

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Texas Council of Chapters Minutes of 3rd Qtr, 2008 Meeting August 23, 2008 Lubbock, TX

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

Attendees:

MOAA

Lee Lange, COL, USMC (Ret)	Dir, Council & Chapter Affairs	leel@moaa.org
Virginia Alloway, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)	Bd of Directors, MOAA	valloway@satx.rr.com

TCC Officers

James Cunningham, MAJ, USAR (Ret)	President, TCC (Alamo)	jimbob48@sbcglobal.net
David Briggs, COL, AUS, (Ret)	2 nd VP, TCC (Gr Dallas)	davidcbriggs@sbcglobal.net
Louraine Robertson	Treasurer, TCC (Highland Lks)	lir@zeecon.com
David Patrick, Col, USAF (Ret)	Secretary, TCC (Alamo)	dpatrick1@satx.rr.com

Chapter Attendees

Ed Marvin, Lt Col, USAF (Ret) **	Alamo	elmarv@swbell.net
Merlen Howe, CAPT, USN (Ret)	Austin	b2c2@ctxu.net
Jim Endicott, USA (Ret) **	Central Texas	enticottjim@hotmail.com
John McManners, COL, USA (Ret)	East Texas	johnmcmanners@usa.net
Jerry Jackson, LTC, USA (Ret)	East Texas	jejackson337@suddenlink.net
Ed Stone, MAJ, USA (Ret)	El Paso	publications@elpasomoaa.org
Col Charles Gibbs, USAF (Ret)**	Greater Dallas	cndgibbs@tx.rr.com
Wm. Edgar Murphy, MG, USA (Ret)	Greater Lubbock	genmurph@suddenlink.net
Bob Capps, COL, USAR (Ret)	Greater Lubbock	cappschap@yahoo.com
Kenneth Olson, LTC, USAR	Greater Lubbock	kdo@suddenlink.net
Lee Cox, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)	Greater Lubbock	leeqinny@sbcglobal.net
Garry Wright, LTC, USA (Ret)	Greater Lubbock	garrydonnawright@yahoo.com
Vincent Tobola, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)	Heart of Texas	vtobola@aol.com
John Biggerstaff, Capt, USAF (Ret)	NE Texas	ifbjr@embarqmail.com
Rose Marie Vickery, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)	North DFW	p.vickery10@verizon.net
Jim Snow, LTC, USA (Ret)	Rose Chapter	jksnow5@aol.com
Larry Petrash, LTC, USAR (Ret)	Wichita Falls	lpetrash@aol.com
Cleveland Pratt, LTC, USA (Ret)	Wichita Falls	cpratt@sw.rr.com

** By teleconference

13 Chapters Represented

Others/Guests
Judy Stone, El Paso

Invocation given by Lee Cox and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Jim Cunningham.

Welcome/ Introductions: President Cunningham thanked the Greater Lubbock Chapter for their warm hospitality and tremendous support for this meeting and last night's dinner. All attendees introduced themselves.

Additions to Agenda: Two items were added: (1) David Briggs asked that during chapter reports that an update be given on what your chapter is doing legislatively -- what steps are you taking. Specifically, the name(s) of the legislator(s) visited; are you sending out postcards and/or letters to legislators; are you using e-mail alerts to get to your membership. (2) Jim Cunningham added Update on the Patriot Fund

Year of the Chapter Update: Lee Lange gave an excellent update on MOAA's two year (2008-09) initiative "Year of the Chapter". One of the goals of the program is to take an organizational approach to addressing the core issues of targeting MOAA members who are not members of a local chapter. This will be done through improved national level support. There are about 290,000+ non-chapter MOAA members. The October 2008 issue of the *Military Officer* will have a cover wrap with the theme of "We Want You in Chapters" offering a free 1-year membership. Names and contact information of interested individuals will be forwarded to the applicable local chapter for action. This offer is good from Oct 1 through Dec 31, 2008. Chapters will be rebated money for each new member through this effort. The goal is to sign up approx 2% or 5,000 new members into chapters. Jim Cunningham and the entire council thanked Lee for his great work. Lee's full presentation can be viewed on www.texas-moaa.org, "MOAA Texan" page.

Secretary Report:

The minutes from the 2nd Quarter meeting, May 17 in Killeen, TX were filed and made a matter of record, as amended. David Patrick asked all attendees for their help in keeping e-mail addresses updated on their chapter officers – send changes to David.

