



## **Executive Committee Meeting Teleconference**

**28 June 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 Beverly A. Houghton; Army Junior Vice President, MAJ Jason E. Tolbert; Army Executive Committeemen, COL Stanley G. Remer, LTC Milton D. Houghton, and LTC William B. Pentecost; Naval Services Executive Committeemen, CWO4 Dale J. Andersen, CAPT Rickey D. Thomas and LtCol Alexander Henegar; Air Force Junior Vice President, SSgt April D. Hill; Air Force Executive Committeemen, Lt. Col. Layne R. Wroblewski and Col Brenda B. Gardner; and Executive Director, Mr. Jeffrey E. Phillips.

Appointed national officers present were: Judge Advocate, LTC Terry Benshoof; Treasurer, Col. W. Robin Pfeil; and Public Relations Officer, CAPT Henry E. Plimack. Also in attendance were: Chair, DNCM, COL Judi A. Davenport; Communications Committee Member, LCDR Jennifer Franco; representing Smith Bucklin, Sunny Patel; and national staff members, Mr. John Rothrock, Ms. Susan Lukas, and Ms. Diane Markham.

Elected and appointed officers absent were: Air Force Vice President, CMSgt Shane P. Smith; Air Force Executive Committeeman, Col. David R. Anderson; Naval Services Vice President, CAPT Robert H. Carmack; Naval Services Junior Vice President, CWO2 Cynthia E. Oliver; International Programs Officer, Col Paul Groskreutz; Health Services Officer, MG Bob Kasulke; Chaplain, COL Sherman R. Reed; 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. Having no opening comments or concerns he called on Executive Director, Jeff Phillips and the staff to brief the ExCom.

#### **Executive Director's Update**

Mr. Phillips said most of his report was sent in the read ahead. He said the staff is busy working on a lot of issues. Convention planning is underway. Mr. Phillips said he is working with Will Bradley to invite Lieutenant Commander Tammie Jo Shults to the convention to receive the Twice the Citizen award and speak to the group.

Mr. Phillips reported that work on the freight elevator is scheduled to begin in July. Mr. Phillips then asked the staff to provide their reports.

## **Financial Update**

Mr. Patel reported that the May financials show a year-to-date Operating Revenue of \$482K, which represents 16% of the overall budgeted operating revenue, and an Operating Expense of \$347K, which represents 12% of the overall budgeted operating expense. Bottom line net income for Operations is currently at \$135K. Mr. Patel further reported that Non-Operating activity for May is primarily made up of investment activity and depreciation expense. The bottom line for Non-Operating is -\$22K. Revenue in ROA's non-operations fluctuates depending on market activities within the investment portfolio for all ROA, STARs, and Memorial Endowment. Mr. Patel announced that work has begun on the Actuarial Valuation Study of the Life Member Fund and that ROA's FY18 audit fieldwork will begin the week of July 9th.

## **Legislation Update**

Mr. Rothrock said it is a busy time in Washington, DC, not only with the political season picking up, but also in terms of legislation. He said both the House and Senate have completed their respective bills on the National Defense Authorization Act for FY2019. He said there are some similarities but there are vast differences as well. Their staffs are now beginning to work out the differences and then it will go to a conference committee. In terms of the time on that, it is still to be determined. He said there are good things in there in terms of pay raises. The appropriation process has begun as well.

Mr. Rothrock reported that he, Ms. Lukas and Mr. Phillips met with the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee director, Mr. Bob Hinky. Mr. Hinky took great interest in ROA's top three priority legislative issues. Mr. Rothrock said he will be working with Mr. Hinky on veterans' preference status.

Mr. Rothrock thanked Captain Plimack for his assistance in finding an open door with the US Coast Guard Reserve. He said new relationships are proving fruitful with articles and information for the ReserveVoice.

Mr. Phillips announced that he is bringing Ms. Lukas back to a near full-time status using some of the money that was budgeted for a service director. Due to her incredible depth of experience and insight, he decided it would be more prudent to use her known skills in a new role and acting as a deputy legislation director than hunting for someone else. She is putting together a pilot project with the Air Force Reserve to help teach those within the Air Force Reserve structure how to deal with congress. Mr. Phillips said if it works ROA may expand the project to other services.

