

PMOAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
June 24, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Ken Pyle at 1602 at the El Patron Mexican Grill. Board members present were: RADM Joan Engel, CAPT Meredith Yeager, LtCol Bob Nelson, CDR Susan Ulloa, LTC Karen Vinson-VanHouter, MAJ Molly Werner, Maj Charley Booton, CPT Dean Kirschner, Surviving Spouse Chair Mrs. Judy Dickson, and Beacon Editor Jean Booton. CAPT Sue Varenholt was excused.

May 2025 BOD Minutes – Mrs. Dickson requested a correction to the May minutes. She noted that the correct web address for submission of cookbook recipes or to pre-order a cookbook is cookbook@pmoaa.org. All members present approved the minutes as corrected.

Treasurer Report – Bank accounts balance for this month: Total Bank Accounts - \$26,779.50; Total Assets Accounts - \$102,192.24. LtCol Nelson noted that the balance increase was due to a generous contribution from a member to be awarded to two scholarship recipients pursuing a degree in a medical field. The account will be minus that amount following the Scholarship Banquet in July. The President called for approval of the Treasurer's report. Concurrence was unanimous. As website manager, LtCol Nelson related that members may have been unable to access MOAA/PMOAA website the past few weeks and mentioned that software was needed to override the glitch.

REPORTS

1st Vice President – LTC Vinson-VanHouter verified the speaker line-up at the member meetings for the remainder of the year. She stated she had 2-3 guest speakers for the first months of next year and requested suggestions from the Board for additional recommendations. Several names were proposed and LTC Vinson-VanHouter will follow up on those.

2nd Vice President Membership – MAJ Werner explained the purpose of the Near Real Time (NRT) report to the Board which is a list of MOAA members who reside in the local area but do not belong to the local Chapter. She noted that there were several duplications and when removed, the list left a total of thirty-three (33) potential PMOAA members. Efforts will be made to recruit each of them for membership in PMOAA. Total membership this month remains at 132.

Survivor Assistance – Mrs. Dickson attended the funeral services for Helen Peace, member spouse who passed away earlier this month. While there, she expressed condolences from PMOAA to Helen's husband, retired Navy CDR Ellis Peace, and offered assistance with information on navigating the legal and domestic issues associated with the death of a spouse. Cookbook Project – the project continues to move forward. Over seventy (70) recipes have been submitted to date. The goal is to have approximately one hundred (100) recipes available before the book order goes to print. Mrs. Dickson continues to receive volunteers eager to assist on the project. Members are reminded to submit their recipes online at cookbook@pmoaa.org, or by mail to the PMOAA address using the recipe form which will be available at the next few member meetings. Cookbooks may also be pre-ordered there as well.

Scholarship Committee – The Scholarship Committee has selected seven individuals who will each receive a \$3000 award at the Banquet on July 31 at PYC. Maj Booton has sent all the

information about the selectees to LtCol Nelson for the website and will be forwarding emails to the winners notifying them of their selection and providing instruction/information regarding the awards Banquet. The two local ROTC Commanders and their guests will be invited to attend. A call was made to the office of District 01 Florida Representative, the Honorable Jimmy Patronis, requesting his presence at the event but he is otherwise engaged that evening. A substitute from his staff may participate in his place. Maj Booton will be submitting brief biographies of each scholarship recipient as well as a summary of their career aims to the printer for the banquet programs. CAPT Pyle congratulated Maj Booton and his Committee on a job very well done as indicated by the significant increase in scholarship applications received than in the past few years.

Beacon – All items for the July Beacon must be available to Mrs. Booton by end-of-day Friday, June 27. PMOAA is still in need of someone to take over the production of the newsletter when her term ends in September.

OLD BUSINESS

JROTC – President Pyle reiterated the proposal to form a JROTC Fundraising Committee to help raise \$7,000- \$10,000 annually to support the seven high schools in Escambia and Santa Rosa with JROTC programs. He is requesting that a volunteer step up to Chair the Committee and lead the effort. The Treasurer noted that undesignated funds are available to support the programs with awards this Fall but fundraising is needed going forward. During a past Board meeting, a motion was made, and approved by all present, to use the 50/50 raffle monies to support JROTC since scholarship monies are ample. However, the amount collected would not be sufficient to support the units. A proposal was made to present JROTC donations as an option to the members and the Board approved. Members will certainly still be welcome to choose the Scholarship Fund for their donation. CPT Kirschner requested that a plaque acknowledging PMOAA's support of the JROTC units be presented to each unit. His request met with approval.

