

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER

MINUTES - BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

16 November 2023

Call to Order

President Matthew Haag called the meeting of the Board of Directors of The Southwest Virginia Chapter, Military Officers Association to order at 1000 hours Eastern Standard Time on 16 November 2023.

Directors and Chapter Officers Present

1st Vice President and VCOC Representative Gary Powers; 2nd Vice President, Treasurer and Membership Chair Robert Brown; Secretary Steve Jamison; Chaplain David Gilleran; Community Services Volunteer Representative Dan Karnes; Past President Lee Ensley; Surviving Spouse Representative Mary Lou Summers; Director John Miller; Director Larry Johnson; Director Tom Dalzell; Director Don Sowder. Director Evelyn Cox.

Directors and Chapter Officers Absent

Smith Mountain Lake Satellite Representative Rick Cocrane; Legislative Affairs Representative and Awards Chair Robert Habermann; Sergeant At Arms Michael Kasnick; Transition Team and Director Michael Leigh; Director Roger Burnett; Webmaster Klaus (Ted) Lonitz.

Opening Prayer

Chaplain David Gilleran led the Board of Directors in prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance

1st Vice President Gary Powers led The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag recited by all present.

Approval of Board of Directors Meetings Minutes

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of 21 September 2023 were approved as submitted.

President's Report

President Matt Haag welcomed all members in attendance. The 4th Quarter VCOC Meeting was attended virtually. Plans to storm the hill in May were discussed. VCOC has several positions available and is looking for volunteers. Acknowledgement of the Chapter's participation in the Virginia Veterans Parade was made.

Secretary's Report

New members mentioned (Colette Pillsbury) Possible increase in meal costs.

Treasurer's Report

- Income and Expenses Budget vs. Actual through 7 November 2023 was presented – Copy provided to each Board member. Income has been sufficient to cover all expenses as a result of the special campaign that raised \$3,050 and a transfer of \$2,000 from the Leadership Savings Account. The Leadership Savings Account includes a 2012 gift of \$3,756.34 from VFW Post 4318 that closed down. Our commitment to them was to use the donated funds for leadership development, community service, assistance to veterans and leadership and service awards.
- Prime Checking Account balance as of 7 November 2023 – \$10,142.21.
- Savings Account balance as of 7 November 2023 is - \$4,068.88
- 2024 Proposed Budget comments: See the attached budget.
 - While we have not initiated a special campaign for 2024, members have in the past made special donations – I propose \$1,000 as a reasonable goal for 2024.
 - Leadership Savings Account transfer of \$1,246 needed to balance the Budget.
 - We did not make any designated Leadership Grants from that line in 2023 but I left the category in as a placeholder with a 0 \$ amount in the event we desire to do something in that category. If needed we could move additional funds from the Leadership Savings Account.
 - Grant Speaker Fees/Travel increased to \$700 to cover the cost of their meals and MUG. In 2023 we simply absorbed the meal cost in the overall meal category.
 - Added a new line of \$400 for Memorials to fund a new Memorial Policy.

1st Vice President's Report

- A Bereavement Policy - Final draft presented earlier to BOD members by email. No further discussion at meeting. Proposed changes approved and incorporated into the Chapter By-Laws.
- No update to new DoD ID cards. Will continue to pursue through official channels.

Membership Chair Report

- Still using MOAA's Real Time Report leads to check for members and addresses in our catchment area. Only one viable lead during this period. Letter sent to Dr. William Adams, COL USA (Ret) in Blacksburg.

Program Directors Report

- Meeting programs scheduled for 2023.

