



KANSAS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
3 November 2007, Wichita, Kansas

FLINT HILLS CHAPTER, JUNCTION CITY, KS
JAYHAWK CHAPTER, LAWRENCE, KS
KAW VALLEY CHAPTER, TOPEKA, KS
SANTA FE CHAPTER, LEAVENWORTH, KS

SMOKY HILL CHAPTER, SALINA, KS
SUNFLOWER CHAPTER, JOHNSON COUNTY, KS
WICHITA CHAPTER, WICHITA, KS

COUNCIL OFFICERS PRESENT:

President:	David Kennedy, CWO3, USMC-RET
President Elect:	Richard Keller, LTG, USA-RET
1 st Vice-President:	Gary LaGrange, COL, USA-RET (Not in attendance)
2 nd Vice-President:	James S. Cooper, CAPT, USN-RET (Not in attendance)
Past President:	Robert V. Hadley, COL, AUS-RET (Not in attendance)
Treasurer:	Francis R. Fanning, Col, USAF-RET
Secretary:	John W. Halladay, COL, AUS-RET
Legislative Liaison Chair:	Hollis B. Logan, Col, USAF-RET
Personal Affairs Chair:	Not appointed
Newsletter/Website Chair:	David Kennedy, CWO3, USMC-RET

CHAPTER DELEGATES PRESENT:

Flint Hills Chapter:	Kenneth Steggeman, LTC, USA-RET, President
Jayhawk Chapter:	Michael P. Sullivan, RADM, USN-RET, President John W. Halladay, COL, AUS-RET, Secretary
KAW Valley Chapter:	Delbert L. Hill, CW5, AUS-RET, President-Elect
Santa Fe Chapter:	Mary Goodwin, COL, USA-RET, President Richard Keller, LTG, USA-RET, Past President
Smoky Hill Chapter:	No one present
Sunflower Chapter:	Charles (Bud) Munson, LCDR, USNR-RET, President David Kennedy, CWO3, USMC-RET, Past President Harry B. Malnicof, Maj, USMC-RET, Leg Chairman
Wichita Chapter:	Antonio (Tony) T. Pimentel, Col, USAF-RET, President Francis R. Fanning, Col, USAF-RET, Treasurer

OTHER CHAPTER MEMBERS:

Wichita Chapter:	LeRoy Meyer, Maj, USAF-RET, Member
Wichita Chapter:	Robert Hadley, COL, AUS-RET, Past Council President
Wichita Chapter:	Frank E. Sisson, Maj, USAF-RET, Past Council President
Guest Speaker:	Michael C. Foster, Col, ANG, 184 TH Intl Wing, KSANG

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 1100 hours, by CWO3 David Kennedy, Chapter flags were displayed with the American flag.

COL Hadley led the group in an opening prayer.

CWO Kennedy led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Self-introductions were given to start the meeting.

Introduction of speaker - Maj LeRoy Meyer introduced the guest speaker Col Michael Foster, Vice Wing Commander, 184th Intelligence Wing (Fighting Jayhawks)

Col Foster gave an excellent explanation of the new organization at McConnell AFB. The Wing began its transition in 2001, so it has been a long when rewarding experience for the Wing members. They transferred their last KC-135 to the ANG in Topeka.

18 August 2007 minutes - The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's report - The report was presented and accepted. Enclosure 2.

Symposium comments from Grapevine, TX:

General Keller, CW5 Hill, Maj Malnicof, COL Goodwin, Col Pimentel were pretty much the same – The presentations from the MOAA Staff were professional. The break-out sessions were productive and members there presented good ideas to be used by all. It was felt that everyone gained a great deal from the sessions presented, from leadership to ideas to assist retirees and their spouses preparing for retirement and beyond. Also, what our members can do to assist families faced with their spouses being sent to war zones, as well as while they are gone.

Recruiting: A number of things have been tried - mailing and contact prospects - and it was determined that one-on-one contact was probably the most effective.

Recognition of Chapter Excellence Awards: CWO Kennedy reported the following awards, Five-Star Award to Santa Fe Trail Chapter and the Four-Star Award to the Jayhawk Chapter.

