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MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER

MINUTES - BOARD OF DIRECTORS ZOOM MEETING

16 September 2021

Call to Order

President Lee Ensley called the Zoom meeting of the Board of Directors of The Southwest Virginia Chapter, Military Officers Association to order at 1000 hours Eastern Standard Time on 16 September 2021.

Directors and Chapter Officers Present

President Lee Ensley, 1st Vice President Matthew Haag, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer and Membership Chair Robert Brown, Secretary Steve Jamison, Sergeant At Arms Michael Kasnick, Legislative Affairs Representative and Awards Chair Robert Habermann, Chaplain and Past President David Gilleran, Surviving Spouse Representative Mary Lou Summers, Director Roger Burnett, Director John Miller, Director Tom Dalzell;

Directors and Chapter Officers Absent

VCOC Representative and Personal Affairs Officer Jim Flynn, Community Services Volunteer Representative Dan Karnes, Smith Mountain Lake Satellite Representative Rick Cocrane, Director Michael Leigh, Director Larry Johnson.

Opening Prayer

Chaplain David Gilleran led the Board of Directors in prayer. A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of the passing of chapter member and treasurer BG Scott Van Cleef, USAF (Ret) and Gretchen Flynn, wife of LTC Jim Flynn, USA (Ret).

Pledge of Allegiance

1st Vice President Matthew Haag led The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag recited by all present online.

Approval of Board of Directors Meetings Minutes

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of 15 April 2021 were approved as submitted.

Presidents Report –

- President Ensley led a short discussion on the future of chapter Board and Membership meetings whether in person or via ZOOM. At present future meetings will be via Zoom through October 2021. President Ensley contacted the

management at Hidden Valley Country Club and they are still not open for large gatherings for the near future. The situation is one of wait and see.

- The 2021 JROTC/ROTC and Leadership Awards were discussed with input from the Awards Chair LTC Bob Habermann. Most JROTC units were shut down due to COVID. Only 8 of 15 JROTC units and 3 CAP units responded. With the passing of BG Van Cleef the Awards Chair is looking for a contact for the CAP units. The Board was notified that Montgomery County School Board has now launched a JROTC unit modeled after the Virginia Tech program. Courses are taught at Christiansburg High school with cadets from Auburn High School, Blacksburg High School, Christiansburg High School and Eastern Montgomery High School. Requests for nominations from the JROTC, CAP, and ROTC units will be sent out in January/February 2022.
- President Ensley discussed with the chapter board members to think about leadership positions for calendar year 2022. The chapter has a great team of leaders in 2021 but need to consider possible chapter leaders for 2022.
- President Ensley notified the Board that Chapter Treasurer and Membership Chair participated in the MOAA National Zoom Leadership workshop 30 April-1May 2021.
- President Ensley reported that one half of the \$3,750, 2021 MOAA Military Family Initiative, Community Outreach Charitable Grant to the Military Family Support Center to feed the hungry, enhance personal hygiene and improve healthy homes for military families has been distributed.

Secretary's Report -

- Secretary Jamison reported the chapter membership stood at 123 as of 16 September 2021 with one new member added since last report. There are 112 regular members and 11 surviving spouses on the rolls. He indicated that a number of current members are delinquent in paying their 2021 membership dues.

Treasurers Report

- A financial report in a revised balance sheet format was provided to the Board members. The report format includes "Income and Expenses" through 31 August 2021 including; "Budget", "Current Year" and "\$ Difference" columns. Prime checking account balance – \$8,651.26
- The Profit and Loss statement, Budget vs. Actual, 1 January through 31 August 2021.
- Leadership and savings fund balance - \$7434.98
- COL Brown suggested the Board consider some type of "Leadership" gratuity for the JROTC units. Col Brown indicated he will continue as Treasurer for the chapter as well as Membership Chair.

1st Vice Presidents Report

- 1st Vice President CAPT Matthew Haag indicated that the chapter needs input from all the membership not just Board members. He also cautioned about putting the ZOOM link on Face book. That could cost the chapter.

Membership Chair Report

- Membership Chair COL Bob Brown indicated he has completely mined the MOAA membership listing. He is now going to focus on “near real time” reports.

Program Directors Report

- Meeting programs scheduled for 2021
 - 16 September 2021 – Board of Directors Zoom meeting. Zoom program by Edward F. Palm, Ph.D. Major, USMC (Ret.) Author of “Tiger Papa Three: Memoir of a Combined Action Marine in Vietnam”.
 - 21 October 2021 – Membership Zoom meeting. Zoom program Major General Fullhart USAF on status VT Corps of Cadets
 - 18 November 2021 – Board of Directors Zoom meeting. Zoom program – Mr. James Triesler, Director of Education Virginia War Memorial Richmond Virginia
 - 16 December 2021 – Board of Directors Zoom meeting. Zoom program - MOAA update and installation of Officers and Board of Directors for 2022.
- Invites for future programs will be either Zoom or in person depending on the coronavirus situation. The chapter will invite previous program presenters to attend the first available in person gathering to personally thank them for their Zoom presentations.
- Suggestions and recommendations were put forth on programs for future meetings including Afghan refugee resettlement, meetings outside of the country club including BBQ picnic’s, outings at the Red Sox ball field.