- 16 November 2023 – Board of Directors meeting. Program by LTC Roberta Chrissy, USA (Ret) on “Pentagon Survivors Tell Their Story.”
- 14 December 2023 – Program – **CWO4 Lelia P. Jackson, USMC (Ret)**, MOAA National, to visit the for installation of Officers and Board of Directors for the year 2024 and provide an update on MOAA issues, the PACT Act, NDAA for 2024 and Woke Military Officers and Generals who focus more on diversity, equity, and inclusion than on warfighting.
- 18 January 2024 - Frank T. Stritter, Professor Emeritus at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on "**Heroes of the D-Day Landing**" or "**D-Day: Just a Walk on the Beach.**"
- 15 February 2024 – Mr. John Ketwig, retired auto executive, author and Vietnam Veteran living in Bedford, Virginia on his military experience and his two books about Vietnam, “...and a hard rain fell: A GI's True Story of the War in Vietnam”, and “Vietnam Reconsidered: The War, the Times, and Why They Matter”.
- 21 March 2024 – Tentative: CDR Porter Alexander Halyburton, USN (Ret) on his book “**Reflections on Captivity a Tapestry of Stories by a Vietnam War POW.**”

Surviving Spouse Representative Report

- The “Veterans Tribute Arch” permanent memorial.
- The Southwest Virginia Cemetery Ambassadors.
- 11th Annual Wreath Laying ceremony on Saturday 16 December 2023 at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery Dublin, VA. Chapter members to participate. Volunteer names provided to Mary Lou Summers.

Smith Mountain Lake Satellite Report

- Want to remain a satellite and continue supporting the Franklin County High School and Bedford County JROTC programs. They need help funding \$5000 an air compressor for their air rifles.
- Larry Horne is leading the group through November. We are still looking for someone to assume the leadership role after that.
- Membership Chair to send letter to SML members to continue association with the SWVC Chapter.

Public Relations Report

- Communiqué Newsletter – 3rd quarter 2023 (JULY-AUG-SEPT) published on 29 September 2023 via email.
- Communiqué Newsletter – 4th quarter 2023 (OCT-NOV-DEC) in the works to be published at the end of December 2023.
- Chapter Website & Face book – Up and running. Public Affairs/Media
- Nominations for all four annual Council and Chapter awards (Levels of Excellence, Communications, Legislative Advocacy, and Surviving Spouse

Liaison) will be due early in the calendar year beginning in 2024. The awards portal will open in mid- to late-December 2023, nominations will be due by February 16, 2024, and all processing will be complete by the end of March so that presentations may be made at regional training workshops, state conventions, and other venues geographically convenient to the awardees.

Past President's Report

- MFSC is now a closed issue. Further discussion concerning support to “Vittles For Veterans was presented including a proposed Memorandum of Understanding. CDR Ensley and CAPT Powers to meet with VFV representatives on 17 NOV to further discuss.
- Discussed the status of the chapter “cups” given as presentation mementoes. More cups to be ordered.

Directors Report's

- CAPT Burnett – No report.
- LTC Gilleran – No report.
- COL Miller –
 - Veterans Legislative Forum Thursday 7 December 2023 American Legion Post 3
 - Virginia Values Veterans V3 virtual employer training events 12 December 2023.
 - Veterans Christmas Tree - Hotel Roanoke - sponsored by the Virginia Veterans Center.
- Capt Johnson – No report.

Legislative Liaison Report - LTC Habermann

- FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)
- MOAA's Legislative Priorities for advocacy as the 118th Congress continues its work. Their focus remains on all seven of the uniformed services and their service-earned entitlements.
 - Compensation and Service-Earned Benefits
 - Military Housing
 - Health Care for Currently Serving and Retirees
 - Health Care and Benefits for Veterans
 - Service Families
 - Survivors
 - Guard and Reserves
- As protecting health care and service-earned benefits is a challenge, MOAA will press forward to engage Congress to shape outcomes in these vital areas. There are steep hills before us. Our nation has a rising debt of more than \$30 trillion and a deficit of more than \$3 trillion. Because of this, MOAA anticipates robust attempts to control federal budgets, reduce or eliminate unprogrammed expenditures, and reduce entitlements. MOAA needs you to be ready to reach out to your legislators and keep that engagement going as necessary to make sure

your voice is heard. **Details at <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/advocacy/moaas-legislative-priorities-118th-Congress/>**

