

CLEARWATER CHAPTER

Secretary Board Meeting Minutes 19 May 2021 Revised 6-18-21

Location: Perkins Restaurant Clearwater, FL – 1000 HRS

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance - The board meeting at the Perkins Restaurant was called to order at 10:06 by President Jeff Doll. Those present stood, faced the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Previous Month Secretary Minutes – April minutes were read by Sandy Behm. Rob Risberg made a motion to accept the minutes, Dave Apt 2nd the motion. The minutes were approved by the board.

Treasurer's Report – Jane Belson reported the Treasurers report, there was \$14,025.59 in the **Charitable Account** and \$12,822.48 in the **Checking Account** for a **Total** of \$26,848.07. In the Charitable Account there was a deposit of \$56.00. In the Checking Account there was a deposit of \$760.00 that was cash proceeds from the luncheon and there was an out flow of \$682.69 which was the payment for the luncheon. A motion was made by Pat Hughes and seconded by Bob Behm to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted and was approved by the Board.

Membership Report – Rob Risberg reported that there were no changes. Total Voting Members of 98. Regular Members = 56, 57% of total. Surviving Spouse Members = 12, 12% of total, no change, Spouse Members 30, 31% of total. He updated the roster and sent it to all board members.

Programs Report –Renee Brunelle confirmed that she will be at the May luncheon. Congressman Bilirakis will be at the November luncheon.

Drumbeat Report – Jim Souders reported that he was able to put in Congressman's report in the drumbeat. He stated that the drumbeat was in progress.

Web Report – Rob Risberg said that as far as he knows the web-site is working fine. He stated that if anyone notes any problems with the website to let him know.

Spouse/Surviving Spouse Report – Bob Behm reported that he had two virtual meetings yesterday, One from MOAA Learning on divorce and Surviving Spouses. He has a power point that he will send to Rob on that. It went over the rules and regulations about a divorce or remarry when you are getting a pension or VA benefits. The Surviving Spouse virtual meeting had two great speakers. She updated us on all the new changes coming that deal with Surviving Spouses. The other one was Denise Caldron Sorkness, she is the author of the book "Stall, Deny and Hope they Die". She is a surviving Spouse and the book is about her 24-year battle with the VA to get her husband's disability pension.

Members in Distress Report – None reported.

ROTC Scholarship –Steve said that we will not be giving out a Scholarship this year to Clearwater, didn't have any last year either, there is no interest. Steve's cost was \$1304.00 for the baskets and other expenses for the Golf Tournament. He is asking that MOWW and MOAA split this cost to reimburse him, which would be \$652.00 each. Steve told us to keep the \$300 that we got from USAA so although we are giving him \$652.00 technically when we subtract the \$300.00,

we kept from USAA for the Golf tournament we are only out \$352.00 for the chapter. There was a motion made by Rob Risberg to pay Steve the \$652.00 to cover his cost. 2nd was made by Jim Souders. The **Majority** of the board approved to pay \$652.00 to Steve Hodges. We as a chapter have not made any money on the Golf Tournament this year nor last year. We need to find a way to make some money!

Legislative Liaison – Dave said thanks to Jim for getting Bilirakis’s newsletter in the drumbeat, there is a lot of good information on there about what the Congressman is involved with and some of the things that he is doing that influences all of our members that live in Pinellas and Pasco Counties. The one area that is high on MOAA National radar is the burn pits. There is testimony in front of congress that is ongoing about this.

Old Business

Annual Financial Audit requirements: Bob Behm sent a letter to Jeff on May 14, 2021 and there will be a letter in the Secretaries file as well about the audit. On May 14, 2020 Bob conducted an independent audit of the Clearwater Chapter of the Military Officers of America. The Chapters Treasurer Jane Belson’s financial records were audited on May 14, 2021. Bob checked the checkbook and check registers for the period of May14, 2020 to April 30, 2021. The checkbook matched the check register for a total balance of \$26,848.07. The Checking account balance is \$12,822.48 and the Charitable account is \$14,025.59 since we have two accounts. Bob found the Treasurer Jane Belson’s documentation and records to be correct and accurate. A motion was made to approve the audit by Rob Risberg and 2nd by Jim Souders. All approved by the board.

Form 990-N or 990-PF: Bob and Jane had a problem when they went to the 990-N which is the postcard, they set up the account, they went in there and did everything and then when they put in the employee identification number, it came back that they cannot use that form, we have to use a 990-PF required form. Bob looked at our letter and it does say that they classified us as a private foundation instead of a public foundation. If we had picked it up right away, we might have been able to do something about it, but Bob got on the phone with the IRS and he was on the phone for quite a while, basically he had to do a form 8868 requesting an extension to file, he did a 3-month extension, unfortunately he went to Fed-X where they told him to send the letter overnight it would cost \$60.00 so he opted for the 3-day package and it cost \$24.30. In order to rectify this, we would have to send in a schedule IRS form 8940 and send \$500.00 to change our classification, because we are already classified. We can do this or we can do the 990-PF form and it has to be done by 3 months. Rob Risberg made the motion for Bob to move forward and a approve paying the \$500.00 to get recertified with the condition that we also verify who made the error and if it was their error, we try to get our money back. Jim Souders 2nd, all approved.

Community Grant Application with K9P4P: Jeff said that we got \$2,250.00 in a Community Grant from MOAA and now we need to work with K9 Partners to figure out how we are going to spend the money and what project it will be spent on, we have one year to use it. K9 Partners will buy the equipment, benches, and materials with this money.

Bylaws Re-signing: Jeff Doll and Sandy Behm signed the By-laws and they will be published on the Website.

New Business

Minute's publication method: Jeff is going to send out a blast out to say the minutes will be on the website in the future. The Secretary's minutes will be sent to the board members once completed, after they are approved at the next board meeting Sandy will send the minutes to Rob to put on the website.

Legislative Liaison Award Submitted: Jeff submitted Dave Apt for the Legislative Liaison Award, but MOAA only gives out one of these awards a year. So, everyone is competing for the one award.

MOAA Clearwater Transition participations at MacDill: We discuss this but since it was already set up as a Tampa MOAA event, we did not think it was right to get involved.

Memorial Day Ceremony: Bob Behm and Steve Hodges will be participating in the Memorial Day Ceremony at Largo Central Park on May 31st at 7:00pm. Bob and Steve will be carrying the flags and Dave Mason will be taking pictures.

Can I have Motion to Adjourn. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bob Behm and seconded by Bill Horne. All approved. The meeting was adjourned at 12:13.

Upcoming Speakers:

May – Renee Brunelle

Steve said that he has a good contact with Homeland Security for a speaker, he will try to get him for September.

June Schnepf recommended to Jeff about the Sheriff's Youth Program; he will look into it.