



Advocacy in Action 2026

Council and Chapter Leader Briefing

February 19, 2026



Agenda

- AiA Overview
- Travel and Reimbursement
- Registration and Hotel Booking
- Advocacy Next Steps
- AiA Topics

AiA Overview

- **MOAA's signature annual advocacy event**
 - Constituent “Fly-In” Meetings
 - Digital Campaign
- **Goals**
 - Advance legislative priorities
 - Build relationships with lawmakers and staff
 - Strengthen brand and credibility
- **When & Where**
 - April 13 – April 16
 - Hilton Arlington National Landing, 2399 Richmond Highway
Arlington, VA 22202

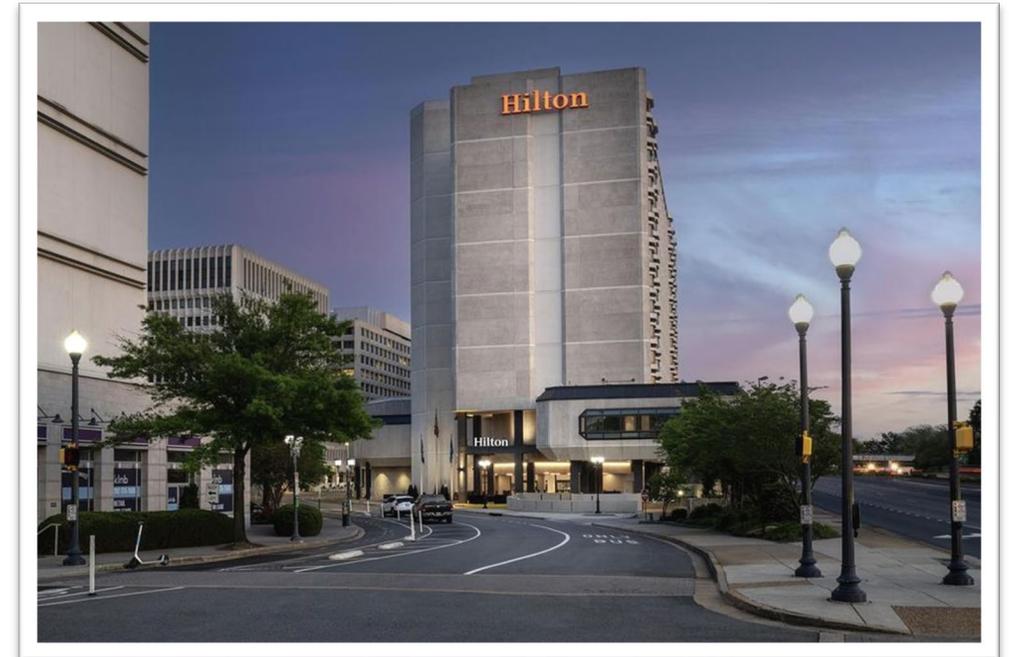
Week of Events

Monday, April 13 – Travel Day

- **Events Begin - 6 PM EST:** Council President's and Board of Directors Reception and Buffet Dinner

Tuesday, April 14 – Training Day

- **9 AM:** Program updates and Partner Presentations
- **12:30 PM:** AiA Training
- **5:15:** Honoree Reception
 - Tentative: **Senate Dirksen Building**
 - Honorees to be announced



Week of Events

Wednesday, April 15 – Hill Day

- **8 AM:** Group Photo, Hill Meetings Begin
- **Top of the Hill Club at ROA - Lunch Service and Lounge**
- **4:45, 5:15, 5:45:** Buses Depart
- **6 PM:** AiA Dinner

Thursday, April 16 – Seminar Day

- **9 AM:** Council President's Seminar
- **12 PM:** Optional Buffet Lunch | Communication Awards | Levels of Excellence.



Travel and Reimbursement



Travel Guidance

- **Plan to arrive Monday, April 13, by 6pm EST**
 - Council Presidents and Board of Directors Reception and Buffet Dinner
 - Hotel check-in is 3pm EST
- **Plan to depart Thursday, April 16, after 1pm EST**
 - Following the Council Presidents Seminar (9am-Noon) or Optional Buffet Luncheon (Noon-1pm)
 - Hotel check-out is Noon EST

Hotel

- Lodging is covered for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights (April 13, 14, and 15).
- Self-parking at the hotel will be covered by MOAA. MOAA will not cover parking in adjacent commercial parking garages.
- You are responsible for all other room charges, incidentals, room upgrades, and excessive tips.
- The Council Presidents Seminar will end at Noon on Thursday to accommodate afternoon departures. An optional lunch will conclude by 1:00 p.m. EST.

Hotel

- Anyone arriving prior to Monday and staying beyond Friday morning will be responsible for all room charges, taxes, hotel parking, incidentals, and meal expenses associated with an extended stay.
- Western state attendees may be covered with **pre-approval** for April 12 and/or 16.

