



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

4 August 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: Board of Directors, Baldwin County MOAA

SUBJECT: Minutes of Board Meeting Conducted 21 July 2016

1. Jerry Davis, Chapter President, called the meeting to order at 1400L on 21 July 2016.
2. Members Present - Ron Morgan, Sid Vogel, Jack Gifford, Charlene Rathbun, Larry Rathbun, Frank Connell, Jerry Davis, Chuck Duas, Patrice Tiggs, Jerry Morrison, Ken Cooper, Jim Beck
3. The Board approved the minutes for the 24 May 2016 board meeting.
4. **Initial Remarks - Jerry Davis.** Jerry requested reports be presented by board members.
5. **Treasurers Report – Frank Connell**

MOAA Baldwin County Chapter Treasurer's Report 24 May 2016 - 20 July 2016				
Beginning Balance				\$2,546.60
Expenses \$				
June Dinner		1,100.00		
Name Tags		51.06		
Non-profit Incorporation		184.00		
Color Printer Cartridge		34.85		
Total			1,369.91	
Deposits \$				
June Dinner		1,100.00		
Total			1,100.00	
Net Decrease	269.91			
Ending Balance				\$ 2,276.69

6. Membership Committee Report – Jerry Morrison. Jerry Morrison stated that members should forward names of prospective members to Jerry Davis or himself as soon as possible so they may be contacted. There are currently 117 paid members on the role.

7. Program Committee Report – Ron Morgan. Future Chapter programs are scheduled as follows:

a. August 18. Fairhope Yacht Club. Program will be presented by Judge Bert Noojin who will speak about the World War II Museum in New Orleans.

b. September 15. Holly Hills Golf Course. JROTC in Bay Minette will present program. Frank Connell is coordinating the program. Patrice Tiggs is making arrangements for dining and catering at the city owned Holly Hills Golf Course. Jerry Davis stated that expanding our meeting locations such as this would be good for prospective members. We don't expect cost of lunches for more than four JRTOC cadets and their leader.

c. October 20. The Gift Horse in Foley. The October program will be presented by Mike Malson of the Corps of Engineers. The Corps' forensic team recently returned from Vietnam where members have been searching for human remains from the Vietnam War. It was not clarified as to whether this event would be a dinner or lunch.

d. November 17. Program and locations not yet determined. A brief program may be planned prior to a chapter business meeting which should not be lengthy.

8. Legislative Committee Report – Sid Vogel.

a. Survivor Benefits and the FY17 Defense Authorization Bill.

(1) Definitions. This addresses the *Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA)*, *Survivor Benefit Program (SPP)* and *VA Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC)*.

(2) Overview. Both House and Senate versions of the FY17 Defense Authorization Bill prevent the \$310 monthly allowance (SSIA) for SBP-DIC widows from expiring. Neither bill would continue previously intended increases in SSIA to make progress toward phasing out the SBP-DIC offset. The big problem is money. It is very hard for the Armed Services Committee to identify more of the mandatory spending funds to raise SSIA. Keeping the SSIA at the current rate of \$310 per month does not solve the widows' real plight. The SSIA and its steady schedule of increases to date were meant to provide a lower cost route to phase out the unfair SBP-DIC offset. However Military widows who have been losing up to \$15,000 per year to the SBP-DIC offset generally have lower incomes and deserve no less.

(3) Recommendations. The Armed Services Committees have few options to identify the mandatory spending offsets necessary to continue annual SSIA increases. Senior House and

Senate leaders should be urged to provide adequate funding for the Armed Services Committees to support this action . It is time to get top House and Senate leadership involved. Congress routinely finds offsets to fix other problems such as Medicare Part B premium relief and can fix this problem as well. It is imperative that we urge chapter members to to send MOAA-suggested messages encouraging Congressional leaders to make this happen.

b. Risk of loss to military. Military leaders say forces are on the ragged edge of readiness. Similar patterns of repeated personnel and benefit cuts caused retention problems in the 1970s and 1990s. Military people have much to lose as House and Senate Armed Services Committee leaders work to resolve big differences in their respective versions of the FY17 Defense Authorization Bill. Please do all you can to ensure the following proposals do not stay in the final defense bill.

(1) Disproportionately high health care fee increases.

(2) Steep housing allowance cuts that would cost service members ten to twenty thousand dollars or more per year.

