

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**Texas Council of Chapters
Minutes of 4th Qtr, 2008 Teleconference Meeting
November 15, 2008**

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:

James Cunningham, MAJ, USAR (Ret)	<u>TCC Officers</u> 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@zeecon.com
David Patrick, Col, USAF (Ret)	Secretary, TCC (Alamo)	dpatrick1@satx.rr.com

13 Chapters Represented

Abilene
Alamo
Austin
Central Texas
Greater Dallas
East Texas
El Paso
Heart of Texas
Highland Lakes
Greater Lubbock
North DFW
Rio Grande Valley
Rose Capital

Additions to Agenda: None

Secretary Report: The minutes from the 3rd Quarter meeting, August 23 in Lubbock, TX were filed and made a matter of record. 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 report. The financial reports were filed and made a matter of record. Upon a motion duly made and seconded and after full discussion the 2009 proposed budget was approved. See attachments to these minutes.

Legislative Report: David Briggs reported we are at a wait and see point with Congress. Now is a good time for chapters to prepare for the upcoming legislative sessions and communicate with their congressional reps and senators. The Texas legislature will be in session in 2009. President Cunningham mentioned that the following are the Legislative recommendations that have been presented to the Texas Senate and House military committees for the 81st Session:

- 100% property tax reduction for 100% disabled veterans.
- A significant increase in the dollar amount used to reduce the appraised value of any disabled veterans property.
- Creation of a lottery scratch-off card that would benefit veterans and veterans programs in Texas. The resulting money would flow through the Texas Veterans Assistance Fund for disbursement to eligible and qualified veterans and veterans programs.
- Extension of the Hazelwood Act that would allow the benefit to be passed on to family members if not used by the service member and removal of restrictive language from the current Act which allows certain Texas Universities to refuse Texas Veterans the use of the Acts benefits.
- Enactment of legislation that will give veteran owned and disabled veteran owned businesses preferred access to State and Federal contracts in Texas.

Chapters were asked to: give either Jim Cunningham or Dave Briggs any other issues they would like to see pushed; have their chapter legislative person schedule appointments with their legislative rep and senator so the "Advocacy on the Hill" is organized – need to schedule before the Feb 5 meeting in Austin; if there is overlapping representation between chapters – hit them twice. A question was asked if the Texas Veterans Coalition is still a viable organization – answer yes.

Dave Brigg's full legislative report can be viewed on www.texas-moaa.org.

Auxiliary Report: Edith Clark gave report in the absence of Alice Karr. DIC continues to be an issue – we should communicate our concerns to Colonel Steve Strobridge, Director Government Relations, MOAA.

Full report is located on 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, Central Texas, Greater Dallas, Greater Lubbock, Heart of Texas, North East Texas, North DFW, Rio Grande, Rose Capital.

Verbal reports were given by the following chapters: Abilene, El Paso, Highland Lakes.

President's Comments: President Cunningham addressed the following:

MOAA post card/magazine wrap initiative: You should have received a list from national on those MOAA members in your area who are currently not a member of your chapter but expressed interest in becoming a member. Updated lists will be forthcoming. This free chapter membership offer – with a \$15 rebate to the chapter from national for each new signed-up member – expires on Dec 31, 2008. Ensure you call those who expressed interest and make it easy for them to join your chapter. In the case where the individual discarded the post card and now wants to join, ask them to call MOAA at 1-800-234-6622 and give their information to the Chapter and Council staff.

Give Me 10 (GMT): The Alamo and El Paso chapters were among the recruiting leaders for MOAA. With exception of two or three TX chapters, all have a GMT signup. Well done -- thank you. Use every opportunity to sign up GMT – even if they are not part of your chapter area. If you are working national lists and find errors or if a national member has moved or he/she is deceased let national know so they can update their database.

First Quarter meeting on February 4th and 5th 2009: This meeting will be held in Austin to coincide with the opening days of the 81st session of the Texas Legislature. We will meet on the evening of the 4th, get information about current legislation that we want and then, on the 5th will do our “Advocacy on the Hill”. Teams will be formed to meet with as many State Senators and Representatives as we can to encourage them to support the legislative goals of TCC and the Texas Veterans Coalition. We hope that each Chapter will try and have at least one representative at this meeting so that we can have a good showing.

