

Military Officers Association of America  
El Paso Chapter



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
January 2019

A meeting of the El Paso Chapter of the Military Officers Association (MOAA) was held 26 January 2019 at the Candlewood Suites in El Paso TX.

Attendance:

President: COL (RET) Forrest Smith (via telecon)  
Secretary: Col (RET) Steve Barrett  
Treasurer: Ms. Elma Smith (via telecon)  
Immediate Past President: COL (RET) Lennie Enzel  
Programs: Col (RET) Bob Pitt  
Publications/Newsletter Editor: LTC (RET) Bill Moore  
Legislative Liaison: CW2 (RET) Dave Garcia  
Membership Chairman: CPT (RET) Steve Mendoza  
Public Relations/Door Prizes: LTC (RET) Martha Caldwell  
MOAA Outreach Foundation President: BG (RET) Jack Kotter  
Member at Large: CPT (RET) David Thackston

1. Administrative: The meeting was called to order at 0803.
2. President's Remarks: COL (RET) Forrest Smith welcomed all on the call and immediately highlighted the Paso Del Norte Borderplex Veteran Coalition MOU and briefing slides that were handed out to all in attendance. He indicated a desire to have an in-depth discussion on the topic later in the meeting.
3. Old Business:
  - A. Secretary: Col (RET) Steve Barrett provided a copy of the December 2018 BOD minutes which were approved as submitted.
  - B. Treasurer: Ms. Elma Smith provided a review of the December 2018 Balance Sheet and Profit/Loss statement. The Profit/Loss Sheet reflects a net loss of \$286.72 for the month. Primary sources of income were luncheon payments, door prizes and membership dues while the expenses included merchant fees, luncheon costs and postage/mailling. Additionally, \$325 was transferred to the El Paso MOAA Outreach Foundation; \$300 to cover the approved donation to the West Point Society as well as a \$25 member donation. Ms. Smith also highlight the Outreach Foundation owes the Chapter reimbursement costs (~\$120) to cover the merchant fees incurred for donations received/transferred this past year. Finally, a motion was approved to transfer \$3,000 to the checking account to cover projected incoming December and February Border Bulletin fees and postage/meter expenses.
  - C. Immediate Past President: COL (RET) Lennie Enzel's inputs led to many lengthy discussions:
    1. COL (RET) Lennie Enzel attended the recent Ft Bliss Retiree Council meeting on base where it was highlighted that we ran out of cookies and water at the recent RAD festivities. This

occurred as the provided amounts were based on past attendance and this year over 650 attended so the Cookie Monster did not have enough cookies on hand.

2. COL (RET) Smith also shared there will likely be a RAD leadership turnover this year and the new coalition may seek to expand the RAD to become a multi-day event. Our distinguished President would like the Chapter to be part of that discussion to help influence the changes necessary to make this a better event. One idea is to spend the first day or two developing a consensus on the Top 10 issues for presentation to applicable politicians and then culminate the gathering with an enjoyable dinner and guest speaker.
  3. BG (RET) Jack Kotter asked an overarching question of whether the goal is to establish a coalition because of RAD or if RAD is just the event everyone uses as the catalyst for VSO collaboration? COL (RET) Smith replied the goal is to develop a collaborative coalition to identify local and national issues to focus on; we need to evolve so organizations stop going to political representatives and organizations as individuals or individual units and start engaging those representatives and organizations as a unified coalition of VSOs. A unified coalition could provide stronger support and expand awareness of available assets/entities that could support veterans in need of assistance, large or small.
  4. LTC (RET) Bill Moore shared his opinion the goal of the coalition is to support veterans in El Paso and those who pass thru our town; he is concerned the Chapter could get overwhelmed trying to support all of the veterans in town as well as those transiting thru. He believes Chapter involvement is a great idea but it will require energy and involvement by more than just the BoD as we have historically seen.
  5. LTC (RET) Martha Caldwell highlighted there are many local community assets (the Food Pantry for example) where veterans in need could be "steered" towards if the issue is not a veteran-only issue.
  6. COL (RET) Smith interjected his desire for everyone to review the coalition documents provided and to share their thoughts. He also relayed that Mr. George Whitmire will provide a briefing on the coalition at the upcoming luncheon.
  7. COL (RET) Enzel concluded by reporting that Congresswoman Escobar visited the local VA this week and she is also planning to hold a Town Hall this morning at 0900.
- D. Membership: CPT (RET) Steve Mendoza expressed his sincere appreciation for the calls and support as he deals with his ongoing treatments. He also passed out information on a potential Honor Flight candidate for this year.
- E. Programs: Col (RET) Pitt shared the following reports:
1. Recapping words he shared last month, the December luncheon was a total success and the event yielded a profit of nearly \$200 and door prize sales yielded nearly the same amount.
  2. The February luncheon is set for the Underwood Golf Course on 9 Feb 2019 with Steak Tampiqueña as the main course. COL Michael Hester from Joint Task Force North will be the guest speaker;
  3. The April luncheon is also set for the Underwood Golf Course on 13 Apr 2019. Multiple recommendations for guest speakers were made and discussed; consensus was not obtained so additional dialogue will be required to make the decision.
- F. Legislative Liaison: CW2 (RET) Dave Garcia advised he went to the recent VSO meeting with Congresswoman Escobar and he submitted multiple items for her agenda including HR333 bills and a Tricare For Life initiative. CW2 (RET) Garcia also talked to Mr. Sparks about TX211 and the need to update organizational info. He is not sure if we are part of TX211 but if not we should consider it. BG (RET) Kotter replied, sharing the same thought this writer had, that this is the first he had heard of TX211 and would like to know more about it.

