

Military Officers Association of America
El Paso Chapter



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
December 2019

A meeting of the El Paso Chapter of the Military Officers Association (MOAA) was held 28 December 2019 at the Candlewood Suites in El Paso TX.

Attendance:

President: COL (RET) Mike Hester
Secretary: Col (RET) Steve Barrett
Chaplain/Surviving Spouse Liaison: Ms. Connie Sullivan
Legislative Liaison: CW2 (RET) Dave Garcia
Programs: Col (RET) Bob Pitt
Publications/Newsletter Editor: COL (RET) William Oseles
MOAA Outreach Foundation President: BG (RET) Jack Kotter

1. Administrative: The meeting was called to order at 0805. Chapter Chaplain Ms. Connie Sullivan provided the invocation.
2. President's Remarks: COL (RET) Mike Hester welcomed all in attendance and shared that he was open to new ideas and initiatives to help further strengthen the Chapter. He is also looking to get input on the current Chapter membership numbers and potential ideas to increase membership.
3. Old Business:
 - A. Secretary: Col (RET) Steve Barrett provided minutes from the November 2019 BOD meeting which were approved as written.
 - B. Treasurer: Newly elected Chapter Treasurer LTC (RET) Dave Powell was absent. Outgoing Treasurer Ms. Elma Smith provided November 2019 Balance Sheet and Profit/Loss handouts for the BOD to review. The Profit/Loss Sheet reflected a net loss of \$13.47 for the month. Primary sources of income were advertising fees, luncheon payments and membership dues; major expenses included printing/copying and postage/mailing fees.
 - C. Immediate Past President: No report, COL (RET) Forrest Smith was absent.
 - D. Membership: No report, CPT (RET) Steve Mendoza was absent.
 - E. Programs:
 1. Col (RET) Bob Pitt provided COL (RET) Hester a short verbal personal bio. He also shared words about a UTEP ROTC cadet who was recently injured in a car accident.
 2. Col (RET) Pitt shared a recap of the December luncheon which yielded a net profit of \$95.01.
 3. Col (RET) Pitt stated COL (RET) Smith had previously committed to check with the Garrison Commander as a possible guest speaker for the February luncheon; he has yet to receive input so he asked Col (RET) Barrett to follow up with COL (RET) Smith. BG (RET) Jack Kotter is on standby to contact UTEP President Heather Wilson and offer her the guest speaker role.
 4. Col (RET) Pitt also reported he has confirmed reservations at the Underwood Golf Course for all projected Chapter luncheons in 2020.

5. Chaplain Ms. Connie Sullivan recommended the BOD approve the allocation of 15 minutes for entertainment at all future luncheons; she believes this help increase luncheon attendance. Ms. Sullivan will personally provide the entertainment at the Feb luncheon with a Spanish Dance Demonstration.

F. Legislative Liaison:

1. CW2 (RET) Dave Garcia expressed heavy concern over how Veterans groups will react to Congresswoman Escobar now that she has voted to impeach POTUS. He has spoken to other VSOs and is hoping to help unite the groups.
2. CW2 (RET) Garcia reported the great news that the Widow Tax Bill was finally passed on 17 December; the provisions will become effective in 2021 with a three-year transition plan. He also highlighted he is closely monitoring Federal Bill 485, the "Emergency Room" Bill. He stated there is a court order directing the VA to reimburse veterans for their ER costs.
3. CW2 (RET) Garcia also stated he is closely monitoring Bill 5028 and he thinks this is an important Bill for all VSOs to unite on and support. He also reported that MOAA National will strongly push HR 333 (Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act); the DAV and VFW are also supporting this effort.
4. Finally, CW2 (RET) Garcia shared a short status on Congresswoman Escobar's "report card". Of the 294 bills she has sponsored, only 34 were veteran related and that is significantly lower than we should expect. He will meet with the UAVO President and write a letter to all UAVOs with hopes of encouraging the Congresswomen to increase her support of veteran issues.

- G. Publications/Webmaster: COL (RET) Bill Oseles reported he has only received inputs from two BOD members for the next Border Bulletin; the suspense remains 3 January 2020. He can be contacted via phone number 915-319-9048.

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

- I. JROTC/ROTC: No report, LTC (RET) Dave Powell was absent

- J. Auxiliary/Surviving Spouse Liaison: Ms. Sullivan shared words she had reached out to LTC (RET) Dan Schulte seeking an update on Kathleen; Ms. Sullivan will share feedback when received.

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

4. New Business:

- A. February 2020 Luncheon Guest Speaker: Col (RET) Pitt reiterated he needed input from COL (RET) Smith regarding the new Garrison Commander's availability to be the guest speaker.

- B. Giving Tuesday: BG (RET) Kotter reported Giving Tuesday was very successful netting \$2,800 from 14 donors.

5. Benediction: Chapter Chaplain Connie Sullivan provided the benediction.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 0903.

Respectfully submitted by:

Col (RET) Steve Barrett, Secretary

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