(3) A fourth consecutive year of capping military pay raises below that of the average American.

(4) Significant cuts to force levels.

c. Military spouse re-license requirement.

(1) Moving at the direction of the government is a way of life for military families, and that does not always bode well for the careers of military spouses. Maintaining consistent employment remains a major challenge for military spouses due to the frequency of moves and cost requirements associated with prepping for employment in a new location. Senators Bob Casey and Jerry Moran have introduced a *bi-partisan amendment to the National Defense Authorization bill (S. 29943)*, authorizing reimbursement for costs of professional relicensing and recertification for military spouses after Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders to a new state.

(2) More than fifty percent of military spouses require licensing or certification for employment in their respective career fields, complicating opportunities for reemployment after a move. That means skilled workers in fields like teaching, nursing, and legal professions are shut out of the workforce when forced to move because of government orders. When they do manage to find employment, military spouses earn an average of thirty eight percent less than their civilian counterparts. This affects long term earnings and financial stability of military families. The loss of real income as well as cost of relicensing in a state places additional financial burdens on military families. Military spouses are proven assets to their communities. This grant eligibility would ease the financial burden on military families and get spouses back

into the job market expeditiously. *Please urge your Congressional leaders to support Senate Amendment 4292.*

9. JROTC Committee– Patrice Tiggs.

a. The Foley High School JROTC Color Guard desires that two or three of its members attend the MOAA lunch meetings when they are conducted in the Foley area.

b. The program for our chapter’s September 2016 lunch meeting in Bay Minette will be presented by the Baldwin County High School JROTC.

c. No further contacts have been made with JROTC programs since school has been out for the summer.

10. Publicity Committee – Larry and Charlene Rathbun.

a. News articles were sent to the Baldwin Times regarding our joint dinner meeting in June 2016 with the Mobile chapter at the Yacht Club in Fairhope. Charlene raised the question about whether we should identify by name members and individuals whose photo appears in news articles about our MOAA chapter. The Board decided that for privacy reasons the names of members or guests would not be included, but that speakers would be identified appropriately.

b. Patrice asked if Charlene would write an article about the JROTC prior to the September meeting in Bay Minette. Charlene affirmed that request.

c. There is still a challenge with emails, specifically for dinner and lunch reservations. There are some individuals who refuse to RSVP through the electronic invitation system that is being used. Charlene said she sends out an initial announcement and if people do not respond, she sends out a second notice. Some people simply ignore the email and show up for meals; don’t include reservations for their spouse or guest(s) who accompany them; or fail to show up without telling anyone. This presents a problem because the number of meals provided by a restaurant or facility are determined in advance, and the chapter is held financially accountable. Members are encouraged to RSVP appropriately to emails and to also let Charlene know if they have a change of plans and cannot attend.

11. OLD BUSINESS.

a. Liability Insurance - Ron Morgan.

(1) Two local insurance agencies were contacted and applications were submitted in order to obtain an estimated cost.

(2) The Elbert Agency obtained a quote of \$558 for \$1,000,000 of liability coverage from Ace Insurance Company.

(3) White Haven Agency obtained a quote of \$687 (plus 10 percent commission) for \$1,000,000 of liability coverage from AmWINS Insurance Company.

(4) Both of these quotes were based on Baldwin County MOAA having a Tax Exempt Status - 501.C. Information provided by Jack Gifford indicated Alabama is one of only three states that has adopted model statutes to provide liability protection to all volunteers and not just directors and officers working for charitable organizations. Alabama Code 10-11-3 states that chapter officers are immune from suit except in cases of willful misconduct, fraud or gross negligence. Details can be found at the website <http://codes.lpfindlaw.com/alcode/10/11/10-11-3>. Jerry Davis has requested that a legal representative review this and provide us with an appropriate opinion.

b. By-laws Revision - Jerry Davis. Discussion to be continued.

c. New Name Tags - Charlene Rathbun. Charlene presented samples of two magnetically held chapter name tags she designed. The name tags will cost \$11 each. The board agreed on a MOAA approved logo for the name tags. Jerry Davis asked Charlene to make a mock-up of the proposed name tag and post it on our website. Magnetic name tags will be optional.

