

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
May 24, 2016

The Board of Directors of the Baldwin County Alabama MOAA Chapter met at the Fairhope United Methodist Church at 10:00 AM.

Call To Order - at 10:00 AM Jerry Davis called the meeting to order.

Attendance - The following were in attendance:

Frank Connell
Ken Cooper
Jerry Davis
Chuck Dumas
Jack Gifford
Ron Morgan
Mac Morrison
Charlene Rathbun
Larry Rathbun
Patrice Tiggs

The following members were absence:

Jim Beck
Andy Huggins
Jerry Morrison
Sid Vogel
George Yeend

Minutes of Feb 25, 2016 Board Meeting - Jerry stated that he had not received any comments or corrections on the February minutes since they were sent out and the only item he noticed was that the location of the meeting was not included and he will ask Jim to add that to the notes. There were several positive comments about the completeness of the minutes. Chuck Dumas made a motion to accept the minutes and Patrice Tiggs seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

Treasurers Report - Frank Connell presented the Treasurer's report (attached) and additionally he noted two deposits he had received from MOAA National. He had submitted receipts for over \$900.00 for expenses related to the standing up our Chapter and National credited our

checking account for \$750.00, the maximum, one time, reimbursement for these expenses. Additionally for submitting our Chapter membership roster before January 15th our checking account was credited \$50.00 as a bonus for early submission.

Committee Reports:

Membership - Jerry Morrison, the membership chair, was unable to attend the meeting but sent a brief report explaining his membership initiative called "Plus One". At the April dinner meeting at the Fairhope Yacht Club he handed out approximately 40 packets to attending members encouraging each member to recruit one new member. The packets contained brochures from National to assist in recruitment. Jerry Morrison is looking forward to obtaining a list of prospective members in Baldwin Count from National and will use that list to contact those who are not already BC-MOAA members. Patrice asked about membership eligibility for reserve officers who are interested in joining. She was told all present and previous reserve officers, commissioned or warrant, are eligible for MOAA membership. Patrice will get the contact information for the two reserve officers and provide it to Jerry Morrison to follow up regarding membership.

Programs - Ron reported that since the June, joint, meeting is sponsored by South Alabama Chapter we have no responsibility for that meeting. In July Ron had hoped to have a speaker from the forensic team that had recently gone to Viet Nam to recover remains of US service members from the Viet Nam War. Michael Malson, a BC-MOAA member, is Ron's contact for the forensic team. The forensic team was extended in Viet Nam and Ron has been unable to confirm when someone from the team would be available to make a presentation. If Ron is not able to confirm the return date of the team, the presentation may have to be delayed to August or later. Ron reported the July lunch will be in Foley but he does not have a final location as Patrice has been working on other potential locations. There was some discussion about a location other than the Gift Horse but nothing appeared to be as reasonable or with as favorable report for food quality as the Gift Horse. Additionally the group discussed our historic alternating between lunches and dinners and all felt that was a good mix and to stay with that rotation. Also discussed was a meeting in December which in past years we have skipped due to the many

activities and travel during that month. All were in favor of again skipping a December meeting this year. Frank Connell pointed out it would be appropriate to sometime hold a dinner in the southern area of the county. After some discussion Ron said he would relook at some of the possibilities but in the past he found all locations too expensive if we wanted to keep the same quality and quantity of food. Frank also brought up the JROTC cadets at Bay Minette and their desire to present to our chapter if we could hold a lunch, in September, closer to Bay Minette. After some discussion this decision was left up to Ron who will be working with Patrice on possible locations.

Legislative - Sid Vogel was not able to attend.

Publicity - Charlene reported that she had just released an article, with photo, to all the local papers about Fritz Fererr our speaker at the May 19th lunch. The article was also sent to Ken for placement on the web site. Ken acknowledged receiving the article and indicated he will get it posted shortly.

Web Site - Ken reported that he was pleased with the material he has received for the web site and continues to make small improvements based on comments received. Ken and Ron Morgan sat down following the lunch on May 19th to work out details for Ron to have access to the Calendar Sections of the web site. This is working out well as Ron has already made several entries on the web site and will continue to be the POC for events posting on the web site. This provides a back-up for Ken when he is out of the area and the same when Ron is gone. Ken encourages all members to submit photos to be placed in the photo gallery of the web site adding additional interest to our members. While discussing the web site Jack Gifford asked to have an article placed on the web site advertising the Fairhope VFW Honor Guard's participation at burials of veterans in Baldwin County. Since several of the Honor Guard are BC-MOAA members Jack would like to see this acknowledged on the web site and mention the need for additional volunteers in the Honor Guard. Jerry asked if there were any objections to including such an article in the web site. There were no objections and Mac Morrison recommended this be an article identifying what some of our members are doing in the community. Jerry asked Jack Gifford to draft such an article with photos and send them to Charlene for proofing. Charlene will, in addition to

reviewing and sending to Ken Cooper, will submit the article to the local papers.

