

CLEARWATER CHAPTER

SECRETARY MEETING MINUTES, February 17, 2021 (REVISED)

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 10:05 am by President Jeff Dole. Those present stood, faced the Flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Previous Month Secretary Minutes – Jeff reported that the January minutes were prepared by Jane Belson. He asked if everyone had a chance to read them in the February Drumbeat? A motion was made by Dave Apt and seconded by Bob Behm to accept the Minutes as written; all approved. The minutes were accepted by the Board.

Treasurer's Report – Jane Belson reported the Treasurers report, there was \$ 13,882.59 in the **Charitable Account** and \$12,205.83 in the **Checking Account** for a **Total** of \$26,088.42. Jane advised us that \$40.00 was deposit from the FCOC for annual recruiting dues. She reported that she received and deposited \$60.00 for 3 missed meals. A motion was made by Bob Behm and seconded by Jim Souders to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted and was approved by the Board.

Membership Report – Rob Risberg reported that the latest Chapter Membership Report was emailed out this morning. He reported that the membership was: Total Voting Members = 94, change of 2 new members Gary Williams and Guy Roberts both Life Members and 1 spouse member Diane Wall, Regular Members = 54, Surviving Spouse Members = 12 no change, Spouse Members = 28, 1 new. Jeff reported that he contacted 4 potential new members from the Committee Module by email and by Letter and he has not heard back from any of them.

Programs Report – See Below (Upcoming Speakers) In February we will have Sara Im – “How I Survived the Killing Fields: A Story of Hope, Love and Determination.” Jeff has reached out to several Government agencies and they will not be able to come out because of Covid-19 restrictions. Dave Apt said he will reach out to Renee Brunell to speak at a future luncheon.

Drumbeat Report – Jim Souders reported that he is working on the next Drumbeat and that he will add an informational Covid-19 page.

Web Report – Rob Risberg reported that the new format seems to be working. Dave sent Rob an article for the Legislative Section of the Website and Rob added it to the website. Bob sent information on the Surviving Spouse which was also added to gethe website. Rob also added the pictures from the last luncheon to the website so we have our first photo album on our Webpage. In the future Jeff will have approving authority of what goes on the web.

Spouse/Surviving Spouse Report – Bob reported that he attended a Virtual Surviving Spouse meeting on 19 Jan, 21 by Zoom. They had several guest speakers to include Gen Atkins. One of the big things that was reported was that the Widows Tax was done away with and you can now receive DIC-SSP concurrently without any offset! The other big thing that came out is if your spouse dies of Covid-19 and they had underlying conditions from the service that made the Covid worst and caused them to die, then you must have that stated on the Death Certificate or the VA may stop all future payments. The Storming the of the Hill this year will probably be done virtually. Because of recent events in January the name will be changed to Advocacy in Action. Our next Surviving Spouse meeting will be March 16th. All Surviving spouses in the chapter are encouraged to join.

Legislative Liaison – Dave reported that Congressman Gus Bilirakis’s primary concern now is Covid -19 vaccines. Nothing much else going on right now. Dave will contact Bill’s office and will try to get him in as a speaker.

Members in Distress Report – No report.

ROTC Scholarship – Steve Hodges reported that he reached out to the Clearwater JROTC instructor and told him how we want to handle the \$3000-dollar JROTC Scholarships this year. Basically, we want to have them write an Essay about themselves and send it to us and then we will set up a video zoom meeting to interview them. Hopefully this year we will get some students that want it and not a repeat of last year. Dunedin still has no need for money. The Golf Tournament is a definite go on 4/10/21 at Bardmoor Golf and Tennis Club. A motion was made by Steve Hodges to set aside \$3000 from the Charitable Funds for the JROTC Scholarship. It was seconded by Bob Behm. The motion was approved by the Board.

Old Business –

State tax exemption application status, five - year exemption if we are still 501 c (3) compliant the state will renew automatically. We should have it by 4/19/21 it was approved.

IRS Form 990-N – Yearly requirement, can be filed calendar year or budget year. Bob will work with Jane to get this accomplished before April.

The May Convention is definitely on for May 14-16 at the Sarasota Marriott Western Convention Center. We will send out an ad for \$75.00 for a quarter page ad to the FCOC.

Liability insurance is in effect. Its \$340.00 a year but by running the Mercer ad in our Drumbeat it will only be \$240.00.

Annual Financial Audit requirements – Bob Behm will work with Jane to get this accomplished by the end of May.

Bylaws to members or working group - Bill Horne made a motion to approve the Bylaws as written and was seconded by Jim Souders. The Board approved. The bylaws will be sent out 15 days before the Luncheon to the membership.

A motion was made by Rob Risberg and seconded by Bill Horne to allow Jane to purchase new checks. The motion was approved.

New Business – Community Grant Application with K9P4P. A request was submitted to MOAA for a grant for \$5000 for the K9 Patriots for Partners. Jeff thanked Bob Behm and Dave Apt and Jenn Licata for their help in getting this processed. It looks good that it will pass and should be approved by May. We will do a photo op at the luncheon when we get it in.

Update of signature cards and bank signature authority. A motion was made to allow Jeff and Jane to go to the bank to update the signature cards for the chapter after the meeting. A motion was made by Bob Behm and seconded by Jim Souders. The motion was approved by the Board

Jeff will work on the application for this years Level of Excellence Award which is due by May 1st.

Any other New Business? There was no other new business.

Jeff asked for a Motion to Adjourn: Bob Behm made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Dave Apt the motion was approved by the Board. Meeting ended at 11:30am

Upcoming Speakers:

February – Sara Im – “How I Survived the Killing Fields: A Story of Hope, Love and Determination.”

March – Surviving Spouse Presentation - Bob Behm

April – TBD