

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**Texas Council of Chapters
Minutes of 2nd Qtr, 2009 Teleconference Meeting
May 2, 2009**

Meeting was duly called to order by President Jim Cunningham at 0900 hrs.

Role Call:

A quorum was present and acting throughout the meeting.

Attendees:

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| | <u>TCC Officers</u> | |
| James Cunningham, MAJ, USAR (Ret) | President, (Alamo) | jimbob48@sbcglobal.net |
| David Briggs, COL, AUS, (Ret) | 2 nd VP, (Greater Dallas) | davidcbriggs@sbcglobal.net |
| Louraine Robertson | Treasurer, (Highland Lakes) | lir@zeecon.com |
| David Patrick, Col, USAF (Ret) | Secretary, (Alamo) | dwpatrick01@gmail.com |
| Alice Karr | Auxiliary, (Rio Grande Valley) | akarr1@rgv.rr.com |
| Bob Rymal | Past Pres, (Greater Dallas) | jq7346@verizon.net |

12 Chapters Represented

- Alamo
- Austin
- Central Texas
- Greater Dallas
- El Paso
- Heart of Texas
- Highland Lakes
- North DFW
- Northeast
- Rio Grande Valley
- Rose Capital
- Wichita Falls

Additions to Agenda: None

Secretary Report: The minutes from the 4th Quarter teleconference, Nov 15, 2008 were filed and made a matter of record. David Patrick asked all attendees for their help in keeping email addresses updated on their Chapter officers – send changes to David at dwpatrick01@gmail.com .

Treasurer Report: Louraine Robertson gave the financial report. The financial report was filed and made a matter of record. TCC received \$500 from MOAA for their success in the “Give me 10” (GMT) program. The financials are attached to these minutes.

Legislative Report: David Briggs reported and commended the Chapters on their legislative activities – particularly the email alert system which is key to the grass roots efforts. He emphasized three priorities: Chapter visits to their local offices of their U.S. Congressional legislators; visits to the local Texas legislators’ offices; and setting up a Legislative Affairs Committee in the Chapter. His report concluded with a discussion and clarification on electronic (email) messaging sent by National MOAA, i.e., the National office will send two emails per year on behalf of the Chapter to those individuals in the Chapter’s membership area who are National members but not Chapter members – the messages are drafted by the Chapter and sent to MOAA for release with the focus on membership and recruitment; MOAA will send legislative alerts on behalf of the TCC – probably as many alerts annually that are within reason.

For David’s full report, log on to www.texas-moaa.org.

Auxiliary Report: Alice Karr reported that the House of Representatives has approved HR Bill 1804 which will increase the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance that all DIC recipients should now be getting. The Auxiliary Advisory Committee urges all survivors to go to MOAA’s home page www.moaa.org and read what the Committee says.

For Alice’s full report, log on to www.texas-moaa.org.

Chapter Reports:

Written reports were submitted by the following Chapters and can be reviewed on www.texas-moaa.org:

Alamo, Austin, East Texas, El Paso, Central Texas, Greater Dallas, Heart of Texas, Highland Lakes, North East Texas, North DFW, Rio Grande, Rose Capital and Wichita Falls.

There was excellent discussion throughout which concluded with President Cunningham stating that MOAA has an excellent reputation in Texas and is a great resource.

President’s Comments: President Cunningham gave a detailed report on the following key areas:

Storming the Hill: He participated in this annual MOAA event. Texas had three teams who met with both senators and all the congressional members. Suggestion was made for a fourth Texas team because of the number of congressional offices to cover. Most all the congressional representatives were receptive to the MOAA initiatives and the sense is that Congress is going to do as much as possible for the military.

Legislation: It appears that Congress will leave TRICARE Standard and Prime alone this year and will go no where near TRICARE for Life at this time. However, there will be discussion on fees and reimbursement levels down the road.

MOAA Meeting: This meeting had a big focus on recruitment and retention. The GMT Program has been a huge success with Texas playing a big part thanks to the efforts of all – in particular, Alamo and El Paso Chapters. There is also a push on lifetime memberships – Chapter gets reimbursed \$20 for every one they bring in. Also, lifetime memberships are at a 10% discount and individuals can pay in increments. They are also good holiday and birthday gifts.

As for retention, the key is being involved in the community with civic and charity work by helping city fathers solve problems.

There is a new initiative where MOAA national is asking Chapters to identify an individual(s) in their Chapter who can be assigned (as a good point of contact) to a congressional representative in the Chapter's congressional area and be the focal point for national/federal issues affecting a particular area of the state. This initiative is to be coordinated through the TCC.

JROTC and ROTC: The Gold Bar Program which includes one year free membership to any graduating 2Lt and set of gold bars along with a certificate (some Chapters offer a free membership) has been extremely successful. In fact, in some areas demand is exceeding supply and MOAA is asking Chapters to step up and fund any overages in medals that they might need.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded and after full discussion it was resolved and unanimously supported by all on the teleconference that the TCC fund an amount not to exceed \$200 annually as an emergency fund to support the Gold Bar Program in Texas.

