

HIGH COUNTRY CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



SECRETARY'S REPORT

Board of Directors Meeting 5 Dec 2023

I. The Board of Directors meeting of the High Country Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America was conducted on 5 Dec 2023 at Basils restaurant, Boone, NC. The call to order by President Frankie Groff occurred at 1718.

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. James (Jim) Fisher CAPT USN (Ret)(Chaplain)(Personal Affairs)  
(Newsletter)
- A.5. Douglas (Doug) May PhD, Capt, USMC (Fmr)(Immediate Past President)
- A.6. Frederick (Fred) Schmitt CAPT, USCG (Ret)(1st Vice President)  
(Chair Nominating Committee)
- A.7. Melanie Trado MAJ USAR
- A.8. Robert (Bob) Love LT USN (Fmr)(ROTC/MCJROTC Liaison)(Chair  
Membership)
- A.9. Patsy Alley (Surviving Spouse)
- A.10. David Hollis LTC, USA (Ret)
- A.11. Eric Timmens CAPT, USN (Ret)

A. Directors absent:

- A.1. Adam Greene LTC, USA Professor of Military Science & Chair Military Affairs Committee ASU (Legislative Affairs aka Advocacy Chair)
- A.2. Richard (Rick) Williams CAPT USN (Ret)

B. Quorum (8req) - Yes (11)

- 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 1719 in presence of the American Flag.

HIGH COUNTRY CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



SECRETARY'S REPORT

IV. An invocation was offered @1721 by Jim emphasizing concern for uniformed personnel in these trying times.

V. The Secretary's Report, for the 7 Nov 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 7 Nov meeting.

A.1. Lance again 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 - therefore Secretary's report will continue in both formats.

B. The report was accepted unanimously by the Board with no edits.

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 \$17,261.58 as of 1 Dec 2023 (vs \$16,442.98 as of 1 Oct 2023 [beginning of FY]). 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. All donations accounted for - thank you George.

C. Chapter liability insurance premium of \$323.20 paid to AMBA.

D. George submitted the Chapter's tax return within the 5.5 month requirement after close of fiscal year. The 990-N (e-postcard) was accepted by IRS on 11 Nov 2023.

VII. Standing Business

E. Frankie opened the discussion of BOD members & leadership succession:

E.1. A warm welcome to David Hollis & Eric Timmens to the board.

E.1.a) Acceptance of our new BOD members was unanimous.

E.1.b) David & wife Melanie are actually founding members of the HCC-MOAA!

HIGH COUNTRY CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



SECRETARY'S REPORT

- E.2. Concern over Richard (Rick) Williams continuing on the BOD was raised:
- E.2.a) Rick has missed several consecutive meetings due to personal conflicts.
  - E.2.b) Despite calls from Frankie, Rick is absent.
  - E.2.c) Chapter bylaws allow 'dropping' members for non-attendance.
    - (E.2.c.1) Consensus was to drop CAPT Williams from BOD.
      - (E.2.c.1.a) Frankie will attempt a last contact.
  - E.2.d) Lance asked if Jim Brannum was formally a current BOD member - answer was No, however BOD hoping for Jim's future participation.
- E.3. Per Chapter by laws we should have 14 - currently, we have 12.
- F. The Chapter had scheduled a flag installation activity at the Mount Lawn Cemetery prior to 2023 Veterans Day, similar to the 2023 Memorial Day activity.
- F.1. Dates:
    - F.1.a) 28 Oct 'Walk Thru' @ Cemetery @ 1100 - accomplished
    - F.1.b) 5 Nov - Install flags @1300 - accomplished
    - F.1.c) 10 Nov - 'Walk thru' @ Mall @1100 - accomplished
    - F.1.d) 11 Nov - Veterans Day activity @ Boone Mall - Community Band commenced @ 1030 - well done!
    - F.1.e) 15 Nov 2023 - Removal of flags - accomplished - (651 flags)
  - F.2. George had proposed a \$150 donation to the Girl Scouts who energetically supported the Flag event. This motion carried unanimously.
  - F.3. Frankie inquired about additional cemeteries.
    - F.3.a) George offered adding cemetery events should grow from other cemeteries' interest vs our initiating adding additional events.
    - F.3.b) George mentioned that MOAA National awarded our chapter \$600 (as opposed to the \$2000 applied for) & will resubmit for a grant in the 2024 FY.
  - F.4. David offered that his Ashe Co HSJROTC conducted a similar event in the largest cemetery in Ashe Co with the support of the Lions club & funeral homes.
  - F.5. Jim inquired if the flag event could be parlayed into a fundraising opportunity - perhaps offering a decal/flag combo for a donation.
- G. Summary regarding Veterans Day 2023 activities: (11 Nov 2023)