d. James Greenwood update - Jerry Davis. Jerry explained that all his efforts to contact anyone who knows the Greenwood family has ended in a dead end. His phone calls and email messages to American Legion leaders in Mobile and Baldwin Counties have not been returned. Jack Gifford asked if Jerry had contacted Barry Booth as he may have a contact that could assist. Jerry will continue this effort by contacting Barry Booth.

e. 501(c)(19) Update - Jerry Davis. Jerry reported that he has not had time to complete the application for this IRS “nonprofit” category but that in his conversations with Bill Scully (BC-MOAA charter member) obtaining “Alabama Nonprofit Corporation” status would be the appropriate precursor to an application for the IRS status. When the Alabama Nonprofit Corporation documentation is recorded Jerry will coordinate with Bill Scully to complete the application for the 501(c)(19) status.

f. VFW article for website. Jack Gifford reminded the Board that the Fairhope VFW Honor Guard continues to provide ceremonial assistance to all veteran’s funerals in Baldwin County. The Honor Guard Unit continues to participate in many more funeral services than in past years and the age of the Honor Guard members is not young. He has asked that an article about the VFW Honor Guard be allowed in the BC-MOAA web site with the hopes that additional BC-MOAA members might become Honor Guard members. He provided a draft article to Charlene Rathbun to review and send to Ken Cooper. There were no objections from the group and it was decided to post the article in the “Chapter Highlights” section.

g. Meeting in Bay Minette, AL - Ron Morgan & Patrice Tiggs. The 15 September Chapter meeting at Holly Hills Municipal Golf Course and facility. This facility is located seven miles south of Bay Minette on Alabama 59/US31; approximately one hour north of Gulf Shores; and a forty-five minute drive from Mobile. The address is 38600 Country Club Drive off Highway 59. Meeting time will be between 1130-1300L. The meal will consist of choice of entrees, either chicken salad with crescent rolls or grilled chicken over a green salad. There will be a choice of dessert, iced tea, coffee or water. It will cost \$50 per hour to rent the facility. Frank Connell said we should plan on costs being \$100 for rental of the facility and \$15 per person for lunch.

h. Issues concerning reservations at June joint meeting with Mobile Chapter - Jerry Davis. Jerry stated there were significant problems surrounding the joint meeting in June. This included multiple RSVP contacts and subsequent accountability (or lack thereof) for those attending. Better liaison between the two chapters and more advanced planning will be required before future activities of this nature can take place.

i. Alabama concealed carry permits for retired military - Sid Vogel. Effective 1 August 2016, retired military personnel who are residents of Alabama will no longer be required to pay a fee to obtain a Concealed Weapon License (CWL). This is only for retired military who were not retired for medical reasons or have a history of mental disorders. Permits will be obtained as usual from their respective county sheriff's department. A copy of your retirement DD Form 214 will be required as evidence of military retirement and a background check must be free of disqualifying items.

j. Recording DD Form 214 - Ron Morgan. Probate Recording for DD Form 214. Any veteran who is a resident of Baldwin County can record their DD Form 214 or military separation paper at any of the four Probate Offices in Baldwin County for free. The information is not made public but a certified copy is available in case the original is lost or destroyed.

12. **NEW BUSINESS.**

a. Regularly scheduled meetings for Board of Directors - Jim Beck. A proposal was made by the chapter secretary to schedule board meetings the same day as our lunches/dinners. This eliminates the need to schedule a separate date for board meetings and makes it more likely that participants will be available to attend. Jerry Davis recommended that board meetings be scheduled for every other month. Both recommendations were approved by the board.

b. Blitz recruiting effort - Jerry Morrison. Jerry distributed a fact sheet from from the MOAA National Office. Statistics reflected there are 343 individuals on the National Organization roster for Baldwin County, including 36 percent of who have lapsed membership; 54 percent basic or premium members; 32 percent life members; 67 percent officers; 23 percent widows; and 14 percent prospects. This list has not been cross checked with the current Baldwin County MOAA membership list. Addresses of all individuals are located in Fairhope, Foley, Daphne,

Spanish Fort and Gulf Shores or Baldwin County zip codes. 58 percent of the individuals listed phone numbers but few listed email addresses. Every individual on the list has provided a postal mailing address. It was suggested that board members respectively divide the list of names of potential prospects and contact them by phone. Further discussion on this matter is pending.

