



# The Kansas Council of Chapters

Serving the Military Community in Kansas  
Minutes – Meeting of Saturday, 06 August 2011  
Little Apple Brewing Company – Manhattan, KS – Flint Hills Chapter (host)

## CY 2011 OFFICERS

### President:

Delbert L. Hill  
CW5, USA-(Ret.)

### President Elect:

Antonio T. Pimentel  
COL, USAF- (Ret.)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:

James T. Pittman  
COL, USA-(Ret.)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:

Patrick T. Murphy  
LTC, USA-(Ret.)

### Past President:

James S. Cooper  
CAPT, USN-(Ret.)

### Treasurer:

James T. Pittman  
COL, USA-(Ret.)

## APPOINTIVE OFFICERS

### Secretary:

Charles T. (Bud) Munson  
LCDR, USNR-(Ret.)

### Legislative Chairman:

Hollis B. Logan  
COL, USAF-(Ret.)

### Webmaster/Newsletter Editor

Walter A. Nelson  
MAJ, USA-(Ret.)

## COUNCIL OFFICERS

President (absent)

President Elect (absent)

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

Legislative Chairman

Past President

Webmaster/Newsletter Editor (absent)

Delbert L. Hill, CW5, USA-(Ret)

Antonio T. Pimentel, COL, USAF-(Ret)

James T. Pittman, COL, USA-(Ret)

Patrick T. Murphy, LTC, USA-(Ret)

James T. Pittman, COL, USA-(Ret)

Charles T. Munson, LCDR, USNR-(Ret)

Hollis B. Logan, COL, USAF-(Ret)

Gary La Grange, COL, USA-(Ret)

Walter A. Nelson, MAJ, USA-(Ret)

## CHAPTER DELEGATES PRESENT

Flint Hills

Patricia King, COL, USA-(Ret)

Gary LaGrange, COL, USA-(Ret)

Jayhawk

John Halladay, COL, AUS-(Ret)

Tom Arnold, CAPT, USN-(Ret)

Kaw Valley

Hollis B. Logan, COL, USAF-(Ret)

Chuck Bredahl, MAJ, NG-(Ret)

Santa Fe Trail

Neal Bralley, COL, USA-(Ret)

Jim Pittman, COL, USA-(Ret)

Sunflower

Patrick T. Murphy, LTC, USA-(Ret)

Bud Munson, LCDR, USNR-(Ret)

Wichita

Al Rocheleau, CAPT, USMC-(Ret)

## GUESTS

Captain Joshua Mantz, USA (Active) – Fort Riley, KS; Traci Scott, (conducting out reach for Commanding General, Fort Riley)

**ATTENTION: THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON SATURDAY, 05 November 2011 – 1030 TO 1430 Hours, at Embassy Suites Hotel, Overland Park, KS.**

The meeting was called to order at 1030 hours by MOAA Kansas Council of Chapters 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, **James T. Pittman**. **Patricia King**, President, Flint Hills Chapter (host), welcomed the attendees and mentioned that she had arranged for two speakers for the meeting. **Jim Pittman** then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, followed by a short prayer, followed by self-introductions by those present.

## Secretary's Report

**Bud Munson** reported that the 14 May 2011 minutes of the Board meeting at Rolling Hills Country Club, Wichita, had been sent out prior to today's Board meeting. Bud mentioned he had corrected his master copy regarding the incorrect date printed for the 26 March 2011 meeting in Lawrence. There being no further corrections, the members unanimously approved the 14 May 2011 (Wichita) Minutes as issued.

### **Treasurers Report**

**James T. Pittman, Treasurer**, provided following report, dated 06 August 2011:

<b>BALANCE</b> on Last Report (14 May 2011)	<b>\$2317.39</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
Sunflower Chapter Dues	\$59.50
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$59.50</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
Rolling Hills Country Club – Meeting Expense	\$50.53
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$50.53</b>
<b>CURRENT BALANCE (06 August 2011)</b> <b>(Deposited in Intrust Bank)</b>	<b>\$2326.36</b>

**NOTES:**

James T. Pittman  
COL, US Army (Ret)  
Treasurer

It was moved, and seconded, that the Treasurer's report dated 06 August 2011 be approved and spread across the records. Motion carried.