VCOG Report -

- CAPT Gary Powers -
 - VCOG Legislative Priorities:
 - JLC 2023 Initiatives: JLC 2023 Approved Initiatives
 - JLC 2023-01 Expand Tax Relief for Surviving Spouses of Military Service Members to also include “Died in the Line-of-Duty”
 - JLC 2023-02 Real Property Tax Exemption Effective Date.
 - JLC 2023-03 Removal of Age Requirement Income Tax Subtraction
 - JLC 2023-04 Appropriate \$400,000 (GF) for State Veterans Cemeteries; Eliminate Spouse/Dependent and Guard/Reserve Burial Fees
 - JLC 2023-05 Virginia National Guard State Park Admission
 - JLC 2023-06 Virginia National Guard Income Tax Exemption
- **A summary of the approved 2023 JLC Initiatives Policy papers for each initiative can be accessed on the JLC webpage at: <https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/dvs/joint-leadership-council-veterans-service-organizations-2>**

Committee Chairperson’s Report

- **Awards Chair** – LTC Habermann
 - MOAA JROTC/ROTC Medal Awards
 - Archer Awards
 - SWVC Leadership Awards
- **Community Services Volunteer Representative** – No report.

Old Business

- Renovation Alliance “Community Renovation Day” held on Saturday 7 October 2023. Veteran’s project located at 1106 Jackson Ave. Completed.
- “**Leadership in America**” Film Premier and Reception held on Monday 23 October 2023 at the Hotel Roanoke Washington Lecture Hall sponsored by The Virginia War Memorial Foundation.
- Roanoke Veterans Day Parade held on Saturday 11 November 2023. Capt Gary Powers “Shore Patrol Jeep” with riders. COL Bob Brown set up a MOAA information table in the Market Building.

New Business

- Annual Christmas Wreath Laying Ceremony will be held at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin, Virginia on Saturday 16 December 2023 at 1300 hours. SWVC Chapter members will be service ceremony volunteers representing the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, POW and narrator.
- Contacted MOAA National and currently working on an a acknowledgement of the contributions of Major General Fullhart USAF (Ret) as Commandant, Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets as he retires on 1 July 2024.
- A proposed slate of SWVC Chapter Officers and Board of Directors for 2024. Slate to be developed for approval and the Oath of Office to be conducted at the 14 December 2023 Chapter meeting.
- The Board recommended to accept and approve the slate as amended with the First VP to remain open for the time being.

Adjourn – President

- Meeting adjourned at 1130 hours.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

16 November 2023

1200 Hours.

Call to Order – President

Opening Prayer - Chaplain

Pledge of Allegiance – 1st Vice President

Introduction of Guests and Program Presenter - President

1. Program by LTC Roberta Chrissy, USA (Ret) on “**Pentagon Survivors Tell Their Story.**”
2. Questions?

Next Chapter Membership Meeting - 1200 Hours Thursday 14 December 2023

Current listing of 2023 Chapter Officers and Board Members

PRESIDENT

CAPT Matthew K Haag USN (Ret)

FIRST VP

CAPT Gary Powers, USN (Ret)

SECOND VP

LTC Dan Karnes, USAR (Ret)

SECRETARY

LTC Steve Jamison, USA (Ret)

TREASURER

COL Robert F Brown USA (Ret)

PROGRAMS

COL Thomas J Dalzell, USMC (Ret)

CHAPLAIN

LTC Dave Gilleran, USA (Ret)

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

COL Robert F Brown USA (Ret)

VCOC REPRESENTATIVE

CAPT Gary Powers, USN (Ret)

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS REP

LTC Robert Habermann, USA (Ret)

PERSONAL AFFAIRS REP

LTC Steve Jamison, USA (Ret)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

COL Thomas J Dalzell, USMC (Ret)

FACEBOOK EDITOR

CDR Lee M Ensley, USN (Ret)

WEBMASTER

LCDR Klaus (Ted) Lonitz, USN (Ret)

