



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

14 FEB 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: Board of Directors (BOD), Baldwin County Military Officers Association of America (BCMOAA)

SUBJECT: Minutes, BOD Meeting, 14 FEB 2017, Home of Charlene and Larry Rathbun, Fairhope, AL

1. Larry Rathbun, Chapter President, called the meeting to order at 1500 on 14 FEB 2017.
2. Members Present:
 - a. BOD Members Present.
 - (1) Larry Rathbun, President
 - (2) Jerry Davis, Immediate Past President
 - (3) Jerry Morrison, Second Vice President
 - (4) Frank Connell, Treasurer
 - (5) Chuck Dumas, Director
 - (6) Richard Jaehne, Director
 - (7) Jim Beck, Secretary
 - b. Other Chapter Members Present.
 - (1) Jack Gifford, Program Committee
 - (2) Charlene Rathbun, Surviving Spouse Liaison and Publicist
 - (3) Ken Cooper, Website Coordinator
3. **Initial Remarks - Larry Rathbun.** Larry asked Jim Beck for the minutes of the last meeting which were previously sent to BOD members for review and comments. There were no further comments and the BOD approved the minutes for the JAN 2017 BOD meeting as written with noted changes.
4. **Treasurers Report – Frank Connell.** See enclosure for proposed budget (17 JAN - 14 FEB 2017). Not shown in this report is a later deposit of \$740 for incentive awards the Chapter

received for recruiting new members (\$500 for being Number One in our category and \$240 for increased membership award). An additional \$50 should be forthcoming for our verification of National MOAA's membership roster submitted prior to 15 JAN 2017.

5. Membership Committee Report – Jerry Morrison.

a. Jerry Morrison reported that sixty-four percent of our members have paid their 2017 dues. He also distributed letters urging members to stay current in their membership with National MOAA; application for new chapter membership; application for National MOAA membership; information on the Community Foundation; and National MOAA "Tips for Strengthening your Chapter." Jerry will send a follow-up letter through first class U.S. Mail NLT 28 FEB 2017 to members who have not paid their dues.

b. Jerry stated that National MOAA does not have a system in place (or at least one they will provide) to identify expiration dates for Basic and Premium membership in the national organization. A qualified applicant can join MOAA for free as a BASIC member, but members over age 35 are limited to two years. After two years, these BASIC members will either lapse to a Prospect or upgrade to a PREMIUM or LIFE membership. As a MOAA chapter, we need to highly encourage members to keep their membership current in the national organization for several important reasons. First and foremost is that each member becomes part of a strong advocate for our military's personnel and their families. The stronger our membership, the stronger our voice becomes in Congress. Second, National MOAA provides financial incentives for local chapters having strong national membership. Third, MOAA offers a wide range of personal and financial services exclusive to MOAA membership, in addition to discounts for travel, car rentals, and hotels.

c. Jerry requested the BOD nominate and select a Membership Recruiting Team to hopefully include at least one representative from each branch of service, for a total of at least seven members, including Jerry Davis and all BOD members. National MOAA will provide a recruiting list of prospective members to us in APR 2017. The goal is to have the Recruiting Team in place to work that list through phone, email or regular mail. In addition, National MOAA will provide updates in JUL and OCT. These lists are developed through zip codes.

d. Rebecca Byrne directs The Community Foundation of South Alabama, a nonprofit charitable organization that helps meet the needs of an eight county region through leadership and grants. The foundation administers a collection of charitable funds established by members of the community. We might consider contacting this organization to see what opportunities it could provide for our MOAA chapter's involvement in the greater community.

e. Jerry also suggested we become involved in the South Alabama Veterans Council (SAVC). Frank Connell agreed to attend the next SAVC lunch meeting at the American Legion on 21 FEB 2017 in order to learn more about that organization.

6. Program Committee Report – Jack Gifford.

a. The following speakers and locations (Location venue POC is Frank Connell) are scheduled for Chapter meetings during the period FEB-JUN 2017:

(1) FEB: MG Janet Cobb, USA Retired, Director of Battleship Park. Lunch at the Fairhope VFW.

(2) MAR: Hank Burch, State Lands Manager, Five Rivers Delta Resource Center. Dinner at the Gift Horse.

(3) APR: Speaker TBD. Lunch at the Fairhope Yacht Club but if too expensive it will be at the VFW in Fairhope. Frank Connell will report back on this.

(4) MAY: Speaker TBD. Dinner at the Fairhope Yacht Club.

(5) JUN: Joint Dinner Meeting with Mobile Chapter. Location is the Venue on Section Street in Fairhope. Charlene and Larry Rathbun are POCs. Further details will be forthcoming.

b. Chuck Dumas reminded the BOD of his past conversation with Lee Shelton, ex-SR71 pilot who is eager to provide a presentation to our chapter. No action has ever been taken on this suggestion.

c. Jerry Davis said we urgently need to appoint a new First Vice-President who serves as Program Chairman who will schedule and follow-up on programs for the coming year. Two distinct functions are important for successful chapter meetings. This includes identifying speakers and arranging and setting up locations. We probably need two separate people handling these tasks, which is a deviation from our Chapter's bylaws. Frank Connell will continue to make location and menu selections until a First Vice-President is ready to assume office.

d. Jerry Morrison offered to check with the American Legion Post 44 in Gulf Shores to see if they were willing to host and could accommodate future BCMOAA lunch meetings. Jack Gifford had previously suggested having lunch at the Francis Green Veteran's home in Bay Minette but according to the facility director they do not have accommodations for this.

e. High School graduates entering the military.

