

**HIGH COUNTRY CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
4 March 2025**

Call to Order

The Board of Directors meeting of the High Country Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America was held on 4 March 2025 at Bocca Bistro, Boone, NC. President Frankie Groff called the meeting to order at 1630.

Directors Attending:

- Mary (Frankie) Groff – President (Surviving Spouse)
- Frederick (Fred) Schmitt, CAPT, USCG (Ret) – 1st Vice President, Chair, Nominating Committee
- Adam Greene, LTC, USA – Legislative Affairs Chair, Professor of Military Science, Appalachian State University
- George Brudzinski, LtCol, USMC (Ret) – Treasurer
- David Hollis, LTC, USA (Ret)
- Douglas (Doug) May, PhD, Capt., USMC (Fmr) – Immediate Past President
- Patsy Alley – Surviving Spouse
- James (Jim) Fisher, CAPT, USN (Ret) – Chaplain, Personal Affairs, Newsletter

Directors Not Present:

- Robert (Bob) Love, LT, USN (Fmr)
- Melanie Trado, MAJ, USAR

Quorum Met: Yes (8 present of 10 current members)

Secretary's Report

The minutes from the 4 February 2025 BOD meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

George Brudzinski presented the Treasurer's Report:

- GMM Costs (13 Feb 2025): 31 attendees, 3 no-shows
- Invoice: \$1,066.65
- Income: \$810.00
- Net Cost: \$256.65
- Additional Income:
 - 50/50 Raffle – \$57.00
 - Membership Dues – \$22.00
 - Interest – \$11.82
- Total Additional Income: \$90.82
- No additional expenses.

General Membership Meeting (GMM) – AAR

- Speaker: Boone Fire Chief Jimmy Isaacs gave a well-received presentation on the Fire Department's Hurricane Helene response and local emergency services.
- Event Highlights:
- Organized by Melanie Trado
- Event feedback included comments on food quality and venue noise
- Long tables made hearing difficult; options for future venues to be considered (Dan's Boone Inn, Golf Course, Armory, or alternative setup at Bocca Bistro)
- 50/50 Raffle managed by George Brudzinski
- Multiple prize winners, including the Hollis family

Pancake Breakfast – 29 March 2025

- Location: Boone United Methodist Church
- Time: 0730–1000, with volunteers arriving by 0630
- Food Drop-Off: Evening of 28 March and early 29 March
- Traffic Control: WHS JROTC requested
- Placemat Sponsor Invitations: Sent, three pending
- Additional walkthrough scheduled with kitchen manager; final notes to be distributed 27–28 March

Mount Lawn Cemetery & Memorial Day Updates. Patsy provided updates with maps. Comprehensive updates can be found at this website: [Multiple revitalization projects to take place at Mount Lawn Cemetery | Community | wataugademocrat.com](#)

- Memorial Day Ceremony – 26 May 2025:
- Venue: Boone Mall
- Coordination to begin with American Legion for flag folding
- Coordination to begin with Watauga Community Band for music
- Flag Placement – 24 May 2025 @ 1100 (weather permitting)
- Flag Retrieval – 31 May 2025 @ 1100 (weather permitting)
- Presentation of Folded Flag:
- Adam Greene will contact Jennifer Ellerbe to determine whether she and her son Rob, a Gold Star family, are interested in participating in the ceremony. USAF Maj. Ryan David was killed in action on 1 July 2012 while fighting wildfires in South Dakota. Additional information can be found at this link: Military Times tribute (<https://thefallen.militarytimes.com/air-force-maj-ryan-david/6568325>).

Legislative Affairs

- Adam Greene will engage Rep. Ray Pickett regarding state-level updates.
- All members are encouraged to subscribe to MOAA legislative updates.

ROTC & JROTC Updates

- WHS JROTC Speaker Program: Doug May to complete the third of four scheduled talks.
- Blood Drive: American Red Cross event at WHS on 30 April; proceeds will support JROTC scholarships

- Avery County JROTC: David Hollis will reconnect to explore future scholarship opportunities
- Appalachian State ROTC:
- A motion to approve \$1,000 in support of cadets attending the Mountain Man Memorial March on 12 April in Gatlinburg, TN was approved unanimously with one abstention (Adam Greene).
- Confirmation needed on JROTC scholarship amounts and number of awards

Bylaws Discussion

- Board Size Adjustment: Adam Greene will draft proposed language to amend the bylaws to reduce the number of required Board members and allow for flexibility in expanding with committee chairs or at-large members as needed.

MOAA State instructional manual to be released in three phases. Frankie has the a virtual workshop on 05 March. The goal is that MOAA possesses a near-real-time database to update local chapters as members move. Reports of the instructional manual updates being clunky.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1740 by unanimous decision.

Next Meeting: 1 April 2025