

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER

MINUTES - BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

16 February 2023

Call to Order

1st Vice President Gary Powers called the meeting of the Board of Directors of The Southwest Virginia Chapter, Military Officers Association to order at 1012 hours Eastern Standard Time on 16 February 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; Legislative Affairs Representative and Awards Chair Robert Habermann; Chaplain David Gilleran; Community Services Volunteer Representative Dan Karnes; Smith Mountain Lake Satellite Representative Rick Cocrane; Past President Lee Ensley; Surviving Spouse Representative Mary Lou Summers; Director Tom Dalzell; Director John Miller; Director and Sergeant At Arms Larry Johnson.

Directors and Chapter Officers Absent

President Matthew Haag; Transition Team and Director Michael Leigh; Director Roger Burnett.

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 15 December 2022 were approved as submitted.

President's Report

- Discussed President Matt Haag's email report as outlined below. The Board approved using the menu from Joe's Catering for lunch and Sunshine Tours, Inc for transportation to Richmond. Two pick up points for the bus. The Park and Ride in Christiansburg and the Park and Ride at exit 140, Virginia 311 on Interstate 81. Need to sign the Sunshine Tours, Inc. contract and pay the \$2,315.00 contract fee. Recommend putting out the word on this tour to get

maximum attendance.

- I will not be at the next board meeting so want to update you on where I stand on duties assigned.
- First, I have been delinquent on setting up a meeting to discuss memorials for MOAA members. I will work to do better on this when I get back from my trip in March.
- I participated in a Veteran Recognition Ceremony at Richfield which you should have received SEPCOR
- For the trip to the Virginia Veterans Memorial in Richmond:
 - 1) We are confirmed with the memorial, Kyndall Dreumheller, for a tour on 18 May 2023 arriving around 11:30 that day.
 - 2) We need to determine where we want to get lunch catered from. The memorial has used Mission BBQ, Jimmy John's, Panera, and Joe's Inn in the past. I have attached the Joe's Inn catering menu as most of us are familiar with the others. I am leaning towards Joe's Inn but up for whatever the board decides.
 - 3) I am also attaching the contract for the bus. Not sure who should sign and I am happy to sign but will need Bob to pay the bill. I think we should sign this sooner than later just to make sure we have the bus. If we fill all 50 seats it is just over \$46 a seat and I think if we charge the normal \$25 for lunch we can eat well. If we find we have really over charged we can give a rebate. I think we should advertise at \$75 a seat and \$25 if you are going to drive yourself or have a friend join us for the tour.
 - 4) I think we need to make a decision at this meeting and announce it at the meeting as well as send out an email afterwards saying we will take sign ups starting immediately. Need to state your RSVP is a placeholder until we get a check via mail or pay at the next meeting. If by April meeting if we do not have enough folks signed up we cancel contracts and plan for a BBQ like we did last year and just have a meeting to get together before the summer without a program.
 - I will RSVP for two seats and 3 meals now.

Secretary's Report

- Working to clean up the chapter roster for 2023.

Treasurer's Report

- Income and Expenses Budget vs. Actual – Copy provided to each Board member.
- Prime Checking Account balance as of 10 February – \$8,811.78
- Transferred \$2,000 from Leadership account to support JROTC/ROTC/Archer Awards. Three \$50 award checks from 2022 remain un-cashed.
- Awaiting Archer Award funding.
- Leadership Savings balance is - \$3,703.92

1st Vice President's Report

- The new MOAA President and CEO is Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), and new board chairman is Gen. Gary L. North, USAF (Ret).

Membership Chair Report

- Still using MOAA's Real Time Report leads to check for members and addresses in our catchment area. Sent out seven recruiting letters. Will send out invitation letters to these identified.

Program Directors Report

- 16 February 2023 – Board of Directors meeting. Program by Ms, Linda Breckinridge and Ms. Betty Shideler dressed for the time period of the Northern War of Aggression to discuss "*The Women Left Behind.*" with a focus on the Breckinridge family and the Burwell family and the impact the war had on them.
- 16 March 2023 – Program by Mr. Ken Dutch Rauch "Thoughts of a Career Well Spent As a Naval Aviator, Combat Pilot, and Test Pilot".
- 20 April 2023 – Board of Directors meeting. Program by Ms. Rebecca J Stackhouse, CTRS, FACHE, Executive Director Salem VA Health Care System with an update on the Salem VA Health Care System.
- 18 May 2023 – Bus trip to the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, Virginia to include a tour of the Virginia War Memorial and lunch.

Surviving Spouse Representative Report

- Provide information on all planned programs to all spouses.

Smith Mountain Lake Satellite Report

- The Smith Mountain Satellite will disband in a month or two. A more social group and in need off someone to take a leadership position.

