



Executive Committee Meeting

**Conference Call
26 August 2020**

Minutes

The following members of the Executive Committee were present: President, Col. Judi A. Davenport; Immediate Past President, Lt. Col. Donald L. Stockton; Army Vice President, Lt. Col. William B. Pentecost; Army Executive Committee Members, Lt. Col. Peter Powell and Maj. Gen. Margaret C. Wilmoth; Naval Services Vice President, Capt. Rickey D. Thomas; Air Force Vice President, Col. Thomas H. Hueg; Air Force Executive Committee Members, Col. Gregory K. Bules, Col. Richard E. Nelson III, and Lt. Col. Richard B. Stephens Jr.; and Executive Director, Mr. Jeffrey E. Phillips.

Appointed national officers present were: Chaplain, Col. Sherman R. Reed; Health Services Officer, Maj. Gen. Peggy Wilmoth; International Programs Officer, Lt. Col. Beverley A. Houghton; Public Relations Officer, Capt. Henry E. Plimack; and Treasurer, Lt. Col. Layne R. Wroblewski

Also, in attendance were: DNCM Chair, Capt. Rafael Ortiz; Budget and Finance Committee Chair, Lt. Col. Hazel Robinson; Communications Committee representative, Capt. Jerry Kromrey; Ms. Carolyn Hockley; Representing the Insurance and Financial Services Committee, Capt. Bob Carmack; Department of Texas member, Capt. George Rippel; SmithBucklin representative, Mr. Sunny Patel; and MNPC representatives, Mr. Brad Carlson and Mr. Gregg Carlson. National staff members present were Ms. Lani Burnett, Ms. Diane Markham, and Ms. Susan Lukas.

Elected and appointed officers absent were: Army Junior Vice President, 1st Lt. Endureth W. Culanag; Army Executive Committee Member, Maj. Jason Tolbert; Air Force Junior Vice President, Staff Sgt. April D. Hill; Naval Services Junior Vice President, Lt. Cmdr. Jeffrey Krilla; Naval Services Executive Committeemen, Sgt. Maj. Rocco C. DeCamillo, Capt. Paul F. Keane and Cmdr. John G. Rothrock; Judge Advocate, Lt. Col. Terry Benshoof; International Programs Officer, Col. Paul Groskreutz; and Sergeant-at-Arms, Lt. Col. Joseph Snel.

Ms. Markham, recording secretary, took roll. With a quorum in attendance, President Davenport called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.

Call to Order

President Davenport began the meeting by asking Chaplain Reed to offer a prayer, then thanked everyone for making time for the emergency call. President Davenport announced that Lt. Col. Benshoof will be stepping down as the judge advocate in September, and Col. Jim Sweeney will assume the role of judge advocate at the convention. She further noted that Eric Minton, editor of the magazine, has resigned. President Davenport said everyone should have received the ReserveVoice magazine convention issue and apologized to Capt. Plimack for the Communications Committee report not being included.

Executive Director Update

Mr. Phillips reminded everyone they should have received his written report as part of the read-ahead materials. He said he is working to change the revenue expense picture. He dismissed contractor Wayne Valis and has negotiated lower fees for Jack Bonner. MNPC has also reduced their costs. Mr. Phillips said he is in talks with SmithBucklin to possibly lower their fees as well. Condor Communications is donating close to \$15,000 worth of equipment and services to the national convention. Staff is reviewing the budget and looking for ways to further cut back expenses and will provide recommendations to the president and the Budget and Finance Committee.

Legislation Update

Ms. Lukas said much of her report is included in the executive director's report which was included in the read-ahead materials. She said the ROA legislation team continues to work on bills that congressional members are introducing, although most of the bills getting introduced at this point are mostly for election purposes. However, she said, the bills still merit attention because they can get reintroduced at the beginning of the next session. The congressional committees are conferencing, so things have gone quiet. Ms. Lukas said she has been told that the NDAA will be delayed until after the election process.

National Convention Update

Ms. Markham announced that the ExCom meetings scheduled to be held during the convention will be hybrid meetings. She will set up a Zoom meeting so those not in person can participate in the meeting. She asked those attending in person bring their own laptop and earphones. She further reported that Condor Communications is covering the cost of their equipment and staff, which leaves ROA paying only for the costs of the subcontractor that will be conducting the video and live streaming.

