

# MIAMI VALLEY MILITARY AFFAIRS ASSOCIATION

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING - MINUTES

13 June 2023

The Board of Trustees of the MVMAA met Tuesday, 13 June 2023 at the Springfield-Beckley Air National Guard Base, 5319 Regula Avenue, Springfield, Ohio. President Susy Himelhoch called the meeting to order at 1445 hrs (2:45 pm).

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Trustees in Attendance:** Susy Himelhoch, Tony Colussi, Brandon Creech, Brian Jarvis, Katie Lewallen, Rebecca Westlake, Ralph Anderson, Amber Begley, Chad Boone, Carolyn Destefani, Lauren Kincer, Tom Kirsch, Sara Lommatzsch, John McCance, Phil Parker, Woody Stroud.

**DOD:** Col Kent Kazmaier, 178<sup>th</sup> Wing, Commander; Col Nate Day, 445<sup>th</sup> AW, Vice Commander; Col Phillip Warlick, 655<sup>th</sup> ISR Wing, Commander

**Liaisons:** MSgt Jason Vavro, First Sergeants Council; Chris Stanley, Fisher-Nightingale Houses

**Guests:** Karen Hunt, Kimberly Luse, Julie Warlick

**Welcome and Introductions:** President Himelhoch welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

### **BASE COMMANDERS' REPORTS**

**445 AW** – Col Day thanked the MVMAA for all they do for the military and for taking time out to come and understand what they are doing. He stated the primary job in reserves is to be ready; to be ready to fly out of the base, and ready looks a bit different for each organization. He stated that members of the group have gone out and helped underserved areas of Tennessee providing nearly 17,000 procedures.

**655 ISR Wing** – Col Warlick stated that they support a variety of intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance for the Air Force. They depend largely on the 445<sup>th</sup> for most of their infrastructure support and are at six other bases across the country. They are in the fight every day doing their ISR activity and dependent on local communities. He thanked the MVMAA for what they provide locally and those who travel into the area. Mrs. Warlick reported that she leads the key spouse program and makes sure a key spouse is in each squadron. They can check on family members if deployed or if a significant life event happens. They are to support that community.

### **MVMAA LIAISONS**

**First Sergeants Council** – MSgt Vavro stated there was a change in command for the AF mobility command First Sergeants. Chief Joslyn is now responsible for eight other bases. The 88<sup>th</sup> medical group switched from Alta to MHS Genesis, which has been like learning a brand new computer program. He stated that the Wright-Patt club has reopened and encouraged people who have access to come out. Col. Day added they have been doing Thursday lunches. MSgt Vavro thanked the MVMAA for support of their golf outing; \$3,500 was raised for supporting airman and guardians.

**Fisher Nightingale Houses** – Mr. Stanley introduced Ms. Kimberly Luse, FNHI Executive Director effective July 1, 2023. He stated his retirement dinner is Friday, 14 July 2023, at 1830 hours, social at the Memphis Belle in the WWII hangar, with dinner at 1915 hours in the Modern Flight Hangar. Invitations

have gone out, but it is open to whomever would like to attend; tickets are \$55 each. He stated that their houses are running at 50 percent occupancy. Both houses are open and operational. Occupancy for WPAFB and DVAMC Fisher Houses from 1 January to 31 May 2023 was 271 families (prior year comparisons: 273 in 2022, 189 in 2021; and 287 in 2020). He stated that there is need for a whole house generator for the Dayton VA, approximately a \$100K project; the generator has been ordered and awaiting delivery. Installation will most likely be in late 2023. He stated there would be no “All-American Evening” in 2023. The next event is being planned for May 2024. He thanked everyone for the support and relationships both personal and professional with MVMAA. President Himelhoch presented Mr. Stanley with an MVMAA coin, thanked him for his military service and years of service to our community through his dedication to our region’s Fisher Houses.

