

MIAMI VALLEY MILITARY AFFAIRS ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING - MINUTES

12 September 2023

The Board of Trustees of the MVMAA met Tuesday, 12 September 2023 at the Dayton Chamber, 8 N. Main Street, Suite 100, Dayton, OH. President Susy Himelhoch called the meeting to order at 1530 hrs (3:30 pm).

Pledge of Allegiance

Trustees in Attendance: Marie Battle, Susy Himelhoch, Tony Colussi, Brian Jarvis, Katie Lewallen, Rebecca Westlake, Chad Boone, Carolyn Destefani, Lauren Kincer, Tom Kirsch, Mike Mayer, Toni Overholser, John McCance, Phil Parker, Candy Prystaloski, Donna Saraga, Woody Stroud.

DOD: Col Edward W. Hale III, 445th AW, Maintenance Group Commander; Col Travis Pond, 88th Air Base Wing, Deputy Commander

Liaisons: Gina Franz, USO; MSgt Adrian Galcik, First Sergeants Council; Lexi Heironimus, Junion Force Council; Ms. Kimberly Luse, Fisher-Nightingale Houses

Guests: Chris Kirschner, President of Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, Jacque Fisher, MVMAA member

Welcome and Introductions: President Himelhoch welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves. She thanked Phil Parker, Co-chair of the Citizen Legion of Honor nomination review committee, for his part in reviewing candidates for the 2023 Citizen Legion of Honor award. Additionally, she thanked the MVMAA members who wrote letters of endorsement for Dr. Cassie Barlow.

Chris Kirschner stated that the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce (DAACC) wanted to make an open space for the business community in Dec 2019 and to have a collaborative space to bring people together. He stated that the DACC has a military advocacy group and discussed the role the chamber has played in supporting the military, legislatively. He explained the footprint of the Dayton region and the 14 counties that are represented. They advocate for what is right for the business committee in the area and advocate for the area annually at the state level in Columbus. President Himelhoch thanked Mr. Kirschner for his hospitality and gave him an MVMAA coin.

BASE COMMANDERS' REPORTS

445 AW – Col Hale stated that they have been busy the last few months participating in many different exercises such as the “steel buckeye” with the Pittsburg Air Reserve Wing and air medical staging and evacuation training. They participated in ‘patriot medic’, an AF reserve exercise; Razor Talen in North Carolina, and worked with the 4th Fighter Wing to practice agile combat employment fighting from different islands with the intent to complicate targeting potential adversaries may have. This gave them the opportunity to work with and against red air and blue air to try and abate them. They are supporting Grissom Air Base as their runway has been closed for the last few months. Since Covid they have been able to do annual tours; this is important to get people off of Wright Patt and get them overseas. They can't replicate the pace that happens overseas and it helps for personnel to understand what that is like. They recently held a family day. This is a big deal as they represent 40 states and they do not always get people involved the way they can be on active duty. They get to tour the wing and facilities. They don't always get to celebrate the families like that.

88th Air Base Wing - Col Pond stated they are preparing for the USAF Marathon this coming weekend. The next open house is Oct. 12; it is the 96th anniversary of the opening of Wright Field. They will have a Wright Flier and a band there. The CFC campaign is underway. The hospital is trying to expand VA care, as a lot of retired military are on base, and getting downtown to the hospital is not easy. They are no longer issuing civilian retiree ID cards; civilian retirees' "Real ID" driver's license will be utilized for base entry however the ID must first be on record with Pass & ID.

MVMAA LIAISONS

First Sergeants Council – MSgt Adrienne Galcik stated their primary job is taking care of airman and their families. They partner with the Fisher House and are working with them on beautification.

Fisher Nightingale Houses – Kimberly Luse, FNHI Executive Director, invited attendees to tour the Fisher Houses. The #1 house on base is being taken offline beginning next week through March 2024, as they will be refurbishing bathrooms and kitchens. The annual All-American gala is pushed back to May 18, 2024. It will be at Sinclair Community College. She stated that all of the proceeds from the Trans Am Cruise-In at the Fairfield Mall came to Fisher-House. They tried to supply volunteers and are always looking to do that. She wants to connect with the chambers and talk with them about partnerships to build a group of people they can educate and show them what they do and become evangelists for Fisher House and volunteering. This will also help to create those who can become future board members.

