

Military Officers Association of America
El Paso Chapter



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
November 2019

A meeting of the El Paso Chapter of the Military Officers Association (MOAA) was held 23 November 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
MOAA Outreach Foundation President: BG (RET) Jack Kotter
Member at Large: CPT (RET) David Thackston
Member At Large: LTC (RET) John Robbins
Member at Large: COL (RET) William Oseles

1. Administrative: The meeting was called to order at 0806. Chapter Chaplain Ms. Connie Sullivan provided the invocation.
2. President's Remarks: COL (RET) Forrest Smith opened the meeting advising he would be out of town for JTF-N business and would not be able to attend the December luncheon; Col (RET) Steve Barrett will host the luncheon in his absence.
3. Old Business:
 - A. Secretary: COL (RET) Smith reported he would have to provide a copy of the October 2019 BOD minutes at a later date (Col (RET) Barrett was absent from the October 2019 BOD meeting).
 - B. Treasurer: Ms. Elma Smith provided the October 2019 Balance Sheet and Profit/Loss statements. The Profit/Loss Sheet reflected a net gain of \$154.15 for the month. Sources of income were luncheon payments, door prizes, and membership dues; expenses included luncheon costs, postage/mailing and merchant fees. Ms. Smith also reported LTC (RET) Bill Moore had sent out membership renewal notices and the Chapter is pending an advertising payment from Dr. Washburn.
 - C. Immediate Past President: COL (RET) Lennie Enzel had no report.
 - D. Membership: CPT (RET) Steve Mendoza asked about the Chapter's future and specifically if the Chapter was "going under" due to insolvency. COL (RET) Smith immediately referred him to the Balance Sheet to highlight the Chapter was on very sound financial footing and nowhere close to insolvency. COL (RET) Smith emphasized the very big difference ref our Chapter's challenge to find new BOD members versus our existing financial status. CPT (RET) Mendoza acknowledged

the clarification and then shared that he would like to continue to support Mr. N Garcia as a candidate for the next Honor Flight.

E. Programs:

1. Col (RET) Bob Pitt reported the October Luncheon netted a final profit of \$130.81. Col (Ret) Pitt also reported the 7 December Luncheon is set with 346th State District Court Judge Angie Barrill as the guest speaker. Chicken Cordon Blue, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Bean Almandine and our traditional MOAA cake are on the menu.

F. Legislative Liaison:

1. CW2 (RET) Dave Garcia opened his comments by thanking the BOD for allowing him to serve as the Legislative Liaison this year. He then indicated he was withdrawing his name from consideration for the 2020 BOD.
2. CW2 (RET) Garcia reported he received feedback from Congresswoman Escobar's office that he and others had overwhelmed them with requests to support so many Bill submissions. The congresswoman's staff asked him to pick his Top 3 to help them focus their support. He selected HR 553 (Widows Tax), HR Bill 333 (Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act) and the Bill to eliminate the Offset for those with less than 50% disability rating. He also reported another very important Bill is the "Support our Service to Caregivers Act"; this Bill would amend the VA Mission Act and enhance Long Term Care benefits
3. CW2 (RET) Garcia again stressed that he continues to work with Congresswoman Escobar to sponsor/support many bills that will directly support female veterans.
4. President Trump signed a COLA increase of 1.6% which will be seen in January checks.
5. Effective 1 January 2020, expanded access to DoD facilities, including online shopping, has been approved for nearly all veterans

G. Publications/Webmaster: LTC (RET) Bill Moore sent out the December Border Bulletin this past week. He and BG (RET) Jack Kotter stuffed envelopes to mail out this week seeking "Giving Tuesday" contributions. He also advised a check was presented to the Junior Enlisted Food Bank for Thanksgiving and he will also send out an email reminding members that the Chapter will collect non-perishable foods and baby supplies at the December Luncheon. The Food Bank is short on supplies and Chapter members are highly encouraged to donate to this extremely worthy cause.

H. Public Relations: LTC (RET) Martha Caldwell was absent but previously reported articles about the December luncheon were distributed to the usual three media outlets.

I. JROTC/ROTC: LTC (RET) Dave Powell reported that the Outreach Foundation has now established a new scholarship, the \$1,000 Sergeant Velton Locklear III Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is named in honor of CSM Velton Locklear's son who made the ultimate sacrifice while deployed. LTC (RET) Powell also reported that UTEP has requested the Chapter sponsor shoulder boards for three cadets who will graduate and be commissioned in December.

J. Auxiliary/Surviving Spouse Liaison: Ms. Sullivan shared words that she had talked to LTC (RET) Dan Schulte who advised wife Kathleen's surgery went well but she was still in a lot of pain. Ms. Sullivan sent a get-well card from the BOD.

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

4. New Business:

A. Sergeant Velton Locklear III Memorial Scholarship: See comments in JROTC section above.

B. TCC Annual Meeting, 6-7 December 2019: LTC (RET) Moore submitted all required reports.

- C. February 2020 Luncheon Guest Speaker: COL (RET) Smith will reach out to the new Garrison Commander and invite him to be the guest speaker. CPT (RET) David Thackston recommended new UTEP President Heather Wilson be considered as well; BG (RET) Kotter will contact the former SECAF to determine her interest and availability.
- D. 2020 Chapter BOD???: Ms. Smith announced she will not continue as Treasurer for the Chapter nor the Outreach Foundation next year. COL (RET) Smith then highlighted the challenges the Chapter is facing with attracting new members and new BOD members. The topic of becoming a Virtual Chapter was raised however LTC (RET) Moore immediately stated the Chapter should not consider this a viable option since so many current members do not have email accounts and/or internet access. Much discussion ensued and LTC (RET) Powell advised he might be willing to assume Treasurer duties but would like to have an in-depth conversation with Ms. Smith prior to making a final commitment. The discussion ended with some positive words as BG (RET) Kotter indicated he would continue for a short period as the Outreach President and CW2 (RET) Garcia announced he had reconsidered and would continue serving as the Legislative Liaison in 2020. Finally, COL (RET) Smith indicated he hoped to secure a commitment from a potential candidate to serve as Chapter President; he hopes to have firm words by next weekend.
5. Benediction: Chapter Chaplain Connie Sullivan provided the benediction.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 0956.

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

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