



Executive Committee Meeting

ROA Minute Man Memorial Building

June 28-29, 2024

Minutes

Attendance

The following members of the Executive Committee were present: President, Lt. Col. Layne R. Wroblewski; Immediate Past President, Capt. Robert H. Carmack; Army Vice President, Col. Anthony K. Atlas Sr.; Army Executive Committee Members, Maj. R. Reece Newsome, Col. Stanley G. Remer, and Col. Monti G. Zimmerman (Saturday only); Air Force Vice President, Lt. Col. Susan E. Lukas; Air Force Executive Committee Members, Col. Donald C. Brown (Saturday only), Lt. Col. Judy M. Ford and Col. Barbara D. Ortiz; Naval Services Vice President, Capt. Henry E. Plimack; Naval Services Executive Committee Members, Cmdr. John Leonard, and Capt. Samuel Wright; and Executive Director, Mr. Jeffrey E. Phillips.

Appointed national officers present were Chaplain, Lt. Col. Hazel L. Robinson (Friday only); International Programs Office, Col. James R. Sweeney; Judge Advocate, Col. James R. Sweeney; Public Relations Officer, Capt. Henry E. Plimack; Sergeant-at-Arms, Command Sgt. Maj. Terry R. Atchison; and Treasurer, Col. Thomas H. Hueg (Saturday only). Representing the staff were Ms. Diane Markham, Mr. Matt Schwartzmann, and Cmdr. Trey Criner.

Additional attendees present included: CWO4 Dale Andersen; Lt. Col. Karen Aravich, Chair, Resolutions and Legislation Committee (Saturday only); Chief Master Sergeant Lani Burnett, Chair, Insurance and Financial Services Committee (Saturday only); Lt. Col. Vince Cummings (Saturday only); Col. Judi Davenport, Past National President; Mr. Mike Hutchison, Chair, Family Readiness and Support Committee; Cmdr. Ed Isom, Chair, Constitution and Bylaws Committee (Saturday only); Capt. Rick Neiman (Saturday only); Lt. Col. Bill Pentecost; Col. Scott Russell, Chair, Department/Chapter Development Committee; Lt. Col. Don Stockton, Chair, Minute Man Memorial Building Committee (Saturday only); and Lt. Col. Mark Vardaro, Chair, Strategic Planning Committee (Friday only).

Elected and appointed officers absent were Army Junior Vice President, Capt. Nina N. Kazibwe; Air Force Junior Vice President, Capt. Rebecca Arango; Naval Services Junior Vice President, Capt. Steven J. Arango; Naval Services Executive Committee Member, Col. Scott Willis; and Historian, Lt. Col. Peter Powell.

Ms. Diane Markham, recording secretary, took the role. With a quorum in attendance, President Wroblewski called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Friday, June 28, 2024

Call to Order

President Wroblewski opened the meeting with an invocation, led by Lt. Col. Robinson, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Wroblewski thanked everyone for attending the meeting, be it in person or virtually. He said this meeting format is different than what has been done in the past, but four hours per quarter isn't enough time to conduct association business. He said it is also important to work on a strategic plan. He said the strategic plan is very important. It needs to be defined, then it should be executed and measured.

DNCM Report

Lt. Col. Robinson said the DNCMs met just last night. She covered three items.

- 1) The DNCMs are looking forward to receiving the media kits for the 22 Days of Service and participating in the program.
- 2) The DNCMs inquired about the balloting process for national votes. President Wroblewski said ROA will not use ballot voting for 2024. ROA needs to make some C&B amendments to get ballot voting to the finish line. It will be addressed during the business meeting at the 2024 annual meeting.
- 3) The DNCMs expressed concern about the transparency of where the revenue from the 20th century campaign is going. President Wroblewski said its more than a transparency issue. He said the funds have gone to ordinary business expenses, and that has created concern because some people thought that the second century campaign was to create a corpus to finance the organization for another century. He said that was never part of the narrative. He did say, however, that while all this information is in the financials, he thinks a better job can be done of explaining how the money was used, the cost of raising the money, etc.

Unconscious Bias

Colonel Ortiz gave an informative presentation on unconscious bias. She talked about breaking old thinking patterns and cultural immersion. She recommended that when you are with people who don't look like you and don't act like you, get out there and meet them. Go talk to them. See them beyond the stereotype. Stereotypes are not always true.

Strategic Plan

Lt. Col. Vardaro led the group through refining the strategic plan. The mission, vision, values and priorities were defined as:

- *Mission*: To support U.S. national security through a focus on the reserve components.
- *Vision*: To be the premier military service organization of the reserve components, their members, families, and veterans.
- *Values*: Integrity, Innovation, Service, Results

- *Priorities:*
 - 1) Stewardship
 - 2) Engagement
 - 3) Partnerships
 - 4) Influence
 - 5) Awareness

Recess

The committee went into recess at 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 29, 2024

President Wroblewski reconvened the Executive Committee meeting on Saturday, June 29, 2024, at 8:39 a.m.

Committee Reports

President Wroblewski called on his national committee chairs for reports. Reports were heard from the following: Budget and Finance Committee, Lt. Col. Susan Lukas; Board of Trustees, Col. Tony Atlas; Constitution and Bylaws, Cmdr. Ed Isom; Department/Chapter Development, Col. Scott Russell; Family Readiness Support, Mr. Mike Hutchinson; International Programs, Col. Jim Sweeney; Insurance and Financial Services, Chief Master Sgt. Lani Burnett; Marketing and Communications, Capt. Henry Plimack; Minute Man Memorial Building, Lt. Col. Don Stockton; Resolutions and Legislation, Lt. Col. Karen Aravich; and Resource Development, Col. Don Brown.

