

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER

MINUTES - BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

21 September 2023

Call to Order

President Matthew Haag called the meeting of the Board of Directors of The Southwest Virginia Chapter, Military Officers Association to order at 1004 hours Eastern Standard Time on 21 September 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; Chaplain David Gilleran; Community Services Volunteer Representative Dan Karnes; Past President Lee Ensley; Surviving Spouse Representative Mary Lou Summers; Director Tom Dalzell; Director Don Sowder.

Directors and Chapter Officers Absent

Smith Mountain Lake Satellite Representative Rick Cocrane; Legislative Affairs Representative and Awards Chair Robert Habermann; Sergeant At Arms Michael Kasnick; Transition Team and Director Michael Leigh; Director John Miller; Director Roger Burnett; Director Larry Johnson; Webmaster Klaus (Ted) Lonitz.

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 20 April 2023 were approved as submitted.

President's Report

President Matt Haag welcomed all members back and hoped all had a well-deserved summer break.

Secretary's Report

- Secretary Steve Jamison read a thank you letter from Ms. January Gerow of "Little For Vets" for the invite to our 17MAY2023 picnic and for the \$345 in donations received from members.
- Discussions followed concerning support to "Vittles For Vets" and the opportunities of support the chapter might provide in order to qualify for future MOAA grants. To be further discussed at ext Board meeting.
- With the draw down of the SML Chapter membership, efforts to recruit more members to attend our meetings will be pursued.

- One new member has submitted his application and dues, Hubert Pillsbury.

Treasurer's Report

- Income and Expenses Budget vs. Actual through 31 August 2023 was presented – Copy provided to each Board member. No issues.
- Prime Checking Account balance as of 31 August – \$10,326.21. Note: Bus trip prepay of \$2315 has been refunded. One - 50 in un-cashed awards checks.
- Leadership Savings balance is - \$3,936.22.

1st Vice President's Report

- MOASWVA is registered in Roanoke Veterans Day Parade Saturday 11NOV2023. CAPT Gary Powers driving the “Shore Patrol Jeep” with our banners. COL Dalzell & CDR Ensley are riders. Bob Brown to man MOAA table in Market Building.
- Christmas Wreath Laying Ceremony, Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery Dublin, Virginia Saturday 16 DEC 2023.
- Bereavement Policy in final draft. Will present at next board meeting. To be incorporated into chapel by-laws.
- Discussion concerning new DoD ID cards. More details to follow with information to be included in next newsletter.

Membership Chair Report

- Still using MOAA's Real Time Report leads to check for members and addresses in our catchment area. Sent out eight recruiting letters in 2023.
- COL Tom Dalzell and CAPT Gary Powers met with a prospective new member and former Navy Officer, Mrs. Amanda Marko, on 15SEP2023.

Program Directors Report

1. Meeting programs scheduled for 2023.
 - a. 21 September 2023 – Board of Directors meeting. Program by Ms. Deborah Ingram, Resource Advocate and Community Development, New Freedom Farm, Inc. on “Healing Heroes Through Horses/Saving our Heroes and Mustangs One Day at a Time!”
 - b. 19 October 2023 – Mr. Paul A. Levengood, PhD, President of The George C. Marshall Foundation on “General George C. Marshall.”
 - c. 16 November 2023 – Board of Directors meeting. Program by LTC Roberta Chrissy, USA (Ret) on “Pentagon Survivors Tell Their Story.”
 - d. 14 December 2023 – Program – Requested MOAA National to visit the for installation of Officers and Board of Directors for the year 2024 and provide an update on MOAA issues, the PACT Act, NDAA for 2024 and Woke Military Officers and Generals who focus more on diversity, equity, and inclusion than on warfighting.
 - e. 18 January 2024 - Frank T. Stritter, Professor Emeritus at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on "Heroes of the D-Day Landing" or "D-Day:

Just a Walk on the Beach."

Surviving Spouse Representative Report

- Out of eight registered ladies, five remain active. Twelve members on the roster.
- Virginia Veterans Cemetery Ambassadors are present at every burial at the cemetery to assist families.
- An indigent National Guard veteran will be interred 29SEP2023.
- 11th Annual Wreath Laying ceremony on Saturday 16 December 2023 at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery Dublin, VA.

