

Military Officers Association of America
El Paso Chapter



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 2020

A meeting of the El Paso Chapter of the Military Officers Association (MOAA) was held 30 May 2020 via conference call.

Attendance:

President: COL (RET) Mike Hester
Secretary: Col (RET) Steve Barrett
Treasurer, ROTC/JROTC: LTC (RET) Dave Powell
Legislative Liaison: CW2 (RET) Dave Garcia
Programs: Col (RET) Bob Pitt
Membership Chairman: CPT (RET) Steve Mendoza
Marketing Manager: CPT (RET) David Thackston
Chapter Staff Emeritus: COL (RET) Lennie Enzel

1. Administrative: The meeting was called to order at 0804.
2. President's Remarks: COL (RET) Mike Hester joined the call late due to a prior commitment and shared closing comments reflected later in these minutes.
3. Old Business:
 - A. Secretary: Col (RET) Steve Barrett provided minutes from the April 2020 BOD meeting which were approved with one spelling correction.
 - B. Treasurer: LTC (RET) Dave Powell provided multiple updates:
 1. There was minimal financial activity in April and the Chapter ended the month with a net loss of \$6.95. Income came from an advertiser payment and account dividends while expenses were limited to merchant fees/service charges and postage/ mailing costs.
 2. LTC (RET) Powell shared that the Chapter's prior financial data is stored in a QuickBooks file however it needs to be transferred from a MAC computer; he does not want to corrupt the data so until he can get it properly transferred to use on his computer, he will continue to use Excel to track and monitor the Chapter's financial data.
 3. The approved liability insurance payment (see last month's minutes) was made this month however the most recent luncheon income is still pending deposit.
 4. LTC (RET) Powell will facilitate the transfer of Chapter accounts to GECU as soon as he receives a copy of the signed minutes which reflect BOD approval of the transfer as well as a current copy of the Board of Members slate. Col (RET) Barrett indicated he would get with COL (RET) Hester later today to get the minutes signed and would also provide the BOD slate later in the day.
 5. The BOD approved the treasurer reports as written.
 - C. Immediate Past President: No report, COL (RET) Forrest Smith was absent.

D. Membership: CPT (RET) Steve Mendoza reported that Honor Flight candidate Mr. Garcia has indicated he is not comfortable with pursuing participation in an Honor Flight until the COVID-19 crisis has subsided. CPT (RET) Mendoza also advised the group he did not have a working computer at this time so COL (RET) Enzel offered to print some membership applications and information and then provide it to CPT (RET) Mendoza. LTC (RET) Powell in turn requested CPT (RET) Mendoza give him a call to coordinate a good time for LTC (RET) Powell to drop off membership applications/information.

E. Programs: Col (RET) Pitt reported the Underwood Golf Course was currently open for take-out orders only with no established potential date to fully reopen. He indicated he would periodically check back with them for any status updates. The idea of an outdoor gathering, in lieu of a luncheon, was offered for discussion however COL (RET) Lennie Enzel donned her medical liaison hat and advised the Chapter not to schedule any luncheons or in-person gatherings since most of our Chapter members are in the higher risk categories, large gatherings are still not permitted and masks and social distancing would be required at any event. After a brief discussion, the BOD agreed to forego trying to schedule any future gatherings until it is clearly safe and permissible to hold group events.

F. Legislative Liaison: CW2 (RET) Dave Garcia reported he is still living the daily dream. On the legislative front, there is still little movement due to the COVID crisis however he is monitoring HR 6933, Care for Seniors Act which could lead to increased DIC payments as well as HR 6591 which was introduced to ensure Veterans do not have to worry about seeking COVID treatments. CW2 (RET) Garcia also reported the VA is attempting to delay the Caregiver Act but on the good news front, over 20 VA facilities have resumed providing some non-COVID related services. Mr. Garcia also reported that Lowe's (Woodrow Bean location) had donated 100 3M masks; CW2(Ret) Garcia provided 80 mask to the VA and kept the remaining 20 to provide to Chapter members in need.

G. Publications/Webmaster: COL (RET) Bill Oseles was absent; Col (RET) Barrett reminded everyone that inputs for the next Border Bulletin were likely due by the 4th of July weekend.

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

I. JROTC/ROTC: LTC (RET) Dave Powell reported all JROTC medals and certificates were provided to local high schools. He also reported that UTEP held their commissioning ceremony on 15 May and he has about a 100MB of pictures to share.

J. Auxiliary/Surviving Spouse Liaison: No report, Ms. Sullivan was absent. *(Secretary's desire for Full Disclosure—Ms. Sullivan was absent due to Secretary error...yours truly used her prior email address when distributing meeting information so she was unaware of the call-in numbers)*

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

L. Marketing: CPT (RET) Thackston had nothing significant to report.

4. New Business:

A. COVID-19 Updates: COL (RET) Enzel reported that El Paso was delaying "opening up" due to the continued rise in local cases. She indicated the VA was very appreciative of the donations CW2 (RET) Garcia shared the past couple of months. A few BOD members were unaware of actual COVID reported data in the local area so all were advised to visit EPSTRONG.ORG; the site is updated daily and contains a significant amount of daily, cumulative and demographic data displayed via many different graphs and tables. COL (RET) Enzel acknowledged that many are

tired of the “lockdown” however she urged all of the importance to be smart, remain vigilant and adhere to the safety guidance in order to try and stay safe and reverse the current upward trend.

- B. Alibi: Highlighting a previous BOD discussion, LTC ((RET) Powell asked “what exactly MOAA National does to support local membership”? His inquiry led to a lively discussion and an impressive rant about the general consensus that there appears to be little “National” support for local Chapter membership issues; MOAA has over 350,000 members nationally so corporate advertising and insurance sales appear to be higher priorities than local membership challenges. CW2 (RET) Garcia highlighted that MOAA National is primarily legislatively focused so any local recruiting efforts should ensure recognition of the significant MOAA legislative success which benefits MOAA and other VSO members everywhere. CPT (RET) Mendoza then posed a couple of valid questions and COL (RET) Barrett recommend he contact his TCC and MOAA National counterparts to discuss his questions and our Chapter concerns and then share a recap with the BOD at our next meeting.

5. President’s Closing Remarks: COL (RET) Hester apologized for his late arrival and reminded everyone that El Paso was currently the #2 hotspot in Texas so we all need to stay safe and assist any of our Chapter members who may require assistance. Regarding the membership discussion, he indicated he would also reach out to MOAA National.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 0911.

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

MIKE HESTER
COL, USA, Retired
MOAA President, El Paso Chapter