- G. Meeting Departure/ROTC Medal Request: Col (RET) Barrett interrupted the ongoing lively discussions to share he had to depart the meeting at 0900 to support CBP's resumption of activities following the end of the government shutdown. He asked the BoD to share with LTC (RET) Powell that EPISD had contacted him and requested 10 MOAA Medals be presented at their Annual Review and Awards Ceremony to be held at Andress High School on Friday 3 May 2019. LTC (RET) Moore indicated he would take notes for remainder of the meeting.
- H. Publications/Webmaster: LTC (RET) Bill Moore provided the following inputs:
  - 1. He sent an application to the Texas Veterans Commission in order to apply for TVC grants;
  - 2. The February Border Bulletin was delivered to the Post Office this past Wednesday;
  - 3. Inputs for the April 2019 Border Bulletin are due no later than 3 Mar 2019;
  - 4. The requested DUNS number was received;
  - 5. He also received the MWR certificate to operate as a private organization on Fort Bliss.
- I. Public Relations: LTC (RET) Martha Caldwell stated that notifications were submitted to the media announcing the upcoming February 2019 Membership Meeting and Luncheon.
- J. JROTC/ROTC: No report, LTC (RET) Dave Powell was absent. See comments in 3G above.
- K. Auxiliary/Surviving Spouse Liaison: No report, Ms. Sullivan was absent.
- L. Door Prizes: LTC (RET) Caldwell emphasized a need for additional door prizes

4. New Business:

- A. TCC 1st QTR 2019 Report due NLT 14 February 2019: LTC (RET) Bill Moore informed the BOD that he would submit the report to TCC before the aforementioned date. Suggested meeting attendees (call in) are the Chapter president, legislative chair and membership chair.
- B. Paso Del Norte Borderplex Veteran Coalition: COL (RET) Smith asked all attendees to review the Coalition handout. He stated the importance of this organization and its relevance to the prioritization of veteran issues and the submission of those issues to Representative Escobar. LTC (RET) Moore shared his reservations regarding what the chapter would be required to do for local veterans and veterans transitioning through the area—the document was unclear. COL (RET) Smith stated that we should reserve further comment until after the 9 February presentation by George Whitmire at the Membership Luncheon.
- C. Submitted 2018 Communications Award packet to MOAA National: LTC (RET) Moore informed the BOD that he submitted the awards packet to MOAA National. He further stated that the Border Bulletin would not receive a Five-Star rating because newsletter did not have a link to MOAA's legislative action page— 30 points in the evaluation. LTC (RET) Moore stated that he would correct the omission in future Border Bulletin issues. COL (RET) Smith stated that he did not understand the reasoning and that he would voice his concerns with LTG Atkins, MOAA CEO.
- D. Waiver for utilities use in Building 452: LTC (RET) Moore informed the BOD he would submit the waiver through the Fort Bliss Facilities Engineers to the Garrison Commander for approval.

- E. Initial setup of one computer at The Hope Institute. Will finish install on Wednesday: LTC (RET) Moore stated that he will coordinate a time with Hope Jackson to finish the install. Additionally, he invited Hope to attend the February luncheon as his guest.
- F. POC at Sunland Race Track has not returned my calls— Day at the Races???: The BOD decided to cancel MOAA Day at the Races for 2019.
- G. EPMOAA trip— Band of Brothers Tour in Europe or trip to Israel: After a small discussion, no decision was made. LTC (RET) Moore will follow-up with MOAA travel.
- H. IRS submissions for Chapter and Foundation: LTC (RET) Moore reminded the BOD of the requirement to make the required submissions to the IRS for 2018. A current Form 990 is a prerequisite for most grant submissions.
- I. Sponsors needed! LTC (RET) Moore stated a desperate need for sponsors / advertisers for the Border Bulletin or website. There has been a detrimental reduction in non-dues revenues for the Chapter. COL (RET) Enzel said she would talk to First Command Financial. LTC (RET) Moore stated he would approach MonteVista again.

5. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Col (RET) Steve Barrett, Secretary

FORREST SMITH  
COL, USA, Retired  
MOAA President, El Paso Chapter