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAPT Gary Powers, USN (Ret)

AWARDS CHAIR

LTC Robert Habermann, USA (Ret)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

CPT Larry Johnson, USAR (former)

BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

LTC Dave Gilleran, USA (Ret)

TRANSITION TEAM REP

LTC Dan Karnes, USAR (Ret)

COMMUNITY SERV VOL REP

LTC Dan Karnes, USAR (Ret)

PAST PRESIDENT

CDR Lee M Ensley, USN (Ret)

SURVIVING SPOUSE REP

Mrs. Mary Lou Summers

SMITH MOUNT SATELLITE REP

CAPT Richard Cocrane, USN (Ret)

DIRECTORS

COL Robert F Brown USA (Ret)

CAPT Roger Burnett, USN Ret)

CAPT Richard Cocrane, USN (Ret)

COL Thomas J Dalzell, USMC (Ret)

CDR Lee M Ensley, USN (Ret)

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CAPT Matthew K Haag USN (Ret)

LTC Robert Habermann, USA (Ret)

LTC Steve Jamison, USA (Ret)

CPT Larry Johnson, USAR (former)

LTC Dan Karnes, USAR (Ret)

MAJ Michael Kasnick, USA (Ret)

COL John Miller, USA (Ret)

CAPT Gary Powers, USN (Ret)

COL Donald Sowder, USA (Ret)

Mrs. Mary Lou Summers

Ms. Evelyn Cox

The chapter has a succession plan that is somewhat, but not very much, followed to ensure continuity in leadership. It has been very difficult to get chapter members to

assume positions of leadership and the chapter has had to rely on the same few to carry the bulk of leadership responsibility.

There has been discussion recently to:
Have the current 1st VP move up to President
The 2nd VP moves up to 1st VP

All other chapter members in various leadership positions are asked if they would continue in those positions for another two years. A volunteer will be required to fill the 2nd VP slot.

The chapter will need to find a replacement for MAJ Michael Kasnick, USA (Ret) due to health issues. Larry Johnson is filling that position at present.

As chapter members age it is imperative that other members assume some responsibilities or the chapter may fall into the same position as the SML satellite and have to disband.

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION PLAN

The SWVC Chapter leadership succession plan is designed to groom and advance selected members for the office of the president and vice president by advancing them upward through an established sequence of offices. This ensures that when a chapter member assumes the office they are thoroughly familiar with the chapter programs and methods of operations.

The SWVC President appoints a nomination committee each year to nominate chapter members for leadership positions and board membership. Nominations are made to the current Board of Directors and the general membership for approval.

The SWVC Chapter has written position descriptions for all chapter officers and chapter committees.

The SWVC Chapter utilizes the experience of the Past President position to provide advice and consent to the new chapter officers and board members.

The SWVC implements several leadership transition strategies listed below for leadership development:

1. Officers and Board members commit to help assist with and manage transition.
 2. Officers and Board members Identify current challenges and leadership qualities needed to face chapter challenges.
 3. Consider placing an interim leader where necessary.
 4. Development of a timeline for leadership successions.
 5. Development of an Emergency Leadership Transition Plan.
 6. Identify leadership development opportunities for chapter officers and board members.
 7. Cross-train current officers and board members to minimize the disruption from unexpected staffing changes.
 8. Develop plans to adequately support newly-placed leaders with mentoring, and defining goals.
 9. Communicate chapter goals and objectives during, and after a transition of leadership.
 10. Help new board members and officers feel confident and find their own voices.
- The SWVC Chapter continues to update its Strategic Planning document adopted in 2019 which addresses the succession plan. A Vision Statement and Mission Statement is included in the document.

Proposed Slate of 2024 Chapter Officers and Board Members

PRESIDENT

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FIRST VP

Vacant

SECOND VP

Dan Karnes, USAR (Ret)

SECRETARY

Steve Jamison, USA (Ret)

TREASURER

COL Robert F Brown USA (Ret)

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