

HIGH COUNTRY CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



SECRETARY'S REPORT

Board of Directors Meeting 23 Jan 2024

I. The Board of Directors meeting of the High Country Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America was conducted on 23 Jan 2024 at Basils restaurant, Boone, NC. The call to order by 1st Vice President Fred Schmitt occurred at 1711.

A. Directors attending:

1. Frederick (Fred) Schmitt CAPT, USCG (Ret)(1st Vice President)(Chair Nominating Committee)
2. George Brudzinski LtCol, USMC (Ret)(Treasurer)
3. Lance Campbell LTC, USA (Ret)(Secretary)
4. James (Jim) Fisher CAPT USN (Ret)(Chaplain)(Personal Affairs)(Newsletter)
5. Douglas (Doug) May PhD, Capt, USMC (Fmr)(Immediate Past President)
6. Melanie Trado MAJ USAR
7. Patsy Alley (Surviving Spouse)
8. Adam Greene LTC, USA Professor of Military Science & Chair Military Affairs Committee App State University (Legislative Affairs aka Advocacy Chair)
9. David Hollis LTC, USA (Ret)
10. Eric Timmens CAPT, USN (Ret)

B. Directors absent:

1. Mary (Frankie) Groff (President)(Surviving Spouse)
2. Robert (Bob) Love LT USN (Fmr)(ROTC/MCJROTC Liaison)(Chair Membership)
3. Richard (Rick) Williams CAPT USN (Ret)

C. Quorum (8req) - Yes (10)

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.

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- A. BOD acknowledged receipt of same.
- III. The Pledge of Allegiance occurred at 1712 in presence of the digital American Flag.
- IV. An invocation was offered at 1713 by Jim, emphasizing fellowship, unity vs polarization in these trying election times & channeling Ronald Reagan's "Shining City on the Hill". Also, concern expressed for uniformed personnel, specifically the 2 US Navy Seals lost in service to their country recently.
- V. The Secretary's Report, for the 5 Dec 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.
  - B. The report was accepted unanimously by the Board with no edits.
- VI. A detailed Treasurer's Report was submitted by George electronically to the Board. Income/Expenses were clearly itemized stating a checking account balance of \$17,841.84 as of 1 Jan 2024 (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.
- A. Income:
    - 1. Interest for December: \$10.26
    - 2. Donation from Lt Bob Love specifically for the MCJROTC Leadership Awards: \$1000.00
  - B. Expenses:
    - 1. Donation to Girl Scout Troop #10289 for their support of "Flags Over our High Country Veterans": \$150.00
    - 2. Boone Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Dues: \$280.00
- VII. Standing Business
- A. Fred opened the discussion of BOD members & leadership succession:

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1. Concern over Richard (Rick) Williams continuing on the BOD was raised:
    - a) Chapter bylaws allow 'dropping' members for non-attendance.
      - (1) Consensus was to drop CAPT Williams from BOD.
      - (2) Frankie will inform board of communication with Rick.
  2. Per Chapter by laws we should have 14 Directors - currently, we have 12.
- B. Update of Chapter By-Laws:
1. Lance agreed to research inclusion of U.S. Space Force as an amendment into Chapter By-Laws.
  2. Lance shall investigate obtaining a U.S. Space Force service flag for Chapter events.
    - a) Discussion involved placing the Space Force flag in our stand in place of the MOAA flag.
- C. George mentioned he had applied for & received approval for a MOAA/USAA Community Outreach Sponsorship grant of \$300 in support of our flag project.
- D. The Chapter's flag installation activity at the Mount Lawn Cemetery prior to Memorial Day & Veterans Day was discussed.
1. Patsy & George led the discussion of perhaps utilizing the program to include a fund raising activity such as asking a 'donation' from interested citizens for a flag/decal combo.
    - a) George again offered adding cemetery events should grow from other cemeteries' interest vs our initiating additional cemetery events.
- E. George presented Adam with document of appreciation for support of the App State ROTC learning community as well as specific recognition of the Scabbard & Blade contribution to the flag placements.
1. Adam thanked the Chapter for financial support for the App State 'Heroes Day' tailgate activity.
- F. Fred had previously offered to initiate logistics for the 2024 Memorial Day event at the Boone Mall.
- G. Update on 2024 GMM/Holiday Party

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1. Melanie Trado graciously offered to coordinate the event & discussed her inquiries regarding venues:
  - a) Rose Motel - under new management with acceptable venue but fees approaching ~\$45-50.
  - b) Watauga Builders Assn: logistics would involve laundering table cloths & providing food & libations.
  - c) George & Fred were knowledgeable about the Boone Golf Club facility catered by Casa Rustica (POC: Elizabeth).
    - (1) 23 March was agreed upon for the event.
    - (2) George & Fred shall contact Fairway Cafe & report options including price & menu.
- H. App State ROTC/WHS MCJROTC update:
  1. Bob had previously summarized the HCCMOAA speaker series for WHS MCJROTC.
    - a) Speaker lineup:
      - (1) 1 Feb - USMC - George
      - (2) 8 Feb - USN - Eric
      - (3) 15 Feb - USCG - Petty Officer (Ret) Phil Holland - Fred has contacted
      - (4) 22 Feb - USAF - Steve Burrell
      - (5) 29 Feb - USA - D.J. Weatherford
    - b) A yearly screening/clearance for participants is required by WHS.
      - (1) Link: [Background Check Form](#)
      - (2) No acknowledgment has been forwarded as yet.
  2. Bob had mentioned he had received a set of questions re the HCCMOAA scholarship/leadership awards offered to WHS MCJROTC students from the HS coordinator for awards.
    - a) Bob will respond.
- I. Adam, in his role as Legislative Affairs representative, offered to explore an advocacy framework including local, state & NC Council of Chapters initiatives.
  1. Contact with Representative Virginia Foxx's office was suggested.

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- J. Frankie has prepared the Level of Excellence award application to National.
  - K. Jim is preparing (15 Feb deadline) the application for the Harris Communication award for his energetic efforts to generate our excellent Chapter Newsletter.
  - L. George will investigate a similar award for our excellent updated Chapter website.
    - 1. George has met with Josh Biggars of the High Country Press regarding coverage of both our High Country & New River MOAA Chapters.
- VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 1810 by unanimous decision with next BOD meeting scheduled for 6 Feb 2024 (**Tues**) @1700 Basils Restaurant.
- A. Frankie shall communicate with Basils regarding continuation of hosting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lance Campbell LTC, USA (Ret)