As a result of the reports and discussion, the following motions were made:

Motion 1: Amendment to Article B-4, Section 1

Upon a properly made motion by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and upon a majority vote, it was resolved to adopt the proposed amendment to Article B-4, Section 1, and send it to the 2024 Annual Meeting for vote. The amendment is as follows:

Article B-4: Executive Committee, Section 1: Meetings

- (a) Requirement to Meet — The Executive Committee shall convene at least twice each year of the current president, upon call of the president, or pursuant to a vote of a majority of the voting members of the Executive Committee, as required to conduct the business of the Association. At least a 15-day notice of any meeting shall be given to each member of the Executive Committee.*
- (b) Section 6: Electronic Attendance – The Executive Committee may permit any or all Executive Committee members to participate in any meeting of the Executive Committee by any electronic/virtual means by which all members participating may simultaneously hear, and be heard, by all meeting attendees. A member participating in a meeting by this means shall be considered present in person.*

Motion 2: Amendment to Article B-4, Section 1

Upon a properly made motion by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and upon a majority vote, it was resolved to adopt the proposed amendment to Article B-4, Section 1, and send it to the 2024 Annual Meeting for vote. The amendment is as follows:

Article B-4: Executive Committee

Section 4: Minutes — The Executive Director shall be responsible for ~~the preparation of~~ ~~having copies of~~ the minutes of all Executive Committee meetings and all their actions taken between meetings, ~~and the distribution of the minutes forwarded~~ to all members of the National Council and all department presidents within 15 business days after the end of each Executive Committee meeting or action taken. The minutes shall set forth all resolutions, actions and motions adopted by the Executive Committee during that meeting and since the last meeting and shall be posted on the Association website.

Motion 3: Norfolk Southern Contract

Upon a properly made motion by the Minute Man Memorial Committee, and upon a unanimous vote, it was resolved to approve the Norfolk Southern contract counter proposal as presented.

Motion 4: Insurance and Financial Services Committee Appointments

Upon a properly made motion by the Insurance and Financial Services Committee, and upon a unanimous vote, it was resolved to ratify the appointment of Col. Judi Davenport to the Insurance and Financial Services Committee.

Motion 5: Family Readiness Support Committee Appointments

Upon a properly made motion by President Wroblewski, seconded by Captain Carmack, and upon a unanimous vote, it was resolved to ratify the following appointments to the Family Readiness Support Committee: Chief Master Sgt. Ericka Kelly, and Mrs. Anne Groskreutz.

Motion 6: International Medal – Graham Banks

Upon a properly made motion by International Programs Officer, Col. Sweeney, and upon a unanimous vote, it was resolved to award the International Medal to Graham Banks.

Motion 7: International Medal – Jan Hörmann

Upon a properly made motion by International Programs Officer, Col. Sweeney, and upon a unanimous vote, it was resolved to award the International Medal to Jan Hörmann.

Motion 8: International Medal: Toomas Luman

Upon a properly made motion by International Programs Officer, Col. Sweeney, and upon a unanimous vote, it was resolved to award the International Medal to Toomas Luman.

Motion 9: PPP Loan Refund

Upon a properly made motion by the Budget and Finance Committee, and upon a unanimous vote, it was resolved to deposit the PPP loan forgiveness refund into the Minute Man Memorial Building investment fund.

Motion 10: Reimbursement of Travel Expenses

Upon a properly made motion by Colonel Brown, seconded by Captain Wright, and upon a unanimous vote, it was resolved that for FY2024, the national president may authorize reimbursement of travel expenses of any ExCom member or national officer in accordance with ExCom Policy E-15, section 13. The combined total of reimbursements cannot exceed \$5,000 in FY2024.

National Association of Scabbard and Blade

President Wroblewski said that there is a memorandum of agreement between General Douglas Dollar and Jeff Phillips regarding the due diligence that needs to be done. Firstly, to make sure they have the authority to merge with the association. Secondly, that we know about all their assets and liabilities, etc. The timeframe for completion is October.

Mr. Phillips said the intent is that ROA will honor the integrity of their organization and not try to re-shape their procedures any more than necessary. They are minimal and they have used the word acquisition by ROA. They are not looking to come in as a separate but equal organization. President Wroblewski said this will be an ROA program.

Membership

President Wroblewski asked the committee for open discussion about membership. He also shared his vision for what membership means.

He said ROA will always need membership. The fact of the matter is that we have a Corpus, and we have a financial investment, because not only do people contribute to the association, but they pay to be a part of the association. So we're always going to have a need for membership. Secondly, he said, we're creatures of socialization. We socialize together, we hang out together. We build. We're a fraternity for lack of a better term. So we spent a lot of time together. To say that we're going to become a group that doesn't get together, and only do things online is not our style.

President Wroblewski said that he is less concerned about the size of the membership and more concerned about the power of collective engagement. He said what ROA needs is 200, 300, 400 engaged individuals. He asked how we maintain the level of engagement that we currently have, and how does that engagement create a value proposition that puts money into program?

Adjournment

President Wroblewski thanked everyone for participating in the meeting, then adjourned the meeting at 3:19 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeffrey E. Phillips, Executive Director.

JEP/dm