**MIAMI VALLEY MILITARY AFFAIRS ASSOCIATION**

**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

10 November 2020

The membership of the MVMAA held the Annual Meeting Tuesday, 10 November 2020 via virtual format. Thanks to Toni Overholser for setting up the virtual platform. President Dan Semsel called the meeting to order at 6: p.m. The group individually recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Members in Attendance:** Dan Semsel, Toni Overholser, Rebecca Westlake, Steve Goeman, Holly Beard, Woody Stroud, Rick Whitaker, Sandy Brubaker, Brian Jarvis, Paul Newman, Jr, Cassie Barlow, Mike Mayer, Dr. Jo Blondin, Dick Gould, Don Adams, Marie Battle, Jerry Pfeiffer, Carol Pfeiffer, , Rick Whitaker, John Nafia, Anthony Colussi, Paul Otten, CJ Holt, John McCance, Alex Zaharloff, Wade Rupper, Brian Lampton, Margaret Kruckemeyer, Patti Phillips, Brandon Creech, Cathy Hutton, Debborrah Wallace, and Lin Stokes-Crowe. One individual who called in was not identified.

**DOD:** Col Pat Miller, 88 ABW Commander, Col Mike Phillips, 88 ABW Vice Commander, Col Kim Fitzgerald, 178 Wing Commander, TSgt Bryan Clark, 178 SFS, Col Jay Smeltzer, 445 AW Maintenance Group Commander, Capt Jennifer Garrison, 445 AMS

**Liaisons**: MSgt Jason Jukes, First Sergeants Council, Chris Stanley, Fisher Nightingale Houses, Erik Oberg, USO.

**BASE COMMANDERS REPORTS:**

**88 ABW –** Col Pat Miller introduced himself to the group. In the five months since he arrived on 12 June, there have been challenges that the Wing has overcome. He reported COVID has established a new operating environment in which the mission must continue. He reported he will be focusing on maintaining social connections in a distancing environment, because people need connection. One of his projects over the next couple of years will be to look at K-12 education issues for military dependents in the community and on base. He and his wife of 21 years, Beth are looking to forward to being able to engage in the community. He thanked all the veterans and other members of the MVMAA for all they do to support the base community. He is looking forward to partnering with the MVMAA over the next couple of years.

**445AW –** Col Jay Smeltzer reported on Wing activities for the 445 AW. He thanked the group for the opportunity to share the Wing’s story. He reported the maintenance and operations groups decided early on to maintain a robust flying schedule. The focus was to maintain readiness, but also to maintain visibility of the aircraft flying around the community. Kudos to the wing’s airmen for all their hard work and dedication. He reported the Wing processed 925 tuition assistance enrollments over the past few months. They managed a four-million-dollar lodging budget with hotels in the community to provide safe lodging for the airmen. The security forces personnel trained with Navy Seals and provided backfill for the 88 ABW security forces personnel. They also trained with the 178 WG. The Wing stayed busy providing hurricane and medical support. The Wing deployed 59 medical professionals to New York City in support of COVID operations there. Col Smeltzer introduced Capt Jennifer Gerritsen, one of the medical personnel sent to NYC to tell her story. Capt Gerritsen works at the 88th Medical Group in the PICU as a civilian nurse. As COVID reduced surgical operations, she got the call on a Monday morning to go with other unit medical personnel to assist in medical operations, without a location being identified initially. By 1600 hours (4 p.m.) the same day she was on an airplane headed to McGuire AFB. She left a fellow reservist husband and two sons ( 7 and 10) who helped her pack and get out the door. She credits her family’s resilience in making the deployment happen. Her group flew to McGuire AFB, where they were processed and finally transported to NYC. Her group embarked on the new endeavor with a focus on providing the best patient care possible. She said being in NYC at that time was strange; walking through Times Square and it was empty was disconcerting. Col Smeltzer commended her group for demonstrating uncommon valor.

**178 Wing:** Col Kim Fitzgerald reported on Wing activities over the past year. She said Wing personnel, provided COVID and Civil Unrest response since early March. More than 150 unit members have been working around the state to provide resources, intelligence and support in response to COVID. They have also been providing Civil Unrest response as needed. She reported the Wing had their first drill the past weekend, which included their annual awards for Outstanding Airmen, NCO, SNCO and Junior Officer. One hundred members of the Blue Ash unit are preparing to deploy downrange for six months. She introduced TSgt Bryan Clark, one of the defenders that recently returned from a downrange deployment, followed by 2 weeks quarantine. TSgt Clark told the members about the deployment. He was supposed to deploy in March, however departure was delayed due to COVID. His group left at the end of May. Due to COVID, upon arrival at the deployed location all personnel were required to be quarantined for two weeks. As a supervisor, with many new deployers, he focused on mentoring the group to ensure they were ready to step into their jobs once quarantine was over. Part of the group’s responsibility was the vehicle inspection pit; they processed around 500 vehicles every day. The base they were located on is currently building up. Local authorities limited off base activities most of the deployment. When COVID was diagnosed on base, the base locked down all social areas, including the gym. TSgt Clark lauded the group of mostly new deployers, saying they adapted to the environment and worked well with the local personnel ensuring the mission was accomplished. He also shared how proud he was to be part of the Red Tail Squadron, the 332 dating back to the Tuskegee Airmen provided unparalleled support to the mission. He also thanked MVMAA for all the support provided to the 178th personnel.

