



KANSAS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
Saturday, 12 April 2008 – Ramada Inn, Topeka

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:	Richard Keller, LTG, USA-RET
President-Elect:	Gary LaGrange, COL, USA-RET (Jan)
First Vice President:	James S. Cooper, CAPT, USN-RET (not in attendance)
Second Vice President:	Mary Goodwin, COL, USA-RET
Treasurer:	Francis R. Fanning, COL, USAF-RET (not in attendance)
Past President:	David L. Kennedy, CWO3, USMC-RET
Secretary:	Charles T. (Bud) Munson, LCDR-USNR-RET
Legislative Chairman:	Hollis B. Logan, COL, USAF - RET
Personal Affairs Chairman:	Vacant
Newsletter/Website Chair:	David L. Kennedy, CWO3, USMC-RET

**CHAPTER DELEGATES PRESENT:**

Flint Hills Chapter:	Gary LaGrange, COL, USA-RET, member
Jayhawk Chapter:	Bernie Kish, COL, USA-RET, President Jim Henry, CAPT, USN-RET, Past Council President John W. Halladay, COL, AUS-RET, Past Secretary Jim Cooper, CAPT, USN-RET Jack Strukel, Jr., MAJOR GEN, AUS, RET
Kaw Valley Chapter:	Delbert L. Hill, CW5, USA-RET, President Hollis B. Logan, COL, USAF-RET, Legislative Chairman
Santa Fe Trail Chapter:	Mary Goodwin, COL, USA-RET, President Richard R. Keller, LTG, USA-RET, Past President
Sunflower Chapter:	David L. Kennedy, CWO3, USMC-RET, President Bud Munson, LCDR, USNR-RET, Past President Harry Malnicof, MAJ, USMC-RET, Secretary
Smoky Hill Chapter:	No one present
Wichita Chapter:	LeRoy Meyer, MAJ, USAF - RET

The meeting was called to order at 1104 CDT hours: Chapter Flags and the American Flag displayed.

GEN Richard Keller, Council President led in the Pledge of Allegiance, with John Halladay providing the opening prayer. Delbert Hill, Kaw Valley Chapter President, welcomed attendees on behalf of his chapter. GEN Keller then asked attending members to introduce themselves, and remarked that minutes of the 16 February 2008 meeting had been circulated and asked for comments. Motion to accept the minutes was made, seconded, and passed. He then read the Treasurer's report which showed a current balance of \$1,943.93: Motion made and seconded to accept report. Motion passed.

Jack Strukel remarked that Del Hill would be asked to send a "thank you" letter to the person responsible for making today's meeting room free to the Council, and also to send a letter of thanks to U.S. Representative Nancy Boyda (KS-2nd District). Rich Hill remarked on the synergy resulting from the National Guard and MOAA Kansas Council meeting simultaneously today at the Ramada Inn.

At this point COL Mike Hayden, USAF (Ret), Deputy Director, Government Relations, National MOAA, was introduced. COL Hayden was attending the National Guard three-day gathering, to advance the cause of MOAA. He reported on MOAA National's efforts to lobby U.S. Congress members on behalf of issues directly affecting our membership as well as all retired military officers. Included is the continuing struggle to retain TriCare benefits and restrain upward movement of costs, as proposed by the Pentagon. He mentioned that the retired pay increase for FY2008 will be 3.9%, and talked about the Wounded Warriors Program for veterans and their families. He also indicated that a move to delay retirement pay until age 60 for military personnel with 20 or more years of active duty will be a non-starter. Mary Goodwin commented about the ongoing problem of spouses of active duty personnel facing continuous deployment: marital problems resulting in split ups and divorces will have effects on retirement benefits.

Rich Keller had Gary LaGrange continue the discussion, started at the 16 February 2008 Council of Chapters meeting, regarding getting Chapters involved in the program to provide school supplies for Iraqi school students. Gary said that an Iraqi student had said "help us learn, give us hope", which has become the imprimatur for the effort. School supplies have been forwarded to 91 schools enrolling 45,000 children. The scope of the program continues to grow; there are almost 12.2 million school-aged children in Iraq. Another effort underway is American students sending letters to Iraqi students, and this will be expanded to Afghani students.

Rich Keller remarked that the word on this program should be put out to the various Junior ROTC units, developing ambassadors to other countries. National MOAA will allow Kansas Chapters to contact other State Chapters, (but not National MOAA), in expanding these programs. Rich Keller asked Gary LaGrange to develop a format that can be placed on the Kansas Council web site in order to bring Chapters up to speed. Harry Malnicof mentioned that a 501(3)c group, such as the Sunflower Foundation, would be ideal for accepting donations since this would enable those giving to take a tax deduction. Rich Keller requested that Chapters bring school supplies and / or donations to the August 2008 Kansas Council meeting. Gary LaGrange advised that personal checks should be made payable to "Help Us Learn".

