

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER
MINUTES - BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

17 February 2022

Call to Order

President Matt 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 17 February 2022.

Directors and Chapter Officers Present

President Matthew Haag; 2nd Vice President, Treasurer and Membership Chair Robert Brown; Secretary Steve Jamison; Chaplain David Gilleran; Legislative Affairs Representative and Awards Chair Robert Habermann; Sergeant At Arms Michael Kasnick; Community Services Volunteer Representative Dan Karnes; Smith Mountain Lake Satellite Representative Rick Cocrane; Surviving Spouse Representative Mary Lou Summers; Past President Lee Ensley; Director John Miller; Director Tom Dalzell; Director Larry Johnson; Director Roger Burnett; Military Family Support Center President Roger Talmadge.

Directors and Chapter Officers Absent

1st Vice President Gary Powers; VCOC Representative Anita White; Transition Team and Director Michael Leigh.

Opening Prayer

Chaplain David Gilleran led the Board of Directors in prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance

Community Services Volunteer Representative Dan Karnes 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 Zoom meeting of 16 December 2021 were approved as submitted.

Presidents Report –

- President Matt Haag thanked Past President Lee Ensley for the detailed and thorough turnover briefing. He also thanked Tom Dalzell for all the many tasks he performs for the chapter.
- President Matt Haag put forward his goals for 2022: (1) Increase membership and (2) Get new members on the leadership team and Board of Directors.
- He mentioned that in communications by email to him to be sure to mark URGENT on the subject line. Otherwise emails get lost in his spam folder.

Secretary’s Report -

- Secretary Jamison welcomed new chapter member LCDR Nancy Harms, USN (Ret)
- Noted that 26 had signed up for lunch.
- Explained why there were National MOAA dues and SWVA Chapter dues. National MOAA dues support MOAA’s lobbying efforts at the National level and the various educational programs they provide for all MOAA members. SWVA chapter dues support the leadership and awards program the chapter provides to the JROTC and ROTC programs in Southwest Virginia.
- The Chapter General Liability Insurance Policy for the chapter has been renewed for 2022.

Treasurers Report

- A financial report was provided to the Board members by email. The first sheet is the current Income and Expenditures through 31 January 2022. The second sheet is the 2022 Budget approved on 16 December 2021.
- The report format includes “Income and Expenses” through 31 January 2022 including; “Budget”, “Current Year” and “\$ Difference “columns. Prime checking account balance – \$9,872.50
- The Board approved travel expenses using the Government rates. Travel funds were added to the budget.
- VFW Post 4318 funds transferred to the SWCA to the Chapter 1n December 2012 will be used to support the Chapter leadership awards.

1st Vice Presidents Report

- No report.

Membership Chair Report

- Sent out four letters in January and February based on the MOAA report. No response as yet.
- The best way to attract new members is by personal contact.

Program Directors Report

- Meeting programs scheduled for 2022
 - 17 February 2022 – Board of Directors in person meeting. Program by Ms. Susan M. Rivers, Director Carilion Clinic Life Guard on the Carilion Clinic Life-Guard air medical service.
 - 17 March 2022 – In Person program. Program by Ms. Estelle Cooke Sampson on her background as a Medical Doctor, Army National Guard veteran and Korean War orphan.
 - 21 April 2022 – Board of Directors meeting. Program by Ms. Ginny Ayers on her experience as a historian and author about Mother Jones an Irish-born American schoolteacher and dressmaker who became a prominent union organizer, community organizer, and activist. She helped coordinate major strikes and co-founded the Industrial Workers of the World. She was called "the most dangerous woman in America" for her success in organizing mine workers and their families against the mine owner and the mining wars in West Virginia.
 - 19 May 2022 – In person BBQ outing and program at the American Legion Post 3, 710 Apperson Dr, Salem, VA 24153 catered by Mission Barbeque.
- The chapter will send out invitations to previous program presenters inviting them to attend the in person gathering on 19 May 2022 to personally thank them for their Zoom/in person presentations.

Surviving Spouse Representative Report

- Mary Lou Summers thanked all for their financial support and participation in the 9th Annual Wreath Laying ceremony on Saturday 18 December 2021 at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery Dublin, VA. 1,600 Christmas wreaths were placed on Veterans grave sites.
- The folks working on a memorial for BGEN Scott VanCleaf have identified several large boulders suitable for a memorial. They need to find a way to get the selected rock to the site. Several pictures were passed around on “rock” memorial with a suitable plaque. Turnaround to submit and receive approval from the cemetery folks in Richmond is about 9 months.
- Updated the status on the “Veterans Tribute Arch” permanent memorial. Estimated cost is around \$75,000. \$12,000 in funds currently on hand. The VFW donated \$14,000 for the Carilion. This is a two year project.
- Currently have five ladies active with the Surviving Spouse group. Cards are sent out each holiday with information on upcoming meetings and programs. Special invitations were sent to Mary Green and Barbara Van Cleef to attend the BBQ lunch meeting on 19 May 2022.
- Working on a proposal for a State “Ambassadors” handbook. The “Ambassadors” will model what the “Arlington Ladies” provide at Arlington National Cemetery. Volunteers will volunteer at least one day per month.

