

Military Officers Association of America  
El Paso Chapter



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
March 2016

A meeting of the El Paso Chapter of the Military Officers Association (MOAA) was held on 26 Mar 2016 at the Candlewood Suites, El Paso Texas.

Attendance:

President: COL (RET) Forrest Smith  
Secretary: Col (RET) Steve Barrett  
Treasurer: Ms. Elma Smith  
Immediate Past President: COL (RET) Lennie Enzel  
Chaplain: Ms. Connie Sullivan  
Publications/Newsletter Editor: LTC (RET) Bill Moore  
Public Relations/Door Prizes: LTC Martha Caldwell

1. Administrative: The meeting was called to order at 1008 and Ms. Sullivan provided the invocation.
2. President's Remarks: COL (RET) Forrest Smith welcomed all in attendance and shared the news that Maj Gen Robert White has just been announced as the incoming Commanding General for Ft Bliss and the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division to replace MG Stephen Twitty. M.G. White is currently serving as the Forces Command Deputy Chief of Staff for operations, plans and training at Ft. Bragg NC. Maj Gen Twitty's next assignment has not yet been announced.
3. Old Business:
  - A. Secretary: COL (RET) Steve Barrett provided a draft copy of the minutes for the 27 Jan 2016 BOD meeting. Minutes were approved as submitted.
  - B. Treasurer: Ms. Elma Smith provided a review of existing balances in each account as well as a review of the February 2016 Balance Sheet and Profit/Loss statement.
    1. February 2016 total income was \$3,665.60 with total expenses of \$9,901.93 for a monthly net loss of \$236.33. Primary sources of income were luncheon payments, membership dues and door prizes from the February membership meeting while the primary expenses were printing and copying as well postage and the Feb membership luncheon. Income and expenses for the Day at the Races offset each other as registration and reservation fees were returned accordingly.
    2. An initial discussion on the recent trend of net losses most months led to another lengthy discussion focused on the topic of reducing expenses by reducing the number of printed Border Bulletins by 50 which would necessitate reducing the public distribution totals at the Centennial Club, WBAMC and JTF-North from 30-30-20 to 10-10-10. The reduction in 50 copies per printing would yield an approximate savings of \$675 annually. No motion for decision was raised so topic tabled for future resolution.
  - C. Membership: A new member attempted to sign up online this month and was initially unsuccessful; conversation ref his effort at doing so led to a significant discussion regarding the challenges many perceive with logging onto the Chapter's website and also signing up for membership via the

website. Although there was clearly not agreement on the ease or lack thereof with the process, it was agreed that LTC (R) Bill Moore would put together a “Logging In and/or Enrolling for Membership” tutorial for an upcoming Border Bulleting issue. In addition to this “101” tutorial, we will begin displaying the webpage at future monthly luncheons and pick a recent article or webpage article to use as a demonstration to members on how to navigate the website. The goal is to help ensure all members are aware of the outstanding information that LTC Moore constantly updates on our award winning website.

