



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

13 MAR 2017

**MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD**

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

**SUBJECT:** Minutes of Board Meeting Conducted on 13 MAR 2017 at the Fairhope Public Library.

1. Jerry Davis, Immediate Past President, called the meeting to order at 0900L.
2. Board Members and Committee Members Present: Frank Connell, Ken Cooper, Jerry Davis, Chuck Dumas Jack Gifford, Jerry Morrison, Charlene Rathbun, Larry Rathbun, and Patrice Tiggs.
3. **Initial Remarks - Jerry Davis.** This meeting was called to order to address the matters related to the unfortunate accident in Gulf Shores involving Larry Rathbun and to refocus on future plans and events for our chapter. As a result of the accident, Larry Rathbun has expressed the need to step back from making decisions involving BCMOAA. A week prior to this meeting Larry met with Jerry Davis and asked Jerry to step into the President's position until such time he can return reassume total responsibilities or else resign from the BOD. Jerry agreed to fill this need but will continue to keep Larry fully informed and consulted on all decisions. Due to the need to fully discuss items on the agenda, Jerry dispensed with the minutes of the previous BOD meeting, the Treasurer's report, and all committee reports. There were no objections by those present. Jerry recorded minutes of the meeting in Jim Beck's absence.
4. **Topics for Discussion.**
  - a. Cancellation of the MAR 2017 BCMOAA Meeting at the Gift Horse Restaurant. Jerry Davis wanted to get this decision into the minutes of the BOD as it was a decision he and Larry made, based on the current situation surrounding the accident and a need to notify the Gift Horse in sufficient time to not require penalty payment. All in attendance agreed it was the right choice. There were no additional questions or comments concerning this matter.
  - b. Donation of \$500 to the United Way of Baldwin County. This was another decision that needed to be made without consulting all of the BOD members. The amount was determined

due to the amount National MOAA sent, which included \$500 and a recent \$500 award from National MOAA for our recruiting accomplishments for 2016. In addition to the \$500 from the BCMOAA treasury, individual BCMOAA members contributed an additional \$700, making the check from BCMOAA to Baldwin County United Way a total of \$1,200.

c. Cancellation of Bus Trip to the WWII Museum in New Orleans. Due to a lack of adequate interest in the trip and need to pay a non-refundable deposit for the hotel reservations in the next few days, Charlene Rathbun recommended this event be postponed. Jerry agreed but did not have time to survey the BOD. It is anticipated we will explore this trip again in the fall.

d. Replacement of two BC-MOAA Directors. In JAN 2017, First Vice President Richard Geiger resigned from the BOD for family reasons. Doug Redman was identified based on a conversation Mac Morrison had with Doug in late January or early February. He had provided a positive response to the enquiry regarding the filling of a vacancy on the BOD. Jerry asked if anyone had spoken with Doug since his name surfaced. No one at the meeting had any contact. Jerry asked for approval from the BOD members present to contact Doug and finalize his acceptance and to clarify any work related travel that might conflict with his BOD activities. All agreed to this proposal. Jerry also recommended Doug be recruited as a BOD Director and not as First Vice President. Jerry volunteered to fulfill the requirements of 1st VP, including responsibility for managing speakers and locations for meetings, until a replacement could be fully discussed and a decision made by the full BOD. There were no objections for either recommendation. Jerry additionally reported that he is in communication with a BCMOAA member to become a Director, but preferred not to name that person at this time in the event that person decides against becoming a director. Jerry explained that he will communicate with all BOD members if he receives a favorable response from this member to be on the BOD. Each BOD member will then be able to vote yes or no, or provide input regarding this potential new BOD member. All agreed. Frank offered to continue as the point of contact for the Fairhope Yacht Club and Fairhope VFW to coordinate dinners and lunches. Since this arrangement has worked satisfactorily in the past, all felt this should continue until a 1st VP is installed. There were no objections or further comments.

