

Military Officers Association of America
El Paso Chapter



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
January 2016

A meeting of the El Paso Chapter of the Military Officers Association (MOAA) was held on 30 Jan 2016 at the Candlewood Suites, El Paso Texas.

Attendance:

President: COL (RET) Forrest Smith
Vice President: Ms. Jan Rasmussen
Secretary: COL (RET) Steve Barrett
Treasurer: Ms. Elma Smith
Chaplain: Ms. Connie Sullivan
Publications/Newsletter Editor: LTC (RET) Bill Moore
Programs: COL (RET) Bob Pitt
Public Relations/Door Prizes: LTC Martha Caldwell
Chapter Staff Emeritus: MAJ (RET) Ed Stone
Chapter Staff Emeritus: Ms. Judy Stone

1. Administrative: The meeting was called to order at 1003.
2. President's Remarks: COL (R) Smith welcomed all in attendance and highlighted the need to discuss the ongoing equine virus outbreak at Sunland Park Racetrack and the annual MOAA Day at the Races currently scheduled for 5 Mar 2016. COL (R) Smith and COL (R) Lennie Enzel attended Congressman O'Rourke's most recent Town Hall. During the session, it was announced there was a new El Paso Veteran's Alliance POC but no one in attendance seemed to be aware of who was appointed.
3. Old Business:
 - A. Secretary: COL (RET) Steve Barrett provided a draft copy of the minutes for the 19 Dec 2015 BOD meeting. Minutes were approved as submitted.
 - B. Treasurer: Ms. Elma Smith provided a review of the December Balance Sheet and Profit/Loss Statement.
 1. December 2015 total income was \$955.90 with total expenses of \$1,285.20 for a monthly net loss of \$329.30. Primary sources of income were membership dues and brunch payments while the primary expenses were to the Centennial Club for brunch charges as well as donations.
 2. Discussion was held regarding current checking account balance, upcoming expenses and the continuing trend of negative monthly income. Motion was made to authorize the transfer of \$2,500 from savings to checking to cover planned expenses.
 3. Following the approved motion, additional discussion ensued regarding potential need to transfer additional funds to preclude similar actions in coming months. All agreed to table the discussion when COL (R) Smith shared the plan to produce for the next BOD meeting a bar graph of actual expenses over the past year and known expenses in the coming year. It was also highlighted most other service organizations are experiencing a similar funds challenge.
 4. Ms. Smith advised the 501(c)(3) account was now fully set up. Mr. Carl Murphy, CEO of First Light Credit Union provided significant assistance to overcome some initial challenges

encountered when dealing with employees at the nearby branch. Ms. Smith lauded Mr. Murphy's over and above commitment as being a benchmark for outstanding customer support.

C. Membership: COL (R) Smith is still planning to talk to the Ft Bliss Solider Transition staff to determine if a MOAA presentation can be incorporated into their transition agenda.

D. Programs: COL (R) Bob Pitt shared details of upcoming membership meetings:

1. The next membership gathering will be held at the General George V. Underwood Jr. Golf Course Clubhouse on 13 February 2016 from 1100-1400. COL John A. Smyrski, WBAMC Commander, will be the guest speaker and the menu will include schnitzel, potatoes, broccoli, salad and our traditional dessert of MOAA cake.
2. The MOAA Day at the Races is scheduled for 5 Mar 2016; the cost of the event will be \$25 per person.
3. The planned 9 April 2016 membership luncheon will also be held at the General George V. Underwood Jr. Golf Course Clubhouse and additional details will be provided at the next BOD meeting.
4. COL (R) Pitt also advised the Golf Course Clubhouse was not currently available for the June gathering but an initial discussion on alternate locations was tabled until the next meeting. National leadership has not responded to our request for new MOAA President Lt Gen Atkins or a senior staff member to serve as our guest speaker for our 60th anniversary celebration.
5. Following an entertaining discussion, the need to coordinate gluten free and/or vegetarian meal options for all future membership gatherings was agreed to.

E. Legislative Liaison: Texas and national legislative articles are included in the current Border Bulletin issue.

F. Publications/Webmaster: LTC (R) Bill Moore advised most members received their Border Bulletin via mail yesterday. Input for the next Border Bulletin is due NLT 3 March 2016.

G. Public Relations: LTC Martha Caldwell reported articles announcing the upcoming February membership luncheon have been submitted to EP Inc., The Bugle and El Paso Times.

H. JROTC/ROTC: The Chapter still have not received a response from UTEP following COL's (R) Forrest Smith and Lennie Enzel contact with LTC James Lee. COL (R) Barrett will attempt contact this month in hopes of identifying UTEP ROTC planned events and desired support. El Paso Independent School District has requested 9 MOAA JROTC medals be presented at their Annual Review and Awards Ceremony on Friday 6 May 2016. Medals will be ordered from MOAA National this month.

I. Auxiliary Liaison: Ms. Connie Sullivan reported she is getting great feedback from her recent articles.

J. Door Prizes: LTC Caldwell has received the inventory of door prizes from Ms. Julie Pitt. All agreed there would be no door prize raffle for the MOAA Day at the Races.

4. New Business:

A. MOAA Day at the Races: LTC (R) Bill Moore met with Sunland Park Racetrack officials and paid the required down payment for our scheduled event on 5 March 2016. All racing events continue to be suspended due to the equine virus; if racing does not resume in the next 2 weeks, this event may need to be cancelled.

- B. Communications and LOE Awards Packets: LTC (R) Moore reported the Communications Awards packet was submitted and the LOE package is being compiled for submission by the 1 March 2016 deadline.
- C. 2016 Advertising Costs: The loss of USAA and First Command advertising will result in a loss of \$3,000 in advertising income. A couple of BOD members will reengage with First Command seeking a reversal of their decision not to advertise in the Border Bulletin this year.
- D. Liability Insurance: A short discussion was held addressing the potential future need for liability insurance for Chapter Officers; no action to be taken at this time.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 1115.

Respectfully submitted by:

COL (R) Steve Barrett, Secretary

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