviving Spouses Virtual quarterly newsletter as well as MOAA.org/Advocacy in Action. For the living member: Making sure the death certificate is completed to include members’ VA disability. **If Veteran dies of Covid, the medical examiner should not enter just Covid but should connect other presumptive illness that complicated death.**
* Comments on the takeaway: Participants were extremely impressed with the resources available from MOAA.
* Helpful Learning takeaways:
  + The importance of being ready and preparing for that unexpected day (day of death). Lt Col Walker provided information on how to navigate the MOAA web to find the “DAY After Call.”
  + Educating Chapter members to help them be prepared for their final day. • Emphasized the importance of assigning a computer friend that will help the spouse when the member dies to help navigate through the paperwork.
  + New ID Cards, when and if they must have new ID’s. If f they have the updated ID, do they need to update their military ID (yes). Provided due date (2022) to transition to new ID card.
  + Recognizing the importance of a will as well as a living trust along with beneficiaries.
  + Surviving spouses need to be prepared also for their final day.
  + Importance of having DD 214 and other forms ready.
  + Importance of becoming a more active role with preparing for that unexpected day, for both spouses of members as well as surviving spouses. .
* Discussion included whether a non- Surviving Spouses could hold an office in a chapter- (Chapter dependent). Answer: YES
* Discussion on the Camp Lejeune water- no need to hire lawyer- need to get on the register. In conclusion, the participants left motivated and with more knowledge than when they came!