



Executive Committee Meeting

Teleconference

22 August 2018

Minutes

The following members of the Executive Committee were present: President, Lt. Col. Donald L. Stockton; Immediate Past President, Col. James R. Sweeney II; Army Vice President, LTC Beverley A. Houghton; Army Executive Committeemen, COL Stanley G. Remer and LTC William B. Pentecost; Naval Services Vice President, CAPT Robert H. Carmack; Naval Services Executive Committeemen, CWO4 Dale J. Andersen, CAPT Rickey D. Thomas and LtCol Alexander Hengar; Air Force Vice President, CMSgt Shane P. Smith; Air Force Junior Vice President, SSgt April D. Hill; Air Force Executive Committeemen, Lt. Col. Layne R. Wroblewski and; and Executive Director, Mr. Jeffrey E. Phillips.

Appointed national officers present were: Judge Advocate, LTC Terry Benshoof; Public Relations Officer, CAPT Henry E. Plimack; and Chaplain, COL Sherman R. Reed. Also in attendance were: Chair, DNCM, COL Judi A. Davenport; representing Smith Bucklin, Sunny Patel; representing MNPC, Mr. Brad Carlson; and national staff members, Mr. John Rothrock, Ms. Susan Lukas, and Ms. Diane Markham.

Elected and appointed officers absent were: Army Junior Vice President, MAJ Jason E. Tolbert; Army Executive Committeeman, LTC Milton D. Houghton; Air Force Executive Committeemen, Col. David R. Anderson and Col Brenda B. Gardner; Naval Services Junior Vice President, CWO2 Cynthia E. Oliver; Treasurer, Col. W. Robin Pfeil; Health Services Officer, MG Bob Kasulke; International Programs Officer, Col Paul Groskreutz; and Sergeant-at-Arms, LTC Joe Snel.

Ms. Markham, recording secretary, called roll. With a quorum being in attendance, President Stockton called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

President's Remarks

President Stockton opened the meeting by thanking everyone for being on the call. He then asked Chaplain Reed to provide a prayer for the group. Having no opening comments or concerns he called on Executive Director, Jeff Phillips and the staff to brief the ExCom.

Financial Update

Mr. Patel reported that as of the end of July, ROA has year-to-date operating revenue of \$932,000, which represents 30% of the overall budgeted operating revenue. ROA has year-to-date operating expenses of \$785,000, which represents 27% of the overall budgeted operating expense. Bottom line net income for operations is \$147,000. Non-operating activity for July is primarily made up of investment activity and depreciation expense. The bottom line for non-operating is -\$10,000. Revenue in ROA's non-operations fluctuates depending on market activities within the investment portfolio for ROA, STARS, and Memorial Endowment.

Mr. Patel further reported that as of the end of July, ROA has received \$29,000 through direct mail contributions, the STARs Comprehensive Campaign has received \$34,000, and the Endowment has received \$12,000. Mr. Carlson reported that he has received an additional \$200,000 in pledges.

Legislation Update

Mr. Rothrock reported that the NDAA was passed and has been signed into law. The legislation authorizes \$717 billion for national defense spending, which includes a 2.9% pay raise for active and reserve service members, an increase in reserve end strength by 5,100, new equipment, and more. Mr. Rothrock says now the fight turns to funding the authorization bill through the appropriations process.

Mr. Rothrock said ROA has taken an active role in the burn pit issue. ROA hosted a roundtable meeting with five MSO/VSO's and two leading experts on developing a plan to continue to raise awareness. The goal is to broaden the issue to include hazardous/toxic exposures. ROA also attended a meeting with Congressman (Dr.) Raul Riaz of California to work with his office, the Burn Pit Accountability Act and the Burn Pit Caucus.

National Convention

Ms. Markham reported that the hotel convention room block is nearly full and encouraged anyone who has not yet reserved a room to do so soon. She explained that the first night is sold. As a result, she recommended reservations be made by calling the hotel directly.

Ms. Markham said that Mr. Tom Shull, director/CEO of AAFES has accepted ROA's invitation to be inducted into the Minuteman Hall of Fame. Ms. Markham further reported that there are 97 people registered for the convention. She said ROA's attendees tend to register last minute so she believes the budget of 130 will be met.

CWO4 Andersen shared with the committee the things he has arranged for the convention as well as things to do in Omaha. He has arranged for the University of Nebraska's Pershing Rifle Team to do a presentation during the welcome reception.

