



**BALDWIN COUNTY CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

25 February 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: Executive Council, Baldwin County MOAA

SUBJECT: Minutes of Executive Council Meeting on 25 February 2016

1. Jerry Davis, Chapter President, called the meeting to order at 1000 hours on 25 February 2016.
2. Members Present - Jim Beck, George Yeend, Chuck Dumas, Mac Morrison, Jerry Davis, Charlene Rathbun, Larry Rathbun, Jerry Morrison, Sid Vogel, Frank Connell, Ron Morgan, Jack Gifford.
3. Minutes for the 26 January 2016 Executive Council meeting were approved.
4. **Initial Remarks.**
 - a. Jerry Davis highlighted events surrounding the chapter dinner held on 18 Jan 2016. Council members agreed that food and service at the Fairhope Yacht Club (FYC) were excellent. Chuck Dumas made the point that for future events we should discuss multiple food options with the FYC so the menu will not always be standard. Arrival time of 1830 was later than previous events and there was some concern for people who did not like to eat that late. Happy hour for the FYC bar brings in many club members around 1730 and this has been a problem in the past for parking. Having the cash bar set up outside the dining room made it easier for people to purchase beverages instead of waiting for a server to bring drinks to individuals. Multiple serving lines for the food could have improved efficiency and should be discussed with the FYC for future events.
 - b. Council members agreed to ensure escorts are assigned to new members and visitors at meetings so they will feel welcome.
 - c. Charlene and Larry Rathbun provided the flower centerpieces for each of the tables and they looked outstanding. Jan and Bob Nall also did a great job getting out the invitations.

5. Treasurers Report – Frank Connell.

a. The financial report for the period 27 Jan – 24 Feb 2016 reflected a beginning balance of \$1,966.08.

b. Expenses totaled \$3,392.43 and included the February Dinner (\$3,250) and cost for certificate frames (\$142.43). Deposits included dues for two members (\$30), donation of \$150 and money collected for the dinner at the FYC on 18 Jan 2016 (\$3,119). This report did not include money collected during the Council meeting or outstanding invoices.

c. Ending balance for the period reported was \$1,972.65, a net increase of \$49.

d. Frank stated that our chapter could be reimbursed up to \$1,000 for startup expenses by national MOAA. To date, we have spent \$715.21 plus the cost of the banner. Jack Gifford said there was not yet an invoice on the flag but said it would be about \$250. Frank will coordinate this request for reimbursement with Victoria of MOAA's Council at Chapter Affairs.

6. Membership Committee – Jerry Morrison.

a. Jerry briefed the council on “The Member Plus One” customer recruiting program developed during his banking career. In our case, each MOAA member will be encouraged to recruit at least one new member. An information and reference package will be developed to help members and potential members understand the mission, objectives and benefits of belonging to both national MOAA and our local chapter. The target audience for new membership will include personnel who have served in all components, including active duty, reserve components and the National Guard. Jerry asked for suggestions obtaining an accurate, up-to-date list from national MOAA of members in our area, preferably by zip codes. The current list excludes a number of people who have life memberships. Jerry Davis stated an updated list from national MOAA is expected in April 2016 that will identify all national members in our area. This list will include names, addresses and phone numbers, but most listings will not contain email addresses.

b. Jerry Morrison attended a ceremony sponsored by Col Scherry Douglas (JROTC Commandant and BC MOAA Chapter Member) and the local JROTC of Foley, AL in recognizing a deceased Purple Heart recipient. It all started when a Purple Heart medal was discovered in a storage unit in Elberta, AL. Several people tried in vain to find the family of the individual it belonged to, but without success. Brandon Thompson passed the challenge to the Foley High School JROTC leadership Corps, and his stepson Justin Henson took on the leadership role in finding the medal's recipient. The medal had been awarded to Marine Corps Private Samuel Brocks posthumously and presented to his family after he was killed in the battle of Iwo Jim on 28 Feb 1945. He was buried in Amarillo, Texas. They were able to find Brock's brother who lives in Texas and raised money to fly the family here for a memorial service that was conducted 21 Feb 2016 at the Foley Civic Center.

c. Jerry also recognized “Voices for America’s Troops” Association. This is a MOAA recognized organization for people who are not eligible for membership in MOAA but who benefit from MOAA sources. More information needs to be obtained about this organization and to what relationship it might have to our BC MOAA chapter.

7. Program Committee – Ron Morgan.

a. The March Chapter meeting and lunch will be held at the Gift Horse Restaurant in Foley, AL on 17 March at 1130. Jack Watt who works at the Veterans Court will speak. The Veterans Court is a legal court that gives veterans a second chance through alternatives to prison and jail time. A second speaker, Kent Cockson, author and chapter member, will speak about his book “Foley at 100.”

b. The April Chapter meeting and lunch will be held 21 April at the FYC. Lauri Strite who works for the Klass Kids Foundation for lost and exploited children will be our speaker. Her trained search dogs will accompany her. Lauri is a much sought after expert who works with law enforcement and others throughout the country.

c. Ideas for future programs and priorities for presentation should be directed to Ron.

d. For the June Chapter meeting we are scheduled to meet with the South Alabama Chapter. It is the South Alabama Chapter’s responsibility to handle logistics and the program for the meeting. They will be responsible for the entire event.

e. Ron opened discussion concerning prepaying for meals at dinner and lunch meetings. Having a firm RSVP system would help solve the problem of how many people (meals) the Chapter is committed for to the food provider (Gift Horse, FYC, etc.). Jerry Davis stated we would continue to provide the host facility a list of people who made reservations and were liable for payment unless they cancel in advance.