To get a better idea on future needs and demand regarding the Gold Bar Program, it was decided that each Chapter contact ROTC units in their area to see who wants to participate. Once the numbers of gold bars needed is identified for the 2009-2010 school year, TCC will send that info to national MOAA.

Jim Cunningham will get specific clarification on the MOAA policy going forward regarding funding issues for the Gold Bar Program.

Lastly, a reminder that June 1st is the deadline for the Chapter of excellence award submissions. Specific guidelines are in the *Council and Chapter Policies and Procedures Guide*. Special presentations will be made to the 4 and 5 star Chapter winners at the MOAA Annual Meeting, Oct 21-24, 2009 in San Diego.

For President Cunningham's full report, log on to www.texas-moaa.org.

Business Discussion:

Previous Action Items

1. **Jim Cunningham:** Look into putting some of TCC's money into a certificate of deposit.
Status: Jim looking into moving \$4000 to \$5000 total in two separate 2-year CDs with USAA @5%. **Item open.**
2. **Jim Cunningham:** Chapters being able to buy the new MOAA commemorative coin.
Status: The MOAA coin is specifically for National use – not available for Chapters. National is looking at putting out a MOAA coin for Chapter purchase this coming year. **Item closed.**

Nominating Committee Report

Bob Rymal gave report with the following officer recommendations for 2010-2012:

President – Ed Stone, El Paso Chapter
1st Vice-President, Membership & Chapter Development, Jim Snow, Rose Capital Chapter
2nd Vice-President, Legislative, David Briggs, Greater Dallas Chapter
Treasurer, Louraine Robertson, Highland Lakes Chapter

No further nominations were received from the teleconference participants and the above names will be put on the ballot and agenda for the 4th quarter, Nov 7, 2009 teleconference.

New or Continued Action Items

1. **Jim Cunningham:** Look into putting some of TCC's money into a certificate of deposit.
Status: Jim looking into moving \$4000 to \$5000 total in two separate 2-year CDs with USAA @5%.
Holdover from previous meeting.
2. **Jim Cunningham:** Get specific clarification on the MOAA policy going forward regarding funding issues for the Gold Bar Program.
3. **All Chapters:** Contact ROTC units in their area to see who wants to participate in the Gold Bar Program. Once the numbers of gold bars needed is identified for the 2009-2010 school year, TCC will send that info to national MOAA.
4. **All Chapters:** Identify an individual(s) in their Chapter who can be assigned (as a good point of contact) to a congressional representative in the Chapter's congressional area and be the focal point for national/federal issues affecting a particular area of the state. This initiative is to be coordinated through the TCC.

Next/Future 2009 Meetings:

3rd Qtr- Aug 21 & 22 - Location Wichita Falls - **In person**

4th Qtr – Nov 7 - **By teleconference**

Meeting adjourned at 1040 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,



David Patrick, Col, USAF (Ret)
Secretary

1 Attachment – Financial Statements

| | | |
|---|-------------|---------------|
| Beginning balance, 4 February 2009 | | \$5,916.77 |
| Income: Dues – 2009 | 356.80 | |
| Interest | <u>1.45</u> | <u>358.25</u> |
| | | \$6,275.02 |
| Expenses: TX Coalition of Veterans Dues | | <u>50.00</u> |
| Ending balance, 26 April 2009 | | \$6,225.02 |
| Balance in American Bank | | \$6,225.02 |

Respectfully submitted,

(signed by)

Louraine Robertson, Treasurer

TEXAS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS—2009 DUES PAID

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------|-------------------------|---------|
| TX 01 Abilene | 31.60 | TX 08 Highland Lakes | 28.80 |
| TX 16 Alamo | 200.00 | TX 24 Hill Country | 46.80 |
| TX 02 Austin | 96.00 | TX 11 Lone Star | 91.60 |
| TX 22 Central | 18.40 | TX 31 North DFW | 43.20 * |
| TX 29 Del Rio/Ft. Clark | 5.20 | TX 23 Northeast | 20.00 |
| TX 04 East Texas | 13.20 | TX 30 Oilpatch | 20.00 |
| TX 05 El Paso | 200.00 | TX 19 Panhandle | 21.20 |
| TX 06 Ft. Wolters | 6.00 | TX 27 Rio Grande Valley | 7.20 |
| TX 07 Heart of TX | 32.40 | TX 25 Rose Capital | 46.80 |

Total Collected: \$ 928.40

*Collected in 2008

Still to be heard from: Golden Triangle, Greater Dallas, Greater Lubbock and Wichita Falls. Brazos Valley has notified us that they are not going to join TCC.

A copy of these minutes are on www.texas-moaa.org