

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**Texas Council of Chapters
Minutes of 1st Qtr, 2008 Meeting
Feb 9, 2008
Tyler, TX**

Meeting was duly called to order by President Jim Cunningham at 0800 hrs. A quorum was present and acting throughout the meeting.

Attendees:

Norb Ryan, Adm, USN (Ret)
Virginia Alloway, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

President, MOAA
Bd of Directors, MOAA

norbr@moaa.org
valloway@satx.rr.com

James Cunningham, MAJ, USAR (Ret)
Spencer Smith, Lt Col, USMC (Ret)
David Briggs, COL, AUS, (Ret)
Louraine Robertson
David Patrick, Col, USAF (Ret)
Alice Karr
George Rymal, Adm (TX), USN (Ret)

President, TCC (Alamo)
1st VP, TCC (Central TX)
2nd VP, TCC (Gr Dallas)
Treasurer, TCC (Highland Lks)
Secretary, TCC (Alamo)
Auxiliary, TCC (Rio Grande)
Past President (Gr Dallas)

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Ed McCarthy, Col, USAF (Ret)
Gil Rodriguez, LCDR, USNR (Ret)
Chaplain Dick Ames, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Bill DeVecchio, COL, USA (Ret)
Charles Gibbs, Col, USAF (Ret)
John McManners, COL, USA (Ret)
Robert Pitt, Col, USAF (Ret)
Juliette Pitt
Vincent Tobola, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Dale Fixsen, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Mike Spaight, Maj, USAF (Ret)
Rose Marie Vickery, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Jim Snow, LTC, USA (Ret)
Terry Howlett, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Shirley Lindsay
Larry Petrash, LTC, USA (Ret)
Cleveland Pratt, LTC, USA (Ret)

Alamo Chapter
Alamo Chapter
Alamo Chapter
Austin Chapter
Greater Dallas Chapter
East Texas Chapter
El Paso Chapter
El Paso Chapter
Heart of Texas Chapter
Highland Lakes Chapter
NE Texas Chapter
North DFW Chapter
Rose Chapter
Rose Chapter
Rose Chapter
Wichita Falls Chapter
Wichita Falls Chapter

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13 Chapters Represented

Invocation given and Pledge of Allegiance led by Spencer Smith.

Introductions:

President Cunningham welcomed all attendees. He thanked the Rose Capital Chapter for their hospitality and tremendous support for this meeting and last night's dinner and installation of TCC officers. He presented "Admiral (TX)" Bob Rymal with recognition pins honoring his dedicated service to the TCC as its President.

Admiral Ryan:

Adm Ryan gave an extensive and interesting presentation updating the council on several MOAA actions focusing on three major areas, i.e., current health of MOAA; significant "firsts" and initiatives by MOAA; and the strategic focus for the future. In general, MOAA's health is strong with a dedicated board of directors and a strong member base. Some of the significant "firsts" include: hosted the President; visit to deployed troops; visit to the Oval Office (Adm Ryan has been in the Oval Office 7 times); dissolution of widows tax & supplemental funding for Iraq; focus on what is best for the troops; put active duty officer on MOAA Bd of Directors; changed several MOAA staff positions; established advisory boards; opened a Pentagon office to promote TOPS and membership; held several significant events (job fair, golf tournament for scholarships); established financial products for college; doing better communications & networking; the Give me 10; held defense forum; held a very successful annual meeting in Tampa; got significant national exposure; the scholarship program; conduct outreach program -- military professional speaking series; has a new financial partner – PenFed – which has the same culture as MOAA, i.e., concerned about members and not stockholders. MOAA's strategic focus for the future is on membership and the value of membership. Its new branding tagline is *One Association . . . One Voice . . . Yours*. Additionally, 2008 is the year of the Chapter. In closing, Adm Ryan thanked all for continuing to serve. How can we help he asked? Through advocacy, supporting the Give me 10, invite recruiters to speak at chapter meetings, support the ROTC and JrROTC programs and support active duty deployed and their families. Also, make sure you have access to the MOAA communications, i.e., Legislative e-mail Alert which comes out every Fri; e-mail News Exchange twice a month; *The Affiliate* mailed each month; and the Call to Action e-mails sent as needed. President Cunningham mentioned he would like MOAA to come out with ideas for chapter's to raise non-dues revenue (i.e., sponsorships for events, advertising in Chapter newsletter, etc.) Adm Ryan said he would take that tasking back to his Chapter Affairs staff. The 2008 MOAA convention will be Nov 17-18 at the Sheraton National Hotel, Arlington, VA.

To view Adm Ryan's complete presentation log on to website www.moaa.org under "Chapter and Council Affairs - Chapter Leaders".

Secretary Report:

For the sake of time, President Cunningham asked that all reports be kept as brief as possible in order to stay on agenda.

Outgoing Secretary, Gil Rodriguez, thanked all for their support and assistance over the years. New secretary, David Patrick, thanked Gil for his leadership and service. He mentioned his focus was to communicate more electronically, use www.texas-moaa.org more, keep the roster up-to-date – particularly e-mail addresses and be responsive to the needs of the TCC membership. The minutes from the 4th quarter meeting of Oct 5, 2007 in Grapevine, TX were filed and made a matter of record, as amended.

Treasurer Report:

Louraine Robertson gave the financial reports – see attached to these minutes. The financial reports were filed and made a matter of record.

Legislative Report:

David Briggs mentioned that the latest issue of the *The Military Officer* has an excellent summary of the Federal Legislative landscape and encouraged all to read. The 81st Texas Legislature will convene in 2009 – David will send out all updates and information electronically to all chapter leadership.

