

HIGH COUNTRY CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



SECRETARY'S REPORT

Board of Directors Meeting 7 Nov 2023

I. The Board of Directors meeting of the High Country Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America was conducted on 7 Nov 2023 at Basils restaurant, Boone, NC. The call to order by President Frankie Groff occurred at 1722.

A. Directors attending:

- A.1. Mary (Frankie) Groff (President)(Surviving Spouse)
- A.2. George Brudzinski LtCol, USMC (Ret)(Treasurer)
- A.3. Lance Campbell LTC, USA (Ret)(Secretary)
- A.4. Douglas (Doug) May PhD, Capt, USMC (Fmr)(Immediate Past President)
- A.5. Frederick (Fred) Schmitt CAPT, USCG (Ret)(1st Vice President)
(Chair Nominating Committee)
- A.6. Adam Greene LTC, USA Professor of Military Science & Chair Military Affairs Committee ASU (Legislative Affairs aka Advocacy Chair)
- A.7. Patsy Alley (Surviving Spouse)

A. Directors absent:

- A.1. James (Jim) Fisher CAPT USN (Ret)(Chaplain)(Personal Affairs)
(Newsletter)
- A.2. Robert (Bob) Love LT USN (Fmr)(ROTC/MCJROTC Liaison)(Chair Membership)
- A.3. Richard (Rick) Williams CAPT USN (Ret)
- A.4. Melanie Trado MAJ USAR

B. Quorum (8req) - No (7)

- A.1. The BOD acknowledges & appreciates the early notification by Directors if unable to attend meetings.

II. The Agenda (Frankie), Secretary's Report (Lance) & Treasurer's report (George) were sent electronically to the Board prior to the meeting.

A. BOD acknowledged receipt of same.

III. The Pledge of Allegiance occurred at 1723 in presence of the digital American Flag.

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- IV. An invocation was offered by Lance emphasizing guidance & perspective on how to exercise our superpower of gratitude.
- V. The Secretary's Report, for the 3 Oct 2023 BOD meeting, held at Basils restaurant, was received electronically by the Board prior to the meeting.
- A. The Secretary's Report was summarized by Lance including comments/edits to initial minutes sent subsequent to the 3 Oct meeting.
- B. The report was accepted unanimously by the Board with no edits.
- B.1. Lance commented that when contacting National MOAA advising that our Member Col Ben Covington had passed, National responded that they placed Ruth Covington as a Surviving Spouse with a MOAA # as such. Lance advised National that Ruth had pre-deceased Ben.
- B.2. Lance queried the BOD as to whether the Secretary's report should continue to be attached as both Apple Pages as well as Microsoft Word formats - answer was Yes - some preferred both formats - therefore Secretary's report will continue in both formats.
- VI. A detailed Treasurer's Report was previously submitted by George electronically to the Board. Income/Expenses were clearly itemized stating a checking account balance of \$17,569.79 as of 5 Nov 2023 (vs \$16,442.98 as of 1 Oct 2023). Included was the operating budget itemizing revenue/expenses & budget/actual amounts, again clearly communicated. Balance reflects cumulative fiscal YTD checking account interest and member dues.
- B. George acknowledged generous donations by members to offset budget shortfalls.
- B.1. George was instrumental in selling 10 Veterans Day sponsorships totaling \$1000.
- B.2. Other donations included an anonymous \$500 as well as an acknowledged generous donation (Martha Garvin).
- C. George had previously offered that he would submit the Chapter's tax return within the 5.5 month requirement after close of fiscal year.
- VII. Standing Business
- D. Discussions regarding Veterans Day 2023 activities: (11 Nov 2023)

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- D.1. Fred has contacted Boone Mall ('CK'); Community Band (BillyRalph Winkler) & WHS MCJROTC (color guard) (Wes) regarding participation - all agreed similar to previous arrangements.
- D.1.a) BillyRalph will contact his colleague (Doug) regarding lapel & hand-held microphone availability.
- D.2. George has energetically contacted chair vendor (Festive Elk).
- D.2.a) The original large fee of \$1,218.67 (vs 2023 Memorial Day \$737.72) was negotiated down to \$770.04 due to deft skills of our Treasurer as well as Festive's 10% discount & no sales tax.
- (D.2.a.1) This compared to \$1,150.25 quoted by Jefferson Rental in Ashe County.
- (D.2.a.2) CK agreed to provide ~40 Mall chairs for the Community Band - avoiding additional Chapter fees to rent extra chairs.
- (D.2.a.3) Additionally, the Mall will provide ~5 tables for support groups such as Blue Star Mothers, etc., as well as podium.
- D.2.b) 300 chair delivery to Mall Fri 10 Nov ~1100. That date avoided an after hrs 'per-diem' of \$90 for weekend delivery. CK at the Mall agreed to that timeline.
- D.3. Discussion surrounding a speaker for the occasion suggested Jim Fisher who was willing but asked for a different presenter for the Invocation.
- D.3.a) Lance agreed to offer the Invocation on Veterans Day.
- D.4. Fred suggested a 'Walk Thru' @ the Mall Fri 10 Nov @1100.
- D.5. Timeline for members to assist in chair placement/setup on Veterans Day starting ~0900 was agreed upon.
- D.6. George offered 'Team Brudzinski' to generate the Program/flyer similar to previous templates.
- D.6.a) George mentioned the sponsorships @\$100 each - to be placed on reverse of program.
- (D.6.a.1) A mention of such sponsors from the podium was suggested by Lance.
- D.6.b) Lance to utilize program in Public Relations reach-outs to media outlets.
- D.6.c) Lance has provided CK with 12 color copies of the Program for Mall postings.

