

# **MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

## **SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER**

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

**15 April 2021**

#### **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 1000 hours Eastern Standard Time on 15 April 2021.

#### **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, Community Services Volunteer Representative Dan Karnes, Smith Mountain Lake Satellite Representative Rick Cocrane, Surviving Spouse Representative Mary Lou Summers, Director Roger Burnett, Director John Miller, Director Tom Dalzell; Director Larry Johnson.

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

Director Michael Leigh,

#### **Opening Prayer**

Director Tom Dalzell 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 online.

#### **Approval of Board of Directors Meetings Minutes**

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of 18 February 2021 were approved as submitted.

#### **Presidents Report –**

- President Ensley led a short discussion on the future of chapter Board and Membership meetings whether in person or via ZOOM. At present future meetings will be via Zoom. President Ensley contacted the management at Hidden Valley Country Club and they are still not open for large gatherings for the near future. The situation is one of wait and see.

- The 2021 Leadership Awards will be discussed later with the Awards Chair
- President Ensley asked the chapter members to think about leadership positions for calendar year 2022. The chapter has a great team of leaders in 2021 but need to consider possible chapter leaders for 2022.
- President Ensley received a notice from MOAA about a planned MOAA National Zoom Leadership workshop scheduled for 30 April-1May 2021. Suggested chapter leaders consider sitting in on the Zoom workshop. Bob Brown and Matt Haag's names were submitted to attend. Bob Brown will join the Zoom. Matt Haag is out of town and won't be able to attend.

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

- Secretary Jamison reported the chapter membership stood at 120 as of 15 April. There are 109 regular members and 11 surviving spouses on the rolls.
- Two new members recently joined the chapter. LCDR Barry M. Goldberg, USPHS (Ret) and COL Jamie Cogbill USA, PMS Virginia Tech Army ROTC Unit.
- The renewal premium for the 2021 SWVC Chapter Voluntary Club/Chapter Insurance policy, Commercial, General Liability Certificate RL-6599030701 has been paid.

### **Treasurers Report**

- The financials were not available during the Zoom meeting but were provided on 11 May 2021 and included herein.
- Prime checking account balance – \$7,336.93 (Includes \$150 in Leadership funds)
- The Profit and Loss statement, Budget vs. Actual, 1 January through 11 May 2021 and reconciliation detail extended through 11 May 2021.
- Leadership and savings fund balance - \$7434.49 (Includes savings of \$4050; VFW \$3,380 and Leadership of \$4.49)

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

- No report.

### **Membership Chair Report**

- Membership Chair COL Bob Brown indicated he sends out about 15 contact letters each month from the MOAA master listing. Indicated that the MOAA master listing is an old listing.

### **Program Directors Report**

- Meeting programs scheduled for 2021
  - 15 April 2021 – Board of Directors Zoom meeting. Zoom program by CMDR Youssef Aboul-Enein, USN – “*Countering Terrorism Threats in the Context of Great Power Competition: Russia, China, Iran, and Managing Terrorism.*”
  - 20 May 2021 – Membership Zoom meeting. Program by BGEN Scott Van Cleef, USAF (Ret) – The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Program
  - 16 September 2021 – Board of Directors Zoom meeting. Zoom program

TBD.

- 21 October 2021 – Membership Zoom meeting. Zoom program TBD.
  - 18 November 2021 – Board of Directors Zoom meeting. Zoom program TBD
  - 16 December 2021 – Board of Directors Zoom meeting. Zoom program TBD.
- Installation of Officers and Board of Directors for 2022.
- Invites for future programs will be either Zoom or in person depending on the coronavirus situation. The chapter will invite previous program presenters to attend the first available in person gathering to personally thank them for their Zoom presentations.

### **Surviving Spouse Representative Report**

- The Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery Volunteers web site [www.swvavcv.org](http://www.swvavcv.org) was mentioned for all to see what the SWVVCV “Volunteers” accomplish each year.

