

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Huntsville, Alabama Chapter
General Membership Meeting Minutes
 26 March 2014

President Bruce Robinson opened the meeting at 1835 at the Overlook.

Opening Prayer: Danny Burttram **Pledge of Allegiance:** Bruce Robinson

Welcomes: President Robinson welcomed everyone, especially Guests and new Members:

- 48 members and guests were present.
- Special Guests: COL Barry Wright & his wife, Barbara.
- New Members and First-Timers: CAPT George Skezas, USN (Ret.) & Spouse
 Col Robert Pastorelli, USA (Ret.)

Reports:

- Secretary’s Report: Bruce Robinson presented the General Membership Meeting minutes for February 2014 which were approved as written.
- Treasurer’s Report: Rick West presented the February Treasurer's Report which was approved as written.

	Opening Balance	Closing Balance
Feb 2014	\$13647.09	\$15725.42

- o Significant sources of income were Sentinel advertising (USAA full year payment) and a beneficiary designation by an LMT member.
- o Significant expenditures were Fidelity Bond (initial payment), certificate frames, Sentinel hard copy, postal box annual rent, and membership recruiting letters.
- Membership – John Inman provided a membership status update. He noted some new members present at the dinner. He added that a Program Chairman is needed for the Chapter. As Golf Chairman, he informed the group that the next meeting of the Golf Committee was on 2 April at 1130 at the Summit Club. Volunteers are still needed to help with planning the tournament.
- Branch Concerns: none presented by membership-at-large
 - o Army: Arno Hoerle, not present.
 - o USAF: Ed Uher, none.
 - o USN/USMC: Louis Kubik, none.
- Legislative: Jerry Haynes: Briefed that COLA had risen slightly and reminded members to communicate with their representatives!
- Auxiliary and Hospitality: Carrie Hightower, not present. However, President Robinson reminded everyone that the Summer Party would be 21 June at the Overlook and that it would be a Western Style! AMC Band has been requested.

President’s Comments:

- Scholarship applications review completed (47 applications) – we intend to award two \$1000 scholarships in May
- 44 annual members dropped for failure to renew
- Vacant positions – Sentinel Editor & Programs
- JROTC awards are on-going – need volunteers
- Upcoming Events:
 - o **Next membership meeting: 30 April - “Gold Bar” ceremony**
 - o **Next breakfast(s): 29 March, 26 April**
 - o **Next Board meeting: 10 April**
 - o Council of Chapters Meeting: 15 April
 - o Nominating Committee: standing up in June

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- Semper Fi Community Task Force – baseball field preparation: 5 April
- American Legion “Walk & Roll” – Huntsville Depot: 6 April
- Memorial Day Wreath Laying – Maple Hill Cemetery: 26 May
- Tut Fann BBQ: 14 June
- **Summer Party – 21 June – “Western” theme** – AMC Band requested
- Golf Tournament planned for 29 August – need volunteers & players
- MOAA Leaders Conference – Jacksonville, FL: 4-6 September
- MOAA State Convention: April 2015 in Montgomery – soliciting advertisers

New business:

- Bill Stevenson (Personal Affairs) will be posting information on dental websites/options for retirees.
- **The Chapter was advised that** the 50th Anniversary Welcome Home Viet Nam Vets would take place 29 March at the Huntsville Veteran's Memorial.

Guest Speaker: Col Barry Wright, MOAA National Director of Council and Chapter Affairs, addressed the group. Highlights:

- Congratulated Huntsville Chapter on our superb performance as a chapter and for our support of the MOAA mission.
- Asked that everyone sign up for the weekly legislative updates on the MOAA website.
- Briefly addressed current budget issues and MOAA's involvement in resolving them favorably.
- Took questions from the group. Topics included Community Blueprint/Points of Light, government office funding waste (and possibly devious money shifts), and understanding the fair share of government cuts.
- Quote: "Everywhere I go, I always give thanks to our Viet Nam Vets!"

Closing Prayer / Adjournment: Danny Burttram provided the closing prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 1945.

Respectfully submitted by Don Kimminau