President Stockton stated that Ms. Markham had sent to the committee four options for the Ex-Com to consider when deciding which departments will be eligible to vote.

Upon a properly made motion by Colonel Sweeney, seconded by Captain Thomas, and upon a unanimous vote, it was resolved to require the departments to have a current election report on file at the time of delegate accreditation as a prerequisite for department's delegates to be accredited to vote in that convention.

Ms. Markham asked the committee to determine at what point a delegate is considered to be accredited. It was the consensus of the committee that a delegate is considered to be accredited upon checking in at the convention and receiving their delegate ribbon.

Mr. Carlson said that Pershing Society members will be recognized during the convention. He urged anyone who has not yet made their commitment to do so prior to the convention so they can be recognized.

ROA STARs Foundation

Mr. Phillips said the membership of the board of directors is now complete. Colonel Margaret Cope and Mrs. Cathy Luke are working to expand STARs in Schools.

Old Business

President Stockton said that the ad hoc committee to research General Pershing has completed their research and a report of their findings has been sent to the Department National Council Members. Mr. Phillips said that the committee did research via Wikipedia, academic studies, and speaking with his biographer and other experts on General Pershing. The study proved that General Pershing was a champion of African Americans. President Stockton asked Mr. Phillips to send the summary report to the Executive Committee.

Naval Services Executive Committee Member Seats

Captain Carmack said that when the C&B was streamlined in 2011, language defining branch of service requirements for each seat was removed. He said the intent at the time was to move that language into ExCom policy. However, that action was delayed for various reasons. Captain Carmack recommended that the language now be inserted into ExCom policy.

Upon a properly made motion by Captain Carmack, seconded by Captain Thomas, and upon a unanimous vote, it was resolved to add the following subsection to Policy E-5, Section 1: "Naval Services Executive Committee Members – The Naval Services will have Executive Committee Member seats designated as Coast Guard, Navy and Marine Corps. Each Executive Committee Member will represent the interests of NOAA and USPHS as well as their own service. NOAA and USPHS members may run for elected office of any designated seat(s)."

Upon a properly made motion by Captain Carmack, seconded by Captain Thomas, and upon a unanimous vote, it was resolved to add the following subsection to Policy E-5, Section 3: "Executive Committee Members – The terms of office for the National Executive Committee Members will be staggered as follows: In odd numbered years, two Executive Committee Members shall be elected from each service section, those from the Naval Services Section to be from the Navy and the Marine Corps. In even numbered years, one Executive Committee Member shall be elected from each service section, the one from the Naval Services Section to be from the Coast Guard."

Colonel Sweeney recommended that the C&B be amended to change Executive Committeeman to Executive Committee Member to match how it is stated in the charter. President Stockton said he has asked Lieutenant Colonel Pentecost to review ROA's governance documents to fix these types of issues.

Strategic Planning Committee

President Stockton said that Colonel Reidler has stepped down as chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee but will remain on the committee. President Stockton asked the ExCom to ratify his appointment of Colonel Tony Kanellis as chairman. Colonel Kanellis is currently a member of the committee.

Upon a properly made motion by Colonel Sweeney, seconded by Captain Carmack, and upon a unanimous vote, it was resolved to ratify President Stockton's appointment of Colonel Tony Kanellis as chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee.

Executive Director's Update

Mr. Phillips requested funding for repairs to the Minuteman Memorial Building. He said the roof needs to be replaced, the driveway and surrounding cement walls need repairs, and a failing motor and mount in the HVAC systems needs replacement.

Upon a properly made motion by the Budget and Finance Committee, and upon a unanimous vote, it was resolved to authorize the Executive Director to spend up to \$200,000 from the Reserve Contingency Fund toward building repairs.

Mr. Phillips said he has active interest by Coffee Vets to do a pilot kiosk outside of the building to see if a coffee business can work for ROA. He said the draft contract has been reviewed by Colonel Benshoof. Mr. Phillips said the attraction is that they are veteran owned. Once their expenses are covered, they will give all their profits to ROA with the agreement that ROA would donate a portion of that to PTSD research. He said he will continue to explore this possibility and will brief the ExCom on all details if this were to move forward.

Audit

President Stockton said ROA received a clean audit for FY18. The staff has received the draft report and is cleaning it up now. The final report will be ready by next month's meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by President Stockton at 8:01 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeffrey E. Phillips, Executive Director.

JEP/dm