

# **MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

## **SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER**

### **MINUTES - BOARD OF DIRECTORS ZOOM MEETING**

**17 December 2020**

#### **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 1005 hours Eastern Standard Time on 17 December 2020.

#### **Directors and Chapter Officers Present**

President Lee Ensley, 1st Vice President Matthew Haag, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Membership Chair Robert Brown, Secretary Steve Jamison, Treasurer Scott Van Cleef, Sergeant At Arms Michael Kasnick, Legislative Affairs Representative and Awards Chair Robert Habermann, Chaplain and Past President David Gilleran, VCOC Representative and Personal Affairs Officer Jim Flynn, Smith Mountain Lake Satellite Representative Rick Cocrane, Surviving Spouse Representative Mary Lou Summers, Director Roger Burnett, Director John Miller, Director Tom Dalzell.

#### **Directors and Chapter Officers Absent**

Community Services Volunteer Representative Dan Karnes, Director Michael Leigh, Director Larry Johnson.

#### **Opening Prayer**

Chaplain Gilleran led the Board of Directors in prayer.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Matthew Haag 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 19 November 2020 were approved as submitted.

#### **Presidents Report –**

- President Lee Ensley welcomed all present on Zoom. There were 24 participants on line including Boyd Nix and Lincoln Smith from VCOC.

- Commented on the COVID-19 status of Community Services Volunteer Representative Dan Karnes and his wife Nancy. They are coping but still have some lingering effects.
- Provided an update on the status of the MOAA Community Outreach Grant that he is the process of working on for the Military Family Support Center (MFSC). Grant request due 28 February 2021. Ms. Melissa Delmonico is holding the organization together during a transition period. The MFSC is looking for another location that has more space than they have at the Blue Ridge Public television building. A food pantry date is scheduled for Friday 18 December.
- A discussion was held on an inquiry from the Adult Care Center in Roanoke on the possibility of the chapter initiating a Community Outreach Grant to support the Adult Care Center and the veterans in their care. With over 50 plus MOAA chapters nationwide and a limited amount of funds (\$75,000) a chapter requesting more than one grant would probably not be looked upon with favor. In addition the Southwest Virginia Chapter has had a long and lasting relationship with the MFSC supporting active duty, National Guard and Reserve members and their families in Southwest Virginia and parts of West Virginia. The Southwest Virginia Chapter would need to develop a similar relationship with the Adult Care Center to be able to support a grant request for the Adult Care Center.

### **Secretary's Report -**

- A report was presented by Secretary Jamison that the chapter membership stood at 121 as of 31 December 2020, a 22% increase from this time last year. The efforts of membership chair Bob Brown sending out recruitment letters from the MOAA membership lists was credited in getting the new members.

### **Treasurers Report**

- Prime checking account balance - \$8,391.91
- The Profit and Loss statement, Budget vs. Actual, 1 January through 16 December 2020 and reconciliation detail was presented for review via screen share.
- Leadership and savings fund balance - \$7,434.30, of which \$3,050 is in savings, \$3,750 from the VFW gift and \$634.30 in the Leadership Awards fund.
- The previously approved 2021 budget was presented. There was discussion on the Leadership Awards by the Board members. Two Leadership Awards will be awarded for the 2020 academic year with the two \$500 checks expensed in the 2020 year budget. The 2020 Leadership Award applications and nomination packages are currently being evaluated. Two Leadership Awards will be awarded for the 2021 academic class in the April 2021 time frame expensed in the 2021 budget year.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice Presidents Report**

- No report. Matt Haag' was complimented again for the excellent work in setting up the Zoom meeting protocols. Well done.

## **Membership Chair Report**

- Bob Brown indicated he sent out 12 letters a week ago using the new listing from MOAA. Out of the 500 letters he previously sent out the Chapter recruited 22 new members. .