Smith Mountain Lake Satellite Report

- The SML satellite chapter met on Wednesday, September 13 at the Copper Cove Golf Club. The chapter hosted CMS Woods (the JROTC instructor) and five cadets from the Franklin County High School. They need help funding \$5000 an air compressor for their air rifles.
- The chapter will meet in October and November. At October's meeting, we will host cadets from the Bedford County JROTC.
- Larry Horne is leading the group through November. We are still looking for someone to assume the leadership role after that.

Public Relations Report

1. Communiqué Newsletter – 2nd quarter 2023 (APR-MAY-JUNE) published in June 2023.
2. Communiqué Newsletter – 3rd quarter 2023 (JULY-AUG-SEPT) in the works.
3. Chapter Website & Face book – Up and running. Public Affairs/Media
4. Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award is due to MOAA January 2024.
5. Chapter Levels of Excellence Award for 2023 is due to MOAA 1 May 2024.

Past President's Report

- MFSC is now a closed issue. Further discussion concerning support to "Vittles For Veterans", "Soldier's Pantry" and "Valor House" to continue.
- Discussed the status of the chapter "cups" given as presentation mementoes. More cups to be ordered.

Directors Report's

- CAPT Burnett – No report.
- LTC Gilleran – No report.
- COL Miller – No report.
- Capt Johnson – No report.

Legislative Liaison Report - LTC Habermann

1. FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

2. 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 Reserves
3. 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 -CAPT Gary Powers

1. The Joint Legislative Committee (JLC) met 20SEP2023. minutes of meeting forthcoming.
2. Forth quarter VCOC meeting scheduled for 25OCT2023 at Falcon's Landing, Williamsburg. CAPT Powers to attend via ZOOM.
3. VCOC Legislative Priorities:
 - 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 to the JROTC, ROTC, CAP units for the 2023 Chapter Leadership Awards, Archer Awards and MOAA ROTC and JROTC Medal Awards sent out on 3 February 2023 requesting nominations.

- 2023 MOAA ROTC Awards – Virginia Tech
Senior Air Force Cadet Jacob Osborn
Senior Army Cadet Ian Ecktrom
Senior Navy Cadet Elijah Swan
- 2023 Chapter Leadership Awards
The General William B. Rosson Leadership Award to Cadet Shelby J. Valade, Army ROTC Radford University.
The Major General Lloyd B. Ramsey Leadership Award to Cadet Jacob A. Osborn, Air Force ROTC Virginia Tech.
- JROTC/CAP Awards

- **Community Services Volunteer Representative – LTC Karnes**
NTR

Old Business

Reviewed, no further discussion.

1. Wreath Laying Ceremony, Memorial Plaza Monday Memorial Day Monday 29 May 2023.
2. Wreath Laying Ceremony, Southwest Virginia Cemetery Volunteers conducted a Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday 29 May 2023 at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin Virginia.
3. Saturday 12 August 2023 Brain Injury Services of Southwest Virginia Appreciation Event at the picnic pavilion, Salem Red Sox Stadium.

New Business

1. Future for Military Family Support Center, deemed as closed.
2. Renovation Alliance “Community Renovation Day” Saturday 7 October 2023. Veteran’s project located at 1106 Jackson Ave. Need volunteers.
3. “Leadership in America” Film Premier and Reception Monday 23 October 2023 Hotel Roanoke Washington Lecture Hall sponsored by The Virginia War Memorial Foundation. RSVP by 13 October 2023. See flyer for information.
4. Roanoke Veterans Day Parade Saturday 11 November 2023. Capt Gary Powers “Shore Patrol Jeep” with riders. Set up MOAA table in Market Building?
5. Christmas Wreath Laying Ceremony, Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery Dublin, Virginia Saturday 16 December 2023. Service ceremony volunteers requested Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force, POW and narrator.
6. Acknowledgement of the contributions of Major General Fullhart USAF (Ret) as Commandant, Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets as he retires on 1 July 2024.

Adjourn –

1130 hours