### **Public Relations Report**

- Communiqué Newsletter – 1st quarter 2021 (JAN-FEB-MARCH) published in March 2021.
- Communiqué Newsletter – 2nd quarter 2021 (APR-MAY-JUNE) scheduled for publication in June 2021.
- 2020 Chapter Levels of Excellence Award submitted 9 April 2021.
- Chapter Website & Face book – Up and running. Public Affairs/Media – Need a volunteer to fill this position.
- Suggested to include in upcoming editions of the chapter newsletter information on the need to support the Military Family Support Center.

### **Past Presidents Report**

- The Board of Directors agreed to support a Chapter Memorial Day Wreath Laying ceremony at Lee Plaza on Memorial Day 2021. LTC Dan Karnes will make the necessary arrangements.

### **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 Legislative Update. MOAA's 2021 Legislative Agenda is contained in the minutes of the 18 February 2021 Board of Directors meeting. Check the 18 February Board of Directors minutes on the chapter website [www.moaaswva.org](http://www.moaaswva.org). They can also be found at the MOAA link ***MOAA.org, MOAA's 2021 Legislative Priorities***.
- A MOAA webinar was conducted on 6 April 2021 on what's happening with your military benefits on Capitol Hill by MOAA's financial and benefits professionals -- Lt. Col. Shane Ostrom, USAF (Ret), CFP, and Capt. Paul Frost, USN (Ret), AFC -- For a comprehensive review of recent legislation and MOAA's priorities

for the upcoming National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Topics included:

- Where our federal dollars are spent
- Military experience of our legislators
- Recent legislative wins and losses
- MOAA's 2021 and 2022 legislative priorities
- SBP-DIC offset elimination phase-in

MOAA's COLA Watch MOAA Premium and Life members have access to all recorded MOAA webinars at any time via *MOAA's Webinar Archive*. They will send you a link to the recording within a week. Additionally, the video will be archived on the MOAA website for our paid membership.

### **VCOC Report**

- **JLC 2021 Initiatives**: A summary of the 2021 JLC Initiatives Policy papers for each initiative can be accessed on the JLC webpage at:  
[https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/JLC-2021-Initiatives\\_SUMMARY-as-of-Nov-20-2020.pdf](https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/JLC-2021-Initiatives_SUMMARY-as-of-Nov-20-2020.pdf)

### **Smith Mountain Lake Satellite Report**

- Rick Cocrane reported that the SML chapter held a lunch meeting at the Old Oak Café in Moneta, VA on Tuesday 13 April 2021 with 25 members in attendance including Virginia House of Delegates Representative Charles Poindexter. The program featured a program by Frank Ernandes. His 59 year career in the aerospace industry gained him a solid reputation in the fields of electronic warfare and space exploration, and led to many years of international travel. Frank was involved in the development of heat seeking air-to-air missiles, and a number of other space and defense related projects. He elaborated on his involvement with the safe landing of the probe "Curiosity" on Mars in 2012, and commented on the recent landing of "Perseverance", the latest Mars probe.

### **Committee Chairperson's Report**

- **Awards Chair**:
  - The MOAA JROTC Medal Awards and The Major James Milton Archer, Jr., USA awards were sent to 4 area high schools and 1 Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Unit. Repeated attempts to get nominations from other high schools were not successful.
  - Three 2021 MOAA ROTC Awards were forwarded to Virginia Tech for presentation in a ZOOM awards ceremony on Thursday 22 April 2021.
  - 2021 Chapter Leadership Awards. Nomination packages due 29 March 2021. Four nominations were received from Virginia Tech. Of these four nominations three were not acceptable as they were not juniors but seniors graduating in May 2021.
  - The Board of Directors agreed to award the General William B. Rosson USA Leadership Award to Midshipman Michael M. Collins of the Virginia Tech NROTC Unit. Midshipman Collins has a GPA of 3.86 in Mechanical Engineering and upon graduation will be commissioned an officer in the United States Navy or the United States Marine Corps.
  - The Patrick Henry High School AF JROTC Program will conduct an awards ceremony on Friday 7 May 2021 at 1900 hours in the football stadium.