## **Communications**

Mr. Phillips reported that there has been more Facebook traffic. With the Communications Committee's help, information on ROA's Facebook page has quadrupled. Mr. Phillips said there is new op-ed coming out tomorrow in *The Hill*, it is a guested op-ed written by ROA member Major General Dennis Laich.

Mr. Phillips said he met with the president of the Military Times and his senior staff. The meeting was very successful; a lot of issues were covered. In response to Mr. Phillips expressing his desire to bring back ROA's magazine, they said "Let us be your magazine." Mr. Phillips said they are now working on a deal whereby ROA content could be added into the Military Times publications and attributed to ROA. ROA would be their main contributor of Reserve Component content.

Lieutenant Commander Jennifer Franco reported that she has recently created a new ROA Closed Facebook Group, called "ROA Veterans (Official)." She said the purpose for creating a Closed Facebook group was to bolster member engagement via Facebook, build membership, and promote the upcoming National Convention in Omaha. She said she believes that since this is not a public facing page, it may increase our members' comfort level to engage via social media. The Closed Facebook Group is not intended to diminish or take away from the public-facing ROA Page on Facebook. The Closed group, again, is purposed to augment communications, and select topics might be duplicated on the public page when it makes sense to do so.

Content on the Closed Facebook Group will focus on those who have a veterans' status. Each Wednesday, an oral history video from the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project (VHP) will be posted. VHP has committed staff support to help identify these videos. Based on the subject matter in a video, topics will be selected to help facilitate discussion that relate to veterans' experiences, questions, and concerns, with the hope of addressing topics for those already deployed and those yet to deploy. Additionally, in coordination with VHP, we will host three Facebook Live training sessions to talk about how to prepare to present oral history, how to record an oral history, and how to submit an oral history to VHP. These Facebook Live sessions will help promote the ROA National Convention, where we are working to have space to record oral histories for our members who are interested to do so.

Lieutenant Commander Jennifer Franco explained that this is a pilot program, which will run July 4 – September 30. If successful, the Facebook Group existence can be extended. She said the intent is to create a space to engage ROA members and she thinks this Closed Group will help.

Mr. Phillips announced that ROA will begin doing a podcast every other week, alternating with the weeks the RV is published. He said these video podcasts will allow ROA to get out into the public a couple of times a month to talk about issues that ROA is involved with.

### **Development**

Mr. Phillips reported that the Pershing Society campaign has raised over \$150,000 since launching last December. The next wave of communications was mailed this week and calling will resume on Sunday.

Mr. Phillips said that the next direct mail piece is now with the printer. The piece, which focuses on legislation, will go in the mail later this week or early next week. Also in process is an ROA tri-panel information brochure. Next in the creative process will be one for the STARs Foundation.

Mr. Phillips said the Comprehensive Campaign is well underway with the Resource Development Committee meeting every 2-3 weeks. He said they are working on a comprehensive evaluation to see just how much this program needs to make so we have a concrete goal.

Lastly, Mr. Phillips reported that three departments have donated back a portion of the dues rebates received.

### **National Convention**

Ms. Markham announced that information for the 2018 National Convention is now up on the website and registration is open. She said the registration fee of \$200 is lower than it has been in many years and the banquet is only \$60. She said the hotel pick up is doing well. Ms. Markham said that the traditional JOPDS has been changed. It is no longer junior officer specific; it is open to all currently serving reservists.

Ms. Markham announced that proposed C&B amendments will be going out to the department leadership this week. She also reminded everyone that their department needs to submit their delegate reports.

### **STARS Foundation**

Mr. Phillips announced that selections for the Henry J. Reilly scholarships for the 2018-2019 academic year have been made. All the recipients have been notified and have accepted the scholarship. Mr. Phillips is currently working on hometown news releases.

