

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER

MINUTES - BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

15 September 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 1005 hours Eastern Standard Time on 15 September 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; Sergeant At Arms Michael Kasnick; Smith Mountain Lake Satellite Representative Rick Cocrane; Surviving Spouse Representative Mary Lou Summers; Director Tom Dalzell; Director John Miller; Director Larry Johnson.

Directors and Chapter Officers Absent

Past President Lee Ensley; Legislative Affairs Representative and Awards Chair Robert Habermann; Community Services Volunteer Representative Dan Karnes; VCOC Representative Anita White; Director Roger Burnett; Transition Team and Director Michael Leigh; Military Family Support Center President Roger Talmadge.

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 21 April 2022 were approved as submitted.

President's Report –

- President Matt Haag, COL John Miller, LTC Dan Karnes and LTC Bob Habermann met on Friday 9 July 2022 with 9th District Congressman Morgan Griffith to personally make him aware of MOAA Nationals position on the Major Richard Star Act and the Honoring our PACT Act and asking for his support.
- CAPT Gary Powers, LTC Dan Karnes, LTC Steve Jamison met with 6th District Congressman Ben Cline on 4 August 2022 to discuss MOAA legislative priorities related to veterans healthcare and benefits. Gratitude was expressed to Congressman Cline for his support of PACT Act HR3967 providing support for Veterans exposed to toxic substances during military service.
- Attended a MOAA leaders meeting on 12-13 August 2022 in Raleigh, NC discussing issues on standards within MOAA and Chapters.
- Will attend the Roanoke Valley Veterans Association meeting in Roanoke on 26 September 2022.

Secretary's Report –

- Secretary Jamison reported on one new regular member Mrs. Evelyn Cox. She is a former US Army 1Lt. (nurse) and a surviving spouse.
- Received a \$50 direct deposit from MOAA for the Chapter Community Action Program participation.

Treasurer's Report

- Income and Expenses Budget vs. Actual – Copy provided to each Board member
- Prime Checking Account balance – \$7365.64, 3 \$50 awards checks remain uncashed.
- Leadership Savings balance is \$5526.58.
 - + \$150 in sale of mugs, cost was \$270.08 with Steve holding a good number in stock.
 - + \$240 dues income.
 - + \$50 from MOAA Incentives.
 - Expenditure of \$565.97 applied to Recruiting/Marketing exceeds budgeted amount of \$200 due to expenditure of \$484.38 for Retractable Banner and Car Magnet with our new logo and \$81.59 for Ink Pens to give away at display table.
 - Income year to date exceeds expenses by \$1025.00.

1st Vice President's Report

- Will enter the Chapter in the annual Veterans Day Parade Saturday 12 November 2022. Capt Powers will drive his Shore Patrol jeep with chapter members riding.
- Brought up a suggestion for consideration to establish a Leadership Award in honor of BGEN Scott Van Cleef similar to the two Leadership Awards the chapter currently awards each year. After some discussion it was decided to table the issue for future discussion concerning chapter awards. Several chapter officers will meet to discuss this and other chapter issues for presentation to the membership.

Membership Chair Report

- 12 letters/emails sent out since April report, possibly 2 new members from that mailing.
- Set up display table at Salem ballpark during recent Veterans Celebration, had one former officer who took information and has since corresponded with me.
- Will look into setting up a MOAA Chapter table inside the Market Place building during the Veterans Day parade ceremony.

Program Directors Report

- 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. 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.
- Recommendations for future programs were discussed including local/state legislators; representatives from the VA hospital/ Veterans Center to encompass the VA realignment proposal; the Virginia State Attorney General; the Commissioner, Virginia Department of Veterans Services. Other suggestions offered include having an evening dinner with a program; a bus trip to the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond including lunch; a trip and meeting to Virginia Tech; and an informal outdoor picnic.

Surviving Spouse Representative Report

- The memorial for BGEN Scott VanCleaf. CDR Ensley and Mary Lou are leading the effort. A Memorial Bench option in conjunction with the Air Force Association is out due to cost and approval time constraints. A memorial stone has been identified, a location picked and awaiting an estimate from Valley Landscaping to prepare and transport and install the stone monument. The cost estimate for the memorial plaque is \$500-\$1,200.
- The “Veterans Tribute Bell Tower” permanent memorial. An architect rendering is being prepared for the fundraising effort to raise \$200,000 for the project. Approximately \$100,000 is currently on hand.

- The Southwest Virginia Cemetery Ambassadors. This program is working and underway with the motto “*No Veteran Buried Alone*”. Volunteers work one day a month from 0900 to 1700 daily. Reserves can now be interred in the cemetery. National Guard veterans must pay a fee.
- 10th Annual Wreath Laying ceremony will be held at 1300 hours on Saturday 17 December 2022 at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery Dublin, VA. Volunteers from the Southwest Virginia Chapter will represent all the services at the Wreath Laying Ceremony. Tom Dalzell will coordinate the volunteers.

Smith Mountain Lake Satellite Report

- The Smith Mountain Lake Satellite is conducting in person lunch meetings this year. Nine meetings are planned. On 12 September 2022 the satellite chapter hosted the Franklin County High School Air Force JROTC Unit. President CAPT Matt Haag attended the meeting.
- The 12 October 2022 lunch meeting will feature Ms. Linda Davenport and others in Civil War costumes with an appropriate program on the Civil War.

