

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER

MINUTES - BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

21 April 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 21 April 2022.

Directors and Chapter Officers Present

President Matthew Haag; 1st Vice President Gary Powers; 2nd Vice President, Treasurer and Membership Chair Robert Brown; Secretary Steve Jamison; Chaplain David Gilleran; Past President Lee Ensley; 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; Director Tom Dalzell; Director Larry Johnson; Director Roger Burnett; Military Family Support Center President Roger Talmadge.

Directors and Chapter Officers Absent

Director John Miller; VCOC Representative Anita White; Transition Team and Director Michael Leigh.

Opening Prayer

Director Tom Dalzell 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 Zoom meeting of 17 February 2022 were approved with several minor punctuation corrections.

President's Report –

- President Matt Haag reported on a call from Linc Smith, VCOC requesting a list of Chapter Officers and the Chapter VCOC Representative, Col Anita White.
- Dan Karnes to fill the form to VCOC.
- Indicated future VCOC meetings with state representatives should give at least one day's notice of planned meetings and include Representative Ben Cline.

Secretary's Report –

- Secretary Jamison reported on one new member Charles Allen.
- Chapter roster at 120 members.

Treasurer's Report

- A financial report was provided to the Board members by email.
- The report format includes "Income and Expenses" through 15 April 2022 including; "Budget", "Current Year" and "\$ Difference" columns. Prime checking account balance – \$11,523.19 with \$1,499.89 checks not cleared.
- Chapter leadership fund stands at \$5,435.21 after moving \$2,000 to Prime Checking for Leadership Awards/Grants.
- Dues income is \$690.
- Miscellaneous income is from MOAA incentives.
- \$500, \$277.99 and \$1,000 expended for Leadership Awards.

1st Vice President's Report

- Will be available for future meetings.

Membership Chair Report

- Sent out 9 letters in March and April based on the MOAA Near Real Time Report. Possible one new member as a result.
- Membership application form on website.
- Looking forward to development of chapter logo.
- The best way to attract new members is by personal contact.

Program Directors Report

- Meeting programs scheduled for 2022. NOTE: The chapter will invite previous program presenters to attend the 19May 2022 in person gathering to personally thank them for their Zoom presentations. a.

- 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 – Mission BBQ catered outing at the American Legion Post 3 on Apperson Drive. Invitations to be sent to previous program presenters and guests in appreciation for their support of the SWVC.
- 15 September 2022 – Board of Directors meeting. Program by Ms. Christine Tysor on the Mid Atlantic Aviation Partnership (MAAP) on the research to get to a point where drones can safely integrate into the National Air Space. The Virginia Tech Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership and the Center for Injury Biomechanics enabled the university to become the first organization to have test methods accepted by the FAA to demonstrate compliance with key regulations for drone flights over people.
- 20 October 2022 – Major General Randall Fullhart, USAF (Ret) on the status of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets; the Corps of Cadets Leadership Development Program; and status of the Corps of Cadets facility construction program.
- 17 November 2022 – Board of Directors meeting. Tentative - Program by Mr. Christopher Roberts, City of Roanoke Coordinator, Youth and Gang Violence Prevention. The program is designed to drive solutions to youth and gang violence.
- 15 December 2022 – Program TBD – Swearing in of Chapter Officers and Board of Directors for 2023.
- 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.
- Recommendations were discussed for future meetings including a trip and meeting to Virginia Tech, the VA realignment proposal.

Surviving Spouse Representative Report

- The memorial for BGEN Scott VanCleaf. No boulders have been identified. The cemetery director will have final approval authority over what rock we select.
- The “Veterans Tribute Arch” permanent memorial is still receiving donations. 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 with a Memorial Walkway and Honor Wall
- The Southwest Virginia Cemetery Ambassadors attend each burial to perform honors. Volunteers volunteer at least one day per month.

Smith Mountain Lake Satellite Report

- No report. President CAPT Matt Haag attended their last meeting honoring the Franklin County High School JROTC Cadets.

