

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
Baldwin County MOAA chapter
January 28, 2016

President Jerry Davis called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Members Present: Jim Beck, Frank Connel, Ken Cooper, Jerry Davis, Chuck Dumas, Jack Gifford, Patrice Tiggs, Ron Morgan, Jerry Morrison, Mac Morrison, Charlene Rathbun, Larry Rathbun, Sid Vogel

Minutes from December 28th Board of Directors: A motion was accepted to approve minutes from the December 28th meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Frank Connell submitted our financial report for the period: 13 Dec 2015 – 27 Jan 2016 as follows:

Beginning Balance		\$1,765.08
Expenses \$		
Alabama Council Dues	25	
January Dinner	1,776.00	
Total		1,801.00
Deposits \$		
Dues@\$15 for 17 members	285	
50/50	67	
Dinner	1,650.00	
Total		2,002.00
Net Increase	\$201	
Ending Balance		\$1,966.08

Frank stated that it is essential for us to get an accurate head count of those members and spouses and guests at lunches and dinners in order to reconcile payment for meals. This is due to confusion of the moment when people are entering the dining area, paying, submitting chapter applications, asking questions, etc. A more effective process needs to be worked out to properly check off and account for all who are served meals.

Committee Reports

Membership - Jerry Morrison

Jerry Morrison said many MOAA chapters in Al are struggling for membership. Communications about the attributes of MOAA are best related through individual word of mouth. For instance, every member of the Montgomery chapter is issued an information card used to recruit new members and reflect reasons why past and present military officers should join MOAA. A sample of the card was passed around for the council members to review. Jerry further discussed declining numbers in VFW and American Legion. The Reserve Officers Association (ROA) struggled to survive because of declining membership. Good communication among its constituency is the food chain that supports continued growth and existence of MOAA. A published article reflected people's feelings that members of the American Legion and VFW are fraternities of old men who are veterans of past wars. Yet these organizations have been a mainstay not only for preservation of veteran benefits, but incentives that help support the moral of both active and retired forces. A new and better image is imperative.

Ken Cooper reiterated Jerry's comments and stated how important it was to recognize new members to our chapter and to make them feel welcome. Jerry Davis has made attempts to sponsor new and potential chapter members with current members to welcome them into the organization, help answer questions, and ensure a continued interest.

Program Committee – Ron Morgan

The March chapter meeting will be 17 March at Gift Horse in Foley. There will be two speakers, including Jack Watt who works with the Veterans Court and Kent Cockson, author of a book about Foley, Alabama. The pending program for our April meeting will be about an organization in Pensacola, FL that uses search and rescue dogs nationwide to search for lost people. A speaker for the May meeting has not yet been scheduled. Jerry Davis asked that information on potential speakers be submitted to Ron Morgan for inclusion in future meetings.

Legislative Committee – Sid Vogel

Sid said a proposal has been made by State Senator Cam Ward (R-14th District and member of state appropriations committee) to tax military retirement and to un-earmark funds for veteran cemeteries and veteran homes within the state. This could have a \$30 million dollar impact on these programs.

Publicity Committee – Charlene and Larry Rathbun

The Publicity Committee submitted a biography of Lynn Struthers as February's "Member Highlight" for the website.

A photo and article regarding "Veterans Court Needs Your Help" written by Joel M. Nomberg, Capt, US Army, 91NF Combat Vet, Vietnam 68-69, Mentor Coordinator

was submitted to the Gulf Shores Newspapers including Foley Onlooker, Fairhope Courier, Times-Independent serving Foley and Robertsdale, The Islander and The Mullet Wrapper. This article has also been posted on the Baldwin County Chapter MOAA website. For more information contact Joel M. Nomberg at 251-504-5774.

The Publicity Committee submitted a photo and article covering the January General Meeting featuring the speakers, including Lt Col (USAF Ret) Douglas Goodlin, Senior Aerospace Science Instructor, Daphne High School and the following JROTC cadets:

- Cadet Capt Christian Braden, Cadet Squadron Commander;
- Spanish Fort Senior Cadet Maj Mitchell Daw, Corps Vice-Commander;
- Daphne Senior, Cadet Lt Col Gabrielle Kitts, former Corps Commander and Special Advisor to the Corps Commander;
- Daphne Senior Cadet Lt Col Sean Kearney, Corps Commander.

This article was sent to the Gulf Shores Newspapers, including Foley Onlooker, Fairhope Courier, Times-Independent serving Foley and Robertsdale, The Islander and The Mullet Wrapper. The article was also posted on the Baldwin County Chapter MOAA website.

Website – Ken Cooper

Ken reminded everyone to look at the website and make recommendations in the site's comment block. A long version of the chapter's mission statement has been posted on the website, though an abbreviated version may be better for informational sources. Jerry Davis reminded the group that a static website that never changes is not an effective product, and that updates and new information need to be made on a regular basis. Further, if there is a particular book someone has read, we may want to list it on a "good read" page.

A question was raised concerning printed newsletters. Ken recommended we put all chapter information on line in lieu of mail outs. Jerry stated this was the policy the chapter adopted a year ago, though there are a couple of members that don't have on-line capability or email.

Jerry stated there is a future project to have "member list" on the website. He suggested creation of a "Members Only Portal," with appropriate password safeguards for privacy.

