

Military Officers Association of America
El Paso Chapter



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 2019

A meeting of the El Paso Chapter of the Military Officers Association (MOAA) was held 25 May 2019 at the Candlewood Suites in El Paso TX.

Attendance:

President: COL (RET) Forrest Smith
Secretary: Col (RET) Steve Barrett
Treasurer: Ms. Elma Smith
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
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 April 2019 BOD minutes which were approved with one correction.
 - B. Treasurer: Ms. Elma Smith provided a review of the April 2019 Balance Sheet and Profit/Loss statement. The Profit/Loss Sheet reflected a net loss of \$266.90 for the month. Primary sources of income were luncheon payments, membership dues and door prizes while the major expenses included luncheon costs and printing and copying costs.
 - C. Immediate Past President: COL (RET) Lennie Enzel had no report.
 - D. Membership: No report, CPT (RET) Steve Mendoza was absent.
 - E. Programs:
 1. Col (RET) Pitt reported the 8 June 2019 Luncheon is set for the Centennial Club; the guest speaker will be COL Rude and the menu will feature lasagna and garden vegetables. Col (RET) Pitt will call in the reservation numbers on the preceding Monday however he will be out of town after that so Ms. Smith will finalize the numbers later in the week. COL (RET) Enzel will order the cake.
 2. Col (RET) Pitt asked COL (RET) Enzel to verify if Congresswoman Veronica Escobar will indeed accept our invitation to be the guest speaker for the August luncheon.
 3. Col (RET) reported BG (RET) Jack Kotter will be the guest speaker at the Veteran's Treatment Court graduation on Wednesday 3 June 2019.

4. Col (RET) Pitt asked the BoD to verify that if the Chapter hosted the RAD in September if there would be an October luncheon; the answer was a resounding no.
- F. Legislative Liaison: CW2 (RET) Dave Garcia passed out 3 sheets summarizing Congresswoman Escobar's first 100 days in office and reported he attended Ms. Escobar's roundtable yesterday. CW2 (RET) Garcia will attend the Congresswoman's scheduled Town Hall on 8 June 2019 vice attending the luncheon. He also reminded everyone of the need to encourage all MOAA members to send letters to their representatives opposing the significant medical cuts that have been proposed.
- G. Publications/Webmaster: LTC (RET) Bill Moore advised the deadline to submit articles for the August Border Bulletin will be 3 July 2019.
- H. Public Relations: LTC (RET) Martha Caldwell reported articles announcing the June luncheon have been submitted to El Paso Inc., the El Paso Times and the Bugle.
- I. Legislative Liaison (Part II): COL (RET) Enzel provided insight on the DoD budget proposal to eliminate approximately 18,000 military medical positions. This 20% reduction could preclude retiree and family care treatment and could also severely impact areas with lower than needed medical positions in the civilian sector. CW2 (RET) Garcia shared additional insights as outlined in his handouts and he and COL (RET) Enzel highlighted different aspects and impacts of the changes.
- J. JROTC/ROTC: LTC (RET) Dave Powell reported all the ROTC/JROTC award ceremonies were complete and thanked everyone for their support.
- K. Auxiliary/Surviving Spouse Liaison: No report, Ms. Sullivan was absent.
- L. Door Prizes: LTC (RET) Martha Caldwell has enough door prizes for the upcoming luncheon.
- M. Legislative Liaison (Part III): CW2 (RET) Garcia reported that MOAA National is pushing the effort to reverse the budget proposal to dismantle the military's medical force. COL (RET) Enzel also advised that all veterans should have received Mission Act letters and the Mission Act will be discussed at the upcoming meeting on 31 May 2019 to be held at El Paso Community College's Val Verde campus of the El Paso. CW2 (RET) Garcia further highlighted that Governor Abbott will sign Texas Senate Bill 1200 which will allow a military spouse to engage in business or an occupation for up to three years (a normal military tour) with their license on arrival to Texas. The spouse will be required to submit a copy of their license and a copy of the spouse's military ID. The state agency will validate they are in good standing and will then send approval to operate. If the spouse wants to operate/practice longer than three years, they must get a Texas license/certification; this is considered a very reasonable requirement.

4. New Business:

- A. El Paso Count Veteran of the Year Award: LTC (RET) Moore sent a request for nominations to BoD members; the nomination deadline is 7 June 2019.
- B. June Membership Meeting and Luncheon Location: Topic previously covered; see the *Programs* update provided above.
- C. 2nd Quarter TCC Meeting, 14-15 June 2019: Meeting will be held in Waco, TX; LTC (RET) Moore will turn in required reports which are due NLT 13 June 2019. COL (RET) Smith will listen in to the conference call.

- D. September/October Membership Meeting: There have been no local meetings to discuss this year's RAD. COL (RET) Enzel will ask Mr. Hernandez if a guest speaker has been identified and once accomplished, LTC (RET) Moore will extend the invitation.
- E. Texas Veterans Coalition Grant Opportunities Open Season: Placeholder on the agenda to remind all the Open Season is in September and LTC (RET) Moore will submit the Chapter's request.
- F. Southwest Councils and Chapters Leadership Workshop: As discussed at last month's meeting, the workshop will be held in Austin, TX 15-16 Nov 2019. LTC (RET) Powell indicated he would potentially volunteer to attend the event.
- G. TCC North and TCC South Discussion: Some Chapters are exploring a potential breakaway which would result in a TCC North and a TCC South. LTC (RET) Moore was contacted to gauge our Chapter's interests/position; all agreed our Chapter will remain neutral should this effort continue.
- H. Member At-Large Input: CPT (RET) David Thackston reported the Military Order of World Wars (MOWW) next meeting will be held 15 June 2019 at Julio's restaurant with social hour starting at 1100 with the meeting to begin at 1200. MOWW will present their Citizen of the Year award to MG (RET) Greer.
- I. Legislative Liaison (Part IV): COL (RET) Enzel reengaged to provide additional words about the Mission Act which was passed a year ago. Many believe it is about privatizing the VA but it is not, the intent is squarely focused on attempting to provide better care and access. Changing timelines for appointments and driving time standards will impact whether the first priority for care is to be seen at the VA or referred to a community provider. The Act addresses Urgent Care and provides for three free visits followed by a \$30 co-pay for additional visits. Long-term caregiving is another critical area addressed in the Act. COL (RET) Enzel encouraged all to attend the Mission Act Town Hall or at the very least to review the Mission Act VA online.
- J. DEERS: LTC (RET) Moore recommended everyone check their DEERS info as DEERS recently had a major system issue; once the issue was addressed DEERS representatives realized they had lost 25,000 records.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 0906.

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

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