Smith Mountain Lake Satellite Report

- The Smith Mountain Lake Satellite group is back into monthly gatherings. On 8 March their speaker will be Mr. Frank Stritter. On 12 April the program will be hosting the Franklin County High School JROTC Unit.

Public Relations Report

- Communiqué Newsletter – 1st quarter (JAN-FEB-MAR) to be published at the end of March 2022.
- Chapter Website & Face book – Up and running. Public Affairs/Media – Need a volunteer to fill this position to interface with the local media on chapter meetings/programs.
- The Five Star 2021 Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award certificate for print newsletter and website awarded to the Chapter was presented to COL Tom Dalzell on behalf of the chapter. This was the 6th award for the chapter newsletter and 5th award for the chapter web site.
- The Chapter Levels of Excellence Award for 2021 is due to MOAA 1 May 2022.

Past Presidents Report

- Commented on the status report on memorial for BG Van Cleef at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.
- Commented on the dues structure and the difference between National and chapter dues. Cleared that up under the Secretary's report.

Directors Report's

- John Miller signed a contract on 2 February 2022 for the chapter to use the American legion Post # 3 for a chapter membership meeting and BBQ lunch on 19 May 2022.

Legislative Liaison Report

- In the second session of the 117th Congress, MOAA's legislative priorities are highlighted below. For 2022, MOAA is continuing the momentum established over the previous year to carry the efforts into the second session of Congress. It is important to note all co-sponsors carry over for continued engagements. Continuity and consistency of effort will be paramount to success — and we are closing in on many of these issues, so stay plugged in and ready to engage your legislators. There are other issues not listed here that are also being worked by our full staff of lobbyists. Our priorities will be shaped throughout the year depending on concurrent successes or emerging issues that warrant an all-hands approach.
- Here is what we are MOAA's Key Goals for 2022:
 - Sustain pay raises and adequate BAH for the troops and COLA raises for retirees.
 - Ensure the Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service continue to receive pay during a government shutdown.
 - Protect the value of the military health care benefit.
 - Protect the Military Health System pharmacy benefit, and achieve flexibility in TRICARE pharmacy copays.
 - Address barriers to accessing care within the MHS, including TRICARE coverage gaps and mental health care access challenges.

- Protect family support programs, and ensure military-provided services (housing, PCS, child care, youth programs, financial counseling) are readily available and meet standards for quality and costs.
 - Achieve equity of benefits, protections, and administrative support for Guard/Reserve members consistent with their active-duty counterparts.
 - Sustain Veterans Health Administration (VHA) foundational missions and services.
 - Reform the presumptive process to support veterans claiming service-connected disabilities for toxic exposures.
 - Achieve concurrent receipt of service-earned retirement pay and VA disability pay.
 - Protect full military honors and burial at Arlington National Cemetery for those currently eligible.
 - Improve survivors' benefits.
 - Support a quality transition experience from active duty to veteran status for all servicemembers.
 - Recognize the pandemic continues to affect the lives of our servicemembers.
- **Details can be found on the MOAA website, <https://www.moaa.org/>**

VCOC Report

- **JLC 2022 Initiatives**: A summary of the 2022 JLC Initiatives Policy papers for each initiative can be accessed on the JLC webpage at: Virginia Joint Leadership Council Legislative Policy Initiatives 2022.
- **Details can be found on the VCOC website: <https://moaavcoc.org/legislativeaffairs/>.**

Committee Chairperson's Report

- **Awards Chair Report** – Notifications to the JROTC, ROTC, CAP units for the 2022 Chapter Leadership Awards, Archer and MOAA ROTC and JROTC Medal Awards were sent out in January 2022
- A suggestion was made to invite the Archers to present the Archer Awards.
- **Community Services Volunteer Representative Report** – No report.

Old Business

- Status of a Memorial for BG Scott Van Cleef, USAF (Ret) at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin. Ongoing planning. Mary Lou Summers and a group are considering several ideas.

New Business

- Invitations to past program presenters to attend a future membership meeting and lunch. CDR Youssef Aboul-Enin, USN, (Ret); Ms Amy White and Ms. Michele Hilts, Virginia Western Community College; Mr. Ed Glover, Team Rubicon; Dr. Diana Christopoulos; Edward Palm, Major USMC (Ret); Mr. Edward Triesler, Virginia War Memorial; Ms. Kendall Christine, web site developer.
- Idea's for some type of reorganization memento to present to a program presenter/speaker. Certificate, coffee cup, MOAA items. Tom Dalzell passed

around pictures of several items available from the MOAA store. CDR Lee Ensley will develop a SWVA Chapter logo.

- Virginia Department of Veterans Services contacted Mary Lou Summers asking if the SWVC would be interested in participating in a Memorial Day program at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin on Memorial Day Monday 30 May 2022. Tom Dalzell will contact the Virginia Department of Veterans Services and inform them that due to local Veteran's Day ceremonies we are participating in here in Roanoke we are unable to participate in a program at the Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.
- Chapter participation in a Chapter Wreath Laying Ceremony, Memorial Plaza Monday Memorial Day 30 May 2022. Will participate again this year.
- A discussion needs to be held on the current status of the Military Family Support Center, its leadership, current viability, the SWVC support of and a path forward for the future. Tom Dalzell will work on a planning meeting to discuss.

Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 1147 hours.
- The next meeting will be a membership meeting on Thursday 17 March 2022.