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D.7. Fred offered to provide Frankie with the script utilized for previous Veterans Day Mall event.

E. Discussion on re-scheduled 2nd quarter *General Membership Meeting (GMM)* for 19 Oct.

E.1. The *GMM* scheduled for 24 Aug was understandably and unfortunately cancelled due to lack of commitments with only ~25 members responding. Hog Wild caterers had required a 50 person minimum @ \$15/person including delivery.

E.1.a) Lance negotiated a 1/2 day fee of \$50 & secured a reservation for the Blowing Rock Davant Pavilion on 19 Oct.

E.1.b) Frankie had sent 2 email invitations with specifics to members.

E.1.c) Frankie agreed to run point on this directly with the management at Hog Wild.

E.1.d) Ted Alley agreed to pick up the food from Hog Wild to avoid the required minimum attendees this time.

E.1.e) Since this *General Membership* meeting was an 'annual' meeting, election of officers is usual.

(E.1.e.1) The BOD had agreed, in our previous meeting, to proceed with continuation of Directors in their roles, with their agreement, consistent with Chapter Bylaws, to flex the terms limits avoiding a perfunctory ballot of unopposed nominees, installations, etc.

E.1.f) The meeting was well attended, weather cooperated, members brought desserts & BYOB worked well.

F. Discussion of Board of Directors members:

F.1. Per by laws we should have 14 - currently, we have 11.

F.2. A suggestion to scrub our current roster for potential BOD candidates was again offered.

F.2.a) Lance asked if Jim Brannum was formally a current BOD member - answer was No, however BOD hoping for Jim's future participation.

F.2.b) Fred offered to generate an 'invitation' email to D.J. Weatherford, David Hollis & Ann Marie Connerly.

G. Importantly, the Chapter has scheduled a flag installation activity at the Mount Lawn Cemetery prior to 2023 Veterans Day, similar to the 2023 Memorial Day activity.

G.1. Save the dates:

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- G.1.a) 28 Oct 'Walk Thru' @ Cemetery @ 1100 - accomplished
- G.1.b) 5 Nov - Install flags @1300 - accomplished
- G.1.c) 10 Nov - 'Walk thru' @ Mall @1100
- G.1.d) 11 Nov - Veterans Day activity @ Boone Mall - Community Band will commence 1030.
- G.1.e) 15 Nov 2023 - Remove flags
- G.2. George proposed a \$150 donation to the Girl Scouts who energetically supported the Flag event. The motion carried unanimously.
- H. Reminder on new HCCMOAA Website:
 - H.1. George & team have generated an updated website easily navigable and attractive. <https://hccmoaa.org>
 - H.1.a) Lance asked about location of new member application - George pointed to the 'Membership' area of website.
- I. ASU ROTC/WHS MCJROTC update:
 - A.1.a) Bob was out of country but had previously summarized the HCC-MOAA speaker series for WHS MCJROTC.
 - (A.1.a.1) Timeframe: Feb-March 2024.
 - (A.1.a.2) Wes prefers a 'younger' cohort of speakers if possible to represent the service branches.
 - (A.1.a.3) A yearly screening/clearance for participants will be required by WHS.
 - I.1. Adam mentioned the ASU 'Heroes Day' activities scheduled for 4 Nov (ASU vs Marshall) @ 1400-1700 @ ASU McKinney Alumni Center was successful.
 - I.1.a) HCCMOAA has supported this event @ \$150.
- J. A brief discussion regarding the next General Membership meeting was held.
 - J.1. A 'Holiday' Party was suggested - perhaps post Christmas season, perhaps around Valentines Day - 14 Feb 2024.
 - J.1.a) George suggested we attempt a Saturday - 10 Feb.
 - J.1.b) Lance offered to contact Blowing Rock Parks & Recreation who rent facilities such as the American Legion building for availability. As a BR resident, favorable rates would apply.
 - J.2. Frankie offered that Melanie Trado had volunteered to help coordinate the GMM activities.

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VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 1835 by unanimous decision with next BOD meeting scheduled for 5 Dec 2023 (**Tues**) @1700 Basils Restaurant.

K. Frankie shall communicate with Basils regarding continuation of hosting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lance Campbell LTC, USA (Ret)