Joint Meeting – PMOAA joined Baldwin and Mobile County Chapters of MOAA on June 19 at The Waterfront Restaurant in Daphne, AL. The speaker was University of South Alabama President, Joshua R. Bonner, who commented on USA's achievement earning the "Military Friendly Gold Standard" as well as other areas USA's educational excellence impacts the Gulf Coast communities, such as healthcare.

Surviving Spouse Status Discussion – Postponed from the last Board meeting, the topic was discussed and voted on by the Board members present at this meeting. Past practice had been that a surviving spouse does not become a member until the death date of the military member, who may have been with MOAA/PMOAA for decades. This practice negates the surviving spouse's past participation in the Chapter and makes that person ineligible for consideration as an Honorary Lifetime Member in adherence to the By-laws. A motion was proposed to make the "join" date of the military member become the join date of the surviving spouse upon the military member's death. RADM Engel approved the motion and it was seconded by Maj Booton. The motion carried with unanimous approval by the Board.

Honorary Life Membership (HLM) Committee – During the last Board meeting there was discussion and an approved vote on a proposal to dissolve the HLM Committee and grant the

Board of Directors discretion to grant lifetime membership to a nominated member. Minor changes were necessary to the official letter to the member notifying him/her of HLM status, and to the phrasing of the By-law change. The changes were completed, discussed, and approved by the Board members at this meeting. The general membership will have the opportunity to vote on the changes at the Business Meeting in November.

Barrancas Memorial Day Ceremony- LTC Vinson-VanHouter represented PMOAA and called the names of those Chapter members on the Taps roster. Quite a few PMOAA members were present at this solemn and poignant event.

Our Community Salutes (OCS) Pensacola – The purpose of this event was to recognize new enlistees to the military, most of whom were recent high school graduates. Nearly 100 young men and women raised their hands and pledge to protect and defend our country, which is an impressive number out of Escambia County high schools. Marine Corps recruits made up the majority of new enlistees followed in numbers by the Air Force, Army, and the Navy with the least number of recruits, except for the lone Guardian recruit to the Space Force, a young woman. Guests of honor included Florida First Lady Casey DeSantis and Florida District 1 State Representative Michelle Salzman. The Navy Band from NAS was present, opening the event with the National Anthem and closing with the anthems of the five services gaining the new enlistees. The USCG anthem was also played out of respect for those participants in the audience who were Coast Guard veterans. MOAA is a major sponsor of Our Community Salutes. CDR Ulloa attended the event for PMOAA.

NEW BUSINESS

Christmas Party – CPT Kirschner requested permission to add item to the agenda and it was granted. The discussion focused on last year's poor attendance and a proposal to invite The Krewe of Avant Garde, a local military social organization, to participate jointly in the festivities. Several PMOAA members are also members of Avant Garde and the two separate parties may have contributed to last year's low attendance due to having to choose one group over the other. A motion was made by MAJ Werner to sponsor a joint Christmas event with Avant Garde. The motion was seconded by LTC Vinson-VanHouter. All Board members approved and the motion carried.

Review of By-laws – RADM Engel requested that all Board members take some time to read, review, and recommend any changes, particularly on scholarship program issues, in order that the Board have time for discussion and preparation of edits to the By-laws for approval by the general membership at the November business meeting.

Membership Meetings

PMOAA membership will meet again on July 31 at PYC for the Scholarship Awards Banquet from 1730-2000. The menu will include a prime rib carving station. There will not be a membership meeting in August.

The Board of Directors will not meet in July. The next Board meeting is scheduled for August 26 at 1600 at El Patron Mexican Grill.

In September, the dinner meeting will be on the 18th at PYC, 1730-2000. The speaker will be Surviving Spouse Committee Chair, Judith Dickson and focus on nutrition and growing your own fruits and vegetables.

President Pyle adjourned the meeting at 1728 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan E. Ulloa, Secretary