

HIGH COUNTRY CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



SECRETARY'S REPORT

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Board of Directors Meeting – BOD Meeting

Date: March 5, 2026

Location: Bocca Bistro, Boone, NC

Next Meeting: April 7, 2026

The Board of Directors of the High Country Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) met at Bocca Bistro to conduct chapter business in accordance with the published agenda .

Participants

Present:

Melanie Trado, MAJ, USAR – President

Frederick “Fred” Schmitt, CAPT, USCG (Ret)

Adam Greene, LTC, USA – Secretary / Legislative Affairs Chair

George Brudzinski, LtCol, USMC (Ret) – Treasurer

Mary “Frankie” Groff – Surviving Spouse / Immediate Past President

James “Jim” Fisher, CAPT, USN (Ret)

David Hollis, LTC, USA (Ret)

Lisa Ninnis, MAJ, USAF (Fmr)

Dinah Pinney, MAJ, USAF (Ret)

Patsy Alley – Surviving Spouse

Not Present:

None

Quorum: Yes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1700 following a social period. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. An invocation was delivered recognizing **Women’s History Month**, highlighting the contributions of American women, particularly those who have served in the Armed Forces and supported the nation through times of conflict and peace.

Approval of Secretary’s Report

The Secretary’s Report from the February 2026 meeting was presented.

Motion: To approve the Secretary’s Report as presented

Made by: Jim Fisher

Seconded by: Patsy Alley
Outcome: Approved unanimously

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer provided an update on chapter finances, including continued tracking of dues, membership status, and operating expenses. The Board emphasized the importance of maintaining accurate financial and membership records.

1. After Action Review (AAR) – General Membership Meeting (GMM)

The Board conducted an after-action review of the February General Membership Meeting:

- **Location:** Discussion included suitability of venue and consideration of future consistency between locations such as Daniel Boone Inn and Blue Ridge facilities.
- **Food:** Catering options and cost-effectiveness were reviewed.
- **Time:** Timing of the Valentine's Day event was discussed, including challenges associated with scheduling directly on the holiday.
- **Activities:** Member engagement and structure of activities were reviewed.
- **Speaker:** Future opportunities for guest speakers were discussed.

The Board expressed interest in **seasonal adjustments**, including potential summer barbecue-style events.

2. Certificate of Deposit (CD) Renewal

The Board discussed CD renewal options and agreed to continue monitoring interest rates and determine the best course of action prior to maturity.

3. Award Submission Updates

The Board discussed ongoing coordination with local schools and the importance of maintaining timelines for award submissions and presentations.

4. Pancake Breakfast (18 April 2026)

- **Volunteer Updates:**
 - Current status includes **12 advertisements secured**.
 - Volunteer availability remains a concern; additional recruitment is required.
 - A centralized volunteer tracking list will be maintained and updated.
- **Timeline Review:**
 - Continued focus on meeting key planning milestones.
- **Ticket Sales:**
 - Ongoing; additional promotion needed.
- **Food Procurement:**
 - Discussion included sourcing of supplies such as sausage and butter, with consideration of donations from local businesses.
- **Publicity:**
 - Increased use of Facebook and local newspapers was emphasized.

- Coordination with community partners, including churches, was discussed to expand outreach.
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5. Legislative Update

Legislative affairs were reviewed with emphasis on improving communication:

- Future updates should be **more actionable**, not solely informational.
 - The Board discussed including **specific calls to action**, representative contact information, and focusing on a limited number of key issues in newsletters and communications.
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6. ROTC / JROTC Updates

The Board discussed continued coordination with:

- Appalachian State ROTC
- Watauga MCJROTC
- Avery County Army JROTC

Follow-up is ongoing regarding awards and engagement opportunities.

7. Shirt Sales / Supply Update

The Board discussed continued processing of shirt orders and maintaining inventory to meet member demand.

8. Blood, Sweat and Gears (BSG) Update

The Board discussed coordination with event organizers and the need to identify volunteer opportunities and points of contact for participation.

9. July 4th Parade

Planning efforts continue, including coordination of transportation, participation format, and member involvement.

10. Upcoming Events

a. Outreach Committee

- Emphasis placed on improving member engagement and consistent communication.

b. Memorial Day / Flag Day

- Planning includes volunteer coordination and event structure.
- Discussion included the need for a **flag for a formal flag folding ceremony**.

c. Memorial Day Speaker

- Potential speakers discussed, including local clergy and veterans.

d. Blood, Sweat and Gears (Volunteer Coordination)

- Continued coordination required to identify volunteers and confirm participation.
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11. Other Discussion / Business

- The Board emphasized the importance of **maintaining historical records** and properly organizing documents within the shared drive.
 - Continued discussion on member outreach included maintaining contact with members who are ill or have experienced loss, including sending cards and conducting follow-up.
 - The Board discussed improving communication clarity across events and initiatives.
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Action Items

- Prepare and send donation request letter to Ingles corporate using chapter letterhead
 - Follow up with race organizer for Blood, Sweat and Gears volunteer coordination
 - Submit pancake breakfast flyer to local newspaper
 - Coordinate with mall management regarding Memorial Day participation
 - Maintain and update pancake breakfast volunteer list
 - Coordinate with local churches for event publicity and outreach
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Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

Made by: Jim Fisher

Seconded by: Dinah Pinney

Outcome: Approved unanimously

Next Meeting

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for **April 7, 2026**.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam K. Greene, LTC, USA

Secretary and Legislative Affairs Chair

High Country Chapter, MOAA