e. Meetings in April and May 2017. Due to the cancellation of the March meeting, Jerry Davis recommended we take this opportunity to make two changes in our plans for meeting in April and May. Since the Gift Horse Restaurant was gracious enough to not charge us for canceling the March 16th dinner, Jerry recommended we hold our April meeting at the Gift Horse for dinner and switch the May meeting from a dinner to a lunch. These two changes would have us back to alternating between dinners and lunches for the remainder of the year. All agreed this was a good recommendation so the April meeting will be a dinner at the Gift Horse. Jerry will coordinate with Ron Morgan to arrange the dinner at the Gift Horse on April 20th. Following this decision was a discussion about where to hold the lunch in May. Jack Gifford informed the group that he had arranged and confirmed our speaker for the May meeting as Katie Voll, Director of the William F. Green Veterans Home in Bay Minette. With Ms. Voll as the May speaker, Jack suggested it might be good to return to the golf course restaurant we scheduled last

year south of Bay Minette. Patrice also mentioned some of the BCMOAA members had suggested to her that we hold a meeting at Streets, a restaurant in Bay Minette. Another location mentioned was the Stage Coach but it is located ten miles north of Bay Minette in Stockton, AL. Frank reminded the group that the last time we went to the golf course south of Bay Minette it ended up costing us almost one hundred dollars due to their requirement that we pay for every meal we reserved, even the no-shows. Due to many unknowns of holding a meeting in Bay Minette, it was decided to delay a meeting in Bay Minette until September, giving Patrice an opportunity to research the options mentioned and recommend the most ideal one. Thus the decision was to schedule the Fairhope VFW for lunch on May 18th.

f. Jerry Davis informed the group that he picked up the speaker's folder from Richard Geiger last Friday and Richard informed him that the last speaker he had arranged was Mark Berte for the lunch meeting on 20 APR. Jerry was not sure of his topic and has sent Mr. Berte and email to coordinate his presentation but had not received a reply. Based on Jack Gifford's previous comments he indicated that he met Ms. Voll during a visit to the Veterans Home by the the Honor Guard. During that visit, Ms. Voll expressed a desire to talk to our group and Jack coordinated that presentation for Richard Geiger. Since there will be a change from dinner to a lunch in May, Jerry asked Jack to send him Ms. Voll's contact information for follow-up coordination.

g. Joint Meeting June 15th. Charlene Rathbun has been the POC for that meeting from the beginning and will continue. She has communicated with Nick Matranga, President of South Alabama (SAC) MOAA, and he is fully behind continuing the yearly joint meeting. He is very positive about using the Venue this year. This year's meeting is BCMOAA's responsibility and Charlene plans to put together a working group of both BCMOAA and SAC members to resolve the problems experienced last year. Charlene recommends our part of the working group would include Frank as treasurer, Larry as President, and Jerry Davis due to his involvement in last year's joint meeting. The speaker will be Billy McDonald, III, author of a book about his father who flew with General Claire Chennault in China.

h. Lee Shelton as a Speaker. Ken Cooper said he was asked to speak with Lee Shelton about coordinating a presentation to our group. Ken will see him tomorrow and wanted to offer him a specific day for that presentation. It was decided a dinner meeting would be better for his presentation and Ken was given 17 AUG and 19 OCT as possible dates for his presentation. Ken will talk with Lee and see if either date is possible. Charlene said she received comments from some of our members that we should have more presentations on military topics and fewer relating to the environment.

i. Potential Legal Suits and Outside Enquiries. Jerry Davis reminded the group that as a Alabama Non-Profit Corporation, neither the BCMOAA organization or its members are liable for civil damages unless the damages were the result of willful and wanton misconduct. This is stated in Alabama Code Title 6 Civil Practice (paragraph 6-5-336). Even with this stature the possibility of BCMOAA being named in a law suit is possible and for that reason Jerry recommended if anyone is contacted for comment on the accident in Gulf Shores they be

referred to him. Charlene stated their legal council told them to say nothing to anyone about the accident.