President Lee Ensley will be the chapter representative to attend the ceremony and assist in the awards.

- Two area high schools have dropped the JROTC program. Tazewell High School and Auburn High School.

### **Old Business**

- No report.

### **New Business**

- No report

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## **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 CDR Youssef Aboul-Enein, USN.**

- Chapter President Lee Ensley recognized several new members and guests and introduced the guest speaker CDR Youssef Aboul-Enein.
- CDR Youssef Aboul-Enein is a U.S. Navy commander in the Medical Service Corps. Since 9/11, he has been immersed in and advised on counterterrorism and Middle East affairs at the highest levels of the defense department and intelligence community. He has trained thousands of deploying U.S. military personnel in a military career that spans more than two decades. Aboul-Enein has taught graduate level courses on Islam and the Middle East at both the National Intelligence University and National Defense University. He is the author of several books, most notably, *Militant Islamist Ideology: Understanding the Global Threat*.
- CDR Aboul-Enein highlighted his recent book, *Middle East 101* (Naval Institute Press, 2019), which was featured in last year's MOAA Magazine "Military Officer," as one of the top 5 books to read this summer for the Military Professional. In his book he proposes a common framework and definition of "Militant Islamist Ideology" to be considered by all ranks within the U.S. military. It seeks to define the differences between Islam, Islamist, and Militant Islamist,

with the objective of disaggregating the immediate threat posed by Militant Islamist groups, and disaggregating them from Islamists and Islam. Winning this long war against militant Islamist ideology will require a higher level of nuanced understanding that will enable U.S. military personnel to comprehend that militant Islamists operate with the friction of diverse Islamic practices, nationalism, and tribalism inherent in the human landscape of the region.

Chapters highlight how Militant Islamist ideology takes fragments of Islamic history and theology to weave it into a narrow, pseudo-intellectual ideology that justifies their violence against Muslims and non-Muslims alike and their radical worldview.

Without a realistic and sound doctrine-based definition of the threat we shall be stuck between two extremes in American national policy discourse, those who advocate all Islam is evil and those who advocate all Islam is peace. These extremes are not effective in deriving effective policy or addressing the nuances and perversion that Militant Islamist ideology has wrought upon Islam that is just beginning to outrage many Muslims. We cannot afford to call this phenomenon Islamism or Islamo-fascism and somehow link this as the new fascism or communism. It is imperative to begin thinking about this problem in new ways delineating between Islam, Islamist, and Militant Islamist, thereby providing both Muslims and non-Muslims a common reference to the ideology of the Militant Islamist which al-Qaida represents. Militant Islamists alienate not only the United States but even Islamist political groups like the Muslim Brotherhood and HAMAS. It is time for a more nuanced definition of the threat.

- CDR Aboul-Enein addressed what he termed counter terrorism “Hot Spots” and the need to have oversight and management of these various terrorist threats which he considered were more of a nuisance and not critical threats.
- He addressed what he saw as the “great powers competition” between the United States, China and Russia and the challenges for access to critical minerals and hegemony throughout critical areas of the globe. In the case of Russia the main aim is to decouple the USA from NATO.
- CDR Aboul-Enein stressed the necessity of the US military to make the necessary changes to meet the threat especially in the area of cyber warfare and to be aware of the competition from industry drawing highly trained individuals away from the armed forces.
- He feels that the current refugee problems facing Jordan, Israel and other areas pose an economic threat.
- Leaving Afghanistan will allow Al Qaeda to establish bases from which to cause instability in the region.
- CDR Aboul-Enein answered a number of questions from the Zoom participants concerning his presentation especially concerning the future of Isis and Al Qaeda.

### **Next Chapter Zoom Meeting**

- 1200 Hours Thursday 20 May 2021.