### **Legislative Report**

**Hollis Logan**, Legislative Chairman, remarked that Capitol Hill, at the last possible moment, raised the debt limit to enable the U.S. Government to borrow more money in order to avoid default. A quick outline of what we understand about the "deal" that was reached:

- The deal would cut approximately \$350 billion in "security" spending over the next 10 years. The security budget includes Departments of Defense, and State, foreign aid, Homeland Security, Veterans Affairs, and some

would occur over the next 10 years.

The deal establishes a “super committee” of 12 formed with six Republicans and six Democrats, with three from each part of the House and Senate. Their task is to come up with an additional \$1.5 trillion of cuts by the end of November of this (2011) year.

- If a majority of the super committee agrees on a proposal, the \$1.5 trillion of cuts would be taken up by Congress, with a straight up or down vote. No filibusters, no amendments would be allowed. If approved by Congress the package would be sent to the President for his signature.
- If Congress fails to enact further deficit reductions as outlined by the super committee, an automatic trigger would begin a round of across-the-board cuts equaling \$1.2 trillion, with half of the reductions deeply cutting defense programs and half from domestic programs.

Looking at additional cuts from Defense of \$600 billion, if the trigger kicks in, Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta said, “...it (the trigger) is designed to be unpalatable to spur responsible, balanced deficit reduction and avoid misguided cuts to our security.”

**Hollis Logan** observed that the military will be hit hard by the reductions; MOAA Members can keep abreast of how these actions will affect military retirees by information coming down from MOAA and other Service affiliated organizations.

**Gary LaGrange** said that he and **Rich Keller** are on Kansas U.S. Senator Jerry Moran’s military affairs committee and will be able to provide current information as budget hearings go forth.

**Jim Pittman** remarked that the VA Hospital at Lansing, KS has upgraded and its service is very good. He said that there are serious issues with psychological problems, post active duty stress syndrome showing up at an increasing rate. Jim also encouraged MOAA members to keep **Gary LaGrange** and **Rich Keller** in the loop when corresponding or meeting with our U.S. Congress persons.

(Note: **Patricia King**, Flint Hills Chapter President (host) requested that members assemble for a group picture which had been requested by the Fort Riley Public Affairs Office. Members posed)

### Guest Speakers

Army Captain **Joshua Mantz** of the Fort Riley Warrior Transition Battalion reported that money was being wasted in the Behavior Health program. Captain Mantz said that the Department of Defense now recognizes that the most effective wellness programs are “owned by the local community”. These programs are treating returning veterans and their spouses/children simultaneously, with intergenerational treatment by combining treatment of past veterans with recent returnees, and follow on care and case management tied to a couple undergoing stress management for following two years.

At Fort Riley Captain Mantz is involved with development of a “holistic” approach, including:

Phase 1 – Support of the Institute, with the first retreat funded by K-State

Phase 2 – Raising \$500,000 from both State of Kansas and private donors to develop a five-day retreat program over a 20 week period

Phase 3 – Longer term – construct a permanent facility

**Captain Mantz** concluded by asking MOAA to provide leadership by seeking veterans in the various communities to let them know of the program, helping to reintegrate the veterans back into the “living”. **Captain Mantz** then requested a letter of endorsement supporting the program from the MOAA Kansas Council of Chapters.

**Jim Pittman**, acting as chair of the meeting, asked members attending for a motion requesting that a letter be prepared for Delbert Hill’s signature, to be forwarded to **Captain Mantz**. It was moved and seconded that the letter be authorized. Motion carried.

**Al Rocheleau**, Wichita Chapter, suggested that each Kansas MOAA Chapter also send a letter of endorsement. **Jim Pittman** remarked that he will forward a copy of the minutes of today’s meeting to each Chapter president for their further action in support of the program.

