

Military Officers Association of America
El Paso Chapter



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
December 2017

A meeting of the El Paso Chapter of the Military Officers Association (MOAA) was held via conference call on 16 December 2017.

Attendance:

President: COL (RET) Forrest Smith
Secretary: Col (RET) Steve Barrett
Treasurer: Ms. Elma Smith
Immediate Past President/Legislative Liaison: COL (RET) Lennie Enzel
Programs: Col (RET) Bob Pitt
Publications/Newsletter Editor: LTC (RET) Bill Moore
Membership: CPT (RET) Steve Mendoza
ROTC/JROTC: LTC (RET) Dave Powell
El Paso Chapter Outreach Foundation: BG (RET) Jack Kotter

1. Administrative: The meeting was called to order at 0803.
2. President's Remarks: COL (RET) Forrest Smith welcomed everyone and an immediate discussion of the proposed new chapter sponsored ROTC scholarship ensued. COL (RET) Smith reminded everyone the December Outreach Foundation meeting would follow the conclusion of this meeting.
3. Old Business:
 - A. Secretary: LTC (RET) Bill Moore provided a copy of the November 2017 BOD minutes which were approved with one correction.
 - B. Treasurer: Ms. Elma Smith provided a review of the September 2017 Balance Sheet and Profit/Loss statement and highlighted a net income of \$662.76 last month as well as the current checking account balance of \$2,653.92.
 - C. Immediate Past President: COL (RET) Lennie Enzel had NSTR.
 - D. Membership: CPT (RET) Steve Mendoza had NSTR.
 - E. Programs: Col (RET) Bob Pitt provided a recap of the 2 December luncheon at the MonteVista at Coronado. He also highlighted the luncheon yielded a net profit of \$720 which included \$140 from the door prizes. Col (RET) Pitt also shared the following:
 - 1) The next membership luncheon will be held at the Underwood Golf Course on 10 February.
 - 2) Judge Angie Barill, 346th State District Court, is confirmed as the guest speaker.
 - 3) Beef lasagna will be the main course.
 - F. Legislative Liaison: COL (RET) Lennie Enzel reported the National Defense Authorization Act passed this week. She also reported that Choice was out of funds however the VA is still referring patients out suing other funding sources.

G. Publications/Webmaster: LTC (RET) Moore requested all inputs for the February 2018 Border Bulletin be submitted by 3 January 2018. LTC (RET) Moore also reported we collected \$550 and a notable amount of food items (at the December luncheon) for the Jr Enlisted Food Bank.

H. Public Relations: NSTR, LTC (RET) Martha Caldwell was absent;

I. JROTC/ROTC:

- 1) LTC (RET) Dave Powell relayed that the JROTC medals and ribbons will be an Outreach funded initiative moving forward.
- 2) LTC (RET) Powell also voiced his intent to bring the proposed application for the new ROTC scholarship to next month's BOD meeting. BG (RET) Kotter expressed a desire to discuss the scholarship and potential Outreach Foundation support.

J. Auxiliary/Surviving Spouse Liaison: NSTR, Ms. Connie Sullivan was absent.

K. Door Prizes: NSTR, LTC (RET) Caldwell was absent.

4. New Business:

- A. EPISD Bataan Memorial Death March Sponsorship: Col (RET) Steve Barrett provided a recap of the El Paso Independent School District (EPISD) JROTC sponsorship request he received from SGM Locklear. There are four EPISD JROTC units hoping to participate in the upcoming Bataan Death March; EPISD can only provide funding for three units so SGM Locklear has asked if the Chapter would consider sponsoring the remaining school.
- 1) In response to some members concerns about a requestor's membership status when considering support requests, Col (RET) Barrett shared that the EPISD JROTC senior staff indicated a willingness to join the Chapter. SGM Locklear was unaware of the recent Friends of the Chapter bylaw membership change however once advised he shared an immediate "sign me up".
 - 2) SGM Locklear's response highlighted the reality that we need to spread the word ref the new membership category, specifically among the local JROTC leadership cadre. LTC (RET) Powell stated he would handle that information sharing task.
 - 3) After the lengthy discussion and debate, a motion was unanimously passed to forward the sponsorship request to the Outreach Foundation for their consideration.
- B. February 2018 Meeting: LTC (RET) Moore sent out an electronic support message/invitation to all MOAA local non-chapter members.
- C. April/May Picnic: Significant discussion was held regarding the idea (raised as a potential option at the December luncheon) to hold a Chapter picnic in the April/May timeframe.
- 1) COL (RET) Smith and LTC (RET) Powell shared their insights on the timelines and fees associated with renting a pavilion at Biggs Park. Standard policy is reservations can only be made 30 days from the event and a \$50 deposit is required. The 30-day reservation timeline is a concern given the Chapter's desire to advertise firm membership meeting details at least 2 months in advance.
 - 2) Discussion clearly highlighted everyone supports the idea. Biggs Park appears to be the preferred location however McKelligon's Canyon was discussed as an alternate venue.
 - 3) Menu options were discussed ranging from a pot luck to a catered event and some members shared names of potential caterers to consider. COL (RET) Enzel offered to call Mo's BBQ and share potential pricing options at next month's BOD meeting. LTC (RET) Powell then volunteered to bring a concept plan to next month's BOD to include potential caterers, locations and dates.

- 4) Agreement was reached to target a date in May for the picnic. The topic will also be discussed further at next month's BOD meeting and will be added as a talking point to share at the February membership meeting.
- D. Additional "New Event" Topics: COL (RET) Smith also brought up some of the other "event ideas" brought up by Mr. Dan Schulte at the December luncheon:
- i. Roundabout Tours sponsors local area tours; a future Chapter tour may be explored.
 - ii. A gathering at the UTEP Dinner Theater; COL (RET) Smith will research details and report back to the group.
- E. Army/Navy Game: COL (RET) Smith and LTC (RET) Powell shared a recap of the big game gathering at the Centennial Club. This annual event was extremely well attended, and the pro Army crowd got to witness the West Point Pigskin team achieve an extremely rare two game winning streak in this long-standing rivalry. A full table of MOAA materials was displayed. When it was highlighted that no new members were "signed up" for chapter membership, a polite but contentious discussion ensued of whether the Chapter should continue supporting events that provide little or no apparent return on investment. Stay tuned for further discussion.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 0902.

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

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