Public Relations Report

- Communiqué Newsletter – 1st quarter 2023 (JAN-FEB-MARCH) in the works to be published in the end of March 2023.
- Chapter Website & Face book – Up and running.
- Public Affairs/Media. CAPT Powers volunteered to cover these duties.
- Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award submitted to MOAA on 11 January 2023.
- Chapter Levels of Excellence Award for 2022 is due to MOAA 1 May 2023.

Past President's Report

- On 13 February arranged for Colonel John Miller, USA (Ret), a member of the Southwest Virginia Chapter and the Association of the United States Army, to present

the Video program on Staff Sergeant David G. Bellavia, Medal of Honor recipient for his heroics during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Phantom Fury, in Fallujah, Iraq on 10 November 2004 to the residents and staff of Woodland Hills retirement and assisted living facility. Although sparsely attended the facility indicated they would like to schedule the program again in the future. Chapter member CAPT Jude Lahr, USN (Ret) is a resident there.

- Asked about the chapter VCOC representative in light of COL Anita White's inability to fulfill those responsibilities due to her busy schedule. After some discussion CAPT Gary Powers volunteered to be the Chapter VCOC representative for the next two years.
- Asked about appreciation mementoes to those individuals who have made presentations to the chapter at our monthly meetings before the chapter adopted the Mug memento. Secretary Steve Jamison will check and ensure the chapter show appreciation to all past presenters.

Directors Report's

- CAPT Burnett – No report.
- LTC Gilleran – CBOC to Danville Mall in March 2023. Cemeteries in Martinsville also conduct Christmas Wreath programs.
- COL Miller – AUSA Virginia Values Veterans Certification 21 March 2023 from 1000 to 1400 hours at the Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce 210 South Jefferson Street, Roanoke, VA.
 - National Vietnam Veterans Day to honor Vietnam Veterans with a special ceremony at the Vinton War Memorial, 1700 hours 29 March 2023.
 - The Fifth Annual “**Freedom Fest**”, hosted by **New Freedom Farm** and set in beautiful Buchanan, VA in Botetourt County, will provide family fun 22-23 April. The event, a fundraiser for New Freedom Farm, promises 70+ craft and goods vendors, food trucks, live entertainment, activities for children, and over 80 raffle baskets.
- Capt Johnson –

Legislative Liaison Report - LTC Habermann –

- **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 Reserve
- 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/>

VCOC Report

- **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
 - Notifications were sent out on 3 February 2023 to 15 JROTC units plus 3 similar units, 3 ROTC units, and 3 CAP units for the 2023:
 - MOAA ROTC/JROTC Medal Awards
 - Archer Awards
 - SWVC Leadership Awards
 - VT Awards Ceremony Thursday 20 April 2023
- **Community Services Volunteer Representative** – LTC Karnes

Old Business

- Recognition of Chapter members - criteria. Committee to meet.
- Military Family Support Center – Soldiers Pantry - Committee to meet.
- Letter to the membership requesting financial support and requesting correct contact information. Written, reviewed to be sent out.
- Vietnam Veterans night Vinton War Memorial 29 March 2023 1730 hours.

New Business

- Southwest Virginia Chapter participation in Opera Roanoke’s Veterans Fair to be held from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM on Friday 24 February 2023, and from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM on Sunday 26 February 2023, at the Jefferson Center in Roanoke.

On Friday 24 February 2023 LTC Robert Habermann, USA (Ret) and COL Thomas Dalzell, USMC (Ret) will participate in the Opera Roanoke Veterans Fair from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM and attend the performance of "Glory Denied" afterward.

On Sunday 26 February 2023 CAPT Gary Powers USN (Ret) and Mr. Joseph Obenshain, (LT USA former) will participate in the Opera Roanoke Veterans Fair from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM and attend the performance of "Glory Denied" afterward.

The tickets are in the "**Will Call**". The Southwest Virginia Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will sit in orchestra, center row K, 110,111,112 on Friday and in orchestra center row N, 109,110,111,112 on Saturday.

- **Affinity Care of Virginia** a hospice organization operating out of the Roanoke area approached the Southwest Virginia Chapter with a request to participate in the "**We Honor Veterans**" program, a partnership between the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) and the Department of Veterans Affairs. The program offers care for veteran-specific physical or emotional issues that may arise near the end of life.

Affinity Care of Virginia has recently gotten involved with the "**We Honor Veterans**" program and some pinning ceremonies with some of the individuals they serve. These "**Pinning Ceremonies**" offer a more purposeful experience for the veteran and their family.

They have approached the Southwest Virginia Chapter seeking volunteers who may desire to participate in this program. If you are interested please contact the following:

Meredith Maiolo, MT-BC
Music Therapist-Board Certified
Affinity Care of Virginia
3501 Colonial Green Cir SW
Roanoke, VA 24018
Office: 540-298-3400
Fax: 540-301-9913

Adjourn –

1147 hours