## **Program Directors Report**

- Meeting programs scheduled for 2020-2021
  - 17 December 2020 – Board of Directors Zoom meeting. Installation of Officers and Board Members for 2021. A Zoom program with MOAA on the current state of MOAA by Captain Jim Carman, USN (Ret), Vice President of Council/Chapter and Member Support of MOAA..
  - 21 January 2021 – Zoom Board of Directors meeting followed by a Zoom program by Ms. Amy White from Virginia Western Community College. STEM Program and veterans.
  - 18 February 2021 – Board of Directors Zoom meeting. Zoom program (tentative) by chapter member Joe Obenshain on his recent trip to Southeast Asia and Vietnam.
  - 18 March 2021 – Zoom program TBD
  - 15 April 2021 – Board of Directors Zoom meeting. Zoom program TBD.
  - 20 May 2021 – Board of Directors Zoom meeting. Zoom program TBD.

## **Surviving Spouse Representative Report**

- The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Wreath Laying ceremony scheduled for 12 December 2020 at 1300 at the Wall of Honor in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery Dublin, Virginia was cancelled due to COVID 19. Wreaths will be placed by cemetery/volunteer personnel on 19 and 20 December. Mary Lou expressed profound thanks for those chapter members who financially supported the purchase of the wreaths for this year.

## **Public Relations Report**

- Communiqué Newsletter – 4<sup>th</sup> quarter (OCT-NOV-DEC) to be published in December 2020.
- Chapter Website & Face book – Up and running. Public Affairs/Media – Need a volunteer to fill this position.

## **Past Presidents Report**

- The Roanoke Valley Veterans Council Veterans Legislative Forum scheduled for 1 December 2020 has been cancelled due to COVID-19.

## **Directors Report's**

- John Miller reported that Roanoke Hospitality House, Veterans Assistance Fund received donations of \$1,940 including the Chapter's \$100 per year donation.

## **Legislative Liaison Report**

- MOAA's 2021 Top Legislative Priorities for the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress. While MOAA continues efforts to shape the end of the current legislative session, MOAA is looking toward the 117th Congress and the changes in the incoming administration's leadership and priorities that may impact service members. Here is a preview of MOAA's legislative priorities for the coming Congressional session:
  - Protect the military health system's pharmacy benefit, and achieve flexibility in TRICARE pharmacy co pays.
  - Address barriers to accessing care within the military health system, including TRICARE coverage gaps and mental health care access challenges.
  - Protect family support programs, and ensure military-provided services (housing, PCS, child care) are affordable, readily available, and meet quality standards.
  - Sustain pay raises for the troops and COLA raises for retirees.
  - Ensure Coast Guard members are paid during a government shutdown.
  - Sustain Veterans Health Administration foundational missions and services.
  - Achieve equity of benefits, protections, and administrative support for Guard and Reserve members consistent with their active-duty counterparts.
  - 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 Arlington National Cemetery as an option for those currently eligible to receive full military honors by expanding our national cemetery.
  - Improve survivor benefits.

MOAA's legislative objectives need to be flexible and scalable to match the legislative environment.

## **Smith Mountain Lake Satellite Report**

- Rick Cocrane reported that there are no scheduled dates or plans to reconvene the Smith Mountain Satellite meetings until COVID-19 is under control. Roger Sorensen also participated in the Zoom meeting.

## **Committee Chairperson's Report**

- Awards Chair Bob Habermann reported that four (4) nominations for the 2020 Leadership Awards were received from Virginia Tech and two nominations (2) received from Radford University. Volunteers were requested to review the nominations and make award recipient recommendations. Tom Dalzell, Jim Flynn, Roger Burnett and Dan Costantini volunteered. These Leadership Awards are for the class of 2020. Nominations for 2021 Leadership Awards are to be submitted by April 2021.

## **Old Business**

- No report.

## **New Business**

- The Board of Directors reviewed the approved slate of Chapter Officers and Board of Directors for 2021 attached at the end of this report.