Travel

- Flight \$850 max unless pre-approved
- No changes, upgrades, insurance, or travel agent fees are covered.
- Spouse travel is not reimbursable.
- Reasonable ground travel between home and airport and airport parking are covered, with receipts.

Travel

- Rental car fees/executive sedan services are not covered.
- If driving, MOAA will cover the cost of mileage up to the cost of an economy flight, To receive reimbursement, you must also submit a copy of the published economy flight cost one month prior to the event, along with the screenshot indicating mileage.

Meals

- MOAA will cover reasonable cost of meal expenses up to \$40 incurred on the **first and last travel days while enroute to or from the seminar**. Receipts are required.
- MOAA is providing scheduled meals during the event. If you choose to eat on your own, this is not reimbursable.
- There is no meal scheduled for Thursday evening, as we are ending earlier this year.

Travel Guidance Details for Reimbursement

- **Travel Guidance Document** – Includes secure link for submissions
- Requests must include:
 - **Travel Claim Form**
 - Receipts
 - If traveling by vehicle, please submit mileage page (screenshot of mapquest.com)
- All forms will be shared via email and posted online.

Submitting for Reimbursement

- If you do not already have an account with Tipalti (from AiA 2025), keep an eye out for a separate email from MOAA's Finance Team with a link to complete your payment profile.
- You will be asked to enter the required tax and payment information in this secure system.

Submitting for Reimbursement

- Complete the travel claim form with receipts.
- Watch for the email from Finance to sign up for Tipalti (if not already). Submit the required information.

- OR via mail:

MOAA Affiliated Councils and Chapters

ATTN: Dena Kilgore

201 North Washington St.

Alexandria, VA 2231

Final Reminders

- Save a copy of everything.
- Must be submitted within 30 days.
- All forms are required.
- You must set up your payment profile in Tipalti.
- Receipts are required.
- Forms will be shared soon.

Registration

- **Registration will be open soon!**
 - Registration form will be sent out via email.
 - **Form is event registration only** for you and a potential guest. This does not secure your hotel room.
 - **Hotel link will be sent out separately** and must be booked by the member.

Advocacy – Next Steps

- **New Registration Questions**
- **Targeted Lawmakers**
 - Disseminated week of 23rd
- **Team Assignment and Scheduling**
 - Staff, Board, Advisors assigned
 - Disseminated early March
- **AiA Materials and Launch**
 - Topic articles published February
 - Announcement and Microsite Launch early March
 - Newsletter and Magazine
 - Issue Papers, Videos, Calls to Action to Disseminate

AiA 2026 - Topics



**Shutdown
Fairness
Act**

**Military
CARE Act**

**GUARD
VA
Benefits
Act**

**Major
Richard
Star Act**

Shutdown Fairness Act (S. 3168)

Ask:

- Cosponsor the Shutdown Fairness Act to ensure continued pay and benefits during funding lapses
- Encourage inclusion of all uniformed services in final bill text (USPHS & NOAA)

Background:

- Servicemembers must continue working during shutdowns without guaranteed pay
- Guard and Reserve training is often suspended, harming readiness and retirement credit
- Government shutdowns and continuing resolutions are recurring
- Financial strain on military families undermines trust in the all-volunteer force



Military CARE Act (H.R. 6796)



Ask:

- Cosponsor the Military CARE Act to establish a standardized digital platform to report and track access-to-care complaints

Background:

- Persistent appointment shortages, referral delays, and access barriers at MTFs
- No standardized, systemwide mechanism to capture and track access problems
- Inconsistent enforcement of access-to-care standards
- Beneficiaries often cannot switch TRICARE plans when MTF care is unavailable
- Limited transparency prevents DHA and Congress from identifying systemic issues

GUARD VA Benefits Act (H.R. 1732)

Ask:

- Pass the GUARD VA Benefits Act to reinstate criminal penalties for unaccredited individuals charging unauthorized fees

Background:

- Only VA-accredited representatives may legally charge for claims assistance
- Congress removed criminal penalties in 2006, creating an enforcement gap
- VA can only issue cease-and-desist letters — repeat offenders continue operating
- Veterans can be charged nearly \$20,000 for assistance that is legally available for free



Major Richard Star Act (S. 1032 / H.R. 2102)



Ask:

- Pass the Major Richard Star Act to extend concurrent receipt to combat-injured veterans medically retired before 20 years

Background:

- ~54,000 combat-injured veterans lose retirement pay due to a pay offset
- Military retirement pay and VA disability compensation serve different purposes
- Offset can cost affected veterans an average of ~\$1,200 per month
- Congress ended this offset in 2004 for retirees with 20+ years – this bill extends parity
- Does not create a new benefit – corrects a long-standing oversight

Questions?



