

Proposal to allow Enlisted to join svcMOAA

The following is a proposed modification to the svcMOAA By-laws:

Article III – Membership and Voting Rights

Section 1. The regular, voting membership of SVC MOAA shall be comprised of men and women who are or have been honorably serving or discharged as active duty, former, retired and National Guard and Reserve commissioned and warrant officers of the U.S. uniformed services.

Section 2. Enlisted Members: Men and women who are or have been honorably serving or discharged as active duty, former, retired, and National Guard and Reserve enlisted members of the U.S. uniformed services may join SVC MOAA as Enlisted Members. Enlisted Members are welcomed to participate in all SVC MOAA committees, functions, and activities; however, because national MOAA membership is limited to commissioned and warrant officers, Enlisted Members are not eligible to join or hold membership in the national MOAA organization. Enlisted Members are not voting members of SVC MOAA and do not have the right to vote on chapter matters, elections, or bylaw amendments, unless concurrently serving as an Officer or Director, in which case they will receive provisional voting membership for the duration of that term as described in Section 4 below.

Section 3. Surviving Spouses: Widows and widowers of any deceased individuals who would, if living and honorably serving or discharged, be eligible for regular or Enlisted membership may choose to associate with SVC as Surviving Spouses. Remarriage will not affect eligibility. Because as a 501(c)(19) organization SVC MOAA is required to maintain a 90 percent ratio of war veterans, Surviving Spouses are not members and may not vote or be required to pay dues, unless concurrently serving as an Officer or Director. They are classified instead as honored individuals and are encouraged to participate in all committees and functions of SVC MOAA.

Any Surviving Spouse may be nominated and elected to serve as an Officer or Director, and will in those circumstances receive provisional membership while serving in that office. Once the Surviving Spouse's term in office is complete, his or her membership will expire and revert to the previous status as an honored individual, with all the rights and responsibilities thereof.

Section 4. Provisional Voting Membership for Officers and Directors: Any Surviving Spouse or Enlisted Member who is nominated and elected to serve as an Officer or Director of SVC MOAA will receive provisional voting membership for the duration of that term. Upon completion of the term of office, provisional membership will expire, and the individual will revert to their previous membership status (honored individual or non-voting Enlisted Member, respectively), with all the rights and responsibilities thereof.

Section 5. Membership is open without regard to race, sex, color, age, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or religion.

Section 6. SVC MOAA members are not required (but are encouraged) to be members of the national organization of the MOAA. Enlisted Members are not eligible for national MOAA membership under national MOAA's eligibility requirements.

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