**Traci Scott** was introduced by **Patricia King**, as the person conducting outreach for the Commanding General of Fort Riley. Traci said that she was an “Army brat”, originally from Kansas City, Mo. She was a TV reporter in Las Vegas and is in the Nevada Broadcasting Hall of Fame. She has a Masters degree from George Washington University, Washington, D.C. She presented a slide show of the various trouble spots around the world that she has visited or was on official assignment.

### **Help Us Learn / Give Us Hope – Update**

**Gary LaGrange** reported that we continue to ship supplies and books with a focus now on Afghanistan. 490,600 student supply sets, 12,400 teacher supply sets, and 750,000 books have been shipped. Another 200,000 books are being prepared for shipment to Afghanistan. We were asked and have prepared a budget that will include building schools, medical clinics, drilling wells, and doing other construction projects in support of education. Those projects are contingent on support from a large foundation in New York City that has promised funding. In the meantime we continue to ship nearly every week and support is dearly needed to reach our soldiers who ask for support. Thank you for your continued support. It is critical to our ability to remain viable.

A potential guest speaker for Chapters is **MARK NUTSCH**, principal character in the book “Horse Soldiers”, who lives in Leavenworth. He was one of the first to enter Afghanistan in 2001 and worked directly with the Northern Alliance in

defeating the Taliban. He works closely with **Gary LaGrange** of “Help us Learn...Give us Hope and now as civilian, returns frequently to Afghanistan with other ex-Special Forces team mates to build up the country’s education, medical, water, and agricultural systems. He and his teammates are welcome throughout the country because of their efforts. Mark is a national treasure and a tremendous individual who would make a great guest speaker for your chapter. Mark can be reached via [marknutsch@hotmail.com](mailto:marknutsch@hotmail.com).

**Gary LaGrange** reported that his group has started partnering with “Cell Phones for Soldiers”.

In another matter **Gary**, member of the 2012 Nominating Committee, remarked that the Flint Hills Chapter is in the “queue” to provide a nominee for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President position. **Jim Pittman** said that the Nominating Committee is also to name an Audit Committee to review the Kansas Council’s documents.

Group broke for a working Lunch at 12:10 hours.

### Give Me Ten

Chapters reported on recruiting activities during preceding months:

Pat King – Flint Hills	30	enrolled
Neal Bralley – Santa Fe Trail	19	“
Pat Murphy – Sunflower	12	“
Chuck Bredahl – Kaw Valley	6	“
Al Rocheleau – Wichita	25	“
John Halladay – Jayhawk	41	“

### MOAA Chapter “Levels of Excellence” Award Program

Five Star Award Winners: Flint Hills, Jayhawk, Kaw Valley, and Wichita  
Four Star Award Winner: Santa Fe Trails

**Jim Pittman** said that Chapter Presidents will be invited to MOAA National’s Annual meeting to receive their Chapter Levels of Excellence Awards. Planning to attend are **Pat King** and husband – Kaw Valley Chapter, **Jim Pittman** – Jayhawk Chapter, **Delbert L. Hill** – Kaw Valley chapter, **Al Rocheleau** – Wichita Chapter, and **John Halladay** – Jayhawk Chapter.

### Past President’s Remarks

**Hollis B. Logan**, Kansas Council President from November 1996 to November 1998 again thanked members for all the support given to MOAA both at the local Chapter level, and to MOAA National.

### Next Meeting

**Jim Pittman** said that the next Kansas Council meeting, to be hosted by the

Sunflower Chapter, will be on Saturday, 05 November 2011 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Overland Park, KS. He suggested that the WWI Museum at Liberty Memorial, Kansas City, MO., might be a good location for a future meeting of the Chapter. He asked the Sunflower Chapter to obtain pertinent information as to hours, admittance fees, if any, food service, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 1305 hours.

### **Chapter Activities and Best Practices**

#### **Wichita Chapter – May 14 – August 5, 2011**

Our chapter hosted the Council of Chapters meeting May 14, 2011, during which Council President Delbert Hill recounted his experiences during the annual MOAA event, “Storming the Hill.”