8. Legislative Committee – Sid Vogel. Ken Cooper has placed links to legislative matters on our BC MOAA website. Sid spoke with both State Representative Joe Foust and State Senator Lee Pittman (District 32) about an earlier proposal in the Alabama Legislature to tax military retirement. Both government leaders indicated there was little to no chance that military retirement will be taxed.

9. Publicity Committee – Larry and Charlene Rathbun.

a. Our Chapter dinner at the FYC on 18 Jan 2016 received press coverage in two local papers.

b. Charlene recommended a mission statement be developed for the Chapter, which should appear on press releases, flyers, applications, etc., consisting of no more than two sentences.

She distributed a proposed mission statement to the Council and asked for input from Council members. Jerry Davis stated this is not to reflect the purpose of the Chapter's existence, but a mission statement. Since people do not always understand what the letters MOAA mean, it was suggested we refer to our Chapter by its entire name.

c. Charlene recommended that MOAA applications be made available at respective tables for all future Chapter meetings.

10. Website Committee – Ken Cooper. Ken was absent for the meeting. Because of Ken's schedule, Jerry Davis and Charlene Rathbun will coordinate with him for website inputs. Jerry stated that all website information be forwarded to Charlene. Larry Rathbun provided a copy of the Minnesota MOAA Chapter's website which is easier and more simple to navigate. It may be found at MCMOAA.org.

11. JROTC Committee– Patrice Tiggs. Patrice was unable to attend the meeting. Jerry Morrison stated he will contact all service academy liaison officers (commissioned officers, usually on reserve or retired status) in our area about the possibility of becoming members of our MOAA chapter.

12. Old Business.

a. The Council discussed alternate venues for future meetings should our chapter membership outgrow the FYC or other facilities used for meetings and dinners.

b. Jack Gifford delivered the Baldwin County Chapter MOAA flag to the council and it was agreed that Jim Beck, chapter secretary, would be responsible for keeping it and bringing it to meetings as appropriate.

c. Jerry Davis stated he would be getting bylaw revisions to the council and then to the general membership. Proposed changes to honorary membership were the only significant change.

d. Baldwin County Judge of Probate Tim Russell has volunteered to record our charter document free of charge. He will also record DD-214s at no charge chapter members who so desire. This can be accomplished with the individual's Social Security number redacted.

e. Liability Insurance. Ron Morgan confirmed that USAA does not provide liability insurance for MOAA chapters. Organizers of MOAA meetings and like functions are not covered by USAA under homeowner's insurance or their umbrella policy. Jerry Morrison indicated there are three states that provide insurance for charitable organizations and Alabama is one of those states. Jack Gifford will call some of his contacts that handle "Directors and Officers" Insurance and report back to Ron Morgan who will serve as Point of Contact for this matter.

13. **New Business.**

a. George Yeend agreed to head up the Chaplain and Personal Affairs Committee for our chapter and asked for ideas regarding the same. Jerry Davis suggested having a “Chaplains Corner” on the website. George agreed to provide input for Jerry’s monthly President’s Newsletter” each month. Jerry Morrison volunteered to help with the personal affairs corner. George discussed information that could be put into an information packet for contingency actions (death, marriage, divorce, etc.) Jerry thanked George for taking on this project and asked for inputs to be included on the chapter website.

b. Member Highlights. Jerry Morrison nominated the Rathbuns for member highlights on the website.

c. Mesothelioma. Chad Maycumber recently contacted our Council members about adding a link for the Mesothelioma Prognosis Network to our Chapter website. Though this may be a good source of information for people with this condition, Council members agreed it was outside the purview of our mission, and would not be included as a link on our Chapter website.

d. Speaker Gifts. Sid Vogel accepted the task of providing gifts for speakers at our Chapter meetings and has agreed to continue with this action. The Council noted that Sid had done an excellent job finding books that were given as gifts to past speakers. Frank Connell said there is currently \$200 in the budget for such gifts. Ron Morgan stated that MOAA provides Certificates of Appreciation and Certificates of Merit that could also be used when warranted. Reference MOAA Council and Chapter Policies and Procedures Guide, Page 72.

e. JROTC Medals. Frank Connell will call national MOAA to order JROTC medals to be presented by our chapter to Baldwin County High School in Bay Minette, Robertsdale High School and Daphne High School. These medals will be presented by one of our chapter representatives to the Outstanding Cadet selected by each of the respective schools. Presentation of the medal to the outstanding cadet for Daphne High school is scheduled for 26 Apr 2016. Other high schools have not yet established dates for this event.

f. Jerry Davis will be out of the country from 10 Mar – 6 May 2016. Charlene will serve as POC for all email correspondence in his absence. A note will be published on the website to this effect. Ron Morgan will be taking meeting/meal reservations and providing program information to members during Jerry’s absence.

g. Name tags for new members. There are a lot of new members who do not have permanent name tags. Temporary stick-on name tags will be used at meetings until permanent name tags are made.

h. Jerry Davis asked the group if anyone knew what our requirements were for state and federal income tax reporting. No one knew so Frank Connell will research this question with a CPA he knows and report back to the board.

14. **Conclusion.** There was no further business for discussion. The meeting adjourned at 1200.

JIM BECK
Chapter Secretary

APPROVED BY BOARD
24 MAY 2016