## **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**

1<sup>st</sup> 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 Captain Jim Carman, USN (Ret)**

- Chapter President Lee Ensley recognized several new members and guests and introduced the guest speaker Captain Jim Carman, USN (Ret), Vice President of Council/Chapter and Member Support of MOAA.
- Captain Jim Carman, USN (Ret) administered the oath of office to the 2021 Chapter Officers and Board Members. See the listing below.
- Captain Jim Carman presented an update on the current status of MOAA. The title of his presentation was: “*Serving the Military Community and Having An Impact*”.
- Six Strategic Focus Areas were discussed:
  - 1. Advocacy -Educating and Informing Congress
  - 2. Membership – 350,000 members -47% Life, 19% Premium, and 34% Basic Members.
  - 3. Chapters – Delivering member value with programs
  - 4. Engagement – Keeping members informed
  - 5. Resources – More video and online content; Community Outreach Grants; increasing Chapter support with sales training, webinars, virtual chapter growth, chapter leader workshops; MOAA Scholarship Fund; The MOAA Foundation.
  - 6. Organizational Capacity and Innovation – Strategic investments: World Class Headquarters, strengthening the MOAA team, Strategic Plan update, Board Selection was completed.
  - Captain Carman answered several questions from the Zoom participants.

**Next Chapter Zoom Meeting**

- 1030 Hours Thursday 21 January 2021.

**MOAA SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER OFFICER  
AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2021**

**PRESIDENT**

CDR Lee M Ensley, USN (Ret)

**FIRST VP**

CAPT Matthew K Haag USN (Ret)

**SECOND VP**

COL Robert F Brown USA (Ret)

**SECRETARY**

LTC Steve Jamison, USA (Ret)

**TREASURER**

BG Scott Van Cleef, USAF (Ret)

**PROGRAMS**

COL Thomas J Dalzell, USMC (Ret)

**CHAPLAIN**

LTC Dave Gilleran, USA (Ret)

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

COL Robert F Brown USA (Ret)

**VCOC REPRESENTATIVE**

LTC James Flynn, USA (Ret)

**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS REP**

LTC Robert Habermann, USA (Ret)

**PERSONAL AFFAIRS REP**

LTC Steve Jamison, USA (Ret)

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS, NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

COL Thomas J Dalzell, USMC (Ret)

**FACEBOOK EDITOR**

CDR Lee M Ensley, USN (Ret)

**WEBMASTER**

LCDR Klaus (Ted) Lonitz, USN (Ret)

**AWARDS CHAIR**

LTC Robert Habermann, USA (Ret)

**SERGEANT AT ARMS**

MAJ Michael Kasnick, USA (Ret)

**BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE**

LTC Dave Gilleran, USA (Ret)

**TRANSITION TEAM REP**

CDR Michael Leigh, USN (Ret)

**COMMUNITY SERV VOL REP**

LTC Dan Karnes, USAR (Ret)

**SURVIVING SPOUSE REP**

Mrs. Mary Lou Summers

**SMITH MOUNT SATELLITE REP**

CAPT Richard Cocrane, USN (Ret)

**DIRECTORS**

COL Robert F Brown USA (Ret)

CAPT Roger Burnett, USN Ret)

BG Scott Van Cleef, USAF (Ret)

CAPT Richard Cocrane, USN (Ret)

COL Thomas J Dalzell, USMC (Ret)

CDR Lee M Ensley, USN (Ret)

LTC James Flynn, USA (Ret)

LTC Dave Gilleran, USA (Ret)

CAPT Matthew K Haag USN (Ret)

LTC Robert Habermann, USA (Ret)

LTC Steve Jamison, USA (Ret)

CPT Larry Johnson, USAR (former)

LTC Dan Karnes, USAR (Ret)

MAJ Michael Kasnick, USA (Ret)

CDR Michael Leigh, USN (Ret)

COL John Miller, USA (Ret)

Mrs. Mary Lou Summers