



Executive Committee Meeting

ROA Minute Man Memorial Building

March 13, 2025

Minutes

Attendance

The following members of the Executive Committee were present: President, Lt. Col. Layne R. Wroblewski; President-Elect, Maj. Gen. Margaret C. Wilmoth; Immediate Past President, Capt. Robert H. Carmack; Army Vice President, Col. Monti G. Zimmerman; Army Executive Committee Members, Maj. R. Reece Newsome, Col. Stanley G. Remer, and Sgt. Maj. Kevin Hollinger; Air Force Vice President, Lt. Col. Susan E. Lukas; Air Force Executive Committee Members, Col. Donald C. Brown, and Lt. Col. Judy M. Ford; 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; Historian, Lt. Col. Peter Powell; International Programs Office, Col. James R. Sweeney; Judge Advocate, Lt. Jesse P. Samluk; Public Relations Officer, Capt. Henry E. Plimack; Sergeant-at-Arms, Command Sgt. Maj. Terry R. Atchison; and Treasurer, Col. Thomas H. Hueg. Representing the staff were Ms. Diane Markham, Mr. Matt Schwartzmann, and Cmdr. Trey Criner.

Committee chairs in attendance were Col. Scott Russell, Ad Hoc Department/Chapter Development Committee; Mr. Mike Hutchinson, Family Readiness Committee; Lt. Col. Mark Vardaro, Strategic Planning Committee. Additional attendees were Capt. Rafael Ortiz, Col. Iggi Husar, and Col. Ann Campbell.

Elected and appointed officers absent were: Army Junior Vice President, Capt. Nina N. Kazibwe; and Air Force Executive Committee Member, Maj. Jonathan Sih.

Ms. Diane Markham, recording secretary, took the roll. With a quorum in attendance, President Wroblewski called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Call to Order

President Wroblewski called the meeting to order. Lt. Col. Robinson led the invocation, followed by Lt. Col. Judy Ford leading the Pledge of Allegiance. President Wroblewski welcomed attendees and expressed appreciation for their participation. He outlined his expectations for the meeting, emphasizing timeliness, mutual respect, and constructive discussion of differing opinions.

Questions for Staff

Mr. Phillips submitted a written report to the committee prior to the meeting. He welcomed attendees to ROA and invited questions.

An inquiry was made regarding the carpet. Ms. Markham confirmed that new carpet has been installed throughout the fourth floor. She noted that the project was completed two days ago, with a few outstanding items remaining on the punch list.

Additional questions were raised regarding the location of the space offered to the PHS. Mr. Phillips stated that they would be accommodated in a cubicle typically used by the catering manager.

The Executive Director was asked about the status of the National Society of the Scabbard and Blade. Mr. Phillips reported that efforts are underway to finalize arrangements and that the organization is enthusiastic about moving forward.

Lastly, an inquiry was made regarding an actuarial review of the life member fund. Mr. Phillips stated that this review was not included in the 2025 budget but is planned for the following year.

DNCM Report

Lt. Col. Robinson reported the Department National Council Members (DNCM) have been meeting on a regular basis. She said they will support President Wroblewski's agenda and they want to see the association grow and flourish. They are willing to do whatever is needed.

Ballot Voting

The Executive Committee discussed implementing ballot voting for the 2025 elections and resolutions, while delaying ballot voting for constitution and bylaw amendments until 2026. The committee emphasized the need to clearly communicate these changes to members, including through the magazine. They note that new business can still be brought up on the floor by delegates to the Annual Meeting. They stressed the importance of department presidents ensuring delegate attendance at the Annual Meeting.

Upon a properly made motion by Capt. Wright, seconded by Lt. Col. Ford, and upon a unanimous vote, it was resolved to conduct 2025 voting on elections and resolutions by member ballot, and delegates to the Annual Meeting will consider proposed amendments to the constitution and bylaws.

Fundraising

President Wroblewski reminded the Executive Committee that all members are expected to contribute or secure \$500 annually. He urged those who have not yet fulfilled this commitment to do so.

Lt. Col. Lukas said as part of the GROW, two distinct tracks of donation are being formed – the Association, which is a 501(c)19 and the Foundation, which is a 501(c)3. She stated that she is working with the Resource Development Committee to develop two fundraisers to support these efforts.

Communications

President Wroblewski reported that Capt. Wright received inquiries regarding the President's changes through executive orders. Capt. Wright provided his opinion on a specific matter. President Wroblewski noted that this presents a valuable opportunity for ROA, as it is a topic of interest, and recommended that the information be shared with the broader membership.

KMC Digital was asked whether the article could be distributed beyond the membership. They stated that current resources do not support this; however, external mailing lists are available at a cost. KMC Digital offered to cover the expense for the first several months. President Wroblewski emphasized that this outreach would foster engagement, which could lead to increased contributions.

Capt. Plimack said ROA needs a strategic communications plan that is supported by budget allocations. He said his committee is working on finalizing a new communications plan. He also said we need to work harder on brand recognition.

International Program

Col. Sweeney reported the 2024 UPORFA was held October 3-5 in Lima. There were 118 delegates from five member states, including 21 U.S. reservists. The 2025 UPORFA will be September 24-27 in Cartagena, Columbia. The 2026 UPORFA will probably be held in Buenos Aires; the date has not yet been set. CIOR/CIOMR/CISOR just completed the CIOR seminar on resilience that was in Bonn, Germany. The Mid-Winter Meeting was held at NATO headquarters, which is partly joint with the winter meeting of the NATO Committee on the Reserves (NCR). The next meeting will be the In Between Meeting (IBM) which will be in Oslo, Norway, May 8-10. The CIOR/CIOMR/CISOR Summer Congress, will be July 8-12 in Madrid.