JROTC - Patrice Tiggs reminded everyone of the newspaper article about the Foley High School Air Force JROTC program receiving the Distinguished Unit with Merit Award. Charlene indicated that article about the Foley JROTC award will soon be on our web site. Frank Connell reported on his three presentations of MOAA medals to the outstanding JROTC Cadets at: Robertsdale High School on April 12th; Daphne High School on April 26th; and Baldwin County High School in Bay Minette on April 29th. Each of the presentations was a bit different, especially with Bay Minette where the cadets conducted a “dining-in” that was impressive. Jerry asked if Frank had taken any photos or if he could obtain them so they can be placed on the web site. Frank reminded us that in addition to the three JROTC programs we supported this year we will be adding Foley and Gulf Shores JROTC programs next year.

Personal Affairs - George Yeend was unable to make this meeting due to a previous commitment. George has written two excellent “Chaplin’s Corner” articles for the web site.

Old Business

By-laws Revision - due to a miscommunication between Frank Connell and Jerry Davis the next step in this issue was not completed. Jerry now has the revised By-laws and will send them to the Board members for comment and once approved at the next Board meeting all members will be informed of the changes and a vote regarding the changes will be taken at the August dinner meeting. Frank reminded us that the main change is the addition of specifics on how we select honorary members into the BC-MOAA.

BC-MOAA Mission Statement - this issue was previously discussed but was not resolved. The chief reason for a mission statement is to use in conjunction with any article submitted to any mass media element. This is needed as the average person does not know what the letters MOAA stands for or anything about our organization. The statement needs to be short and concise and not overshadow the article itself. After some discussion the following was unanimously approved as our “official” mission statement:

Baldwin County's Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America's (MOAA) mission is to support a strong national defense and the interests of all former, present, and future military personnel and their families. Our commitment is to "NEVER STOP SERVING."

Liability Insurance - Jack Gifford reported that he has not received responses from the inquiries he has made but continues to research the issue. Ron Morgan reminded the Board that National MOAA does not have a blanket policy to cover liability issues for chapters but recommends using local agencies for such insurance. He also has determined that the state of Alabama is one of three states that has passed legislation limiting liability for charitable organizations but he is not sure if the same applies to non-profit organizations. Ron is researching that question. Ron additionally explained the only way to determine the actual liability coverage is to submit an application for the insurance. An application would not obligate us to take the coverage but it would take the application through the underwriters and give us a cost and coverage. Ron asked the Board for permission to complete an application with the understanding that this would not obligate BC-MOAA to purchase the insurance. This application would be submitted through Ebert, an independent agent in Foley who would be able to obtain quotes from several insurance companies. Ron further explained that his concern not only is for the Board members but also if the chapter sponsor trips or activities we need to know the Chapter's liability during such activities. There were no objections, so Ron has the permission of the Board to submit an application for liability insurance for the purpose of determining coverage and cost and will report his findings at the next meeting.

State and Federal Tax Requirements - Frank Connell reported he research this issue by talking with a member of the Montgomery MOAA Chapter and he identified the forms that need to be completed and, as the Treasurer, he will complete and file that form for the 2016 reporting year since our charter was not presented to us until February 2016.

New Business

Policy for paying for Speaker's/Spouse's Meals - Ron has asked for the

Board to identify an official policy for this issue as recently there has been more than one person accompanying our speaker and without a policy it puts him in an awkward position of having to make a decision that may not always be the same. After a brief discussion the all Board members agreed that we would pay for the meals of the speaker and one guest.

