

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

12 December 2019

Call to Order

A meeting of the Board of Directors of The Southwest Virginia Chapter, Military Officers Association was held on 12 December 2019 at 1000 hours Eastern Standard Time at the Hidden Valley Country Club, Salem Virginia.

Directors and Chapter Officers Present

President David Gilleran, 2nd Vice President Lee Ensley, Secretary Steve Jamison, Treasurer Scott Van Cleef, VCOG Representative and Personal Affairs Officer Jim Flynn, Legislative Affairs Representative and Awards Chair Robert Habermann, Sergeant At Arms Michael Kasnick, Smith Mountain Lake Satellite Representative Rick Cocrane; Director Larry Johnson, Director John Miller, Past President Dan Karnes, Director Emeritus Tom Dalzell.

Directors and Chapter Officers Absent

1st Vice President and Membership Chair Donna Fore, Chaplain Roger Talmadge, Surviving Spouse Representative Mary Lou Summers, Director Michael Leigh.

Call to Order

President David Gilleran called the meeting to order at 1000 hours. A quorum of directors was present, and the meeting was convened.

Opening Prayer

President David Gilleran led the Board of Directors in prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance

2nd Vice President Lee Ensley led The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag recited by all present.

Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes:

- Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of 21 November 2019 were approved as submitted.

President's Report

- President David Gilleran expressed his thanks to all for their service to the chapter and to MOAA and for supporting him as President.
- Updated status of Chaplain Talmadge recovering at Friendship Manor South in room 324.

- John Miller notified that due to Roger Tallmadge's absence and the resignation of the current director the MFSC BOD has suspended actions until a replacement director could be hired. The 19 December 2019 food pantry will go on as scheduled. The MFSC received a \$4,000 grant from _____

Secretary's Report:

- Secretary Steve Jamison reported on two new members John Ewald and Ron Johnson (Former (US Army) and potential members Dave Brammer (US Coast Guard Ret) and Jim Morrison, Major USMC (Ret).
- Membership roster using the Committee Module up to date.

Treasurer's Report:

- Checking account balance - \$9,537.20.
- The Profit and Loss statement, Budget vs. Actual 1 January through 10 December 2019 was presented.
- Leadership and savings fund balance - \$7,430.58, of which \$3,050 is in savings, \$3,750 from the VFW gift and \$630.58 in the Leadership Awards fund.
- A draft of a 2020 budget was presented. Discussion included input for Chapter Liability Insurance, VCOC dues and adjustment on several expense items. The budget was approved as amended. A final revised and approved budget was submitted by e-mail on 12 December 2019.
- A discussion was held concerning the conduct of a budget audit.

Chaplains Report

- No report. Our chaplain Roger Talmadge rehabilitating at Friendship Manor South. Several members to check on his status.

1st Vice President's Report:

- No report.

2nd Vice President's Report:

- No report

Membership Chair Report:

- No Report. MOAA will be contacted to add incoming President Lee Ensley, incoming Membership Chair Bob Brown and Secretary Steve Jamison to be on distribution for MOAA Prospect List.

Program Directors Report

- 12 December 2019 – Colonel Philip “Coop” Cooper, USAF, Commander, Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, Detachment 880 at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia. Installation of Chapter Officers and Board of Directors.
- 16 January 2020 – Dr. Peter Coogan, History Professor Hollins University, WW II and Vietnam conflict. Lunch meeting.

- 20 February 2020 - (Tentative) Mr. Martin Leamy, Central and Southwest Virginia Honor Flight (Bedford, VA). Lunch meeting. Board of Directors meeting.
- 19 March 2020 – (Tentative) Ms. Amy White, Virginia Western Community College. STEM Program and veterans. Lunch with Board of Directors meeting.
- 16 April 2020 – (Tentative) CMDR Youssef Aboul-Enein. Middle East issues. Dinner meeting Shenandoah Club
- 21 May 2020 – TBD – Lunch with Board of Directors meeting.

Surviving Spouse Representative Report:

- The 7th Annual Wreath Laying ceremony is scheduled for 14 December 2019 at 1300 at the Wall of Honor in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery Dublin, Virginia. Invitations and requests for donations have been sent out to provide and place wreaths on veterans' grave sites. COL Rick Littleton, USA is coordinating the planning for the event. Chapter members COL Thomas Dalzell, USMC (Ret), COL Mark Clark USAF (Ret), COL John Miller, USA (Ret), CDR Lee Ensley USN (Ret), LTC Robert Habermann USA (Ret) and LT David Brammer USCG (Former) will participate.