- D. Programs: COL (R) Bob Pitt was absent but prior to his departure he reported all coordination for the 9 Apr 2016 membership luncheon is complete. The menu will include chicken cordon bleu and the cost for attendees will be \$20. Ms. Connie “FLOR” Sullivan, will entertain with her Spanish Floor Dances.
- E. Legislative Liaison: COL (R) Lennie Enzel highlighted there was significant ongoing action in many areas to include the proposed increases in Tricare and pharmacy fees as well as force downsizing and commissary price increases.
1. COL (R) Enzel also recapped the “active shooter” incident at WBAMC the previous day and she will write an article for an upcoming Border Bulletin edition that addresses response actions to such incidents as well as current VA initiatives.
  2. COL (R) Enzel also attended “Veteran’s Campaign Training” in Washington D.C. this past month.
    - i. The event and supporting organization is dedicated to putting more veterans in the government at all levels and training focused on the process to set up a campaign, fundraising and media engagement. Current campaign parties are seeking increases veteran involvement at all levels and there are paid and unpaid positions available.
    - ii. Political parties are also seeking to reach the millions of veterans who did not vote in the last election; the goal is to ensure all are registered and vote in the upcoming elections.
- F. Publications/Webmaster: LTC (R) Bill Moore shared that the April 2016 Border Bulleting was sent via email and hard copy this week. Input for the next Border Bulletin must be submitted NLT 3 May 2016.
- G. Public Relations: LTC Martha Caldwell reported articles were submitted this month to the El Paso Times, EP Inc. and The Bugle announcing our planned 9 Apr 2016 luncheon.
- H. JROTC/ROTC: Col (R) Steve Barrett reported UTEP ROTC Professor of Military Science LTC James Lee provided a list of upcoming events the UTEP ROTC program had planned and would like MOAA moral or financial support for.
1. The Chapter also received a formal invitation to attend the UTEP annual Military Ball and Spring Awards Ceremony on Friday, 22 Apr 2016, from 6 – 10 PM. Multiple members indicated a desire to attend; we will coordinate in the coming days to ensure we have representation. Col Barrett will ensure the UTEP cadre has the MOAA medal and certificate prior to the ceremony and will also verify costs to attend the Military Ball.
  2. COL (R) Smith highlighted UTEP cadet battalion will be at Joint Task Force-North to participate in a mentoring event on 30 Apr 2016.
  3. All MOAA medals and certificates were received from MOAA national. Col (R) Barrett will represent the Chapter for the presentation of MOAA JROTC medals at El Paso Independent School District Annual Review and Awards Ceremonies on Friday 6 May 2016 at Austin High School. The Ysleta ISD, Clint and Horizon High School JROTC units have also sent invitations to attend their ceremonies next month; Col (R) Barrett will coordinate with other BOD members to ensure a MOAA representative is present at each event to present our MOAA Medals.

- I. Auxiliary Liaison: Ms. Connie Sullivan submitted a chaplain article for the current Border Bulletin and she will plan to attend future funerals for MOAA members. Ms. Sullivan discussed the possibility of calling surviving spouses if a current list can be generated.
- J. Door Prizes: LTC Caldwell reported a good inventory of door prizes was still on hand.

4. New Business:

- A. 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Lt Gen Atkins may now be available on 11 Jun 2016 to attend our Chapter's planned celebration; LTC (R) Moore hopes to receive positive confirmation from MOAA national in the coming days. The Underwood Golf Course clubhouse is still unavailable so the Centennial Club is currently the likely destination; LTC (R) Moore will coordinate further with COL (R) Pitts when he returns from vacation.
- B. Membership Levels: Discussion was held addressing the dwindling membership levels for all service organizations; increased efforts must be made to recruit more active duty and retirees in the local area.
- C. 2016 Advertising Costs: First Command did renew their sponsorship and we also picked up REDFIN (realtor) as a new sponsor this month; we are still awaiting payment from First Light Credit Union. Additional sponsors are still needed to offset the loss of USAA sponsorship.
- D. Vietnam Memorial Dedication at the Flag Pole: A dedication ceremony will be held at the William Haddad WWII Memorial on 26 Mar 2016 at 1300.
- E. Massing of the Colors: Will be held at St. Raphael Catholic Church on 2 Apr 2016 and COL (R) Smith will attend the event. New flags have been ordered and should arrive in time for this event.
- F. Veterans Stand Down: This annual event will be held on 8 Apr 2016 with a focus on assisting veterans with their job search opportunities; veterans in need will also be provided breakfast and lunch. A motion was made and approved last month to contribute \$100 to support this event.
- G. EP MOAA Outreach: Next meeting is scheduled for 30 Mar 2016 at 1730.
- H. Ft Bliss Retiree Council: This month's meeting has been rescheduled and will now be held on 31 Mar 2016 at 1030. LTC (R) Moore is planning to attend.
- I. Travelling Vietnam Wall: The Patriot Guard will lead the arrival of *The Wall That Heals* at the Ft. Bliss National Cemetery on 13 April 2016 and lead set up activities. The wall will be on display from 14-17 Apr 2016. Ft Bliss CG Stephen Twitty will speak and we will support with our Chapter colors. Sponsors are still seeking additional volunteers to support the event which will include a 24/7 education location.

5. Ms. Sullivan provided a benediction before her departure and the meeting was adjourned at 1208.

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

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