Junior Force Council – Lexi Heironimus stated that this past year they had 150 participate in the Young Guns and Old Pistols; the old pistols won!! They are excited to help out with the Air Force Marathon as they will run a hydration station. The leadership symposium is happening on October 12 and Col. Pond will be speaking at that event, 104 people are signed up now and the MVMAA has helped to double that. They still have 96 spots open, but have only advertised for 5 days.

USO – Gina Franz stated this past weekend at the 445th they were onsite to help out with food. She stated the Dayton Art Institute is now a Blue Star museum allowing military families to get in free from Memorial Day to Labor Day. She stated they had a military family dinner in partnership with Bob Evans Farms.

CHAMBER REPORTS *All chamber reports can be obtained through their respective links.*

Beavercreek (Wendy Rodgers) www.beavercreekchamber.org

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek (Carolyn Destefani) <http://bellbrooksugarcreekchamber.org/> **Present**

Dayton (Woody Stroud) www.daytonchamber.org/ **Present**

Fairborn (Tom Kirsch) <http://fairborn.com/> **Present**

Greater Springfield Partnership (Mike McDorman) <https://www.greaterspringfield.com>

Kettering/Moraine/Oakwood (Anthony Colussi) <http://www.kmo-coc.org/> **Present**

Lewisburg (Dennis Roberts) <https://lewisburgchamber.com>

Riverside (Sara Lommatzsch) <http://www.riversiechamber.com/>

South Metro (Julia Maxton) <http://www.smrccoc.org/>

Spring Valley (Judy Madden) www.springvalleyoh.com

Trotwood (Marie Battle) <http://trotwoodchamber.org/> **Present**

Vandalia-Butler (Nick Kavaslauskas) <https://vandaliabutlerchamber.org/>

Waynesville (Rick Whitaker) www.waynesvilleohio.com/

Xenia (Donna Saraga) <http://www.xacc.com/> **Present**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Events: President Himelhoch, pro-tem for Brenda Baker, stated that the 2023 Citizen Legion of Honor Award recipient is Dr. Cassie Barlow. The ceremony will take place on Thursday, October 5, 2023, at the Dayton Convention Center with a VIP reception from 10:30 – 11:15 a.m. and the luncheon/ceremony

from 11:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. Registration is \$25 for MVMAA members. She also stated that the MVMAA Annual Dinner meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at the Walnut Grove Country Club in Riverside, OH. Meet and Greet begins at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m. followed by the program. Cost for the event is \$40/person. Registration is available on the MVMAA site from October 2 – November 3. A save-the-date e-mail notification is scheduled for September 14 followed by an email invitation on October 2 and a reminder on October 27. She thanked Brenda Baker for working with Walnut Grove to keep the per-person cost the same as in 2021 and 2022. President Himelhoch thanked Patti Phillips for her efforts and assistance with Cassie Barlow’s application package. She brought a copy of the application, including all 18 letters of endorsement. Phil Parker, CLoH Awards Committee Co-chair stated that the application submitted by MVMAA for Dr. Barlow was the best his committee had ever received.

Golf Outing: Mr. Tony Colussi reported that the finances for the 2023 Bob Chiles Classic will soon be finalized. Estimated proceeds were as follows: First Sergeant’s Council, \$3,200; and Fisher-Nightingale House, \$7,600. President Himelhoch stated that, going forward, MVMAA should hold sponsors to deadlines for receipt of payments.

Historian: Ms. Westlake reported that organizing the Association history files is a work in progress. She brought the first binder to the meeting, which contained 1980 to 1981 history for all to preview. She is also developing a history timeline of first and major association events. After all binders are built, they will be donated to Wright State University library to be digitized archived. Ms. Westlake added that she is developing an onboarding manual for all board members. An in-person, onboarding training is being planned for Tuesday, November 28, with time and location TBD.

Marketing/Communications: No report. An email was received from Mr. Anderson stating that the event tab for the Annual Membership Meeting will be up and running by September 29, 2023. Everyone will be able to RSVP on the site with the ability to pay via credit/debit card as well. The site will be available until November 2, 2023.

