

CLEARWATER CHAPTER

Secretary Minutes: Board Meeting 19 January 2022 (Revised)

Location: Perkins Restaurant, Clearwater, FL – 1000 HRS

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance - The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am at Perkins Restaurant by President Jeff Doll. Those present stood, faced the Flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance – Steve Hodges, Jeff Doll, Dave Apt, Pat Hughes, Gary Williams, Bob Behm, Sandy Behm, Aaron Middleton

Previous Month Secretary Minutes – Novembers minutes were prepared by Jane Belson and Decembers minutes were prepared by Sandy Behm. There was a motion made by Bob Behm to approve the November and December minutes as written and seconded by Pat Hughes. It was approved by the board.

Treasurer's Report – Jane Belson reported the Treasurers report, there was \$13,818.59 in the **Charitable Account** and \$12,879.43 in the **Checking Account** for a **Total** of \$26,698.02. Jane has checks written to Pat Hughes for badges in the amount of \$25.41, Gary Williams for the cake in the amount of \$62.50 and Jeff Dole in the amount of \$61.25 for the annual Corp filing fee. Jane has dues checks that have yet to be deposited. They are: Bill and Jane Lee for \$35.00, Jonathan Birnbaum for \$20.00 and John Tornga for \$20.00, a total of \$75.00. Pat said that Jane also received dues from Bruce Elliott. Jeff will pick up the checks from Jane and deposit them. A motion was made by Bob Behm and seconded by Gary Williams 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, a loss of 2, Regular Members = 58, loss of 2, 56% of total, Surviving Spouse Members = 13, 13% of total, no change, Spouse Members = 32, 31% of total, no change. Losses = Norm Belson moved to inactive status, correction to roster of Bill Horne's name was still appearing. Updated roster was sent. Updated roster clears all new member highlights from 2021 – new members for 2022 will be highlighted in yellow starting with the February update. Current 2022 paid dues = 10, 10% of total, updated roster was sent.

Programs Report – See Below

Drumbeat Report –Nothing to report – Pat asked that Aaron put something in the drumbeat about the dues. Jeff said that he may have an ad to put in, it is for our insurance, if we run it for one month, we get \$100.00.

Web Report – Rob Risberg nothing to report

Spouse/Surviving Spouse Report – Had a virtual meeting yesterday, advocacy for action will be virtual in April. Tricare for Life will not pay for covid home test kits. There are Several things they are going to look at during the advocacy on the hill, one is active duty pay raises for the military, the Star Act, the people who served and get killed before retirement age, now there is no benefits for their surviving spouses. Health care, they are going to focus on that with all the suicides and try to get copays lowered. There are 14 new things they are going to look at, you can go on the website to see them. One of the big things they are fighting is all the news about Arlington cemetery and what they are going to do is try to get those people who are eligible now to get them grandfathered

in. There are 26 states have reduced or eliminated the retirement taxation for all military pensions. Because of Covid they feel that they needed to start a new foundation, it is going to be called the Critical Relief Endowment Fund and it is going to be for Veterans and their families in time of crisis.

Members in Distress Report – Life member Joe Vitale (passed away), Life member and Surviving Spouse Ginny Andre (passed away), and Ellen Rodnite (passed away).

ROTC Scholarship – Steve proposed to Clearwater HS that if we want to have potential scholarship members in May, the Sr instructor and the Sargent Major are both aware of the process of picking ROTC Scholarships,

Legislative Liaison – Dave said that the 2022 priorities are 1) pay raises 2) protecting military health care, VA is cutting back on mental health care. 3) all military burials, there is no room any longer for ground burials in many locations.

Old Business

Form 990-N or 990-PF Pending IRS Determination- Jeff printed the IRS regulations, we only needed to check a box on the form, which he did and sent it out.

Community Outreach Grant Closed out- Jeff said it is done.

Polo Shirts- We can purchase a shirt for \$28.00 per shirt, Jeff is going to print a form and bring it to the luncheon and see how much interest we get.

Tri-Fold Brochure- A motion was made by Bob Behm to have a tri folder made for no more than \$200.00 to try it out. A second motion was made by Gary Williams, all approved.

Any Other old Business?

Jeff and Dave went to the K9 Partners property in Spring Hill to see the benches they received from the MOAA grant, there were MOAA plaques on them.

Steve said that now is the time to get started raising money for the golf tournament. Bob will try to get more out of Largo Elks lodge this year.

New Business

Upcoming events: Communication Award, Feb, MOAA Foundation Community Grant, Feb, Storming the Hill, April, LOE Awards May.

Annual Registration of Certificate of Corporation, Jeff said it is complete.

Pinellas County Veterans Affairs – Director of affairs Zeffery Mims will be attending the January Luncheon. He will not be the primary speaker and he needs to pay for his lunch.

Newsletter: 1) Leg take action link, 2) Membership application link

MOWW invite to February Luncheon, Jeff invited MOWW to the February luncheon

Deceased Member Report for 2021- Rob Risberg does this report

Update Website with new Florida VA Handbook-

Ad for upcoming FCOC Convention June- There was a motion made by Bob Behm to pay \$75.00 for a ¼ page, black and white ad to the FCOC convention. Pat Hughes seconded it and was approved by the board.

MOAA National Visit- There was a motion made by Dave Apt to make a donation of \$150.00 to sponsor a table at the convention. Steve Hodges seconded and board approved.

The MOAA National visit will be in March

Can I have Motion to Adjourn? There was a motion made to adjourn the meeting at 11:40am by Bob Behm and seconded by Steve Hodges, all approved.

Upcoming Speakers:

January – LT COL Linda Moore

February – Congressman Bilirakis

March – TBD MOAA National/Guy Roberts