

Military Officers Association of America
El Paso Chapter



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
June 2019

A meeting of the El Paso Chapter of the Military Officers Association (MOAA) was held 25 June 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
Chaplain/Outreach Liaison: Ms. Connie Sullivan

1. Administrative: The meeting was called to order at 0806.
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 May 2019 BOD minutes which were approved as submitted.
 - B. Treasurer: Ms. Elma Smith provided a review of the May 2019 Balance Sheet and Profit/Loss statement. The Profit/Loss Sheet reflected a net gain of \$193.98 for the month. Sources of income were luncheon payments and membership dues; expenses included merchant fees and postage/ mailing costs. LTC (RET) Bill Moore will research why the merchant fees increased so much this month.
 - C. Immediate Past President: COL (RET) Lennie Enzel attended the recent Military Order of World Wars (MOWW) event at which MOWW recognized their 2019 Citizen of the Year. As part of the ceremony, they recognized MG (RET) Edward Greer as their 2018 Citizen of the Year (he was unavailable for presentation last year) and then recognized El Paso Sheriff Richard Wiles as their 2019 recipient.
 - D. Membership: CPT (RET) Steve Mendoza reported he attended the Retired Officers Wives Club meeting this month (since the group invited spouses to attend this month) and he believes this group provides a potential recruiting opportunity for our Chapter membership. He will pursue options and report back.

E. Programs:

1. Col (RET) Pitt reported their recent trip to Ireland was the best vacation ever for he and Julie (notwithstanding the stitches he incurred when the Cliffs of Mohor rudely impacted the bridge of his nose).
2. Transitioning to Chapter business, Col (RET) Pitt reported LTC (RET) Moore has been assisting with coordination for the 14 Aug 2019 Luncheon which will be held in the Sam Adams Room at the Centennial Club. The guest speaker will be Congresswoman Veronica Escobar; her audiovisual requirements are still to be determined. The menu will feature Schnitzel and cost will be \$20 per person. COL (RET) Enzel will order the traditional MOAA cake for dessert.
3. Col (RET) Pitt reported the RAD dinner scheduled for 27 Sep 2019 has been cancelled. The organizers are changing how RAD events will be reorganized and details should be forthcoming soon. As a result of that dinner being cancelled, Col (RET) Pitt has added a Chapter luncheon to the calendar on 12 Oct 2019 at the Underwood Golf Course. The guest speaker is still TBD.
4. Col (RET) Pitt reported that he and COL (RET) Enzel attended the Veteran's Treatment Court graduation on 3 June 2019 at which BG (RET) Jack Kotter was the guest speaker. It was a very nice ceremony filled with heartfelt emotion displayed by the graduates. Judge Barilla specifically recognized the Chapter for their participation and requested MOAA be part of the picture ceremony at the conclusion of the graduation. Col (RET) Pitt will request a copy of the pictures for inclusion in an upcoming Border Bulletin.

F. Legislative Liaison: CW2 (RET) Dave Garcia passed out a Legislative Update sheet that highlighted two amendments he offered to Congresswoman Escobar. She supported both H.R. 987, the Strengthening Health Care and Lowering Prescription Drug Costs Act, and H.R. 1500, the Consumers First Act, and both passed unanimously. CW2 (RET) Garcia also reported he introduced H.R. 2759, the Department of Defense (DoD) Climate Resiliency and Readiness Act; this bill would require DoD to adapt its infrastructure and operations to address climate change and improve energy efficiency in order to strengthen military readiness. Finally, Mr. Garcia again restated he continues to push to include "illness" into the Mission Act vice just "injuries" as it currently states.

G. Publications/Webmaster: LTC (RET) Bill Moore advised the deadline to submit articles for the August Border Bulletin remains 3 July 2019 and is also awaiting final input so he can publish the annual Directory.

H. Public Relations: No report, LTC (RET) Martha Caldwell was absent.

I. JROTC/ROTC: LTC (RET) Dave Powell had no ROTC/JROTC report however he did share information with the BoD about the exhibit to be introduced 19 Sep 2019 at the Centennial Club during a reception to honor Polish American Military Cooperation; the exhibit and reception recognizes Polish American cooperation from the Revolutionary War thru the present day.

J. Auxiliary/Surviving Spouse Liaison: Ms. Sullivan had no report. COL (RET) Enzel shared some widow's information with Ms. Sullivan for review and consideration.

K. Door Prizes: No report, LTC (RET) Martha Caldwell was absent.

4. New Business:

A. August Membership Meeting and Luncheon Location: Topic previously covered; see the *Programs* update provided above.

B. El Paso Chihuahuas Baseball Game: Col (RET) Pitt announced it appeared we missed our required response time and the tickets for the 13 Aug 2019 game were no longer available.

- C. Texas Veterans Coalition Grant Opportunities Open Season: Placeholder remains on the agenda to remind all Open Season is in September and LTC (RET) Moore will submit the Chapter's request.
 - D. September/October Membership Meeting: Topic previously covered; see the *Programs* update provided above.
 - E. Southwest Councils and Chapters Leadership Workshop, 15-16 Nov 2019: As discussed during the previous two month's meeting, the workshop will be held in Austin, TX. LTC (RET) Powell indicated he might still potentially attend and would provide confirmation by the next BoD meeting.
 - F. Arteflame Grills: LTC (RET) Moore introduced a sponsorship offer from Arteflame Grills. Arteflame will offer Chapter members 10% off their purchase of an Arteflame Grill and they will in turn provide the Chapter a matching 10% donation.
5. Benediction: Chapter Chaplain Connie Sullivan provided the benediction
6. The meeting was adjourned at 0858 and then Col (RET) Pitt regaled us with additional Ireland stories.

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

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