

CLEARWATER CHAPTER

Secretary Minutes 21 July 2021 (Revised 8/23/21)

Location: Perkins Restaurant Clearwater, FL – 1000 HRS

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance at 10AM.

Attendance – Jane Belson, Steve Hodges, Jeff Doll, Dave Apt, Rob Risberg, Pat Hughes, Bob Behm, Sandy Behm

Previous Month Secretary Minutes – June minutes prepared by Sandy Behm. There was a motion made to approve the June minutes as written, a motion was made by Rob Risberg and seconded by Dave Apt. It was approved by the board.

Treasurer's Report – Jane Belson reported the Treasurers report, there was \$13,423.59 in the **Charitable Account** and \$15,168.42 in the **Checking Account** for a **Total** of \$28,592.01 A motion was made by Bob Behm and seconded by Pat Hughes to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted and was approved by the Board.

Membership Report – Rob Risberg reported that there were a Total Voting Members of 103 an increase of 3 from last month, (Deanna Bennett was actually a carry-over from last month) the other two were John Birnbaum and Joe Udovich all 3 have been added to the roster and the national data base and the emails. Regular Members = 59, Surviving Spouse Members = 12, Spouse Members 31. Dues for 2021 will be half price and 2022 will be full price. Birnbaum, Udovich and Rorhman's will pay only \$10.00. Sonny Wong wants to be moved to the inactive list, but we will keep him active for the rest of the year. Bob suggested reaching out to the members who have not been attending the luncheons to clarify where we are in September due to the covid rules at the Clearwater Country Club. Dave suggested using the Presidents letter to reach out to them. Jeff suggested getting the list and making phone calls to reach out to them. Year to date we have 12 new members, Jeff said he has sent out 5 letters and two emails from the recruiting list.

Programs Report – Homeland Security Confirmation of Speaker – Steve stated that they wanted to do a power point but based on our past events it is not feasible at this time. Steve will provide Jeff with the speaker's info and their BIO. Bob reported that he has reached out to Lt Col Linda Moore and she has agreed to speak in January. Bob stated as we get closer to Jan, he will get her Bio and information. She will speak on her experiences as a Trauma Nurse in Afghanistan.

Drumbeat Report – Jim Souders reported to Jane that he needs info to put in the Drumbeat for the summer. Jeff, stated that he already forwarded him material.

Web Report – Rob Risberg said he has nothing significant to report.

Spouse/Surviving Spouse Report – Bob Behm was working with what he thought was a surviving spouse but Lt Col Ostrom from MOAA told him that the only way she could be a Surviving Spouse was if she was not divorced. There are no VA programs that passes VA Compensation on to a spouse. But if you are still married you would get DIC. Bob had a Surviving Spouse virtual Meeting on 20 July we now have 159 members from 39 states. There were 3 speakers one spoke about the MOAA Vacation Club and Kathy Partain from MOAA spoke about the benefits of a Surviving Spouse becoming members in MOAA, the other speaker was Mark Bulinski from MOAA who spoke about upcoming new legislation for Surviving Spouse. One of the big things was the Surviving Spouse Comfort Act which he feels has a good chance of passing. He already has 30

sponsors from the House and 5 from the Senate. Basically, the bill takes away the penalty from the spouse to pay back the money that the spouse gets when the husband dies and it goes to the next month. He is actually asking everyone to reach out to their representatives to get the support for this bill. Bob will be doing Virtual training on Aug 27th for Surviving Spouse Liaison.

Members in Distress Report – NSTR

ROTC Scholarship – Steve reported that AUG 5th there will be a meeting with the Senior Instructors to meet for planning. Steve will get Dunedin and Clearwater's new senior instructors on board to see what we can do for future scholarships. Hopefully we will have an opportunity for a fresh start. Dunedin still has \$4,000 in their scholarship fund so they should not need any help from us. Last year we asked the students for a BIO and to meet with us for an interview on Zoom and no one responded.

Legislative Liaison – Dave reported that the legislation info has been quiet as far as MOAA goes. Dave said that he has given all the information including the newsletter to us already from Congressman's Bill Bilirakis office.

Old Business

Form 990-N or 990-PF - Bob called the IRS and waited for about 2 hours before he hung up and then called again and got nowhere. He was just trying to find out if they got our form asking for an extension. Bob then went on line to find the local IRS office and found one in Largo on Ulmerton RD. He went into the office and took a number and after waiting for about 25 minutes he got called up and found out that Goggle was wrong and posted the office as the IRS when it was the Revenue office for Florida. He once again got online and went to the IRS site to make an appointment but because of Covid they are not allowing you to make appointments in person at the St Pete's IRS office. On the advice of the Board, he will send in the form and see what happens.

Community Grant Application with K9P4P – Jeff reported that we are still waiting for the opportunity to go up there. Jeff stated we have until May of next year to get this done.

Date Changed -We have changed the Luncheon Date for November to the 17th which is the same day as our Board Meeting. If we change the date of the Board Meeting to Nov 10, we will have to change the location of the meeting. We will follow up!

2022 Fund Raiser Planning – Steve will find out the date of the next tournament. The biggest thing now is to get Sponsorship which is our weakest link. Steve gave Jeff a letter of the schools to find out what their unfunded obligations are for next year. Since the letter has to be done over before Jeff can sign it, Steve will make the changes and then send it to Jeff for his signature. A lot of discussion went on about whether this should be just a fundraiser for the schools and that we do something else for us to raise money. Either way if we do not make money on this next tournament then we will have to find another type of fundraiser for our organization. Jeff stated that we will bring this topic up at the next meeting.

Any Other old Business?

New Business

Discussion about ID cards – People are having problems getting updated ID Cards, MacDill is backed up for about 3 months.

Pearl Harbor Planning – Jeff said he wants to keep the Pearl Harbor event in our radar. Bob, Jane and Pat will try to figure out the list of events for Pearl Harbor. Steve will do the toast to the flag and we need to do a POW/MIA table. Lighting of the candles will be the 3 presidents. Steve will contact St Pete’s president and let them know what is going on. We will do the flyers and distribute them. Steve will try to get the Drill Team from Clearwater and Possibly the bagpipers from Dunedin to play. The Guest Speaker will be Gary Williams. We need to find someone to play Taps.

Jeff was contacted by a Veteran who does Hawaiian Shirts and the money goes to support Surf Therapy for Veterans. It was suggested to Jeff that the individual take out an ad in our Drumbeat. Jeff may also mention it at the September meeting and have flyers there.

Any other New Business? Since there was no other new business Jeff asked for a motion to adjourn.

Can I have Motion to Adjourn? Bob made a motion to adjourn and Rob seconded the motion all approved! The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

Upcoming Speakers: September – Homeland Security TBD

October – Deanna Bennett

November – Congressman Bilirakis

December – Gary Williams – Pearl Harbor Luncheon

January – LT COL Linda Moore