j. BCMOAA Survey. Jerry Davis stated that the survey Charlene had drafted was an outstanding document and will provide the BOD with the information we have long strived to obtain. Jerry reminded everyone to take a look at it one more time and provide Charlene any recommendations as soon as possible as it is to be sent out in April. Charlene said the survey will be sent out via the Constant Contact Email Service and as such will provide statistics from the responses to the survey.

k. Trifold Information Sheet with Chapter Application. Charlene sent out the draft via email to the Board and one small change was made. She is having 140 of them printed and will have them back by 22 MAR. She will provide these documents to our members as recruiting aids.

l. Printed BC-MOAA Newsletter. A copy of the first "Force Recon" newsletter has been sent out to all of our members via email. This very professional document was organized by Charlene Rathbun, our Communications Chair. She will coordinate and publish five more this year and needs input for the March/April edition as soon as possible but no later than April 1st.

m. Letter and Check from MOAA National. Jerry passed around a copy of the letter Lt Gen Atkins sent to the Executive Director of the Baldwin County United Way along with the check for \$5,000. Frank stated this letter should be in the next "Force Recon" newsletter to let our members know that National does care about what happens at our level. Larry Rathbun mentioned that Lt Gen Atkins personally called him and talked for at least fifteen minutes, letting him know of his personal support.

n. Medals for JROTC Cadets. Frank Connell updated the group on his support for the JROTC programs in Baldwin County. He has ordered the medals and was notified that they were back ordered and due to be in by 10 MAR but he has not received any additional information to date. Frank put the cost (approximately \$66) on his credit card in order to place the order and will need to have one of the other signatories sign a check to reimburse him for the medals. Frank also reminded the group that the dates for the five separate dinners where the medals will be presented are set and he or another BCMOAA member will make all five presentations. The dates for the presentations were posted in the Force Recon newsletter and the only change from those dates was Bay Minette's which was changed from 28 APR to 5 MAY, with all times as posted.

o. Fairhope Yacht Club (FYC). Frank expressed concern regarding an email message he sent to all members of the BOD, explaining that the FYC has a concern with supporting our dinner meetings on Thursday evenings. He did not receive any response from the letter. The FYC has at least two other organizations that have regularly met at the FYC longer than BCMOAA. They also meet on Thursday evenings, which detracts from supporting all three as fully as they would like. Frank stated that Tuesday would be a better day for them and even Wednesday would be

better than Thursday, but many churches in the area have Wednesday evening functions. Jerry asked Frank to re-check with the FYC to make sure Tuesday is their desired day and then send another Email to the Board for consideration of a change in days for FYC dinners. Chuck asked if Frank had determined if the FYC could support a lunch meeting and if he determined the cost. Frank replied that the the FYC can support a lunch meeting and the cost varies with the menu but the starting point would be \$14 or \$15 and go up from there. The general feeling was that our last lunch at the VFW had an improved menu and the cost was only \$14 to our members. Another benefit at the VFW is the elevated stage that provides a better view of AV material than the FYC.

p. Veterans Cemetery Foundation. Jack Gifford reported that he and Frank Connell attended an organizational meeting of the Veterans Cemetery Foundation. The Foundation states that their Board of Directors is comprised of thirteen unpaid volunteers which includes the Military Officers Association of America. Jack stated that the Foundation is looking for a treasurer. Jerry asked Jack to draft an article for the March/April Force Recon newsletter in hopes of identifying a member of BCMOAA who would be interested in becoming active in that foundation. Jack will communicate with one of the organizers and then daft an article for the newsletter. Jerry Morrison asked if this was part of the Veterans Council of Baldwin County. Jack said it is not but believes it will interact with that council.

q. Surviving Souse Liaison to Alabama MOAA Council. Charlene reported that our surviving spouse liaison to the Alabama Council, Joan McEwen has moved to Mississippi and that Charlene will assume that role in our chapter and to the Council. She has contacted National and determined there are 44 surviving spouses in Baldwin County. Charlene has also communicated with Ann Harline, Alabama Council Surviving Souse Liaison, to inform her of the change.

5. **Adjournment.** Their was no further business. Jerry Davis adjourned the meeting at 1005L.

JERRY DAVIS  
Immediate Past President











