

HIGH COUNTRY CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



SECRETARY'S REPORT

Board of Directors Meeting 14 Jan 2025

I. The Board of Directors meeting of the High Country Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America was conducted on 14 Jan 2025 at Bocca Bistro restaurant, Boone, NC. The call to order by 1st Vice President Fred Schmitt occurred at 1643.

A. Directors attending:

1. Frederick (Fred) Schmitt CAPT, USCG (Ret)(1st Vice President)
(Chair Nominating Committee)
2. Lance Campbell LTC, USA (Ret)(Secretary)
3. James (Jim) Fisher CAPT USN (Ret)(Chaplain)(Personal Affairs)
(Newsletter)
4. Adam Greene LTC, USA Professor of Military Science & Chair Military Affairs Committee App State University (Legislative Affairs - aka Advocacy Chair)
5. George Brudzinski LtCol, USMC (Ret)(Treasurer)
6. David Hollis LTC, USA (Ret)
7. Robert (Bob) Love LT USN (Fmr)
8. Douglas (Doug) May PhD, Capt, USMC (Fmr)(Immediate Past President)

B. Directors absent:

1. AnnMarie Connery Capt USAF (Ret)
2. Melanie Trado MAJ USAR
3. Patsy Alley (Surviving Spouse)
4. Mary (Frankie) Groff (President)(Surviving Spouse)

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

1. Per Chapter by laws we should have 14 Directors - currently, we have 12.

D. The BOD appreciates the early notification by Directors to the Chapter President regarding their attendance or absence at BOD 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.

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III. The Pledge of Allegiance occurred at 1647.

IV. A moving invocation was offered by Jim F. highlighting a prayer purportedly authored by Thomas Jefferson.

V. The Secretary's Report, for the 3 Dec 2024 BOD meeting, held at Bocca Bistro restaurant, was received electronically by the Board prior to the meeting.

A. The Secretary's Report was summarized by Lance including comments/edits received.

1. Lance acknowledged a correction to the 3 Dec report - Chapter balance was > \$20,000 (not >\$2K) leading into discussion of targeting appropriate agencies such as Mt. Lawn Cemetery's efforts toward a Veterans Memorial.

B. The report was accepted unanimously by the Board.

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 \$22,102.15 as of 31 Dec 2024. 1 Oct 2024 balance (start of FY) was \$20,723.72. 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. George mentioned a generous donation of \$500 by BOD member Bob Love.

B. The expiration of our current Heritage professional liability policy was summarized - questions had included what benefit for the premium cost? George initiated a new vendor for our liability insurance needs from a company serving other MOAA Chapters at a premium of \$208 - considerable less than previous company.

C. Upon hearing that Boone Chamber of Commerce dues perhaps increasing to \$325/yr, several questions arose questioning 'Cost/Benefit' for HCC-MOAA membership as a non-profit.

1. Consensus was to not continue as member of Boone Chamber in 2025.

2. George received a gracious understanding note from David Jackson, President of Boone Chamber.

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VII. Standing Business

A. Reviewing details & logistics for upcoming events

1. General Membership Meeting - 13 Feb 2025; 1730 Social; 1800 Dinner buffet - Bocca Bistro restaurant.
 - a) Flags will divide restaurant for privacy.
 - b) 50:50 Raffle + door prizes.
 - c) Melanie/George sent a preliminary flyer 11 Jan 2025 as a 'Save The Date'
 - (1) RSVPs requested by 10 Feb.
 - d) Cost: \$26/person + cash bar. (Chapter covering cost of gratuity: \$7.80)
 - e) Since the proposed speaker, Boone Mayor, has yet to confirm, the flyer does not identify our guest speaker.
 - f) Jim suggested having BOD officers offer a brief (~2minute) summary of their position - BOD supported the idea.
2. Pancake Breakfast
 - a) The postponed 'Community Breakfast' is rescheduled for 29 March 2025 - Boone United Methodist Church.
 - b) George included a discussion of previously purchased foods during the Treasurers Report.
 - c) Melanie has communicated with Placemat sponsors.
 - d) Logistics such as volunteers etc. TBD.
 - e) The idea of a 'Community' event was discussed. Since the Church has many members & casting a wide net for a 'free' event could be problematic, the type of advertising will be discussed next BOD.
 - f) Again, Kudos to Melanie for arranging/de-arranging & re-arranging this event.

B. Legislative initiatives in NC & National MOAA

1. Adam offered that there were no significant updates in NC.
2. A late request was made in Dec 2024 from NC CofC in support of NC Veterans Council legislative priorities.
 - a) The top 3 appear to be:
 - (1) Increase the budget of Dept of Military Veterans Affairs to add more VSOs so every NC county has one.
 - (2) Management of State Homes for Veterans.

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- (3) Initiatives to adjust/lower property taxes for qualifying veterans.
 - b) The BOD supported the suggestions.
- C. WHS MCJROTC
 - 1. Bob confirmed the speakers for the Feb speaker dates: 6, 13, 20, 27 Feb 2025.
 - a) Joe Lea - USAF
 - b) Melanie - USA
 - c) Doug - USMC
 - d) Eric - USN
- D. Appalachian State ROTC
 - 1. Adam stated no specific dates for ROTC events - classes had just resumed 13 Jan 2025.
- E. Mt. Lawn Cemetery events
 - 1. Patsy submitted an e-report that she had contacted Nancy Williams regarding landscape design, scattering garden & columbarium niches & importantly, the Veterans Memorial site.
 - 2. MLC board is scheduled to meet 3 Feb to vote on 2025 plans & budget. They are apparently looking forward to working with our Chapter.
 - 3. Our BOD can discuss plans for donation as details emerge.
- F. Discussion of BOD administrative duties:
- G. Fred has gathered inputs from current officers regarding their formal (By-Laws) duties as well as informal responsibilities being accomplished.
 - 1. The ultimate objective is to align duties with positions & to ensure a balanced workload among BOD officers & Chapter members.
 - 2. This objective will include reviewing Committee assignments as stated in By-Laws as well as identifying the appropriate committees for the Chapter.
 - a) No enthusiasm was offered at this point to modify By-laws.
 - b) George mentioned we need to staff-up the BOD. (Currently 12 - by-laws suggest 14).
 - 3. Fred will email a summary of BOD duty alignments self reported.

VIII. New Business

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- A. Jim mentioned a communication with local Civil Air Patrol group & inquired if our Chapter wants to get involved/support. BOD supported the concept & suggested Jim 'pull the thread' for more information.
- B. Lance offered the idea of changing the Cleanup Day area from Boone Industrial Park to the Old 421 area proximate to MLC & WHS.
 - 1. George suggested he would contact Jim Brannum to inquire with Town of Boone.
- C. Lance floated an idea of purchasing 'Meals Ready to Eat' as either a fund raiser sale or gifting- consensus: interesting but perhaps impractical.

IX. Future dates:

- A. HCCMOAA BOD meeting: 4 Feb 2025 - Bocca Bistro 1630.
- B. GMM: 13 Feb 2025
- C. WHS MCJROTC speaker events: 6, 13, 20,& 27 Feb 2025
- D. Pancake Breakfast: 29 March 2025.

- X. The meeting was adjourned at 1750 by unanimous decision.

Respectfully submitted,

Lance Campbell LTC, USA (Ret)