Legislative Liaison Report:

- The following issues will dominate MOAA's 2020 legislative year:
 - **Important defense bill provisions** Lawmakers are preparing to finalize their work on the FY 2020 National Defense Authorization Act. The bill contains a number of measures tied to MOAA's legislative priorities, including putting a stop to a proposed cut in up to 18,000 medical billets, ending a financial penalty on military survivors known as the widow's tax, and more.
 - **Military Medicine** The readiness and effectiveness of America's armed forces demand a full complement of well-trained medical professionals. But the Defense Department's fiscal 2020 budget would eliminate roughly 20 percent of military medical positions, along with other reorganization measures. This shortsighted "reform" effort could have drastic, even deadly, consequences—on the battlefield and throughout American health care.
 - **Safe Housing For Military Families** When military families face health threats in their homes, it can be harder for service members to focus on their mission. Congress is considering legislation to address health threats in base housing—by remediating environmental hazards, establishing strong tenants' rights procedures, and restoring proper oversight of construction and maintenance contractors.
 - **Helping Veteran Caregivers** *The Transparency and Effective Accountability Measures (TEAM) for Veteran Caregivers Act* improves the veterans caregiver program by ensuring all caregivers are included in the veterans' medical records, establishing a minimum standard of information in downgrade notification letters, and extending benefits for at least 90 days after a termination letter is sent for cases where a veteran is deemed "no longer clinically eligible" for the program.
 - **Commissaries and Exchanges** MOAA believes that the Defense Department is moving too fast to merge commissaries and exchanges. MOAA will ask Congress to pump the brakes and mandate additional review on how this will impact service members, families, and the MWR funds.
 - **Military families** With conferees at an impasse over provisions in the annual defense authorization bill, Sen. Jim Inhofe introduced a "skinny NDAA" to

extend essential national security authorities. While a skinny NDAA ensures the men and women in harm's way continue to receive necessary support, it fails to address crucial improvements to military housing, survivor benefits, spouse employment resources, and essential oversight of the military's health care and defense resale systems.

- **The 2020 Federal Budget** Congress has failed again to deliver a federal budget for the new fiscal year, and instead have passed a second Continuing Resolution (CR). MOAA believes that CRs create uncertainty for uniformed service members and their families, and prevent important new programs and improvements from being implemented.
- **TRICARE Fees** MOAA understands that increasing TRICARE fees and out-of-pocket costs is on the list of budget options for lawmakers to consider. This action would ignore the price military retirees and their families have paid up front with their service and sacrifice.
- **Concurrent receipt for disabled military retirees** MOAA supports H.R. 333, *The Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act* which provides full concurrent receipt for disabled military retirees, including Chapter 61 retirees.
- **The Widow's Tax** MOAA notes that current federal law requires survivors of deceased military members to forfeit part or all of their purchased Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity when they are awarded the VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). The loss of any portion of the SBP annuity is known as the widow's tax. For approximately 66,000 military survivors, the widow's tax makes SBP the only insurance that they will have to pay into but are legally prohibited from collecting.
- **Gold Star spouses** Under current law, Gold Star spouses receiving benefits from the Department of Defense are protected from interruptions in payments during a government shutdown. But because Coast Guard paychecks come from the Department of Homeland Security, these survivors are still at risk.
- **TRICARE Benefits for National Guard and Reserve Members** MOAA supports H.R. 613 and S.164 which would remove the restrictions preventing National Guard and Reserve members from participating in the TRICARE Reserve Select program. TMOAA believes that these service members deserve to have access to the same quality, affordable health care options as fellow military members.
- **Survivors' benefits** S. 1047 would align Dependency and Indemnity Compensation payments with other federal survivor benefits.
- **Work Opportunity Tax Credit to Include Military Spouses** According to Department of Defense data, 24% of the military spouse labor force remains unemployed. That's over six times higher than the national unemployment rate. To retain the best and brightest in an all-volunteer force, MOAA maintains that Congress must remove as many barriers to family financial stability as possible.
- **Native American Veterans Memorial** The Smithsonian recently approved the design for a National Native American Veterans Memorial to be constructed on the grounds of the National Museum of the American Indian. The design includes the logos of the five armed services, omitting both the U.S. Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, whose members are veterans under federal law. MOAA believes that ALL veterans should be included in this important memorial.

VCOC Representative Report:

- Jim Flynn VCOC Representative reported that the JLC 2020 Storming of the General Assembly is scheduled for Wednesday 15 January 2020.