(1) Jerry Davis presented an email he received from Sid Vogel about a possible program to consider. Some organizations around the country (Not MOAA) are sponsoring a "Thank You" dinner for high school graduates entering the military and their families. Only one percent of the Nation's qualified youth volunteer for military service. The idea is to get the names of those who have signed from recruiters, invite them and their parents to a sit down dinner, invite politicians, celebrities, business owners and the like to participate. Press would be invited so that this one

percent who are patriotic and volunteering to serve feel like they are honored by the community. Mobile already has an organization that does this through their Chamber of Commerce. Perhaps we could do the same for the Eastern Shore area.

(2) Richard Jaehne asked for clarification on the specific geographic area we would be covering for this event. Frank Connell said we have connections with all Baldwin County high schools except Bay Minette. Jerry Davis will draft a letter to respective organizations, VFW, American Legion, Marine Corp League, and local businesses to ask if they would be willing to support this event as a sponsor, both financially and through their participation. Richard Jaehne urged the BOD to calculate a tentative number of participants before making this decision, and suggested we approach our membership at the next general meeting, and if it is agreed upon, form a working committee for this task. Jim Beck recommended Oak Hollow Farm in Fairhope for a possible venue, with barbecue catered by Lower Alabama BBQ in Summerdale, AL.

7. **Legislative Committee Report – Sid Vogel.** Sid was not available. No report provided.

8. **Publicity and Communications - Charlene Rathbun.** Charlene has delayed sending out a press release on the new BOD since we don't have a new First Vice President. She will send out a press report on General Cobb, speaker for our February meeting. Charlene also requested information on our next two speakers.

9. **Web Site - Ken Cooper.** Ken had no new information to report. Jim Beck requested minutes of our BOD meetings not be posted on the website until they are approved by the BOD. Charlene Rathbun said we need to comply with National MOAA's requirement to post their insurance ad on our website in order to obtain \$100 from them.

10. **JROTC - Patrice Tiggs.** Patrice was not available.

a. Frank Connell said he contacted local high school ROTC units and has received dates for their respective awards ceremonies. Only one school, Foley High School, has not given him a date for their ROTC awards ceremony. Dates for awards ceremonies are as follows:

- (1) Bay Minette High School - 1900 at the High School, 28 APR
- (2) Daphne High School - 1700 at the High School , 27 APR
- (3) Baldwin County High School - 1900 at the High School, 28 Apr
- (4) Robertsdale High School - Time and Location TBD, 13 APR
- (5) Gulf Shores High School - 1730 at the High School, 18 APR
- (6) Foley High School: TBD

b. Frank called National MOAA about the medals to be awarded to the ROTC cadets at their awards ceremonies but they were having an in-service meeting. He will follow up with them. Frank stated he has a copy of the JROTC medal award certificate and that copies will be made for our use.

c. Frank reported the Foley High School ROTC will present the colors at our MAR 2017 Chapter meeting.

d. Richard Jaehne spoke with the principal at the new Catholic High School in Daphne about the requirements of setting up a ROTC program and requirements for the same, but according to the headmaster they are not able to support an ROTC program at this time.

11. **Personal Affairs** - The BOD talked about possibilities for someone to replace George Yeend but no decision was made. George will continue to provide a monthly Chaplin's article for our website. This was noted by Ken Cooper, website coordinator.

12. **Old Business.** Credit Cards and Chapter Life Membership. The BOD voted to table the use of credit cards and Chapter life memberships until such time the Chapter membership is larger and more financially stable.

13. **New Business.**

a. New Member Highlight. Sharon Sprowls, Captain, U.S. Navy, is our newest member. Jack Gifford will send her bio to Charlene for an article in the newsletter.

b. Future Meeting Locations. See discussion in Paragraph 6, Program Committee Report.

c. Scholarship Money. We have \$3,400 in Scholarship money right now. Richard Jaehne and Jack Gifford recommended tabling this until we have a sustaining amount of money in the treasury. The BOD agreed.

14. **Adjournment.** No further business was discussed. Jack Gifford had pending business about two additional Honorary Members but this was not presented because he had to depart. The meeting was adjourned at 1745L.

JIM BECK
Secretary, BCMOAA

Enclosure:
Treasurer's Report 17 JAN - 14 FEB 2017

Baldwin County MOAA Chapter Treasurer's Report
17 JAN - 14 FEB 2017

Beginning Balance				\$2,474.21	
Expenses \$					
January Dinner *			1,800.00		
Name Tags			99.00		
Total			1,899.00		
Deposits \$					
January Dinner			1,865.00		
Dues			165.00	(Eleven Members)	
Name Tags			99.00		
50/50 Raffel			56.00		
Account Correction *			69.00		
Total			2,254.00		
Net Increase			\$355.00		
Ending Balance				\$2,829.21	
*Will determine where error was made. The amount shown on this report matches the bank statement.					
<i>Submitted by Frank Connell, BC MOAA Treasurer.</i>					

