

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**Texas Council of Chapters
Minutes of 2nd Qtr, 2008 Meeting
May 17, 2008
Killeen, TX**

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

Attendees:

	<u>MOAA</u>	
Virginia Alloway, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)	Bd of Directors, MOAA	valloway@satx.rr.com

	<u>TCC Officers</u>	
James Cunningham, MAJ, USAR (Ret)	President, TCC (Alamo)	jimbob48@sbcglobal.net
Spencer Smith, Lt Col, USMC (Ret)	1 st VP, TCC (Central TX)	shs-kgs@hotmail.com
David Briggs, COL, AUS, (Ret)	2 nd VP, TCC (Gr Dallas)	davidcbriggs@sbcglobal.net
Louraine Robertson	Treasurer, TCC (Highland Lks)	lir@tstar.net
David Patrick, Col, USAF (Ret)	Secretary, TCC (Alamo)	dpatrick1@satx.rr.com
Alice Karr	Auxiliary, TCC (Rio Grande)	akarr1@rgv.rr.com

	<u>Chapter Representatives</u>	
Ed Marvin, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)	Alamo	elmarv@swbell.net
Ed McCarthy, Col, USAF (Ret)	Alamo	suened@earthlink.net
Charles Bush, COL, USA (Ret)	Austin	charles.bush1@us.army.mil
John McManners, COL, USA (Ret)	East Texas	johnmcmanners@usa.net
Vincent Tobola, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)	Heart of Texas	vtobola@aol.com
Dale Fixsen, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)	Highland Lakes	dfixsen@meadowlakestexas.com
Wesley Charles, LCDR, USN (Ret)	Lone Star Officers Club	wes@westecinstruments.com
John Biggerstaff, Capt, USAF (Ret)	NE Texas	jfbjr@embarqmail.com
Richard Johnston, LTC, USA (Ret)	North DFW	rjdj@sbcglobal.net
Edith Clark, CDR, USPHS (Ret)	Rio Grande	edith0909@hotmail.com
Jim Snow, LTC, USA (Ret)	Rose Chapter	jksnow5@aol.com
Cleveland Pratt, LTC, USA (Ret)	Wichita Falls	cpratt@sw.rr.com

13 Chapters Represented

<u>Others/Guests</u>
Frank Somera, Jr, COL, USA (Ret), Central Texas Chapter
Patrick Christ, LTC, USA (Ret), Central Texas Chapter
Gene Wentworth, COL, USA (Ret), Central Texas Chapter
Jos Portmann, COL, USA (Ret), Central Texas Chapter
Tony Kosta, LTC, USA (Ret), Central Texas Chapter
John Grimme, CW3 (Ret), Central Texas Chapter

Carl Criss, LTC, USA (Ret), Central Texas Chapter
Jim Endicott, USA (Ret), Central Texas Chapter
William Melton, USA (Ret), Central Texas Chapter
Beth Weller, Guest of Central Texas Chapter
Howard Bressler, COL, USA (Ret), Central Texas Chapter
Jerry Jackson, LTC, USA (Ret), East Texas Chapter

Invocation given by Frank Somera and Pledge of Allegiance led by Jim Cunningham.

Welcome/ Introductions:

President Cunningham thanked the Central Chapter for their warm hospitality and tremendous support for this meeting and last night's dinner. Mayor Ed Mullen, Harker Heights, read a proclamation welcoming TCC to the city. Col Bill Hill, Ft Hood Garrison Commander, gave an update on Ft. Hood: largest installation in the Army; 388,000 total population impact and \$11 billion approximate economic impact to Central Texas; mission provides services and support to the soldiers and families in time of persistent conflict - - "supporting those who serve"; future is the potential to stabilize to 50,000 population; Ft Hood is a great place to live, train, deploy, redeploy, reunite and retire; no installation in the Army has done more for the war on terrorism than Ft. Hood. Col Hill's full presentation can be viewed on www.texas-moaa.org.

Secretary Report:

The minutes from the 1st quarter meeting of Feb 9, 2008 in Tyler, 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 we have a tremendous opportunity with this being a Presidential election year to use the monthly e-mail legislative updates, put the information in your newsletter, and forward to your members. We represent a "one, two punch", i.e., on the national scene we storm the hill and let the legislators know that the folks back home have the same goals; on the local front we go face-to-face with our local legislators and provide the grassroots perspective and impact. Keep hammering on these legislators . . . the goal is to mobilize the efforts of our chapters to make an assault on Washington to support MOAA initiatives. It takes your participation!