Membership: Mr. Brian Jarvis presented the report for Dr. Cassie Barlow: 101 Annual Members, 5 Corporate, 17 Lifetime, 12 5-Year, 16 Charter, and 12 Honorary. For the upcoming membership drive for 2024, they are working on several options:

1. A Cox Media Group email campaign - They can help us reach 50K people for \$1500. We would tell them the demographics (age, gender, retired status, etc...) we want to reach and they will generate the list and send it out for us. We’ll get statistics from them on people engaging with the email....i.e. clicking to our membership site. We’ll also then own the list. We’re looking for sponsors (corporate, individual, chambers, etc.) to help us pay for this expense.
2. Develop an email to send to previous members to engage them to join.
3. Send an email to all chambers that they can then forward to their members. In 1981, the 88th ABW sent a letter to local chambers to ask them to join this new organization (MVMAA) that is in support of military members. Whether or not they can get the base commander to sign this, they still would like to send the email to the chambers.

Military/Family Outreach: Mr. John McCance reported that he is working with WPAFB’s USO Center to identify dates for upcoming events.

Social Media: Ms. Lauren Kincer stated in her report that Facebook is currently the only platform MVMAA is using for social media posts. There are 332 followers; she has a goal to increase by 50 more followers by the end of 2023. She asked that members like and share posts. She added in August, Wright-Patt Credit Union was honored by being named the 2022 United States Air Force Distinguished Credit Union Service Award. This is a win not only for the member centers on the installation but all of the partner employees throughout the organization.

Ms. Toni Overholser, Vice-President of Advancement at Clark State College mentioned that Clark State recently received a special designation as a top ten military-spouse friendly school ranking third in the nation. They offer a 50 percent reduced tuition rate to all active duty, reserve, Ohio National Guard, and their spouses.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS: President Himelhoch presented certificates of appreciation to Cathy Hutton and Jon Larrabee for their years of service, most recently serving as Members-At-Large for the last three years on the MVMAA Board of Trustees. She thanked Col. Pond for the MVMAA's base access being renewed. She added that she had received information indicating that, although the current membership count is significantly higher than in recent years, it is not an all-time high since the early 2000s. President Himelhoch reminded members that most committees need volunteers and highlighted the Bob Chiles Golf Event (sponsorships), the Events committee (greeters; event/meeting set-up), and Marketing (develop an electronic newsletter). She asked attendees to provide MVMAA with an area to store items as the cost to store items is approximately \$700/year. Phil Parker stated he would check with the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce. President Himelhoch added that they are still seeking candidates to serve as MVMAA Secretary and Assistant Secretary.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: President Himelhoch stated that the bylaws are a work in progress. After reviewing comments and suggestions regarding the most recently proposed amendments, it is best to incorporate additional information and conduct a more in-depth review of the document to ensure consistency.

NEW BUSINESS: Ms. Westlake proposed the creation of a Bylaws Committee and asked for a volunteer to chair Bylaws. Toni Overholser moved, seconded by Woody Stroud, to create the Bylaws Committee. All were in favor. **Motion carried.** Ms. Westlake mentioned that the Dayton Development Coalition has re-energized its Dayton Regional Military Collaborative (DRMC) and that both she and Brian Jarvis are serving on the advisory committee of the DRMC.

BUSINESS MEETING

MINUTES: Toni Overholser moved, seconded by Woody Stroud, to approve the minutes of 13 June 2023. All were in favor. **Motion carried.** Discussion was held about regarding updating/amending minutes.

FINANCE: Mr. Colussi summarized the June, July, and August financials. Financials were approved by vote.

OTHER BUSINESS:

NOMINATING: Ms. Westake presented the 2024 nominating slate: Brandon Creech, President; Brian Jarvis, President-Elect; Katie Lewallen, Vice President; Tony Colussi, Treasurer; Chad Boone, Assistant Treasurer; Susy Himelhoch, Immediate Past President. Toni Overholser moved, seconded by Phil Parker, to accept the 2024 nominating slate. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

The next meeting will be held on **14 November 2023, at 1730 hrs (5:30 pm) at Walnut Grove Country Club, 5050 Linden Avenue, Riverside, OH.**

Being that there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Lewallen
MVMAA Secretary