Public Relations Report

- Communiqué Newsletter – 1st quarter (JAN-FEB-MAR) published in March 2022.
- Communiqué Newsletter – 2nd quarter (APRIL-MAY-JUNE) to be published in June 2022
- Chapter Website & Face book – Up and running. 46 Face Book sessions in March, up 35% from February. Public Affairs/Media – Need a volunteer to fill this position to interface with the local media on chapter meetings/programs.

Past President's Report

- Met with Roger Talmadge to co-sign two checks, which were to help some folks who are struggling. He continues to be a compassionate and caring person we know. However, I agree that a discussion is needed concerning the way forward for the MFSC.
- Along these lines, it is time to transfer the remaining half of the grant funds to the MFSC. Roger agrees with this. An end-of-year report is due to MOAA National at the end of May detailing the disposition of those funds. I will write the report with assistance from Roger. Action requested- transfer remaining MOAA grant funds of \$1,875 to MFSC.
- Chapter LOGO. Meeting with graphic design student from VWCC on Friday to hopefully refine and complete our draft so that it is ready to use. All she is asking in return is a letter of recommendation to use as a future employment reference and \$50 to compensate for her time and effort. This is a bargain. Contacted one professional designer who quoted me \$375. Internet quotes rates from \$25 to \$150 per hour for a graphic designer and if they start from scratch can easily charge more than \$2,000 for a project. Best case scenario, I will have the Logo completed and mugs on hand prior to May 19 BBQ.
- Prospective new member CAPT Jude Lahr, USN (Ret) who I will introduce at the membership luncheon.

Directors Report's

- Dan Karnes reported that there will be a Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony at Freedom Plaza, downtown Roanoke on Monday 30 May 2022 sponsored by the Roanoke Valley Veterans Council.

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 –
 - Chapter committee met via email/phone on 4 April to select Leadership awards recipients. The recipients are:

- 2022 General William B. Rosson Leadership Award selection to VT Army ROTC Cadet Garrett A Lyons
- 2022 Major General Lloyd B. Ramsey Leadership Award selection to VT Navy ROTC Midshipman Ethan B. Pierce
- 2022 Archer Awards submitted and forwarded are listed below:

Cadet (Army)	Cadet SGT Sarah Ahlivia Boyd	Bassett High School
Cadet (Army)	Cadet LTC Andrea D. Jackson	Carroll County High School
Cadet (Army)	Cadet CSM Emily Rodgers	Dan River High School
Cadet (Army)	Cadet Trinity L. Davis	Magna Vista High School
Cadet (Army)	Cadet CPT John J. Payne	Bedford County High Schools
Cadet (Air Force)	Cadet MSgt Mark San Juan	Franklin County High School
Cadet (Air Force)	Cadet 1 st Lt. Corey Dickinson	William Fleming High School
Navy JROTC	Cadet MIDN Terry Daniel	George Washington High School
CAP(Civil Air Patrol)	Cadet TSgt David B. M. McKinney	Danville Civil Air Patrol
CAP(Civil Air Patrol)	Cadet 2 nd Lt. Noah J. Lankford	Roanoke Civil Air Patrol

- A discussion was held concerning a suggestion to consider some recognition for other cadets not selected. Future item to be discussed.
- Volunteers Needed for JROTC & CAP Awards Ceremonies
- Community Services Volunteer Representative Report – No report.

Old Business

- The 2021 Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Awards for print newsletter and website for the SWVC submitted to MOAA on 10 January 2022.
- The Chapter Levels of Excellence Award for 2021 was submitted to MOAA on 25 March 2022.
- 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.

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. CDR Lee Ensley working on Chapter logo.
- 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.
- Christmas Wreath Laying Program at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery will be at 1300 hours on Saturday 17 December 2022.
- CAPT Gary Powers will participate in the “Taps Across America” at 1500 hours on Memorial Day 30 May 2022.

Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 1138 hours.
- The next meeting will be a membership meeting on Thursday 19 May 2022.