As an added incentive to the Chapters Presidents, Vice Presidents or Secretaries to attend the First Quarter TCC meeting in Austin, on the evening of the 5th, MOAA National will have a kickoff banquet for Chapter Presidents and leadership from Chapters of the Texas Council, Arkansas Council, Oklahoma Council, and Louisiana Council. The morning of the 6th, MOAA National Council and Chapter Affairs will conduct a Leadership Conference from 0800 until 1200. Hotel and meals for the evening of the 5th and 6th will be funded by MOAA National. We will be staying at the Wyndham hotel for both functions. Invitations and more information regarding this will be coming from the National MOAA soon and I will pass on information as I receive it.

Business Discussion/ Additions to the Agenda/Other Comments: New officers will be elected at the Nov 7, 2009, 4th Qtr meeting. Question was asked if chapters can buy the new MOAA commemorative coins for chapter recognition, etc. activities. Jim C. will check into it. Attendees were asked for comments on this new teleconference meeting format. All comments were most favorable but attendees would prefer a mix of ½ teleconferences and ½ in-person meetings.

Next/Future 2009 Meetings:

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**

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

New Action Items:

1. **All Chapters:** Give either Jim Cunningham or Dave Briggs any other issues they would like to see pushed in the TX legislature; have their chapter legislative person schedule appointments with their legislative rep and senator so the Advocating the Hill is organized – need to schedule before the Feb 5 meeting in Austin.
2. **Jim Cunningham:** Look into putting some of TCC's money into a certificate of deposit.
3. **Jim Cunningham:** Chapters being able to buy the new MOAA commemorative coin.

Meeting adjourned at 1006 am

Respectfully submitted,



David Patrick, Col, USAF (Ret)
Secretary

2 Attachments – Financial Statements
Proposed 2009 Budget

**TEXAS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS-MOAA
FINANCIAL REPORT, 20 AUGUST - 10 NOVEMBER 2008**

Beginning balance, 20 August 2008

\$5,691.03

Income:	Dues	26.00	
	“Give Me 10” (National)	250.00	
	Interest	<u>3.16</u>	<u>279.16</u>
			\$5,970.19

Expenses:	Quarterly Meeting:		
	Meeting room & coffee	154.03	
	Sweet rolls, juice & paper goods	63.88	
	Teleconferencing hookup	52.95	
	Domain name renewal (for 9 yrs.)	<u>134.91</u>	<u>405.77</u>

Ending balance, 10 November 2008 \$5,564.42

Balance in American Bank \$5,564.42

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 23 Northeast	26.00
TX 05 El Paso	200.00	TX 30 Oilpatch	20.00
TX 06 Ft. Wolters	6.00	TX 19 Panhandle	20.00
TX 26 Golden Triangle	20.00	TX 27 Rio Grande Valley	14.40
TX 03 Greater Dallas	120.00	TX 25 Rose Capital	42.40
		TX 20 Wichita Falls	\$31.60

Total Collected: \$1,126.80

Still to be heard from: Brazos Valley and Texas Hill Country

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

		2008 Budget	Actual to 11/10/08	2009 Proposed
Income:	Dues	\$ 1,150.00	1,105.60*	1,115.00
	Interest earned	25.00	14.86	15.00
	MOAA Nat'l. "Give Me 10"	<u>0</u>	<u>750.00</u>	<u>0</u>
		1,175.00	1,870.46	1,130.00
Expenses:	President	50.00	0	0
	Quarterly meetings	1,000.00	770.86	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	75.00	0	75.00
	Framing	0	240.00	0
	Domain Name Renewal	<u>0</u>	<u>134.91</u>	<u>0</u>
		1,175.00	1,200.91	1,130.00

Note: We actually collected \$1,126.80 in dues, difference was in early payment recorded in 2007.

11/10/08 lr