Underneath the calendar portal, there are three links for a quick look about items people may want to be aware of. Jerry said he would put together a message about the February dinner on the website.

JROTC – Patrice Tiggs

Patrice wants the Baldwin County MOAA chapter to build an official relationship with student (JROTC cadets) skills. She asked if our chapter had a letterhead for official correspondence with schools. Jerry stated that we did not but she could use a specified logo identified on the national MOAA website with our local chapter identified underneath the letterhead. Patrice will send the draft letterhead stationary to Jerry Davis for review.

The JROTC program curriculum is firmly established by HQ AFROTC. Chapter support in this area is not required. Sid Vogel stated that service hours are need by cadets. Chuck Dumas recommended we invite a cadet to be present at each of our meetings so they will be knowledgeable about the mission and activities of MOAA. Jerry Davis has a contact in Pensacola who is responsible for Foley and Gulf Shores, areas that are now responsibility of the Pensacola chapter. Patrice will coordinate with schools to see if we can get cadet participation at our lunchtime meetings.

Old Business

Charter Ceremony

We owe Bob and Jan Nall a letter of thanks for providing our invitations to the February dinner. On 22 Jan he mailed out the invitations to various dignitaries and got a lot of help from the legislative liaison office. State legislators are all in session on the day of the ceremony but will be adjourning at noon, giving them time to attend our ceremony. Congressman Burns and Senator Shelby may be there. Mayor Tim Kant of Fairhope and Representative Joe Foust have given verbal commitments to attend.

We need some type of decorations for the tables at our February chapter meeting. Chuck Dumas recommended flags with MOAA decals. Jack Gifford suggested small flags and decorations that we can acquire through the national MOAA website. Charlene said she could create flags and just needed to know how many tables we would have. Charlene will follow up on this action.

Chuck stated we need escorts for guests at our February meeting and asked Jerry Davis for recommendations. Jerry will follow up on this.

Jerry has three new couples that have signed up for the February dinner and two individuals have lifetime MOAA memberships. Jerry has received 48 RSVPs so far. He passed the list around and some additional names were added. Anyone who is new will be provided an escort at the February dinner.

We will need some special publicity for the charter dinner in February. Charlene said she had that covered.

We still do not have confirmation about Lt Gen Atkins' arrival. Jerry asked him to come a day early if possible to meet with chapter leaders, and will invite the other two chapters in our region to meet with him as well.

Chuck has talked with his contact (Pauline) at the Yacht Club about the menu for the February dinner. It will be a varied menu with both beef and fish. There will be a bigger variety than previous dinners but will cost one dollar more.

Jerry suggested seating our honored guest at a head table and discussion followed. Jerry will talk with the General's staff for preferred seating arrangements and protocol.

Regarding chapter by-laws, changes have not been sent out to everyone for review. Jerry requested they not be sent out until the board has approved all changes prior to going to the membership for approval.

A chaplain's program will be established for the chapter.

New Business

Alabama MOAA Council - Frank and Jerry's attended the quarterly Alabama Council meeting at Maxwell AFB. The council consists of thirteen different MOAA chapters. The new council president, Jim Wallace, would like each chapter to report their initiatives for the following quarter, and to have round table discussions. The next Alabama Council meeting is scheduled for 19 April. Jerry will not be in country so Ron Morgan will decide on who will attend the meeting, which is always at Maxwell AFB.

Veteran Transportation - Jerry Morrison submitted a schedule of busses departing the Fairhope area to the Veterans' facilities in Biloxi. Jerry Davis will review the information and get it on the website.

Honorary Chapter Membership - Frank Connell nominated David A. Mastrone to be an honorary member of our MOAA chapter. Frank was an Eagle Scout. He served in the military for three years from Jan 1963-Nov 1965 with the 2nd Armored Division at Fort Hood, TX. He served as an enlisted member so he is not eligible for regular membership. However he is the face of the local VFW honor guard and has been faithful in his participation of veterans' activities in our area. Honorary members do not pay dues or vote but attend meetings as desired. Sid Vogel moved that Dave be given honorary membership. Ken Cooper seconded the motion. The council voted unanimously to make Dave an honorary member of the Baldwin County MOAA. He will be recognized during the February dinner.

Charter Document - Jerry passed around the Charter Document received from National MOAA. People who were charter members will sign the right side of the document. Jerry recommended that we have a calligrapher sign the charter names

on the right side of the document. All agreed with Jerry's philosophy of names to be written on the right page of the charter document.

Chapter Flag and Banner - Jack Gifford passed out handouts of banners we could order for our chapter, which included two sizes, 3X5 feet and 2X3 feet. Jack recommended we put a chapter name on either or both tablecloth and flag, i.e. Baldwin County AL Chapter. Ron Morgan suggested a banner might be a better alternative. The board voted to table the decision until the next meeting considering the cost of the flags or banners.

Website Links - Jerry asked Sid Vogel to look into how we can cover all of our congressional representatives through website links and specifically, how members can sign up for news updates from the congressional offices through these links. Ken Cooper indicated the links were already established on the website.

Conclusion: There being no further business, the council adjourned.

APPROVED by Executive Council 25 February 2016.

JIM BECK
Secretary
Baldwin County, AL MOAA