**Check Presentation announcements**

Toni Overholser briefly discussed the mission of MVMAA and shared the sources of income for the organization are the annual golf outing and membership dues. She announced the presentation of the Golf Outing Checks. The Fisher/Nightingale house received a check for $4,943 (almost $150,000.00 since the organization started supporting them). The First Sergeants Council received a check for $2,118 ($16,000.00 since 2018). This year three additional organizations were nominated and approved to receive a $250.00 donation: The Junior Force Council, the Dorm Council and the Rising 6 Organization to assist them as they support the Airmen.

**BUSINESS**

Dan Semsel started the business portion of the meeting by asking Steve Goeman to report on the financial health of the organization. The Treasurer’s Report, 2021 Budget Proposal and October board meeting minutes were emailed out to the membership in advance of the meeting. Steve reported 2020 has been a challenging year. MVMAA has maintained a goal of having $20,000.00 in the bank at the end of the year. This year will close out with $24,000.00 in the checking account. We have a robust $16,000.00 in the Foundation account administered by Greene Giving.

*MOTION TO APPROVE November Treasurer’s Report and the 2021 Budget Proposal: Cassie Barlow, Woody Stroud Seconded, Motion PASSED.*

Steve Goeman reiterated Toni’s report on a major funding source being from membership dues. As we close out the 2020 membership year, there are 137 paid annual members, 10 Life members 17 Charter members and 12 honorary members. Steve reported 2021 membership renewals are starting to come in. The membership will be receiving a reminder soon to renew your membership.

*MOTION TO APPROVE the October Board of Trustees Minutes: Cassie Barlow, Paul Newman, Jr., Second. PASSED.*

**Presentation of the Winkler/Martin Memorial Award** –Rebecca Westlake shared the history of the Winkler/Martin Award. She and Sara Lommatzsch had the opportunity to present this year’s award to Holly Beard in Bellbrook last Sunday with her family present. Holly recorded her thanks, which was shared with the group online.

**Outgoing President’s Remarks:** President Dan Semsel thanked everyone for taking time from their busy lives to come online for the meeting. He said he started this year wanting to expand outreach to ensure longevity of this organization. February was the last face to face board meeting. COVID presented unique challenges to the organization, but we overcame each challenge. Thanks to Toni for getting the virtual platforms so we could continue our business virtually. Kudos to Holly for her flexibility and perseverance with the Golf Outing. Her capable planning allowed the golf outing to go forward as soon as it was possible. She did an amazing job. COVID derailed most of the plans set out early in the year, but we still found ways to impact the community we support. 2020 was not the year Dan expected, but we still overcame the challenges and provided support.

**Swearing in of the 2021 MVMAA Executive Board**

**President** – Toni Overholser

**President Elect** – Rebecca Westlake

**Vice President** - TBD

**Treasurer** – Steve Goeman

**Secretary** – Lin Stokes-Crowe

**Past President** – Dan Semsel

All members repeated the Oath of Office and were sworn to serve for 2021.

**Incoming President’s Remarks:** President Toni Overholser thanked the new board for their willingness to serve the organization. She thanked Dan Semsel for his leadership over the past year. She said she assumes the mantle of president understanding that it may be another challenging year. She looks forward to meeting with the board and the membership, although it may continue to be a virtual meeting at least for the next couple of months. She is looking forward to supporting our military community. She thanked Clark State for their ongoing support as we moved to a virtual format. She thanked Dr. Jo Blondin, who would have been hosting this meeting at Clark State this year for her ongoing support of the organization. She said tomorrow is Veterans Day, as Dan previously stated; thank you to all our veterans and their families for all they sacrifice to keep our nation safe. She thanked everyone for being online with us tonight.

**Closing Comments**

Rick Whitaker recognized Woody Stroud for his recent write-up in the paper for his ongoing community support.

**Meeting adjourned at 1853 hours, 6:53 p.m.**

**The next Board of Trustees meeting will be 12 January 20201.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Lin Stokes-Crowe