c. JROTC medals from National MOAA - Frank Connell. Frank Connell said he spoke with Barry Wright (National MOAA Deputy Director for Councils and Chapters), who stated the certificate and medal program was being transitioned to the local chapters. Jerry Davis said that national was paying out approximately \$18,000 per year to JROTC programs and that according to national the program has not been profitable. Frank said that he had made a copy of the certificate which can be reproduced and that costs for medals incurred by our chapter would be about \$10 each. We anticipate giving out about five medals per year to outstanding JROTC cadets.

d. Baldwin County MOAA business cards - Jack Gifford. Jack displayed a business card design for MOAA members, reflecting relevant information for those who were interested. They may be printed at home through an Avery software program. Contact Jack for more information.

e. Baldwin County MOAA printed/electronic roster - Jack Gifford. The board discussed whether to establish a printed or electronic roster (other than our Excel spreadsheet) for members, reflecting name, rank, service, phone number, spouse's name, email addresses and other information of a non-private nature. This list would be established on the BC-MOAA website and available for "Members Only" through the use of a password. There will be further discussion on this topic at the next board meeting.

f. Alabama non-profit incorporation - Jerry Davis. Jerry reported that based on his recent conversations with Bill Scully (BC-MOAA charter member) to be covered by the Alabama State liability protection for Non-Profit groups it would be necessary for the BC-MOAA Chapter to be "officially" documented as a non-profit organization. Jerry made the decision to have Bill complete the necessary paperwork and have the documents recorded. The total cost of this was \$184.00. Jerry explained that he went ahead with this process without Board approval to grant us this protection and if it was determined this was not necessary he would reimburse BC-MOAA for this expense. There was no objection and all agreed this would save us money in the long term.

g. Alabama Council Meeting on 12 July 2016 - Jerry Davis. Jerry attended this meeting in Montgomery, AL. There are no significant items to report. Several Council leadership members were not present. Council president Jim Wallace has since moved from Dothan to the Foley area and will now become a member of our Baldwin County chapter.

h. Proposal to co-host a state MOAA convention - Jerry Davis. Jerry reported that Colonel Jerry Steele (USMC Retired), secretary of the state MOAA council and previous president of the south Alabama chapter (Mobile) proposed the Baldwin County chapter host a state convention at

Orange Beach. The BC-MOAA Board decided the logistics and demands of such a proposal would be overwhelming for a new chapter like ours and voted down this proposal.

i. National MOAA video to members. Ken Cooper will download the Lieutenant General Atkins' National MOAA video to the BC-MOAA website.

13. ACTION ITEMS.

a. Jerry Davis.

(1) Follow up on prospective member with email rbhinson@gmail.com.

(2) Talk with Charlene to work on understanding and improvement in email communications with our members and prospective members.

(3) Contact Barry Booth to obtain information about James Greenwood.

(4) Work with Jerry Morrison to develop approximately 100 of the best prospects for the BC MOAA Chapter membership. The names are from the spreadsheet of 343 names sent to us from National MOAA. Develop a draft talking paper to be used in conversations with new member prospects.

(5) Send a modified Excel spreadsheet of our paid members to all Board members. Develop the format to be used for a roster to be placed on the website and only visible to paid-up members.

(6) Send the National MOAA video by Lt Gen Atkins to all paid BC-MOAA members.

(7) Contact Jerry Steele to inform him the BC-MOAA is not ready to take on a state convention due to our need to increase membership.

b. Ron Morgan. Send Jerry Davis the Internet link that addresses legal liability exemption in Alabama.

c. Charlene Rathbun. Create a mock-up of the new name tags that can be used on the website and in an email message to inform our members of the magnetic attachable name tags option. Also request a price for orders of multiple name tags.

d. Ken Cooper. Move the information of Alabama's Concealed Carry permits to the Alabama legislative area.

e. Jerry Morrison. Work with Jerry Davis to identify approximately 100 of our best prospective memos to divide up among the Board members for a "Membership Blitz."

f. Jack Gifford. Draft a sample MOAA business card and obtain cost for printing such a draft.

g. All BC-MOAA Members. Contact all of your congressional members during the month of August while they are home on break. Push MOAA objectives.

14. **Conclusion.** Meeting Adjourned approximately 1600L. There was no further business.

JIM BECK
Chapter Secretary

APPROVED: 15 Sep 2016

