

Military Officers Association of America
El Paso Chapter



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
March 2020

A meeting of the El Paso Chapter of the Military Officers Association (MOAA) was held 28 March 2020 via conference call.

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
Public Relations/Door Prizes: LTC (RET) Martha Caldwell
Publications/Newsletter Editor: COL (RET) William Oseles
Membership Chairman: CPT (RET) Steve Mendoza
Chapter Staff Emeritus: COL (RET) Lennie Enzel
Outreach Foundation Vice-President: LTC (RET) John Robbins

1. Administrative: The meeting was called to order at 0803. Chapter Chaplain Ms. Connie Sullivan provided the invocation.
2. President's Remarks: COL (RET) Mike Hester welcomed all on the call and highlighted that these are unusual times as we all adjust to the COVID 19 pandemic and encouraged everyone to stay connected with our families, friends and members.
3. Old Business:
 - A. Secretary: Col (RET) Steve Barrett provided minutes from the February 2020 BOD meeting which were approved as written.
 - B. Treasurer: No report, LTC (RET) Dave Powell was absent.
 - C. Immediate Past President: No report, COL (RET) Forrest Smith was absent.
 - D. Membership: CPT (RET) Steve Mendoza indicated he continues to work with Mr. N. Garcia and his family to complete the necessary paperwork for submission to the Las Cruces Chapter of the Honor Flight.
 - E. Programs: Col (RET) Pitt restated the 8 February luncheon netted a profit of \$215.00. He then announced our BoD decision to cancel the 11 April luncheon consistent with local and federal COVID safety recommendations. The next luncheon is tentatively scheduled for 13 June 2020 at the Underwood Golf Course beginning at 11:00 AM. Col (RET) Barrett will ask our planned April Guest Speaker, Ms. Angie Olivas, Marketing Director for the El Paso Chihuahuas, if she is available to serve as our June guest speaker.
 - F. Legislative Liaison: CW2 (RET) Dave Garcia reported Congresswoman Escobar has been holding conference calls with Veteran's organizations and he will continue to participate on those calls. He

also expects MOAA will get an official invite to join a community wide UAVO call to discuss local priorities to be shared with the Congresswoman on future calls or meetings. Mr. Garcia also shared that he has received many inquiries asking if veterans who didn't file taxes last year would still receive the COVID stimulus payment recently approved by the federal government; he has advised veterans or their survivors will receive the payments however distribution details are still being finalized. CW2 (RET) Garcia closed his comments advising most bills are on hold due to the COVID situation however he will continue to monitor their status, especially given the expectation that protection of the unemployable may be a potential budget reduction target.

- G. Publications/Webmaster: COL (RET) Bill Oseles reported the Border Bulletin should be delivered to our mailboxes later today or early next week. Inputs for the next Border Bulletin are due no later than 9 May.
- H. Public Relations: LTC (RET) Martha Caldwell reported no articles were submitted due to the cancellation of the April luncheon.
- I. JROTC/ROTC: No report, LTC (RET) Dave Powell was absent.
- J. Auxiliary/Surviving Spouse Liaison: Ms. Sullivan reported she has been calling many members to check in on them and is reminding everyone that we are all in this together. She also mentioned that LTC (RET) Powell was planning a "game" to be played at the June luncheon.
- K. Door Prizes: LTC (RET) Martha Caldwell reported the door prize inventory was good at this time.

4. New Business:

- A. April Membership Luncheon: Cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions as previously outlined in the Programs section (3.E.) above.
- B. 2020 Level of Excellence (LOE) Submission: COL's (RET) Hester and Enzel will contact LTC (RET) Bill Moore to discuss submission requirements and timelines.
- C. Outreach Foundation: LTC (RET) John Robbins highlighted the Foundation is still in need of active participants highlighted by their need for a President. He reported that Captain Ashley Sperry has volunteered to serve as Assistant Secretary and Ms. Connie Sullivan has volunteered to serve as Chaplain. He is also working on a few other potential new names to join the team. He also advised their BOD had approved their funding for the year and they currently have limited funds remaining for the duration of the year. COL (RET) Lennie Enzel proposed adding minutes from the Outreach BOD meeting to the Chapter's agenda; LTC (RET) Robbins indicated he preferred that one of the "dual hatted" Chapter & Outreach Foundation BOD members present a recap at Chapter meetings.
- D. Alibis: COL (RET) Hester inquired if anyone had been in recent contact with CPT (RET) David Thackston; no one had so COL (RET) Hester indicated he would try to contact him next week.

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

6. The meeting was adjourned at 0842.

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

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