

General Membership Meeting Minutes

24 February 2021

1. Call to Order: Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM. The meeting was conducted using Zoom technology. Attendees: Cathy Hampton, Bill Beddow, Ted Newing, Mort Brisker, Gayle Ruffenach, Bob Hanson, Keith Reagan, John Papier, Connie Richardson, Richard Carey, Robert Brown, Jim Wasson, Frank King, Dave Stark, Carl Kilhoffer, Bob Boehm

Before formal actions Cathy announced the death of Dan Lafontaine who died earlier in the day. Dan was the Legislative Chair for the Chapter.

2. Pledge of Allegiance: Jim Wasson

3. Moment of Silence: Cathy Hampton

4. President's welcome and remarks: Cathy Hampton welcomed the attendees and provided an overview of the meeting.

5. Summary Reports

a. VP Programs: Frank King announced the 24 March general membership meeting speaker will be Mary Jane Jernigan, the CASA for Maryland. The speaker for the 21 April meeting will be the APG Garrison Commander.

b. VP Membership: Ted Newing indicated there are 96 members. Ted summarized the recruiting efforts that will be part of the initiatives. There will be emphasis on recruiting members from the APG community. This would include active duty, and reserve component or former officers that are civilian employees or contract employees. There will also be emphasis on the reserve components in the areas.

c. Legislative Chair: Cathy Hampton discussed the importance of letters to elected officials on their decision to support legislation.

d. Personal Affairs: Mike Early updated members on the 18 Feb video that appeared on WMAR TV. The video will be posted on the web page. Members were encouraged to promote the MOAA virus relief grant. Information is on the chapter webpage.

e. Webmaster: Bill Beddow reviewed the growth in the number of hits on the webpage. One member indicated a problem using Google Chrome to access the webpage information. Bill will check with the server provider and suspects that was the problem.

6. Chapter initiatives review/discussion: Cathy Hampton discussed the general concept of the initiatives, and their need to improve the management of the chapter and to better conform to MOAA National guidance for Chapters.

(1) Bylaws should be written to better describe how the Chapter operates

(2) An operations manual will be prepared to explain how the Chapter will operate to conform to the by-laws and include guidelines for the different functional areas of the Chapter.

(3) Membership expansion will develop methods to promote the Chapter within the APG military, civilian and contractor community, and the reserve components.

(4) Legislative priorities will need a leader. The policies will be established to coordinate local, state and national issues and provide appropriate information to members.

(5) Revenue initiatives will explore opportunities for advertising and sponsorship for chapter operations and programs.

(6) Chapter awards will be emphasized and the Chapter will continue to compete for National awards.

(7) Community Projects: The Chapter will continue to support the virus relief fund grants and will initiate, with the county Commission on Veterans Affairs, a poster / essay contest.

(8) The Chapter will continue the reports to the Maryland Council and National, and establish a program for continuity.

7. Closing

a. The next Board meeting is 2 March, and the next general membership meeting is 24 March

b. Chapter initiatives volunteer responses – Due no later than Ides of March (15 March)

c. Bob Hanson reminded the staff to contact the Lafontaine family for permission to publish the obituary to the membership, and include on the webpage, and to notify National.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM

Michael Early