Chapter Reports

Reports were given by the following chapters:

- ❑ Greater Dallas – David Briggs
- ❑ East Texas – John McManners
- ❑ Wichita Falls – Cleveland Pratt
- ❑ Northeast Texas – John Biggerstaff
- ❑ Lone Star – Wes Charles

- ❑ Alamo – Ed Marvin
- ❑ Heart of Texas - Waco – Vince Tobola
- ❑ Rose Capitol – Jim Snow
- ❑ Highland Lakes – Dale Fixsen
- ❑ Rio Grand Valley – Edith Clark
- ❑ North Dallas/Ft. Worth – Dick Johnston
- ❑ Central Texas – Spencer Smith
- ❑ Austin – Charlie Bush

Full reports are located on www.texas-moaa.org, “MOAA Texan” page as well as reports from some chapters that were not able to attend this meeting

Auxiliary Report:

Alice Karr asked that we all continue to speak up for DIC legislation, especially in this day of growing expenses. Please read the latest issue of the Military Officer - it gives special tribute to military spouses. Also, please continue to reach out to Surviving Spouses - - urge them to continue or begin going to your chapter meetings. I hope you have created an Auxiliary Corner in your newsletters!

Full report is located on www.texas-moaa.org, “MOAA Texan” page

MOAA Update

Ginny Alloway briefed on what the MOAA medical committee is doing regarding Autism.

Key challenges for Autism: Access -- it's hard to find ABA trained therapists. There aren't that many out there. Even when military beneficiaries find a provider they invariably are PCS'd and end up on the bottom of the waiting list to see a new ABA therapist.

Cap on reimbursement -- monthly reimbursement allowed by TRICARE is only \$2500. Minimum recommended ABA therapy is 25 hrs/week. A typical cost for an ABA therapist is \$125/hr. TRICARE cap doesn't even pay for one week of therapy for an average provider.

Out of pocket expenses for families -- the average Major or Captain has to pay about \$60,000/year out of pocket expenses for their child with Autism. Virtually no services for Autism provided by military treatment facilities.

MOAA is working to raise the monthly cap for reimbursement and has provided input to DOD about making the demonstration project less restrictive. The committee recommended that MOAA advocate for a specific amount with respect to raising the monthly reimbursement cap (\$5,000 a month was suggested so as to correspond with the average out of pocket expense of \$60,000/year).

Advocacy Initiatives/Military Coalition/President’s Comments:

President Cunningham briefed on the recent Storming the Hill. In most cases the legislative leaders and staffs were attentive to needs of veterans and active duty; however, most were realistic that relatively little will happen until after the Presidential election.

The Texas legislature meets in 2009 – start thinking about issues of a state nature. We need your feedback

When corresponding with your congressman and senator – be tactful. Don't make them mad. Be professionally demanding – not disrespectful.

Website being revamped – look at it -- www.texas-moaa.org

Business Discussion/Additions to the Agenda

Status of Proposal to National MOAA: President Cunningham gave an update on the status of the proposal to National MOAA to study the feasibility of raising their national dues in order to make all dues paying MOAA members automatically a member of the local chapter. National is doing their due diligence on this proposal and looking especially hard to see if this might change the relationship of national with the chapters. They will be benchmarking with other national organizations to see how they may have approached this issue. National is also looking at better ways to track their members who move to the area where there is a local chapter to help in building chapter membership. National is also looking at generating a package on how to get more non-due revenue – they might even consider matching funds if a chapter does something well in generating non-dues income. All this is being done in the spirit of this being “The Year of the Chapter”.

Patriot Fund Project: Mike Boston, Mike Jackson, Rosie Babin, Alan Babin Sr. and Alan Babin Jr. representing the Patriot Fund gave a very emotional and impactful account of what this project is all about. They said they were here to send a message that there are many soldiers in need. Alan Babin Jr. was severely injured in combat and has endured years and years of rehab and therapy. He was recently the recipient of a special wheel chair, the IBOT (produced by Johnson and Johnson) which allows him much improved mobility and personal freedom. The Patriot Fund raises funds - - for one veteran at a time - - to buy this \$25,000 chair for those in need. The Austin Chapter (Charlie Bush) has been involved in this effort. There was much discussion about the tremendous opportunity for MOAA national to look at this and provide awareness and publicity for this effort and for chapters to be involved. Ginny Alloway to look into this.