Ms. Markham reported there are currently 120 paid registrations (30 in-person and 90 virtual). She said last year's total was 118 total. She said 26 departments have not yet submitted delegate reports. She will send out a follow up communication to the departments within the next few days.

STARs Foundation

Lt. Col. Stockton said the STARs board met in April and July. They continue to track future projects for the foundation. There is not currently a lot of activity with the outreach to units because of restrictions due to COVID-19. The STARs Foundation has reached a verbal agreement with the Military Child Education Coalition to partner with them. The two groups are working on a memorandum of understanding.

Comprehensive Campaign

Mr. Carlson said he is about ready to launch the advice visit phase of the principle gift phase. In the leadership gift phase, the goal is to get all ExCom and STARs board members to submit their commitments so he can make an announcement during the convention that there is 100% participation by the two boards.

Family Support Committee

The Family Support Committee has asked for two new awards – the Outstanding Family Readiness Contributor Award and the ROA Family Support Award.

The Family Support Committee requests the Outstanding Family Readiness Contributor Award be created to enable departments to recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond in supporting military families. It is designed for selection and presentation by departments. It would be presented to an individual in recognition of exceptional service in support of military families, particularly during deployments and/or a family crisis. This award may also be called the Outstanding Ombudsman Award or Outstanding Key Spouse Award, depending on the service-specific term.

The Family Support Committee requests the ROA Family Support Award be created to enable departments to recognize companies, schools, civic organizations or their personnel, etc., who have gone above and beyond in supporting military families. It is designed for selection and presentation by departments. It would be presented to a school, organization or their personnel in recognition of exceptional service in support of military families, particularly during deployments and/or a family crisis.

Upon a properly made motion by Col. Hueg, seconded by Capt. Thomas, and upon a unanimous vote, it was resolved to establish the Outstanding Family Readiness Contributor Award and the ROA Family Support Award as presented by the Family Support Committee.

Budget and Finance

President Davenport said the ExCom talked about the budget and cash availability during the July meeting. At that time, it was believed there would be enough cash to make it through November. She said that is now not the case due to unanticipated bills that have come in.

Lt. Col. Robinson said the Budget and Finance Committee reviewed the current financial reports, updated cash flow analysis, and updated budget, which includes the budget cuts approved last month. The committee also discussed the executive director's recommendation to the ExCom to draw up to \$350,000, as needed, to cover cash shortfalls for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Lt. Col. Robinson said the committee believes ROA should draw from the contingency fund only exactly what is needed. Upon realizing that projected cash flow would be negative beginning in September, and a negative cash flow would increase each month, the Budget and Finance committee recommended a draw in the amount of \$160,000 to cover payables due through September.

Upon a properly made motion by the Budget and Finance Committee, seconded by Lt. Col. Stockton, and by a majority vote of 7 to 2, it was resolved to draw \$160,000 from the Reserve Contingency Fund.

For: Col. Greg Bules, Col. Tom Hueg, Col. Rick Nelson, Lt. Col. Bill Pentecost, Lt. Col. Peter Powell, Lt. Col. Rick Stephens, Lt. Col. Don Stockton; Against: Col. Judi Davenport, Maj. Gen. Peggy Wilmoth.

Lt. Col. Robinson, on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee, made a motion that the ExCom direct the staff to look at areas to cut expenses and to identify essential versus non-essential programs. Lt. Col. Stephens seconded the motion. Mr. Phillips said the staff is already doing this. After discussion, the committee voted by roll call vote. The motion failed in a vote of 2 to 7. (For: Col. Rick Nelson, Lt. Col. Don Stockton; Against: Col. Greg Bules, Col. Judi Davenport, Col. Tom Hueg, Lt. Col. Bill Pentecost, Lt. Col. Peter Powell, Lt. Col. Rick Stephens, Maj. Gen. Peggy Wilmoth.)

Wrap-up and Adjournment

President Davenport said she plans to be in Washington, DC in October or November. She plans to talk to the president of USAA. She added that she has a list of billionaires in Tennessee and Georgia and will send that to MNPC. Lastly, she asked Chaplain Reed for a benediction.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeffrey E. Phillips, Executive Director.

JEP/dm