Surviving Spouse Representative Report

- The Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery Volunteers will conduct their annual Wreath Laying Program on 18 December 2021 at 1300 hours. There will be a program as in the past with service representatives from the SWVC participating. Funding support is needed to purchase the approximately 1,500 wreaths needed this year. Please check their web site www.swvavcv.org for the most up-to-date information about the wreath laying program

Public Relations Report

- Communiqué Newsletter – 1st quarter 2021 (JAN-FEB-MARCH) published in March 2021. Located on the Chapter web site.
- Communiqué Newsletter – 2nd quarter 2021 (APR-MAY-JUNE) published in June 2021. Located on the Chapter web site.
- Communiqué Newsletter – 3rd quarter 2021 (JULY-AUG-SEPT) published in September 2021. Located on the Chapter web site.
- Southwest Virginia Chapter awarded the 5 Star 2020 Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Awards for print newsletter and website.
- Chapter received the 5 Star Chapter Levels of Excellence Award for 2020. LTC Dan Karnes will represent the Chapter at the MOAA Annual Meeting 14-16 October 2021 to accept the Award for the Chapter.
- Chapter Website & Face book – Up and running. Public Affairs/Media – Need a volunteer to fill this position.

Past Presidents Report

- No report. The Roanoke Valley Veterans Council by monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday 27 September 2021 at the DAV, Chapter 3.

Directors Report's

- John Miller reiterated information on the Roanoke Valley Veterans Council by monthly meeting mentioned in the Past Presidents report and the “Legislative Update” gathering at 1900 hours on Tuesday 7 December 2021 at the American Legion Post 3, Apperson Drive, Salem, VA. Highlighted the need for a SWVC chapter representative to be present.

Legislative Liaison Report

- MOAA Legislative Update. MOAA’s 2021 Legislative Agenda is contained in the minutes of the 18 February 2021 Board of Directors meeting. Check the 18 February Board of Directors minutes on the chapter website www.moaaswva.org. They can also be found at the MOAA link **MOAA.org, MOAA’s 2021 Legislative Priorities**.
- A MOAA webinar was conducted on 6 April 2021 on what’s happening with your military benefits on Capitol Hill by MOAA’s financial and benefits professionals -- Lt. Col. Shane Ostrom, USAF (Ret), CFP, and Capt. Paul Frost, USN (Ret), AFC -- For a comprehensive review of recent legislation and MOAA’s priorities for the upcoming National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Topics included:
 - Where our federal dollars are spent
 - Military experience of our legislators
 - Recent legislative wins and losses
 - MOAA’s 2021 and 2022 legislative priorities
 - SBP-DIC offset elimination phase-inMOAA’s COLA Watch MOAA Premium and Life members have access to all recorded MOAA webinars at any time via **MOAA’s Webinar Archive**. They will send you a link to the recording within a week. Additionally, the video will be archived on the MOAA website for our paid membership.

VCOC Report

- **JLC 2021 Initiatives:** A summary of the 2021 JLC Initiatives Policy papers for each initiative can be accessed on the JLC webpage at: https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/JLC-2021-Initiatives_SUMMARY-as-of-Nov-20-2020.pdf
- The next VCC meeting will be held on 5 October 2021 in Williamsburg, Virginia
- LTC Steve Jamison is currently filling in and making VCOC reports for LTC Jim Flynn. The chapter is looking to get a volunteer to be the VCOC representative.

Smith Mountain Lake Satellite Report

- No report. Currently holding membership meetings.

Committee Chairperson's Report

- **Awards Chair:**
 - 2022 Chapter Leadership Awards and 2022 MOAA ROTC and JROTC Medal Awards summarized in the Presidents report above.

Old Business

- No report.

New Business

- The Board of Directors approved a motion to make a donation of \$500 to the Air Force Education Fund in memory and honor of BG Scott Van Cleef, USAF (Ret).
- Salem Red Sox Military Appreciation Saturday 18 September 2021 at 1700 hours. Massing of the Colors will be before the game. The SWVC will represent MOAA by carrying the MOAA banner. .
- The Alleghany Chapter AUSA will host an event 2 October 2021 at 1500 hours, Hotel Roanoke; Meet and hear the story of the only living Medal of Honor recipient from the Iraq war.

Chapter Membership ZOOM Program

Call to Order

President Lee Ensley called the Chapter Zoom Membership meeting to order at 1200 Hours.

Opening Prayer

Chaplain Gilleran led the chapter members in prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance

1st Vice President Matthew Haag led The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag recited by all members and guests present.

Introduction of Guests and the featured speaker Edward F. Palm, Major USMC (Ret).

- Chapter President Lee Ensley recognized members and guests and introduced the guest speaker Edward F. Palm, Ph.D. Major, USMC (Ret.).

Edward Palm is a native of New Castle, Delaware. He served in Vietnam as an enlisted Marine with the Combined Action Program. He made it through the Marine Corps with success, did not know much and did not join to go to Viet

Nam. He did not think the war was extraordinary but thought it was his obligation as a citizen to serve his country, a call to duty. He took his assignments in stride, didn't do anything heroic. Not all those serving were volunteers as the draft was on which caused many problems for those who did not consider it their patriotic duty to serve. . He returned to college in 1975 majoring in English and joined the USMC as an officer candidate. As a SSGT he made it through OCS and then went back to University of Pennsylvania to work on his PhD. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania with a dissertation on the moral vision of selected Vietnam novels and has since published and presented on various aspects of American culture as well as imaginative representations of the American experience in Vietnam. Returning to the Marine Corps in later life, Palm became an officer and taught military affairs at the University of California, Berkeley, and English at the United States Naval Academy before retiring as a Major in 1993. He went on to serve as a professor and division chair at Glenville State College (in West Virginia) and has held dean appointments at Maryville University of St. Louis and Olympic College, in Bremerton, Washington. He closed out his academic career teaching full-time online for Strayer University in Washington. He now devotes his time to photography and writing, including a regular column for the Kitsap Sun in Bremerton. He is also the author of Tiger Papa Three: Memoir of a Combined Action Marine in Vietnam.

Next Chapter Zoom Meeting

- 1200 Hours Thursday 21 October 2021.