Col. Sweeney provided an overview of the NATO Committee on the Reserve (NCR) and the International Military Staff (IMS), explaining their roles and the importance of cooperation between them. He also mentioned the upcoming events and the need for support from the military departments. The conversation ended with a discussion on the importance of understanding the roles and responsibilities of different organizations within the military.

National Treasurer's Report

Col. Hueg presented the fiscal year 2024 financials, highlighting a 10% increase in operational revenue and a 2% decrease in expenses compared to the budget. The net effect led to a \$293,000 differential. Col. Hueg emphasized the importance of careful planning and disciplined execution to ensure future financial success. He also discussed the investment portfolio, which gained 13.9% and was valued at \$11,710,602 as of December 31st. The estimated annualized income from the investments is \$273,500. Col. Hueg also mentioned the ongoing audits for fiscal years 2023-1, 2023-2 and 2024. Col. Hueg also discussed the need for deliberate leadership to ensure the association's financial independence in the future.

Governance Reform & Optimization Workgroup (GROW) Report

Lt. Col. Lukas said she divided GROW into four subcommittees: Foundations, Committees, Membership, and Leadership.

- Foundations:

Lt. Col. Lukas said the GROW recommends combining the four separate 501(c)3 organizations: ROA STARs Foundation, Defense Education Fund, Henry J. Reilly Memorial Scholarship and Library, and Memorial Endowment Fund. She said this will not require any changes to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Further recommendations include restructuring the board of the STARs Foundation and hiring someone to focus on fundraising efforts.

Upon a properly made motion by Col. Zimmerman, seconded by Capt. Carmack, and upon a unanimous vote, it was resolved to direct the executive director to engage a qualified attorney to advise the Executive Committee how to merge all 501(c)3 organizations into one foundation while protecting the restrictions of the corpuses.

- Committees:

Lt. Col. Lukas presented GROW's recommendation for restructuring the current Standing Committees as defined in the bylaws. After much debate, no consensus was achieved. President Wroblewski asked Lt. Col. Lukas to take this matter back to the GROW for reconsideration.

- Membership:

Lt. Col. Lukas introduced GROW's recommendations. Discussion included modifying spousal membership, eliminating association membership, adding cadet membership, adding JROTC membership, modifying honorary membership and modifying the section on special circumstances. After much deliberation, the following motions were made.

Upon a properly made motion by Col. Zimmerman, seconded by Lt. Col. Ford, and upon a majority vote, it was resolved to send the following C&B amendment to the 2025 Annual Meeting for consideration:

*Article A-3: Membership Eligibility
Section 1: Membership Types*

- a) *Regular Membership — There shall be the following categories of regular membership:*
 1. *Military Membership — Any currently serving, retired or former member of the federal uniformed services (as defined in 10 U.S.C. § 101) who at any time upon entering the federal uniformed services took an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States, and, if no longer serving, whose separation occurred under honorable conditions, is eligible for membership.*
 2. *~~Spousal~~ Family Membership — Spouses, widows, ~~and~~ widowers, ancestors or lineal descendants of anyone eligible for membership in the Association are eligible for membership.*
 3. *Cadet Membership — Any Cadet or Midshipman actively participating in a ROTC program or Armed Services academy is eligible for membership.*

4. Rights/Privileges – As Regular members, individuals are accorded a variety of rights and privileges that contribute positively to their experience and foster active participation.

Upon a properly made motion by Col. Zimmerman, seconded by Capt. Carmack, and upon a majority vote, it was resolved send the following C&B amendment to the 2025 Annual Meeting for consideration:

Article A-3: Membership Eligibility
Section 1: Membership Types

~~b) Associate Membership—Any individual who qualifies for Military membership, is under 35 years of age, and has not previously been a member of the association, is eligible for Associate membership.~~

~~1. Term—A prospect is eligible for Associate membership for a maximum of five years, or until the age of 35.~~

~~2. Rights/Privileges—Associate members shall have all the rights and privileges of Regular members except serving as an elected or appointed officer, national voting, and receiving printed publications.~~

- Leadership:

Lt. Col. Lukas introduced GROW's recommendations regarding the current Executive Committee name and structure. Discussion included renaming the committee, eliminating positions, restructuring the board, and service representation. After much debate, no consensus was achieved on restructuring the Executive Committee. President Wroblewski asked Lt. Col. Lukas to take this matter back to the GROW for reconsideration. A motion was made to accept all of the GROW recommendations regarding leadership as presented; it failed (6 yes to 7 no). In addition, the following motions were made:

Upon a properly made motion by Maj. Newsome, seconded by Col. Zimmerman, and upon a unanimous vote, it was resolved to send a proposed C&B amendment to the 2025 Annual Meeting for consideration that will change the name of the Executive Committee to Board of Directors.

A properly made motion was made by Col. Zimmerman and seconded by Capt. Carmack, to change the elected officers of the association to one person from each uniformed service. A secondary motion was made by Col. Zimmerman, seconded by Capt. Plimack, and upon a unanimous vote, it was resolved to postpone the motion.

Adjournment

President Wroblewski thanked everyone for participating in the meeting. He adjourned the general meeting and reconvened into executive session, before adjourning at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeffrey E. Phillips, Executive Director.

JEP/dm