We were fortunate that Delbert and his gracious wife were able to remain overnight and join us for our last meeting of our fiscal year. Delbert then shared with our membership the activities and procedures associated with “Storming the Hill.” At this meeting, Delbert also installed the chapter officers for the 2011 chapter year: President Al Rocheleau, Capt. USMC (Ret); 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (Programs) LTC “Terry” Berk, USA (Ret); 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (Membership) MAJ Andy Trager, USA; Secretary MAJ Walt Nelson, USA (Ret); Treasurer COL Bob Hester, USA (Ret); Director COL Bill Wunder, USA (Ret); Director Maj. John McGee, USMC (Ret); Director Maj. Earl Shellner, USAF (Ret).

While our chapter is “dark” for the months of June, July, and August, we are by no means inactive. We continue to supply volunteers at McConnell AFB in the clinic and the retirees’ center. In addition, Capt. Rocheleau attempted to greet the WWII vets returning from the June Honor Flight. After waiting in excess of 2 hours at the airport, he had to leave before the vets landed as their flight kept getting delayed due to bad weather in Georgia. A large contingent of an American Legion post was able to stay and greet the vets.

Once again, our chapter participated in the Independence Day parade in Derby, Kansas. Held on July 4 this year, the parade attracted many patriotic residents who enthusiastically greeted each parade entry. After the parade, an informal bar-b-que and gathering was held at Capt. and Mrs. Rocheleau’s home.

From July 25 through July 29 inclusive, Chapter and TROW members distributed school supplies to service members E-5 and below for their children in grades Pre-K through 12. Additionally, supplies were provided to those in college. The Family Service Center puts the supplies together for the families each year. This year, the funds available were about half what they have been in the past. Still, approximately 400 kits were distributed, and the recipients were grateful for the help they received.

We received notification from National that our chapter has earned the 5-star award for 2010. This is our fourth consecutive 5-star award.

Our chapter will be well represented at the September Leadership Symposium in Kansas City. President Al Rocheleau, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Terry Berk, Membership Committee Representative LeRoy Meyer, and TOPS Committee Representative John McGee have registered to attend.

Executive Board meetings were held in June and July. We are fortunate in that many members have stepped up to the plate, allowing us to fill all committees. Our chapter has an active TOPS chairman in MAJ Karl Monger, USA (Ret) who is also the founder and CEO of Gallant Few, a non-profit formed to assist service members make the transition from military to civilian life. Alice Rocheleau has accepted the challenge of Chapter Historian, Maj. Earl Shellner is our Legislative Committee Chair, Lt. Col. Harry Alexander is the Public Relations Chair, and Maj. LeRoy Meyer is the chapter Liaison to McConnell AFB.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Rocheleau  
Capt. USMC (Ret)  
President

**Santa Fe Trail Chapter – May 14 to August 15, 2011**

Our next chapter general meeting is on Tuesday, 20 September 2011, at J.W. Crancer's Restaurant in downtown Leavenworth. Our Chapter's last general membership meeting was on 19 July 2011. Our guest speaker was LTC Geoff Babb, (USA,Ret) who spoke on China. The Chapter held a board meeting on 30 June to discuss upcoming chapter events and business matters at the China Inn Restaurant. Two of our members will be attending the upcoming PAIR Day events at Fort Leavenworth in an effort to generate new MOAA members from the newly arriving CGSC class.

The latest listing of Give Me Ten report from MOAA National reflected a total of 19 Give Me Ten registrations this year.

The State Council leadership notified us that our Chapter was selected for a 4-Star Chapter of Excellence Award.

Respectfully submitted,

Neal H. Bralley  
COL, US Army (Ret.)  
Chapter President  
Santa Fe Trail Chapter, MOAA

**Kaw Valley Chapter – April to August 05, 2011**

The April General Membership meeting featured meeting the announcement and awarding of six scholarships to Topeka area JROTC Cadets. Guests included their parents and professors of Military Science.

The Audit Committee completed their 2010 Audit and briefed the Executive Board in May.

The Kaw Valley Chapter has no meeting during the months of June and July.

Our speaker for the August General meeting is MG Lee Tafanelli, the Adjutant General of Kansas. The topic will include the current status of the Kansas Army and Air National Guard, and what the future might look like for all reserve components.