Public Relations Report

- Communiqué Newsletter – 2nd quarter 2022 (APR-MAY-JUNE) published in June 2022.
- Communiqué Newsletter – 3rd quarter 2022 (JULY-AUG-SEPT) to be published at the end of September.
- Chapter Website & Face book – Up and running. Public Affairs/Media – Need a volunteer to fill this position.
- CAPT Gary Powers volunteered to fill the position of Chapter Public Affairs/Media.
- Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award is due to MOAA January 2023.
- Chapter Levels of Excellence Award for 2021 is due to MOAA 1 May 2023.

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 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

- CAPT Burnett -
- LTC Gilleran -
- COL Miller – The Military Appreciation Night at the Salem Red Sox Ball Field was very successful and well attended. Three boxes of canned food were collected for the 82nd Airborne Food Pantry. The AUSA will participate in the 11 November 2022 Veterans Day Parade at the D-Day Memorial at 1100 hours.
- Capt Johnson –

Legislative Liaison Report

- LTC Habermann –
 - FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) – passed the House, in the Senate for action.
 - The PACT Act. The Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act — better known as the PACT Act signed into law by President Biden on 10 Aug 2022
 - MOAA's 2022 Legislative Priorities. Here is what we are focused on 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

- COL White-
 - Virginia House Bill 957, Classification of real property owned by certain surviving spouses for tax purposes.
 - VCOC Legislative Priorities:
 - **JLC 2022-01** Suicide Prevention among SMVF That the Governor and General Assembly approve funding and corresponding legislation to create a dedicated (Service Members, Veterans, and their Families) SMVF coordinator position in the Virginia Department of Veterans Services to continue to unify efforts in this area; build on efforts to identify, screen for risk, and refer to resources; to research, study and provide timely data on actual method/cause of suicides in the Commonwealth; to help roll out an online training tool for front-line providers; and to continue to build public awareness in this area.
 - **JLC 2022-02** Expand Tax Relief for Surviving Spouses of Military Service Members to also include “Died in the Line-of-Duty” That the Governor and General Assembly approve legislation that extends the real estate tax exemption for the surviving spouses of military service members who die while serving on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States of America to include those whose deaths were found to be “within the line of duty,” as determined by the Department of Defense.
 - **JLC 2022-03** VSO Color and Honor Guards That the Governor and General Assembly amend §18.2- 433.2 to grant an exemption to Veteran Service Organizations performing authorized color guard activities such as parades or dedication ceremonies and honor guard activities such as funerals or dedication ceremonies as well as the teaching, training, and practices necessary to achieve and maintain a level of professional proficiency.
 - **JLC 2022-04** Increase GF Support for State Veterans Cemeteries; Eliminate Spouse Burial Fees That the Governor and General Assembly appropriate an additional \$300,000 (GF) to the Virginia Department of Veterans Services so that the spouse burial charge may be eliminated at Virginia State Veterans Cemeteries, and that Virginia work with Congress to secure the funding (in the VA budget) to extend the VA plot allowance to spouses at all state veterans cemeteries nationwide.
 - **JLC 2022-05** Promote Hiring of National Guard and Reserve Members That the Governor and General Assembly approve \$50,000 to create a grant program to incentivize small to medium-sized

Virginia employers to hire members of the Virginia National Guard and Armed Forces Reserves.

- **JLC 2022-06** Virginia National Guard State Park Admission That the Governor and General Assembly grant free or reduced price admission to Virginia State parks to members of the Virginia National Guard.
- **JLC 2022-07** Virginia National Guard Income Tax Exemption That the Governor and General Assembly adjust increase the amount of income excluded from State Income Tax from \$3,000 to \$5,000, and that this amount be adjusted every five years to account for inflation.

- **Details can be found on the VCOC website:**
<https://moaavcoc.org/legislativeaffairs/>.

Committee Chairperson's Report

- **Awards Chair** – LTC Habermann
 - Letters requesting nominations will be sent to all ROTC, JROTC, CAP units in December/January 2023 for all the
 - MOAA ROTC/JROTC Medal Awards
 - Archer Awards
 - SWVC Leadership Awards
- **Community Services Volunteer Representative** – LTC Karnes

Old Business

- Wreath Laying Ceremony, Memorial Plaza Monday Memorial Day Monday 30 May 2022.
- Friday 8 July 2022 representatives from the Military Officers Association of America, Southwest Virginia Chapter (MOAA SWVA) met with Congressman Morgan Griffith and a member of his staff to discuss MOAA legislative priorities.
- Thursday 4 August 2022, MOAA Southwest Virginia Chapter members, Dan Karnes, Steve Jamison and Gary Powers met with U.S. 6th District Congressman Ben Cline and used the opportunity to discuss MOAA legislative priorities related to veterans healthcare and benefits.
- Saturday 20 August 2022 Brain Injury Services of Southwest Virginia Appreciation Event at the picnic pavilion, Salem Red Sox Stadium.
- Saturday 20 August 2022 Military Appreciation Night at Salem Red Sox Baseball Stadium.

New Business

- Military Family Support Center, its leadership, current viability, the SWVC support of and a path forward for the future. Several chapter officers will meet to discuss this and other chapter issues for presentation to the membership.

Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 1138 hours.
- The next meeting will be a membership meeting on Thursday 20 October 2022 at 1130 hours. Major General Randall Fullhart, USAF (Ret) will present a program

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.

- This is a membership meeting. There is not a Board of Directors meeting.