Funding Trips to TCC mtgs/IRS Tax Deductions: Dick Johnston from North DFW raised the issue of reimbursement of chapter expenses to TCC meetings, etc. Unfortunately, TCC is not in a position to afford reimbursement for these meeting. However, this issue raises an even larger issue, i.e., the tax status of each chapter under the IRS 501 code (some chapters have 501(c)4 and some 501(c)19 status and some 501(c)3 status for scholarship funds) and the resulting ability to write off meeting expenses, i.e., mileage, etc. Dick Johnston was appointed chair of committee of three to look at how to handle this. Since each chapter has different needs we need to provide better direction for them in the form of an information/guidelines packet and via information on www.texas-moaa.org. The committee’s charge is to not only look at IRS status but to provide guidance on liability and general insurance, what expenses can be deducted for volunteer participation, etc..

Future Meetings Proposal: Discussed the feasibility of doing quarterly TCC meetings by teleconference to keep down travel expenses. Perhaps two face-to-face meetings a year and two conference call meetings. Will send e-mail to chapters to see what they think about this idea.

Addition to agenda: David Briggs highly endorsed two MOAA publications -- “Undue Sacrifice (*offsets affecting disabled service members and their survivors deprive retirees of their service-earned retired pay and cut compensation amounts for survivors by up to \$1,100 a month*)” and “Premiums Already Paid-in Full (*why the administration’s plan to tax military retirees for health care is unfair and unwise – and what the better options are*)”. Order these publications from MOAA and give them to your senator or congressman when doing your legislative visits.

Next Meeting:

Aug 22 - 23, 2008, Lubbock, TX

Meeting adjourned at 1215 hrs.

Action Items:

1. Jim Cunningham – appoint committee members to look at guidance to chapters on IRS status, deductible expenses, etc.
2. Jim Cunningham – send e-mail to chapters to get feedback on holding TCC quarterly meetings (perhaps two a year) via teleconference due to rising travel costs.
3. Ginny Alloway – look into MOAA publicizing the Patriot Fund Project.

Respectfully submitted,



David Patrick, Col, USAF (Ret)
Secretary

1 Attachment – Financial Statements

TEXAS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS—MOAA
FINANCIAL REPORT, 7 FEBRUARY – 15 MAY, 2008

Beginning balance, 7 February 2008			\$5,441.32
Income:	Dues	475.60	
	Interest	5.23	
	“Give Me 10” – National	<u>250.00</u>	<u>730.83</u>
			\$6,172.15
Expenses:	Quarterly Mtgs. (Rose Capital & Central - @ \$250.00)	500.00	
	Nonprofit Report w/state (filing)	5.14	

Refund of dues overpayment	<u>31.20</u>	<u>536.34</u>
Ending balance, 15 May 2008		\$5,635.81
Balance in American Bank		\$5,635.81

Respectfully submitted,

Louraine Robertson, Treasurer

TEXAS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS – 2008 DUES PAID

TX 01	Abilene	\$ 30.80	TX 13	Greater Lubbock	\$ 38.80
TX 16	Alamo	200.00	TX 07	Heart of Texas	26.80
TX 02	Austin	105.20	TX 08	Highland Lakes	35.20
TX 22	Central	21.20	TX 11	Lone Star	105.20
TX 29	Del Rio/Ft. Clark	7.60	TX 31	North DFW	41.20
TX 04	East Texas	14.40	TX 30	Oilpatch	20.00
TX 05	El Paso	200.00	TX 19	Panhandle	20.00
TX 06	Ft. Wolters	6.00	TX 27	Rio Grand Valley	14.40
TX 03	Greater Dallas	120.00	TX 25	Rose Capital	42.40

Total Collected: \$1,049.20

Still to be heard from: Brazos Valley, Northeast Texas, Golden Triangle, Texas Hill Country, Wichita Falls

Note: Wichita Falls gave me their dues check at the meeting.