Chapter Reports

Reports were given by the following chapters -- full reports are located on www.texas-moaa.org:

- ❑ Spencer Smith – Central Texas
- ❑ Charles Gibbs – Greater Dallas – [Note: President Cunningham asked Charles if he would send a write-up on how the Chapter runs their “Meet and Greet” returning troops (from Iraq and Afghanistan) program so it can be put on the TCC website.]
- ❑ Rose Marie Vickery – North DFW
- ❑ Alice Karr – Rio Grande
- ❑ Cleveland Pratt and Larry Petrash – Wichita Falls
- ❑ William DelVecchio – Austin
- ❑ John McManners – East Texas
- ❑ Jim Snow and Shirley Lindsay- Rose Capitol
- ❑ Dale Fixsen– Highland Lakes
- ❑ Vince Tobola – Heart of Texas
- ❑ Bob Pitt – El Paso
- ❑ Mike Spaight - North East Texas
- ❑ Gil Rodriguez – Alamo

Auxiliary Report:

Alice Karr covered two important issues - Dependents Indemnity Compensation and Possible Tricare For Life fee – which generated much discussion. Adm Ryan stated that Tricare fees won't stay flat forever. If fees do increase they should not be higher than the pay raise the military gets and MOAA is pushing congress to put this into law. The key is to incentivize the Tricare providers in the outlying areas to take Tricare standard patients.

Advocacy Initiatives/Military Coalition

President Cunningham briefed on the Jan 23, 2008 coalition meeting between the Texas Veterans Commission and the Military Coalition. A major accomplishment from this meeting was Senate Bill 1058 which deals with counseling for veterans coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan. Vets should know to communicate

with the Texas Veterans Commission or their local county Veterans counselor concerning their benefits. See www.texas-moaa.org for links to the Texas Veterans Commission and the Texas Legislature Online websites.

Old Business

None

New Business

President Cunningham brought forward a proposal based on original input from the El Paso Chapter leadership regarding membership. In keeping with 2008 being "The Year of the Chapter", this proposal, in essence, requests MOAA study the feasibility of raising their national dues in order to make all dues paying MOAA members automatically a member of a local Chapter. Discussion followed during which Adm Ryan mentioned this had been requested in previous years but would see to it that this request from the TCC be properly staffed again.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded and after full discussion it was resolved and unanimously supported by all in attendance that President Cunningham redraft the proposal, rearrange the paragraphs, and put it into a military memo format and forward it to MOAA for their review.

Next Meeting:

16 – 17 May, 2008 Killeen, TX

Meeting adjourned at 1150 hrs.

Action Items:

1. Adm Ryan to ask his Chapter Affairs staff to provide ideas for producing non-dues revenue.
2. Charles Gibbs to send a write-up on how the Greater Dallas Chapter runs their "Meet and Greet" returning troops program to Jim Cunningham so it can be put on the TCC website.
3. Jim Cunningham to redraft proposal and send to MOAA.

Respectfully submitted,



David Patrick, Col, USAF (Ret)
Secretary

1 Attachment – Financial Statements

TEXAS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS—MOAA
FINANCIAL REPORT, 1 JANUARY – 7 FEBRUARY 2008

Beginning balance, 1 January 2008		\$ 4,894.87
Income:		
Interest	2.85	
Give Me "10" (Nat'l.)	250.00	
Dues (2008)	<u>583.60</u>	<u>836.45</u>
		5,731.32
Expenses:		
Military Art Shop (Framing)	240.00	
Texas Veteran's Coalition (dues)	<u>50.00</u>	<u>290.00</u>
Ending balance, 7 February 2008		\$ 5,441.32
Balance in American Bank		\$ 5,441.32

Respectfully submitted,

Louraine Robertson, Treasurer

TEXAS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS – 2008 DUES PAID

TX 02	Austin	\$ 105.20	TX 31	North DFW	\$ 41.20
TX 22	Central	21.20	TX 30	Oilpatch	20.00
TX 05	El Paso	200.00	TX 19	Panhandle	20.00
TX 08	Highland Lakes	35.20	TX 27	Rio Grand Valley	14.40
TX 11	Lone Star	105.20	TX 25	Rose Capital	42.40

Total Collected: \$ 604.80

TEXAS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS—MOAA
FINANCIAL REPORT, 3 OCTOBER – 31 DECEMBER 2007

Beginning balance, 3 October 2007		\$ 4,912.08
Income:		
Interest	11.59	
Dues (2008)	21.20	32.79
		4,944.87
Expenses:		
USO-DFW (United Thru Reading Donation)		50.00
Ending balance, 31 December 2007		\$ 4,894.87
Balance in American Bank		\$ 4,894.87

Respectfully submitted,

Louraine Robertson, Treasurer

TEXAS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS – 2007 DUES PAID

TX 01 Abilene	\$ 36.40	TX 08 Highland Lakes	\$ 38.00
TX 16 Alamo	200.00	TX 11 Lone Star	106.00
TX 02 Austin	120.00	TX 31 North DFW	38.40
TX 22 Central	22.00	TX 23 Northeast	22.00
TX 04 East TX	10.80	TX 30 Oilpatch	20.00
TX 05 El Paso	200.00	TX 27 Rio Grand Valley	8.00
TX 29 Del Rio/Ft. Clark	7.20	TX 25 Rose Capital	40.00
TX 06 Ft. Wolters	6.00	TX 26 TX Golden Triangle	17.20
TX 03 Greater Dallas	121.60	TX 24 TX Hill Country	50.04
TX 13 Greater Lubbock	21.60	TX 19 TX Panhandle	19.20
TX 07 Heart of TX	42.40	TX 20 Wichita Falls	8.00

Total Collected: \$ 1,154.84

Still to be heard from: Brazos Valley