HIGH COUNTRY CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



SECRETARY'S REPORT

- G.1. Fred had contacted Boone Mall ('CK'); Community Band (BillyRalph Winkler) & WHS MCJROTC (color guard) (Wes) regarding participation - all had agreed similar to previous arrangements.
- G.1.a) BillyRalph contacted his colleague (Doug) regarding lapel & hand-held microphone availability.
- G.2. George had energetically contacted chair vendor (Festive Elk).
- G.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.
- (G.2.a.1) This compared to \$1,150.25 quoted by Jefferson Rental in Ashe County.
- (G.2.a.2) 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 had agreed to that timeline.
- (G.2.a.3) CK had agreed to provide ~40 Mall chairs for the Community Band - avoiding additional Chapter fees to rent extra chairs.
- (G.2.a.4) The Mall provided 5 tables for support groups such as Blue Star Mothers, etc., as well as podium.
- G.3. Discussion surrounding a speaker for the occasion had suggested Jim Fisher who was willing but asked for a different presenter for the Invocation.
- G.3.a) Lance had agreed to offer the Invocation on Veterans Day.
- G.4. Successful Timeline:
- G.4.a) 'Walk Thru' @ the Mall Fri 10 Nov @1100.
- G.4.b) Members assisted in chair placement/setup on Veterans Day starting ~0900
- G.4.c) Community Band music started 1030
- G.4.d) Program commenced 1100
- G.5. BOD offered appreciation to 'Team Brudzinski' for generating the Program/flyer similar to previous templates.
- G.5.a) George mentioned the sponsorships @\$100 each - were placed on reverse of program.
- G.5.b) Lance utilized program in Public Relations reach-outs to media outlets.
- G.5.c) Lance provided CK with 12 color copies of the Program for Mall postings.

HIGH COUNTRY CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



SECRETARY'S REPORT

- G.6. Fred had offered to provide Frankie with the script utilized for previous Veterans Day Mall events.
- G.7. Only suggestion for improvement in this widely accepted event was lack of volume utilizing the lapel microphone - perhaps utilize the available hand-held mic.
- G.8. Frankie asked about obtaining a U.S. Space Force flag.
- G.9. Fred offered to initiate logistics for the 2024 Memorial Day event at the Boone Mall.
- H. Discussion on re-scheduled 2nd quarter General Membership Meeting (GMM) 19 Oct.
- H.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.
- H.1.a) Lance negotiated a 1/2 day fee of \$50 & secured a reservation for the Blowing Rock Rotary/Davant Pavilion on 19 Oct.
- H.1.b) Frankie agreed to run point on this directly with the management at Hog Wild.
- H.1.c) Ted Alley agreed to pick up the food from Hog Wild to avoid the required minimum attendees this time.
- H.1.d) The meeting was well attended, the weather cooperated, members brought desserts & BYOB worked well.
- H.2. Discussion followed about the 2023 'Holiday Party'.
- H.2.a) Suggested dates: 10 Feb 2024
- (H.2.a.1) Backup: 14 Feb 2024
- (H.2.a.2) Suggestion to not schedule after Valentines Day was supported.
- H.2.b) Lance reported that the Blowing Rock American Legion event space would cost \$300 if purchased by a BR tax payer.
- (H.2.b.1) That fee would not include catering, nor beverage service, decorations etc.
- (H.2.b.2) Additionally, the 10 Feb nor the 14 Feb dates were available.
- H.2.c) George & Fred were knowledgeable about the Boone Golf Club facility (POC: Elizabeth). George was familiar with the manager of Marriott which

HIGH COUNTRY CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



SECRETARY'S REPORT

was the site of the 2023 Valentine Day event with the noted criticism of expensive (\$19 glass of wine?).

H.2.d) George & Fred shall contact these venues & report options to Melanie Trado who offered to coordinate the event.

I. Reminder on new HCCMOAA Website:

I.1. George & team have generated an updated website easily navigable and attractive. [Https://hccmoaa.org](https://hccmoaa.org)

I.1.a) Lance asked about location of new member application - George pointed to the 'Membership' area of website.

J. ASU ROTC/WHS M CJROTC update:

J.1. Bob had previously summarized the HCCMOAA speaker series for WHS M CJROTC.

J.1.a) Timeframe: Feb-March 2024.

J.1.b) Speaker lineup:

(J.1.b.1) USMC - George

(J.1.b.2) USN - Eric

(J.1.b.3) USCG - Fred

(J.1.b.3.a) A suggestion from Fred about placing an enlisted USCG veteran into a speaker's role was discussed & supported by Wes @ the HS as well as by the BOD.

(J.1.b.3.a.a) Fred will contact the proposed speaker.

(J.1.b.4) USAF - Steve

(J.1.b.5) USA - D.J. Weatherford

J.1.c) A yearly screening/clearance for participants will be required by WHS.

(J.1.c.1) Link: [Background Check Form](#)

J.2. Bob mentioned he had received a set of questions re the HCC-MOAA scholarship/leadership awards offered to Watauga HS M CJROTC students from the HS coordinator for awards (?Ms House).

J.2.a) Bob will respond.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 1825 by unanimous decision with next BOD meeting scheduled for 9 Jan 2024 (Tues) @1700 Basils Restaurant.

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

HIGH COUNTRY CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



SECRETARY'S REPORT

Respectfully submitted,

Lance Campbell LTC, USA (Ret)