Treasurer Report:

Louraine Robertson gave the financial reports – see attached to these minutes. The financial reports were filed and made a matter of record. She presented the proposed 2009 budget which will be voted on at the next meeting.

Legislative Report: David Briggs reported that "Legislative" is one of the most important things we do in MOAA. He stated that chapter efforts can pay off – that is why chapters have been hearing from him more and getting updates on at least a monthly basis. We encourage chapters to take information from these legislative updates and put it into their newsletter. In future chapter reports we would like your feedback, i.e., how is your chapter doing on e-mail alert; which congressional reps are you covering; what postcards and letters are you sending out. We will be e-mailing each chapter to ask for the contact information on their legislative person. David asked for feedback on the value of the monthly legislative updates – all responses were very positive and stated the updates were valuable.

Chapter Reports

Reports were given by the following chapters:

- ❑ North East – John Biggerstaff
- ❑ Austin – Merlen Howe
- ❑ Highland Lakes – Louraine Roberston
- ❑ Heart of Texas – Vince Tobola
- ❑ Greater Dallas – David Briggs
- ❑ Greater Lubbock – Edgar Murphy
- ❑ Rose Capital – Jim Snow
- ❑ North DFW – Rose Marie Vickery
- ❑ East Texas – John McManners
- ❑ El Paso – Ed Stone
- ❑ Wichita Falls – Larry Petrash
- ❑ Alamo – Ed Marvin
- ❑ Central Texas – Jim Endicott

Full reports are located on www.texas-moaa.org, “MOAA Texan” page.

Auxiliary Report: David Patrick gave the report in the absence of Alice Karr. The new MOAA Advisor for the Auxiliary is Col Phil Odom, USAF (Ret). Six auxiliary regions have been formed – TX is grouped with NE, MO, AR and MS. The recent August Military Officer has excellent coverage on spouse survivor and DIC issues. The auxiliary remains most appreciate of MOAA’s efforts in these areas.

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

MOAA Update: Ginny Alloway serves on the MOAA Medical Committee and reported that TRICARE bids are in to the companies. Regions will remain the same. They hope to make the bid award prior to the election. Regarding Autism, there is an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act to raise the limit from \$2500 to \$5000 per month. On Sep 17 in Washington, D. C., the USNI and MOAA are sponsoring a one-day seminar on “Keeping Faith with Wounded Warriors and Their Families. Ginny also mentioned the initiative “Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children” which deals with the equity issues of transferring transcripts of those school aged children of military families. In essence, when families PCS to Texas – especially from overseas -- their children have problems with transferring transcripts. This delays a child’s entrance into whatever level they belong. Much lobbying will be done this coming February with the Texas Legislature to rectify this inequitable situation.

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

President’s Comments: President Cunningham addressed the value of holding electronic/teleconference meetings in the future to cut expenses. For example, our next meeting for the 4th Qtr on Nov 15th, tentatively set for 8:00 am – noon, will be via teleconference. Participants will receive via e-mail and ahead of time the phone number and password code to get on the call. Copies of agenda, chapter reports, etc. will be e-mailed to participants prior to the teleconference. We may expand in the future to do meetings on-line via computer through webinars. In the legislative area, we will be pushing the Texas legislature for the implementation of legislation for our veterans. See www.texas-moaa.org for links to the Texas Veterans Commission and the Texas Legislature Online websites. All chapters should consider supporting the Patriot Fund as an initiative for the TCC. This is a very worthy effort which is being led by the Austin Chapter.

Jim Cunningham and Lee Lange covered proposed activities in Austin on Feb 4,5,6, 2009 as follows: We are planning a 2009 MOAA Leaders Workshop on these dates in Austin and tentatively plan to invite TX, OK, AR and LA chapters to attend. The idea would be to invite TX council, chapter leaders to participate in visiting the state capitol by coming in for an issues briefing on Wed Feb 4, staying over at a site in Austin TBD, and going to visit state legislators on Thursday Feb 5. Meanwhile, other TX chapter leaders and leaders from OK, AR, and LA arrive and check into site. Then at 1800 on Thursday all council and chapter leaders attending MOAA sponsored Leader's Workshop meet for registration/reception/dinner. The next day breakfast goes from 0700 - 0800 and Workshop goes from 0800 - 1200. At 1200, serve lunch, then depart for home.