Public Affairs Report

- Communiqué Newsletter – 4th quarter (OCT-NOV-DEC) in the works to be published in December 2019.
- Chapter Website & Face book – Not active. Need a volunteer to handle these sites.
- Public Affairs/Media – Need a volunteer to fill this position.
- VCOC website: <http://www.viriniamoaa.com> Need a volunteer to fill this responsibility.
- Sponsorships: Searching for sponsors –\$200 received from ACE Hardware for 2020 one quarter page ad.
- Upcoming PR opportunities –
 - Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Dublin, VA.
 - New SWVC Chapter Officers and Board Members

Sergeant At Arms Report

- No report.

Past President's Report:

- Dan Karnes reported on the Roanoke Valley Veterans Council Veterans Legislative Forum American Legion Post 3 held on Thursday 5 December 2019.

Director Reports

- Smith Mountain Lake Satellite representative Rick Cocrane reported on the recent and upcoming programs at SML:
 - Friday 17 January 2020. Dinner meeting with a program on the “Flying Tigers” by Professor Frank Stritter.
 - Tuesday 11 February 2020. A lunch meeting with a program on “German Prisoners of War Held in Virginia” by John Long, Director of Education D-Day Memorial.
 - Tuesday 10 March 2020. A lunch meeting with a program on the “Military Order of the Purple Heart” by Clifton R “Buck” Krantz.
 - Friday 17 April 2020. A dinner meeting with a program “A Perspective on the Civil War” by Linda Breckinridge.

Committee Chairperson's Report

- Awards Chair:
 - Letters being prepared outlining the new awards and requesting nominations for the MOAA JROTC and ROTC Medal Awards and Leadership Awards.
 - New High School JROTC Program at Auburn High School in Riner, VA.

Old Business

- The following issues raised during the Strategic Planning meeting on 18 July 2019 still need to be addressed:
 - Establishment of measurable goals/objectives – See Strategic Initiatives in the “Strategic Planning Meeting SWVC – Preliminary Document of Record.”
 - Vision – The following Vision Statement was approved by vote of the Board Members present. **“To Be An Influential Military Organization in Southwest Virginia”**. Action completed.
 - Mission Statement - The following Mission Statement was approved by vote of the Board Members present. **“As the community face of the Military Officers Association of America, the Southwest Virginia Chapter’s mission is to advocate for a strong national defense, be an influential provider and supporter of programs, benefits and services for our military community, and a source of social fellowship for our members.”** Action completed.
 - Advocacy – Strong Speaker Program; Improved contact with legislative representatives; Disseminate legislative issues. Ongoing.
 - Membership – Develop a process to increase and keep membership.
 - Engagement - Greater partnership with other organizations/Roanoke Valley Veterans Council; Greater community awareness of MOAA service.
 - Finances - Developing fundraiser process/targets – plan, sponsorships; Develop plan for the VFW funds held in Leadership account. Revise/discontinue 50/50 drawing.
 - Organizational Capacity/Internal Engagement - Increase engagement of current and new members; Review leadership structure; **Establish a Newsletter Publisher; Establish a Marketing/Advertising person, Establish a Webmaster/Social Media person**; Develop a succession plan to backup core leadership positions.
 - Revise Chapter By-Laws to reflect results of strategic planning decisions. Ongoing.

New Business:

- The Board was updated on the status of response to the appeal for financial support from chapter membership.
- The slate of Chapter Officers and Board of Directors for 2020 as presented was approved.
- The recommendation to include the three local Civil Air Patrol Squadrons (Blacksburg, Danville and Roanoke) in recognizing the distinguished graduating Senior Cadet in each Squadron with the new MOAA SWVC award was approved.
- The recommendation to purchase the granite Memorial Bench, at a cost of no more than \$1,500, at the Veterans Cemetery at Dublin in honor of LTC Pat Green including the wording on the bench and its orientation on site was approved. Steve Jamison drafted a letter dated 28 November 2019 to the Cemeteries Assistant Director indicating the Chapter is prepared to sign the relevant document and pay for the bench. The letter outlined the wording for the bench and it’s orientation on was approved by the Board of Directors..
- The recommendation to proceed with the purchase of the MOAA Club and Chapter Liability Insurance Plan brokered by Mercer Health and Benefits Insurance Administration LLC for the SWVC Officers, Board Members and general membership was approved. The application will be prepared by Secretary Steve Jamison.

- Discussions were held concerning the future use of the funds donated by the VFW (\$3,750 fenced for leadership) and the funds received from recent solicitation for funding support from the membership.
- A recommendation was made to look into a buffet vice service lunch for January and or February lunch meetings. Steve Jamison for action.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Directors, the meeting was adjourned at 1145 hours. The next Board of Directors meeting will be at 1000 hours on Thursday, 20 February 2020 at Hidden Valley Country Club.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen L. Jamison