CWO Kennedy presented the Chapter Excellence Awards to:

Five-Star Award - COL Goodwin, Santa Fe Chapter:



Four-Star Award - RADM Sullivan, Jayhawk Chapter:



Comments made - The Kansas Chapters are doing well, but we need to get the other chapters involved in getting their Award for Excellence reports into MOAA National so they can be considered for these awards. Of the 400+ chapters nationwide in MOAA, only 77 chapters reported their chapter for consideration for this award. Some comments made that need to be considered in your reports:

- Making sure the Legislative Affairs and Personal Affairs staffs are more robust and functioning to help the Chapter members.
- Make sure your Chapter rosters are up-to-date with MOAA National rosters.
- Making sure all Chapters try to fulfill MOAA Nationals' requirements as they are handed down for action.
- Recruiting is a big part of the requirements for success of any chapter.

Wichita Chapter - Col Pimentel reports:

- After the summer hiatus, they have had two meetings - September and October:
- September, their guest speaker was BGen (Ret) McIlhenny and his topic was with regard to the Patriot Guard motorcycle honor guard group. This group started in Mulvane, KS by the American Legion.
- October, they were treated to a concert by the Clearwater Children's choir.
- Subsequent meetings will include Wichita Mayor Carl Brewer and Director Wichita VA, Dr. Thomas Sanders.
- There were three members who attended the MOAA Symposium.
- The Executive Board met through the summer and drafted a recruiting letter and Chapter brochure to aggressively target prospects.
- They will have a float entered in the Veteran's Day parade on 10 November and attend the JROTC Veteran's Day program on 9 November.
- A number of Chapter members will support the "Bring a Vet to School" Day on 9 November.

Flint Hills Chapter - LTC Steggeman reports:

- The Chapter will conduct its next dinner meeting on 28 November at the Junction City Country Club. Their guest speaker will be MG Bob Durbin, who will speak on his experiences as the CG, Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan. The Chapter will also be voting on the slate of officers for next year.
- Their last meeting was held 27 September in Manhattan. Their guest speaker was LTC John Nagl, current Commander of 1 Bn, 34 Armor, 1 Bde, 1 ID. He is the author of the book "Learning How to Eat Soup with a Knife", on dealing with counterinsurgency operations and was a member of the writing team for the new Army manual on counterinsurgency operations.
- The Chapter has added five new members since March; however, due to several PCSs of Active Duty members and a death, their total membership has dropped to 86. They have continued to make personal contacts to attract new members. They have approached retired personnel in the local area and incoming officers to the 1st ID. Several individuals have expressed an interest and they hope to get them to attend their next dinner and join.

Jayhawk Chapter, RADM Sullivan reports:

- The recent MOAA National Symposium in Texas had three members attend, including their prospective 2008 President, COL (Ret) Bernie Kish. Very positive feedback from all who attended.
- KU Joint Service ROTC Veterans' Day Ceremony and 24-hour vigil will be held on Friday 9 November at 1600, in front of Strong Hall; formal flag retreat followed by remarks of COL (Ret) Bernie Kish in Budig Hall; 24-hour honor guard vigil that weekend at the Korean and Vietnam memorials on campus.
- In memory of MG (Ret and deceased) Clayton L. Comfort, USMC, a fully endowed fund under the KU Endowment Association was established for the "Clayton L. Comfort Award", for which there was a mass mailing this month soliciting contributions. The focus is on leadership awards to cadets/midshipmen not under ROTC scholarship at KU.
- New Jayhawk Chapter membership initiative offering free Chapter membership to all KU ROTC cadre officers and all Active Duty graduate student officers at KU for as long as they are assigned to KU. Corresponding move to re-engage with ROTC Units by having one of them sponsored (cadets/midshipmen color guard) at selected Chapter meetings.
- Marine Corps will celebrate its 232nd birthday at 1030 on Saturday, 10 November at the Dole Center.
- Next meeting is 27 November. Speaker will be John Hadl, KU Associate AD, two-time All American (at two separate positions) and renowned NFL quarterback.
- 15 January 2008 (Tuesday) meeting. Swearing in of new Chapter officers and would appreciate LTG Keller officiating. Attempting to get the new Deputy Director of DHS (Mr. Paul Schneider) to speak.

