

Military Officers Association of America
El Paso Chapter



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 2019

A meeting of the El Paso Chapter of the Military Officers Association (MOAA) was held 31 August 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
Public Relations/Door Prizes: LTC (RET) Martha Caldwell
Chaplain/Outreach Liaison: Ms. Connie Sullivan
MOAA Outreach Foundation President: BG (RET) Jack Kotter
Member at Large: CPT (RET) David Thackston
Guest: Mr. John Robbins

1. Administrative: The meeting was called to order at 0810. Chapter Chaplain Ms. Connie Sullivan provided the invocation.
2. President's Remarks: COL (RET) Forrest Smith had no opening remarks.
3. Old Business:
 - A. Secretary: Col (RET) Steve Barrett provided a copy of the July 2019 BOD minutes which were approved as submitted.
 - B. Treasurer: Ms. Elma Smith provided the July 2019 Balance Sheet and Profit/Loss statements. The Profit/Loss Sheet reflected a net loss of \$478.70 for the month. Sources of income were luncheon payments and door prizes; expenses included printing and copying, postage/mailing, PCI compliance fees and merchant fees.
 - C. Immediate Past President: COL (RET) Lennie Enzel had no report.
 - D. Membership: CPT (RET) Steve Mendoza is working with Military Order of World War (MOWW) POCs to encourage MOWW members to join our Chapter. There appears to be interest which may materialize if the "I'll join yours if you join mine first" approach can be overcome. LTC (RET) Dave Powell shared that MOWW commemorates and celebrates the World Wars and ideals that we were fighting for and MOWW membership is a worthy consideration.
 - E. Programs:
 1. Col (RET) Bob Pitt reported the August Luncheon netted a final profit of \$383.42.

2. CPT (RET) Thackston reported that Bernie Olivas, Executive Director of the Sun Bowl Association, has tentatively accepted our invitation to be the guest speaker at the 12 October Luncheon.
3. Discussions were held to identify a potential speaker at the December Luncheon; consensus was the invitation should be extended first to El Paso Police Chief Greg Allen.

F. Legislative Liaison:

1. CW2 (RET) Dave Garcia met with Congresswoman Escobar on 30 July; she asked him to prioritize bills for her to co-sponsor and he shared a handout of that list. He continues to work with her regarding HR 333 (Widows Act) which the Congresswoman has not yet sponsored. Seventy senators have signed to repeal the Widows Tax and he encouraged all MOAA members to contact their senators and encourage them to continue to support this much needed repeal.
2. CW2 (RET) Garcia is also encouraging the Congresswoman to sponsor support many bills that will directly support female veterans.
3. Mr. Garcia further reported he is advising all eligible veterans to establish their "intent to file" for benefits under the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act. Although the Veterans Administration has issued a Blanket Stay on all claims until 1 Jan 2020, veterans can still officially document their "intent to file" and could potentially receive retroactive benefits.

G. Publications/Webmaster: LTC (RET) Bill Moore advised the deadline to submit articles for the October Border Bulletin is 3 September 2019.

H. Public Relations: LTC (RET) Martha Caldwell had nothing significant to report.

I. JROTC/ROTC: LTC (RET) Dave Powell reported it was early in the school year and he would send out scholarship notices closer to the end of the calendar year.

J. Auxiliary/Surviving Spouse Liaison: Ms. Sullivan had nothing significant to report.

K. Door Prizes: LTC (RET) Martha Caldwell reported additional door prizes were needed. A short discussion was also held reference the timing of door prize ticket sales at luncheons; COL (RET) Smith will encourage all in attendance to purchase tickets earlier in program.

4. New Business:

A. Texas Veterans Coalition Grant Opportunities Open Season:

1. LTC (RET) Moore advised there are multiple grants available; a decision is required to identify which ones to apply to. Both 501(c)3 and 501(c)19 organizations can apply. Veterans' Court was highlighted as a potential great option. BG (RET) Kotter and LTC (RET) Moore will discuss options at the Outreach meeting.
2. Guest John Robbins shared that he runs a 501(c)3 organization for youths and he is interested in a partnership with our Chapter to support his organization.

B. Polish American Brotherhood in Arms Reception, 19 September 2019: LTC (RET) Moore sent out emails with the formal email invitation. The 2nd Brigade CC will discuss prior and upcoming deployments. LTC (RET) Powell will also speak along with 2-Star Generals from the Polish Army and the ANG. Dress is business casual or duty uniform. Most items will also be on display at the Ft. Bliss Museum. Mr. John Robbins shared that the Polish American Society in the area is wanting to increase participation with the military.

C. September BOD Meeting: Next month's BOD meeting will be held 21 September due to RAD activities being held on 28 September.

D. Retiree Appreciation Day, 28 September 2019:

1. COL (RET) Enzel was on a recent Chief of Staff of the Army phone call and mentioned the lack of coordination for this year's local events. She and others are collectively trying to resurrect local "Retiree Council" engagement and activities; the local council clearly has really limited activities compared to other areas around the country.
2. Mr. Michael Amaral, Director of the El Paso Veterans Affairs Health Care System, will be the keynote speaker on Saturday but there will not be a reception on Friday as there has been in past years. LTC (RET) Moore will request a table for our Chapter which will be manned by COLs (RET) Smith and Enzel and LTC (RET) Moore.

E. October Membership Meeting: Topic previously covered; see the *Programs* update provided above.

F. Southwest Councils and Chapters Leadership Workshop, 15-16 Nov 2019: COL (RET) Enzel will attend; see amplifying notes previously documented in the July BOD minutes.

G. MOAA Designated Scholarship (MG Rodriquez questions/Andrea Rand at MOAA National): Discussion was held on whether the Chapter should sponsor another locally supported MOAA National Scholarship. A motion passed unanimously not to pursue a 3rd National Scholarship however heavy support was expressed to pursue additional local scholarships, likely under the auspices of the Outreach Foundation.

H. Giving Tuesday, 3 December 2019: LTC (RET) Moore will send out BG (RET) Kotter's letter for "Giving Tuesday" on 3 December 2019; the letter will be distributed from the Outreach Foundation via both email and traditional mail.

5. Benediction: Chapter Chaplain Connie Sullivan provided the benediction.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 0933.

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

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