MOAA will invite council and chapter presidents and spouses from the 4 states and council officers to attend the Workshop. Leaders attending the Workshop pay for transportation to the site and return home. MOAA pays for reception and dinner on Thursday, hotel room Thursday night, and full breakfast on Friday. In past, councils have provided lunch at end of workshop.

Business Discussion/Additions to the Agenda

IRS Tax Deductions Committee Report: A sincere thanks goes to Dick Johnston and Charlie Correll, North DFW Chapter for their valuable efforts on this study. Bottom line – members who absorb their own costs (travel, lodging, meals) for attending TCC meetings can deduct those expenses as a “donation” on their income tax since TCC is defined by IRS Regulation 501(c)3.

Members must keep receipts of expenses and also receive a “donation” receipt from TCC Treasurer, Louraine Robertson, lir@zeecon.com, PO Box 8858, Horseshoe Bay, TX 78657-8858. Louraine will need a copy of all receipts one is claiming. Individuals should keep the originals. Louraine will then send a note on TCC letterhead stating “Thank you for your time and support of the Texas Council of Chapters, MOAA. We acknowledge your contribution of out of pocket expenses for the benefit of the organization in the amount of \$ _____ on (date).” Louraine will sign and keep a copy for the files. The letter and the original receipts should be all one needs to claim on their income tax.

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

Thoughts on Active Duty: Ed Stone provided an excellent report on what the El Paso Chapter is doing to attract and retain active duty.

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

Next/Future Meetings:

2008

4th Qtr - Nov 15, 8:00 am – noon, **By teleconference**

2009

1st Qtr- Feb 4, 5, 6 – Austin **In person**

2nd Qtr- May 2 – **By teleconference**

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

4th Qtr – Nov 7 **By teleconference**

Meeting adjourned at 1215 hrs.

Action Items:

1. 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. (Holdover from 1st Qtr meeting).
2. Ginny Alloway – look into MOAA publicizing the Patriot Fund Project. (Holdover from 2nd Qtr meeting).
3. Louraine Robertson – look into putting some of TCC’s money into a certificate of deposit.
4. David Patrick – e-mail Chapters to get contact info on their legislative person and send to David Briggs.
5. David Patrick- put on www.texas-moaa.org Ed Stone’s rate sheet and ad size for newsletter; and David Brigg’s template for postcards to legislators.

Respectfully submitted,



David Patrick, Col, USAF (Ret)
Secretary

2 Attachments – Financial Statements
Proposed Budget

TEXAS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS-MOAA
FINANCIAL REPORT, 15 MAY – 20 AUGUST 2008

Beginning balance, 15 May 2008			\$5,635.81
Income:			
Dues	51.60		
Interest		<u>3.62</u>	<u>55.22</u>
			\$5,691.03
Expenses:			<u>0</u>
Ending balance, 20 August 2008			\$5,691.03

Balance in American Bank \$5,691.03

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 26 Golden Triangle	20.00	TX 25 Rose Capital	42.40
TX 03 Greater Dallas	120.00	TX 20 Wichita Falls	31.60

Total Collected: \$1,100.80

Still to be heard from: Brazos Valley, Northeast Texas, Texas Hill Country

TEXAS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS – MOAA
2009 PROPOSED BUDGET (With 2008 Comparison)

	2008 Budget	Actual to 8/20/08	2009 Proposed
Income:			
Dues	\$ 1,150.00	1,079.60*	1,115.00
Interest earned		25.00	15.00
MOAA Nat'l. "Give Me 10"	<u>0</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>0</u>
	1,175.00	1,581.30	1,130.00
Expenses:			
President	50.00	0	0
Quarterly meetings	1,000.00	500.00	1,000.00
Texan Newsletter	0	0	0

Secretary	0	0	0
Treasurer	0	0	0
Legislative	0	0	0
Veteran's Coalition Dues	50.00	50.00	50.00
Nonprofit Renewal, Sec. of State	0	5.14	5.00
MOAA Scholarship Fund	<u>75.00</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>75.00</u>
	1,175.00	795.14	1,130.00

Note: We actually collected \$1,100.80 in dues, difference was in early payment recorded in 2007.

8/20/08 lr