Rich Keller recognized the Wichita Chapter for receiving the MOAA National First Place award for its Membership Recruiting Brochure, and conveyed congratulations to LeRoy Meyer, Wichita Chapter.

A discussion of preparation for submission of the CY 2007 Chapter National MOAA Merit Award applications was brought forward by Rich Keller. He indicated that he wanted to avoid sameness in appearance for the various products, that applications should be completed and submitted no later than 1 June 2008 to National MOAA. Rich indicated that he would send a letter urging National MOAA to give recognition to any Chapter submitting since we are the "front lines" for the organization. Jayhawk Chapter has already submitted their application to National. Other suggestions were to condense the report to no more than three pages, and have the significant information readable in the first sentence of each item responded to.

Rich Keller announced the lunch break would be at 1230 hours, to reconvene in approximately 30 minutes. The lunch break highlight, besides the food, was an appearance of the KC Chiefs Football team's cheerleaders. This proved to be a morale booster, with members enjoying the visit greatly. When learning of the "Help us Learn, Give us Hope" Iraqi school student support effort, several Chief cheerleaders indicated they would like to help support the effort.

Following lunch, the meeting reconvened at 1310 hours. Bernie Kish, Jayhawk Chapter distributed a copy of their Merit submission. David Kennedy, Sunflower Chapter, reported that their submission needed some final tweaking, and would be submitted on 1 June 2008.

Rich Keller talked about the annual MOAA "Storming the Hill" event in Washington D.C. He said that due to its attention to detail and thoroughness of preparation MOAA is one of three national groups routinely asked to provide input to our National government elected officials. Hollis Logan remarked that he could remember that in 1990 a National MOAA spokesman said "we don't care if we have Chapters". How times have changed, continued Hollis.

Rich Keller said that the Kansas Council is alone in changing its leadership every year. MOAA has suggested

that the current year president join the next year president in the annual Storming the Hill, to provide continuity.

Rich Keller remarked that MOAA is the only military organization that has increasing membership. Our "Give Me Ten" program has become the paradigm - other organizations, such as the VFW, American Legion, etc., are looking at our program for possible adaptation and use.

This year the MOAA participants covered three topics: 1) Health Care costs being shifted to Military beneficiaries; 2) Military Pay comparability; and 3) Concurrent Receipt. Rich Hill related his experience in calling on and working with Senator Pat Roberts (KS); the need to study the elected official's staffs as much as the official; that Storming the Hill is good, but that preparation could be better; and our elected representatives are on board with MOAA's legislative goals. Rich Hill distributed Representative Dennis Moore's brochure, and said the Representative Moore wants MOAA chapters to become partners with his staff.

John Halladay alerted members to make sure that the Chapter's local address is on any new membership applications forwarded to MOAA National. Also, do not put non-qualifying members on the local Chapter roster that is sent to National MOAA since this will count against the chapter in scoring the Chapter Merit awards. Each Chapter's local recruitment and retention chairman must work with Victoria at MOAA National to confirm that a membership application is accurate, and to alert the Chapter's secretary of status of each application.

In closing, Rich Keller reported that Army recruiting is having difficulty in finding and enlisting qualified recruits. Only three out of ten are eligible, with obesity the major cause for rejection.

The next meeting of the Council of Chapters will be on 9 August 2008, to be hosted by the Sunflower Chapter. The meeting will either be at the Johnson County Community College, or at an alternate location. David Kennedy, Sunflower President, will make all necessary arrangements.

Meeting adjourned at 1510 hours.

FOR THE COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS PRESIDENT

**Charles T. (Bud) Munson**

Charles T. Munson  
LCDR, USNR, (RET)  
Secretary

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AND BEST PRACTICES

### *Flint Hills Chapter*

The Chapter meeting was held April 11, 2008 and Gen (Ret.) Richard Myers, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was the guest of honor. Gen Myers spoke for nearly an hour in question and answer format about matters of national security both historical and contemporary. He closed his remarks with his concerns over our nation not having a comprehensive grand security strategy to counter radical fundamentalism.

The Chapter sponsored and presented the overall champion trophy for the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-America Invitational Drill Meet hosted by the Junction City High School Junior ROTC Blue Jay Battalion on March 29, 2008.

The Chapter will also provide MOAA awards for the Junction City JROTC unit and the Kansas State University ROTC program for the spring of 2008 and provided a contribution to the Fort Riley Scholarship fund.

We invited 53 non-members to our Chapter meeting in an effort to increase membership and we placed the Chapter information into the Manhattan Public Library community information database that provides information on community resources.