Future plans are for an Oktoberfest at the Kansas National Guard Museum. In addition to visiting the Museum, we plan to have music and a German dress contest. German food and drink will be on the menu. Our speaker will be Colonel Lee Lange II from MOAA National as we celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chapter.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Tincher  
Kaw Valley MOAA, President

## **Flint Hills Chapter – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter FY2011 Report**

Chapter meetings have not been held through the summer.

Our next meeting will be on October 20<sup>th</sup> and MOAA National will have a representative present. The next day is Fort Riley's Retiree Appreciation Day and we have requested a booth and time for the MOAA National Representative to speak.

Our Chapter Secretary has moved from the area and, as I am nearing the end of my second year, a new Secretary and new President have been identified. The new President, Leslie Alford, will be attending the MOAA Symposium in Kansas City in September with me. Our Chapter Membership Chairman, Roy Watson, will also attend the Symposium.

The Flint Hills Chapter is a Five Star Level of Excellence winner for 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia King, President  
Flint Hills Chapter MOAA

## **Jayhawk Chapter – 14 May through 15 August , 2011**

Our very distinguished May dinner speaker was the Honorable LAWTON NUSS, Chief Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court (a KU Naval ROTC graduate and former USMC officer). His interesting and timely speech addressed on-going reforms to the Kansas Judicial Branch and Court System. In July we were joined by Kerry Altenbrand, the Director of the Douglas County Law Library, member of the board of the Black Jack Battlefield Trust, and a nationally recognized John Brown re-enactor and Civil War historian. He delivered a fascinating portrayal of John Brown and addressed the role he played in Kansas in the origins of the American Civil War.

The Jayhawk Chapter was very proud to be recognized again this year by MOAA as a Five Star Chapter, an accomplishment that reflects the hard work of our prior year's President Charles Heller, our Secretary, John Halladay, and many others.

On May 23<sup>rd</sup> many of our members attended the Joint Service Commissioning ceremony at the University of Kansas. We are very proud of our support to the three ROTC units at KU and were particularly pleased that most of the 36 newly commissioned ensigns and second lieutenants joined MOAA and the Jayhawk Chapter as new members.

Our upcoming September dinner program will feature CPT Joshua Martz, Aide-de Camp to the Deputy Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division at Fort Riley, KS, who will speak on PTSD and the care for wounded soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan. We are also working on putting together a round-table discussion on our November dinner that will address members' concerns about medical benefit programs, including Medicare, TRICARE and veteran's benefits, and the possible impacts on them of such on-going issues as health care reform, the pending 30% cut to doctors for Medicare and TRICARE reimbursement, and the impact of the recent

debt ceiling agreement.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas E. Arnold, CAPT, USN-Ret.  
President, MOAA Jayhawk Chapter

## **Sunflower Chapter**

### **Sunflower Chapter- April -August 2011**

#### **Community Service Projects**

1. Assisted the Overland Park Lions Club with placing flags along Metcalf Avenue on the following holidays:  
Armed Forces Day  
Memorial Day  
Flag Day  
Independence Day
2. Provided volunteers at the Water/Aid station at the Olathe Marathon
3. Proceeds from 50/50 donations at the monthly meetings are donated to "Give us hope, Help us learn"

#### **Meetings**

The April meeting featured a speaker from the Johnson County/K-State Extension and Research Center on landscaping and gardening

The May meeting was a get together at the KC T-Bones baseball game held at Community America Ballpark

No June, July, or August meetings held

#### **Board Meetings**

Board meetings were held in April, May, July, and August

#### **Future Activities**

1. Provide volunteers for the Patriots Run on September 11
2. The September dinner/meeting will present 3 scholarships to Cadets/Midshipman from the University of Kansas ROTC programs
3. Provide volunteers to assist the Overland Park Lions Club to put up flags on Labor Day and Veterans Day
4. The Sunflower Chapter will host the Council meeting at the Embassy Suites on November 5th.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark H. Naster  
President, Sunflower Chapter