Kaw Valley Chapter, CW5 Delbert Hill reports:

The following programs for 2007 were:

- Valentine Program in February.
- Air Force in April.
- Marine/Navy in August.
- Army/Reserve Components in October.
- Christmas Program will be in December.

The Board of Directors meets the first Monday of each month with the exception of June and July. The JROTC units in Topeka take turns presenting the Colors at each meeting. Each year they continue to give scholarships to each school's JRTOC unit Cadets/Midshipmen.

Their next meeting will be 7 December.

Santa Fe Trail Chapter, COL Goodwin reports:

- The C&GSC class started on 13 August with about 850 students. There are about 80 International officers, 53 Navy or USMC officers and 53 USAF officers. I spoke to some of them and most of the Army officers have at least two combat tours either in Afghanistan or Iraq. The class that I am currently teaching has 282 officers and the same ratio of International and sister service officers, except no USMC officers. So we have over a thousand eligible officers to recruit to our organization.
- Our BOD meeting was 23 August 2007. We had lunch at the Lewis and Clark Center Food Court (Fort Leavenworth) and then toured the building.
- We had a general membership dinner at the Leavenworth Country club on 18 September. LTC Steve Mulcahy presented information on Identity Theft Prevention. There was wide agreement among the attendees that we need to secure our credit card and Social Security Numbers.
- Our BOD met on 25 October at the High Noon Saloon for lunch and preparation for the Retiree Appreciation Day and our program calendar for 2008. We will continue the BOD meetings in the even numbered months and general membership dinners in the odd months.
- We participated in the Fort Leavenworth Retiree Appreciation Day on 27 October. The anticipated audience was about 1,000 retirees. Our Chapter offered two each dinners for two as a means to entice people to ask about our purpose.
- We will have a dinner meeting on 20 November and our entertainment will be a dinner mystery play, we are the players. We will not meet in person in December, but plan to communicate by e-mail and phone calls.

Sunflower Chapter, LCDR Bud Munson reports:

THIRD QUARTER

- Dinner Theatre in August and 16 members attended the production of "Oklahoma".
- Annual Wine tasting and raffle - September and sold \$2,910, netting \$1,900.00 after expenses of awarding prizes. Art Kramish gift bequest of nearly \$95,000 - waiting on lawyers to sort out items.
- September - special ceremony, attended by two US Congressmen, awarding Congressional Service medals to Tuskegee Airmen, including our member Major Harvey Bayless, USA (Ret). Sunflower Chapter also awarded him the coveted American Flag/MOAA Crest pin.
- Received from CWO3 David Kennedy, Kansas Council President, the MOAA Four-Star Award for Excellence
- Sunflower Chapter had received the Five-Star Outstanding Award the previous years.

FOURTH QUARTER 2007

- Election of officers and board (we are still trying to identify a President for 2008).
- Fall Veteran's Stand-Down in November in Kansas City, KS area.
- November program - Learning how to protect from fraud, theft and deceit.
- Annual Christmas Auction - Second Tuesday in December.
- Discussions underway regarding moving our Dinner meeting from Tuesday evening to Sunday afternoon, to improve attendance.

OTHER ACTIVITIES -

Two special points of interest for the military in the Kansas City/Johnson County areas:

- Korean War Veterans Memorial, located at 119th Street and Lowell Avenue (approximately three blocks west of Metcalf Ave.)
- World War I Memorial across from Union Station, south of downtown KCMO; free with a military ID card.

Legislative Up-date by Col Logan:

