



Executive Committee Meeting

**Teleconference
November 21, 2016**

MINUTES

The following members of the Executive Committee were present: President, COL Jim Sweeney; Immediate Past President, BG Mike Silva; President-elect, Lt. Col. Don Stockton; Army Vice President, LTC Hazel Robinson; Army Executive Committeemen, COL Monti Zimmerman, CPT Steven Barnard and LTC Milt Houghton; Naval Services Vice President, CWO4 Dale Andersen; Naval Services Executive Committeemen, CAPT Rick Thomas, LT George McElwee and COL Will Holahan; Air Force Vice President, Col Margaret Cope; Air Force Executive Committeemen, CMSgt Shane Smith and Col Dave Anderson; and Executive Director, Mr. Jeffrey Phillips.

Appointed national officers present were: Judge Advocate, LTC Bill Pentecost; Public Relations Officer, CAPT Henry Plimack; and Chaplain, COL Sherman Reed. Also in attendance were: Ms. Sarah Alcock and Mr. Jonathan Hutchings, representing SmithBucklin; and National staff members, Ms. Lani Burnett, Ms. Susan Lukas, and Ms. Diane Markham.

Elected and appointed national officers absent were: Army Junior Vice President, CPT Fatima McPhaul; Naval Services Junior Vice President, LCDR Jennifer Franco; Air Force Junior Vice President, TSgt Stephanie Chitty; Air Force Executive Committeeman, Maj Leonard Sobieski; Treasurer, CPT Shannon Bibbee; and LTC Duane Richards, Chairman, Department National Council Members.

Ms. Markham, recording secretary, called roll. With a quorum being in attendance, President Sweeney called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

President's Remarks

President Sweeney opened the meeting with a moment of silence in memory of CAPT Marco Montoya, who recently passed away, and others who have recently passed or are suffering from illnesses. He then asked Chaplain Reed to say a prayer.

President Sweeney said the STARS Foundation reception was held last week at the ROA building. In attendance were members of Congress, DoD, ExCom and staff. He said those in attendance gave rave reviews of the event. He thanked everyone for their participation and dedication to the critical fundraising efforts.

President Sweeney said that CPT Barnard used his contacts to arrange ROA's participation in Veterans Day events at Facebook. He said that he and Mr. Phillips attended the event and Mr. Phillips participated in a panel of veterans. President Sweeney said it was a grand affair that was the culmination of a weeklong event on veterans' affairs. He thanked CPT Barnard and Mr. Phillips for their participation and for representing veterans well.

President Sweeney said one of the topics of discussion during tonight's ExCom call will be making a financial draw as cash flow continues to be a challenge. He said the need for this draw was

predicted and has been discussed over the past few months so it should not be a surprise that it will be discussed.

President Sweeney made his customary plea to all committee members to make fundraising a priority. He said another focus should be strategic thinking which is the main purpose of the board.

Financial Update

Ms. Alcock reported that as of the October financials, the year-to-date operating revenue is \$1.38M, which is 46% of the operating budget; operating expenses are \$1.41M, which is 47% of the operating budget; the total net income for operations is a negative \$33,000. The bottom line for non-operations is \$224,000. The overall bottom line is a positive \$192,000.

Ms. Alcock recommended a draw of \$100,000. Combined with last month's draw, it would be a total of \$200,000. This amount would get ROA through November and December and include the amount needed to pay off credit cards and ensure payroll is met. Mr. Hutchins said that even though the ExCom previously approved an additional draw at the executive director's discretion to cover payroll, that additional draw was not taken.

Upon a properly made motion by MG Silva, seconded by CMSgt Smith, and upon a unanimous vote, it was resolved to transfer \$100,000 from investments to cover operating expenses.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Phillips referred everyone to his written report submitted prior to the meeting. He said that REA will be officially welcomed into ROA in January. Mr. Phillips acknowledged that ROA cannot continue to take draws forever. He said the real solution is to create cash flow and a surplus budget.

Mr. Phillips said he is already beginning work on a budget proposal for FY2018. He said payment for the first 12 months of USAA's contract was spread over 18 months so ROA would have income during the construction period. Beginning in March, ROA will receive the full monthly amount. He is also working on how ROA can pay off the loan. He also expects to have reduced monthly operating expenses because of the recent building upgrades. Mr. Phillips said he is looking at the possibility of not having a magazine next year.

Legislation Report

Ms. Lukas said Congress went on recess without taking care of any legislation. They did make some leadership decisions. When they come back they will address the NDAA and the budget. The budget will likely be extended to March of next year. The 115th is waiting for President-Elect Trump to make his cabinet selections because those selections will give a hint as to what his agenda and policies will be.

ROA STARS Foundation

Ms. Lukas said that at the STARS Foundation reception ROA recognized two defense fellows. They were instrumental in getting the SPBDIT in as well as the C-40. No other association has recognized the fellows. Ms. Lukas said she is proud that ROA was the first association to do so.

Col Cope thanked Ms. Lukas for her great effort on the reception. She said the reception was well attended and it accomplished her goals of cultivating new revenue sources. She said the STARS Foundation is dependent on all members of the ExCom to provide names and contact info for people that would be interested in supporting the foundation.

The STARS Foundation gala will be held at the ROA building on Tuesday, March 14, 2017. Additionally, there will be a breakfast on Inauguration Day in honor of the Congressional Medal of Honor recipients.

Committee Appointments

President Sweeney asked the ExCom to ratify his appointments of CW5 Ray Orvin, USA (Ret.) and CW4 Kent Schneider, USA (Ret.), to the Warrant Officers Committee.

Upon a properly made motion by Col Cope, seconded by LTC Houghton, and upon a unanimous vote, it was resolved to add CW5 Ray Orvin, USA (Ret.) and CW4 Kent Schneider, USA (Ret.), to the Warrant Officers Committee.

Adjourn

President Sweeney wrapped up the meeting by reminding everyone that the ExCom's principle goal/mission is to think about strategy. Much of that thinking this year was in respect to the initiative to integrate NAUS. He said everyone should continue to think of other ways that ROA can expand and enhance national security, support reservists, and ROA's legislative agenda.

The meeting was adjourned by President Sweeney at 7:56 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeff Phillips, Executive Director.

tdm