### *Jayhawk Chapter*

On March 25<sup>th</sup>: Colonel Steve Mains from the Center for Army Lessons Learned was our guest speaker. Additionally, we invited three international officers to the meeting. They represented the United Kingdom, Estonia and Slovenia. Finally, we had a surprise appearance of the KU Cheerleaders during dinner. Excellent meeting/dinner.

On May 20<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Burdette Loomis, political science professor at KU will be our guest speaker. He is widely known as a presidential election authority. Should be a nice draw. July Meeting, tentative date is July 15<sup>th</sup>. John Halladay will brief on Survival Plan for Widows and Widowers. We may have an additional guest.

#### **Activities:**

May

We will present \$500 scholarships to students in each of the three KU ROTC units. This is up from \$250 donated in the past. MG Dave Richwine, KU Navy ROTC graduate and a retired Marine, will be the speaker at the Commissioning Ceremony. Mike Sullivan made this happen. We will also participate in various Memorial Day activities in Lawrence.

KU Wounded Warrior Program. Bernie Kish is participating in this program as a “mentor”—will help in transition of eight men and women from the military to KU Graduate School (Masters and Doctorate Degrees). We plan to invite the KU Wounded Warriors to a Fall Meeting.

Project America Cares and Give Me 10 Program. Both of these will be major areas of emphasis for our Chapter over the next few months.

### *Wichita Chapter*

The Chapter was recognized by MOAA for the best Chapter Recruiting Brochure in its category. We had input from many of our members, but three stand out for their work – Maj Leroy Meyer, Maj Walt Nelson, and Col Bob Hadley.

- At our well attended Feb meeting, we had the Director of the Robert J Dole VA Medical Center, Mr. Thomas Sanders, as our speaker. He gave us insight into the VA and how we could benefit from VA services.
- Our March meeting, again well attended, featured the lyrical styles of and international vocalist. At the meeting our nominating committee presented candidates for the Chapter's officers for the coming year (June '08 - May '09). Election will be at the April meeting with installation at the May meeting.
- We signed three new members to "Give Me 10", and three new Chapter members as well.
- I (Antonio Pimentel) (sic) sat on a JROTC scholarship board. The Chapter will again be awarding eight \$500 scholarships this year.
- On April 17<sup>th</sup>, I will award JROTC Medals at Wichita's USD 259 award ceremony.
- Our upcoming April meeting will feature a student from Ft Leavenworth CGSC as our speaker.
- And, as noted above, election of officers for the coming year.
- At our May meeting, Col Lee Lange II, Director of Council and Chapter activities will be our featured speaker. He will also install officers.

### *Santa Fe Trail Chapter*

The Santa Fe Trail Chapter reports that the following activities and events that occurred since the last meeting of the Council of Chapters on 16 February 2008. The SFT Board of Directors met on 28 February to discuss the program for the remainder of the year. The Board decided to invite a Leavenworth County official, Mr. Clyde Graeber to speak before the dinner assembly on 20 May about changes happening in the County. Joe Boggs will ask Dr. Bill Worley to speak at our September meeting on the topic of Army nurses; we always want to have at least one program that will have the spouses' attention. We have 62 paying members and 250 members on the rolls according to our secretary, COL Bob Atkins.

Our general membership meeting on 18 March featured four JROTC students from the Leavenworth High School. They each met the dinner guests and three spoke to the group after dinner. LTC Dave Black, their program director, also spoke about their achievements. (One of the students fell ill and had to leave). We have a strong relationship with the JROTC program and its students and have been asked to their graduation ceremonies in May.

The Board will meet on 24 April and we will review the Merit Awards submission to ensure that we have included all our activities and worthwhile events.

### *Sunflower Chapter*

On Saturday, March 29, a dozen members from the Sunflower Chapter braved the cold temperatures and blowing winds to hand out water at the Olathe Marathon. Activities chairman Sheldon Vazquez recommended that we participate with Olathe Marathon on a yearly basis. Motion seconded and approved.



**Brave Souls – in 40 degree weather, these members served water and Gatorade to the runners**  
Pat Murphy, Bob Zurcher, Jane Kelly, Jim Kelly, Kurt Behrman, Sheldon Vazquez,  
Bud Munson, David Kennedy, and Harry Malnicof (not shown is Doug Dilday who is taking the picture).

Program Chairman Sam Malsbary reported on the following upcoming meetings

- **April** meeting – this coming Tuesday, April 15th – auction previously scheduled for December 2007.
- **May** meeting will be our Scholarship presentation; Guest Speaker is General Keller, recipient KU Air Force ROTC Cadet.
- **July** – attend the New Theatre
- **September** – possibly a beer tasting instead of wine tasting.
- **October** – Line Dancing
- **December** – Christmas party