- Congressional leadership is pursuing a ‘risky change of strategy’ as they plan a veto showdown with President Bush on a massive bill that presents a combined package of spending for the care of sick and disabled veterans with spending on unrelated issues of education and labor. The package from House and Senate appropriators would total \$220 billion in discretionary spending for the fiscal year that began on 1 October. It includes \$150.7 billion in discretionary spending for the Labor-HHS-Education bill (HR 3042) and \$64.7 billion in discretionary spending for Military Construction-Veterans Affairs bill (HR 2643).
- The President has agreed to sign the veterans bill, but the combined package is provocative, exceeding domestic spending targets by about \$14 billion. Apparently designed to draw a veto with follow-on accusations of the President abandoning veterans.
- The Wreaths of America started 15 years ago by Worchester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine and is now expanding to provide 500,000 wreaths, including for the first time at National Cemeteries outside the U.S. and on ships sailing in all seven seas.
- Tricare beneficiaries who purchase prescription drugs at retail pharmacies are being encouraged to “try OTC for free” as part of a two-year test.
- The Army National guard has launched a new recruiting effort to attract prior-service soldiers. The program targets new recruits who want to serve on Active Duty, but are willing to return to the Guard to finish out the remainder of their initial military service obligation. Recruits earn bonuses as high as \$40,000 plus another \$20,000 when they transition into the National Guard.
- There are 178 House bills not acted on in the House, as of 19 October. There are 86 Senate bills not acted on in the Senate. All of these bills pertain to Veterans issues. The Fiscal year end has come and we are now into a new Fiscal Year without needed military needs being met. Congress needs to earn their pay and enact these needed bills.
- As Veterans Day nears, the House overwhelmingly (409-2) passed the 2008 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, which funds veteran’s health care and housing initiatives, more than four months ago, on 15 June. The Senate passed its own version of the bill (92-1) and named negotiators to a House-Senate conference committee on 6 September. But, despite the fiscal year having begun 1 October, House conferees have not yet been appointed and the bill remains unattended and unfinished.

Nominating Committee Report, COL Hadley:

The committee – Chairman, COL Hadley, and members, CAPT Henry and COL LaGrange – reported the following officers for 2007-2008 Kansas Council of Chapters:

- LTG Richard Keller - President
- COL Gary LaGrange - President Elect
- CAPT James S. Cooper – 1st Vice President
- COL Mary Goodwin – 2nd Vice President
- COL Francis Fanning - Treasurer

The nominations were accepted and voted to approve of the slate of officers.

CWO Kennedy swearing in of the Council Staff for the year 2007-2008:

(from L to R)

- LTG (Ret) Richard Keller - President
- COL (Ret) Mary Goodwin - 2d Vice President
- Col (Ret) Frank Fanning - Treasurer



CWO Kennedy closing comments:

- There was a whole year to do many things, but did not get to all of the things planned as it went by so fast. A big thanks to all of the Chapters for their superb performance this year.
- The Storming the Hill was very gratifying, even though Rep Nancy Boyda was the only Representative to take about 45 minutes to entertain my comments and questions, the staff members of the Senate and House were very knowledgeable and did understand MOAA's mission for members of the military.
- My apologies to all the Chapters in which he did not get time to visit.
- Congratulations to the Santa Fe Trail, Jayhawk, and Sunflower Chapters for their efforts leading to receipt of the Chapter of Excellence Awards for their Chapters.
- The year was fast but enjoyable.

General Keller initial comments as the new Council President:

- Thanks to all for the generous time given to MOAA and thanks to Dave for an excellent year.
- First of all, we need a Secretary for the Council as John has decided to step down after many years of dedicated service in the position.
- Each chapter is challenged to recruit ten new members under the "Give Me 10" program before the end of the calendar year.
- He plans to visit each chapter's leadership this year to more fully understand all that they are doing and to discuss merit chapter submissions. He'll do this either together with or separate from their regular chapter membership meetings. He thinks the chapters are doing many great things, and he has no intention of changing them.
- We need to focus our attention on selected legislative issues and not try to take them all on. In-other-words, we should review the MOAA legislative home page, examine what our legislators are sponsoring/co-sponsoring/voting for and see which of those affect us in Kansas or are of particular interest to us. Then we should focus our Chapter and Council efforts by writing/calling/contacting our legislators on the issues we select. The same should hold true for state legislators. The Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) inequities between AC/RC service members is a case in point.
- There is a DoD program which encourages reciprocity between states as service members and their families change duty stations. States are rated Red/Amber/Green in eight or nine categories such as high school credits, spousal unemployment, etc. He'll look into this program more fully and discuss with the Council members to see if we can/should participate. Kansas is currently Amber.
- He gives sincere thanks for all that our members do and looks forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting.

First Quarter meeting - Flint Hills Chapter hosting in Fort Riley on 16 February 2008 at 1100 hours.

Meeting Adjourned at 1500 hours.

FOR THE COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS PRESIDENT:

John W. Halladay
JOHN W. HALLADAY
COL, AUS, Retired
Secretary

Encl: 1. Agenda.
2. Treasurer's Report