The board is now filling out with three new members – Laura Eden, Karen McGee, and Jeffrey Weekly. Ms. Eden has volunteered to organize the STARS gala reception event, which will be held in April 2019. Mr. Phillips is talking to a vice president at Comcast who is also interested in serving on the foundation's board.

### **Old Business**

President Stockton asked Ms. Markham how many departments are now in good standing and have received their rebates. Ms. Markham reported that 28 departments are now in good standing. This includes the two most recent departments, Alabama and Illinois.

### **New Business**

President Stockton reported that the White House has proposed a substantial reduction in force of the US Public Health Service, up to approximately 40%. He said ROA needs to study this and determine if ROA needs to take a position on this. He has asked Mr. Rothrock to address this in the next few days.

### **Committees**

President Stockton announced that he would like to appoint Major General Peggy Wilmouth as vice chair of the Health Services Committee. He said the current vice chair, Lieutenant Colonel Houghton, has requested to step down due to her busy schedule, however, she will remain on the committee as a committee member.

*Upon a properly made motion by Colonel Remer, seconded by Colonel Gardner, and upon a unanimous vote, it was resolved to ratify President Stockton's appointment of Major General Peggy Wilmouth as vice chair of the Health Services Committee.*

### **Henry J. Reilly Scholarship Purpose**

Ms. Markham explained to the committee that the staff had inadvertently dropped the last three lines from the presented change to the purpose. While it did not change the meaning or intent, Ms. Markham asked the ExCom to reapprove the amendment before sending it to the convention for approval.

*Upon a properly made motion by Lieutenant Colonel Stockton, seconded by Lieutenant Colonel Bev Houghton, and upon a unanimous vote, it was resolved to send to the 2018 national convention for consideration the following amendment to the Henry J. Reilly Scholarship Fund purpose: "The purpose of the Fund, also informally known as the ROA Scholarship fund, shall be (1) to create and maintain a resource of literature, imagery and other informational media, artifacts, educational experiences, and authorities on military subjects for the use of service members of all military components and services, veterans, students,*

*and other members of the general public interested in military and national security subjects; (2) to create and maintain funds to support through scholarships, fellowships, internships, and other such programs, for worthy ROA members and their direct family members, ROA interns, and ROA professional development program attendees pursuing education or training in military or national security subjects or in other areas of learning designated from time to time by the Executive Committee of the Association; and (3) any other educational purpose(s).”*

### **Dues and Rebate Policy**

Ms. Markham suggested that language be added to the compliance section of the Dues and Rebate Policy that establishes a deadline for departments to become compliant or forfeit their rebate. She said when a department is not compliant for several years, their unclaimed rebates create a liability on ROA's books that continues to grow year after year. Colonel Sweeney recommended a change to help clarify the motion. Lieutenant Colonel Wroblewski said the Budget and Finance Committee endorsed this proposal.

*Upon a properly made motion by Lieutenant Colonel Stockton, seconded by Lieutenant Colonel Pentecost, and upon a unanimous vote, it was resolved to send the following Dues and Rebate Policy amendment to the 2018 National Convention for consideration: “Policy D-1, Section 2: Compliance – Dues and rebates will be paid to departments only after departments have complied with all IRS and Constitution and Bylaws requirements. Any department not in full compliance by the end of the fiscal year in which a rebate will be paid will automatically forfeit their rebate in that fiscal year. [Example: FY18 rebates will be paid NLT FY19 start +90 days. If the Department is not in compliance by the end of FY19, the FY18 rebates are forfeited.]”*

### **E-Life Membership**

President Stockton explained to the ExCom that ROA currently has 335 E-Life members. He said members in this category are not allowed to hold office, vote, or belong to a department. President Stockton recommended that ROA offer these members the opportunity to convert to regular membership and provide a \$100 credit toward that membership.

*Upon a properly made motion by Lieutenant Colonel Stockton, seconded by CWO4 Andersen, and a unanimous vote, it was resolved to offer E-Life members a \$100 credit toward converting to a regular membership.*

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by President Stockton at 8:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeffrey E. Phillips, Executive Director.

JEP/dm