Greenwood Funeral Cost - Jerry Davis reported that a week ago he sent an Email to all Board members and attached an information sheet about James Greenwood a local veteran who recently took his own life leaving a wife and a 7 year old son with a funeral cost of approximately \$4,500.00. This information was sent to Jerry from Jim Wallace the President of the Alabama Council of MOAA Chapters. Jerry and Dave Mastrone have an appointment with the owner of the Wolfe Bay View Funeral Home in Fairhope to see if there is any possibility of reducing this amount. At this point there was discussion regarding our Chapter providing monetary assistance to Mrs. Greenwood as this could set a precedent for future requests for this kind of support. There was general agreement that rather than using chapter funds it would be more appropriate to send a message to our members so each member could consider a personal contribution. The question was asked if there is any sort of fund set up for Mrs. Greenwood as that would be the most ideal method of supporting her needs. This was not known but Jerry indicated he will try to find out this information and include it in any message that is sent out.

Resolving Member and Prospective Member Lists and Notification -the last two notifications messages sent out by Charlene to make lunch/dinner reservations resulted in several members stating that they did not receive the notification messages. Charlene added that Constant Contact, the service she is using to send out notifications, indicates that many of the messages she sent were never opened. In addition some members who were not on the reservation list came to the meetings and were surprised that their names were not on the list as they has responded to the message, indicating they would attend and included the name of their spouse or guest. Jerry informed the group that he would be meeting with Larry & Charlene Rathbun and Jim Beck tomorrow to explore these and other challenges with our notification process in the hopes of reducing these discrepancies. The use of Constant Contact to send out the notification messages is much superior to

the way Jerry did this in the past as it allows Charlene to put creative designs in a message rather than just words and numbers as well as providing feedback lists of who have responded and how they have responded. Jerry stated we will make this method work, even if it takes some additional effort to train our members how to respond correctly.

Reservation/payment Method For The June Joint Meeting - Jerry explained South Alabama Chapter wants us to send a notification message and collect reservations from BC-MOAA members for this meeting and they will do the same for the SAC. Then BC-MOAA will send our count to their POC to make the reservations with the yacht club. On the night of the dinner we will collect payments from our members and they will collect from theirs and then BC-MOAA will write a check to their treasury for the money we have collected. Jerry feels this complicates the reservation and payment process but since they are responsible for this year's dinner they have the right to decide how things will be conducted.

Name Tags - Jerry explained that due to his travels his color printer Cartridge, due to non-use, became nonfunctional. If the Board desires that he continue to print the permanent name tags for all those who pay chapter dues he will need to purchase a new cartridge. Patrice explained that several ladies have asked about obtaining name tags that do not clip onto clothing. Patrice explained there are plastic name tags that attach with a two part magnet device reducing damage to clothing. There was general agreement that we should offer the option of members purchasing, at their expense, more permanent name tags using magnetic attachments. There was some discussion regarding the size of the name tag such that the name is easily read at a conversation distance. Ken Cooper will send Charlene information on a source he has used and she will research options for purchasing magnetic name tags and obtain one for the Board to see and make a final decision. The decision was also made to continue providing the clip-on name tags for all new members and spouses as we have in the past. Once the Board has selected a specific name tag that information will be placed on the web site and a message sent to all members explaining their option.

Alabama Concealed Carry Permits - Ron Morgan informed the group that

last week the Governor signed a bill into law stating that retired military members will no longer pay for a permit to carry a concealed weapon. The permits will continue to be issued by sheriff's departments as usual but with no charge. The only exception is for those who have been retired for medical reasons or less than honorable discharge. This is only for retired personnel. The document used for verification is the DD Form 214. With this legislation Jerry asked the group if this is something we want to put on our web site. There was some discussion as to the "impression" this would send not only to our members but to non-members that could possibly influence their opinion of our organization. Although there was differing opinion the majority of Board members voted to post the Internet link, announcing this new law, under the Alabama Legislation section of the BC-MOAA web site. Jerry will draft what will go on the web site and send it to all Board members for comment prior to placing it on the web site.

Web Site Clarification - as a follow on to the discussion above Jack Gifford asked about our newsletter and how that goes to our members. Jerry explained that due to a previous Board of Directors decision, the BC-MOAA will not publish a newsletter of any form but will place all such information on the web site as the information becomes available. Jack then asked if we notified our members when there is new information on the web site. Ken Cooper explained that would not be appropriate as too many Email messages tend to causes people to unsubscribe from such organizations. It was also pointed out that each time Charlene sends out a notification of a meeting there is a button that will take the person to our web site. Ken felt there would be little harm in a message going out to our members each year or so reminding them of the web site and encouraging them to visit the site.

Adjourn - there being no further business Jerry adjourned the meeting at 11:55 AM.

Jerry Davis