

Military Officers Association of America
El Paso Chapter



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
February 2020

A meeting of the El Paso Chapter of the Military Officers Association (MOAA) was held 29 February 2020 at the Candlewood Suites in El Paso TX.

Attendance:

President: COL (RET) Mike Hester
Secretary: Col (RET) Steve Barrett
Treasurer, ROTC/JROTC: LTC (Ret) Dave Powell
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
Membership Chairman: CPT (RET) Steve Mendoza
Chapter Staff Emeritus: COL (RET) Lennie Enzel

1. Administrative: The meeting was called to order at 0807. Chapter Chaplain Ms. Connie Sullivan provided the invocation.
2. President's Remarks: COL (RET) Mike Hester had nothing significant to report (NSTR)
3. Old Business:
 - A. Secretary: Col (RET) Steve Barrett provided minutes from the January 2020 BOD meeting which were approved as written.
 - B. Treasurer: LTC (RET) Dave Powell reported he had a few challenges with QuickBooks so her provided a modified Balance sheet for the group to review. LTC (RET) Powell will make multiple deposits this next week and will continue to explore options to transfer the Chapter's account to a new financial facility.
 - C. Immediate Past President: No report, COL (RET) Forrest Smith was absent.
 - D. Membership: CPT (RET) Steve Mendoza extended his apologies to the group for his recent absences; he continues to battle his ongoing illness and recent results are promising. He again highlighted his desire for the group to support his nomination of Mr. N. Garcia for a future Honor Flight. Mr. Garcia is attempting to locate some necessary documentation and CPT (RET) Mendoza hopes Mr. Garcia will be able to make the next locally scheduled Honor Flight in October 2020.
 - E. Programs: Col (RET) Pitt reported the 8 February luncheon went very well and netted a total profit of \$215.00 The next luncheon is scheduled for 11 April at the Underwood Golf Course beginning at 11:00 AM. Col (RET) Barrett reported that Ms. Janet Dalton Honek was unable to accept our invitation and instead Ms. Angie Olivas, Marketing Director for the El Paso Chihuahuas, has been confirmed as our guest speaker. Col (RET) Pitt also reported the El Paso Chihuahuas had contacted

him regarding potential suite or other guest area options for a possible “MOAA Night with the Chihuahuas.” The option was discussed and tabled for discussion at a future meeting.

F. Legislative Liaison:

1. CW2 (RET) Dave Garcia attended the 29 January United American Veterans Organization (UAVO) meeting and shared it was a very good meeting. He highlighted the meeting focused on the intended goal of uniting local organizations to provide a collective unified voice (of over 12,000 members) regarding veterans’ issues and priorities presented to Congresswoman Escobar. CW2 (RET) Garcia indicated there was no identified leader but there was a clear commitment by all in attendance to unite as a common voice.
2. CW2 (RET) Garcia also reported he attended multiple Veterans’ group meetings, to include the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) webcast, and he is seeking a unified letter to send to the President seeking the addition of four additional presumptive diseases to the existing Agent Orange list.
3. CW2 (RET) continues to closely monitor the status of multiple Bills as well as Congresswoman Escobar’s “report card”.

G. Publications/Webmaster: COL (RET) Bill Oseles reported he needed to verify phone numbers for BOD members and reminded all that inputs for the next Border Bulletin are due no later than 6 March. He further reported he is working on potential new advertisers for the Bulletin to include the El Paso Mineral & Gem Society.

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

I. JROTC/ROTC: LTC (RET) Dave Powell reported the Outreach Foundation approved funding of the annual JROTC medals and he would be putting together a spreadsheet of all the ceremonies to present to the next BOD with hopes of identifying presenters for each of the events.

J. Auxiliary/Surviving Spouse Liaison: Ms. Sullivan called COL (RET) Wehmhoner and reported he is not feeling well and is still recovering. She also reported the Schulte’s are both experiencing continued health issues. Ms. Sullivan verified she does have a singer planned for the next luncheon.

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

4. New Business:

A. April Membership Luncheon: See note in Programs section (3.E.) above.

B. Outreach Foundation Meeting: The Foundation BOD met on Tuesday this week to accommodate the scheduled hip surgery for John Robbins. The Foundation still has multiple positions to fill on its BOD. They are also seeking to formalize the donation request procedure as well as working to develop an official annual budget. Finally, they hope to make some formal presentations when donations are presented to the requesting entities.

C. StoryCorps visit to Las Cruces NM: Will be held 2-13 March in Las Cruces. COL (RET) Lennie Enzel shared supporting words about the project and encouraged members to support the effort and tell their stories.

D. AmazonSmile Program: Col (RET) Barrett reminded members to use AmazonSmile when ordering from Amazon; doing so can earn the Chapter 0.5% of eligible purchases. Everyone just needs to select the El Paso MOAA Outreach Foundation as their charity of choice when logging onto AmazonSmile and then AmazonSmile will send a quarterly donation. This past quarter AmazonSmile issued a \$50.92 donation.

E. Chapter Financial Accounts: As highlighted in the Treasurer section (3.B.) above, LTC (RET) Powell continues to explore moving the Chapter's finances to a different institution. LTC (RET) Bill Moore does not support the proposal as he is concerned it will negatively impact for our online payment and donation processes. The BOD decided to table the proposal to give LTC (RET) Powell additional time to explore other options.

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

6. The meeting was adjourned at 0935.

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

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