

Military Officers Association of America  
El Paso Chapter



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
April 2019

A meeting of the El Paso Chapter of the Military Officers Association (MOAA) was held 27 April 2019 at the Candlewood Suites in El Paso TX.

Attendance:

President: COL (RET) Forrest Smith  
Secretary: Col (RET) Steve Barrett  
Treasurer: Ms. Elma Smith  
Programs: Col (RET) Bob Pitt  
Publications/Newsletter Editor: LTC (RET) Bill Moore  
Legislative Liaison: CW2 (RET) Dave Garcia  
Membership Chairman: CPT (RET) Steve Mendoza  
ROTC/JROTC Activities: LTC (Ret) Dave Powell  
MOAA Outreach Foundation President: BG (RET) Jack Kotter  
Member at Large: CPT (RET) David Thackston

1. Administrative: The meeting was called to order at 0805.
2. President's Remarks: COL (RET) Forrest Smith had no welcoming remarks.
3. Old Business:
  - A. Secretary: Col (RET) Steve Barrett provided a copy of the March 2019 BOD minutes which were approved as submitted.
  - B. Treasurer: Ms. Elma Smith provided a review of the March 2019 Balance Sheet and Profit/Loss statement. The Profit/Loss Sheet reflected a net loss of \$52.99 for the month. Primary sources of income were luncheon payments and membership dues while the major expenses included operational costs for postage stamps and fees for non-profit mailings.
  - C. Immediate Past President: No report, COL (RET) Lennie Enzel was absent.
  - D. Membership: CPT (RET) Steve Mendoza had no report for membership but shared his preference that the Border Bulletin be printed in color vice the recent black and white version; he opined that the color version provided a significantly higher quality product which could make a difference to members and potential members. COL (RET) Smith acknowledged the preference but stated this has been a topic of discussion for quite some time and although the BOD fully agrees color is the desired option, fiscal realities dictate the change to black and white print that has been adopted.
  - E. Programs:
    1. Col (RET) Pitt reported the April luncheon "was great." Everyone thoroughly enjoyed CBP/AMO Deputy Director Maldonado's presentation and Q&A. Col (RET) Pitt reviewed the costs and expenses for the luncheon which collectively yielded a net profit of \$239.60 (including \$119.00 in door prizes).

2. The 8 June 2019 Luncheon is set for the Centennial Club; the guest speaker is still TBD and the menu will feature lasagna and garden vegetables. Guest speaker coordination is ongoing and hopefully either Congresswoman Escobar or WBAMC Commander Rude will accept our invitation. Col (RET) Pitt also relayed he would be absent for the luncheon and LTC (RET) Bill Moore volunteered to pick up the flags.
3. Col (RET) Pitt relayed the El Paso Chihuahuas have once again offered tickets to the Chapter this year to attend the game on Tuesday 13 August 2019. COL (RET) and Ms. Smith will take lead on coordination efforts.

- F. Legislative Liaison: CW2 (RET) Dave Garcia reported that during the April luncheon he asked members for feedback regarding his legislative articles; he received positive feedback which the BOD echoed. He then provided status updates on multiple federal and Texas bills addressing elimination of the "widow" tax, concurrent receipt, COLA, Blue Water Navy, homeless veterans and many more key focus areas; the outstanding updates led to a detailed BOD conversation on "advocacy" versus "sharing information."
- G. Publications/Webmaster: LTC (RET) Bill Moore reported the Chapter has once again received the Communications 5-star Level of Excellence Award. LTC (RET) Moore also advised 3 May 2019 is the deadline for article for the June Border Bulletin.
- H. Public Relations: No report, LTC (RET) Martha Caldwell was absent.
- I. JROTC/ROTC: LTC (RET) Dave Powell provided an update and reviewed the remaining schedule for the ROTC/JROTC award ceremonies. He also reported that UTEP ROTC had advised that 10 of their pending graduates had joined MOAA and he recommended we provide their shoulder boards as previously agreed. Their commissioning ceremony is set for 17 May 2019 and he recommended we solicit support from members at the next luncheon to help offset the costs of the shoulder boards.
- J. Auxiliary/Surviving Spouse Liaison: No report, Ms. Sullivan was absent.
- K. Door Prizes: No report, LTC (RET) Martha Caldwell was absent.

4. New Business:

- A. Level of Excellence Packet (LOE) Submission to MOAA National: LTC (RET) Moore reported the nomination packet was submitted; results should be publicized in the August/September timeframe.
- B. June Membership Meeting and Luncheon Location: Topic previously covered; see the *Programs* update provided above.
- C. September/October Membership Meeting: A West Point graduate recently approached LTC (RET) Moore attempting to coordinate an opportunity for Joanna Sikorski to speak at a luncheon to share the story of Polish contributions. Concern was voiced by many about having a guest speaker whose presentation is really a "sales pitch" for donations from members. LTC (RET) Powell recommended we synchronize the request with the West Point Society given existing ties to the United States Military Academy. He will seek additional details and share them at the next BOD meeting.
- D. Texas Veterans Coalition Grant Opportunities Open Season: Open Season is in September and LTC (RET) Moore will submit a request on behalf of the Chapter.

- E. Southwest Councils and Chapters Leadership Workshop: The workshop will be held in Austin, TX 15-16 Nov 2019. MOAA National traditionally pays hotel expenses and the Chapter has previously paid transportation expenses. Ms. Smith highlighted the fiscal expenses and recommended any attendance decision factor in an associated value-added assessment which includes costs to the Chapter. LTC (RET) Powell indicated he would potentially volunteer to attend the event; additional discussion expected at the next BOD.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 0925.

Respectfully submitted by:

Col (RET) Steve Barrett, Secretary

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