**USO** – Mr. McCance provided the report submitted by Ms. Gina Franz, USO Center Operations and Programs Manager. Special thanks went to Mr. McCance for organizing the Independence Day Bar-B-Q/Burger Burn for the military service members at Wright-Patt. The USO has been busy supporting a number of events and programs including Security Forces Police Week, Operation Science and Dandelion Club programs for military children, Coffee Connections programs for military spouses, a “Dinner and Show at the USO!”, and an evening program of “Puppies and Pizza”. Regular, monthly Friday night programming at the USO continues to include game nights, and both salsa dancing lessons and line dancing lessons. In July, they will host a “Special Delivery” baby shower for military moms. The USO center on base provides a relaxing space for service members and their families. They assisted with providing gifts and activities to help military kids celebrate Mother’s Day and Father’s Day.

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

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

**Dayton** (Woody Stroud) [www.daytonchamber.org/](http://www.daytonchamber.org/) **Present**

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

**Greater Springfield Partnership** (Horton Hobbs IV) <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/> **Present**

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

**Spring Valley** (Judy Madden) [www.springvalleyoh.com](http://www.springvalleyoh.com)

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

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

**Waynesville** (Rick Whitaker) [www.waynesvilleohio.com/](http://www.waynesvilleohio.com/)

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

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Events:** The next event for the MVMAA is the annual dinner. It will be held at the Walnut Grove Country Club on November 14, 2023.

**Golf Outing:** Mr. Colussi provided the report. He stated that most of the sponsorship is in, and the money is flowing the way it was expected. A vote will be taken in September for the distribution of funds followed by a presentation in November.

**Historian & Nominating:** Ms. Westlake stated that she and President Himelhoch sorted through boxes of papers from 1980 on. They put them in order and will get them in binders, which will then be sent to WSU to get digitized. She stated she has not been able to get out to people for onboarding but will put

together binders and get them to new members some time this summer. Regarding nominations, she stated all the major positions are filled; however, she would like to recruit more people for committees. Most of the time there is only one person on a committee. She will work with Dr. Barlow to send something out to the general membership to see what committee members are interested in serving on. This process will occur over the next several months. President Himelhoch asked any long-term members who have anything physical or digital to bring it so they can add it to the documentation and history.

**Marketing/Communications:** Mr. Anderson asked attendees to go to the website, MVMAA.org, and look at the information being provided. There is a lot of information on there and more to be added. He stated there was a good turnout for the admiral's luncheon. He was trying to make it an easy, abbreviated form online and was able to get the credit card issue cleared. He asked if there were any problems to let him know. He and Ms. Kincer will start to build a page for the annual meeting. President Himelhoch thanked them for their time and diligence in creating the form.

**Membership:** Mr. Brian Jarvis presented the report for Dr. Cassie Barlow: 97 Annual Members, 5 Corporate, 17 Lifetime, 12 5-Year, 16 Charter, and 12 Honorary. There has been good growth with six additional members.

**Military/Family Outreach:** John McCance stated he was working with Ms. Franz at the USO with the dorm council. These the the young people living in dorms at Kitty Hawk as the DOD Medical is at WPAFB. This is where they go for their service once out of basic training and is a target audience that could use some additional attention. Ms. Franz reached out to them, and they are interested in doing something closer to July 4. They have decided to purchase hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, and such and Mr. McCance will deliver it to them so they can come and go as they please. Ms. Franz would also like to partner with MVMAA for an event on 26 October 2023 similar to a grill out as Hershey's is donating a lot of chocolate to the young airman and first four. Mr. McCance stated they typically don't exceed \$250 on any event done at the USO. He thinks they will only use \$100 next week for the BurgerBurn. Mr. McCance stated he would purchase the items and submit receipts. The same process will happen for the October event. He stated the amount for both events is within his budget. Mr. McCance provided additional information about a shelter for military personnel waiting for an Uber. It had been determined to place the shelter in Fairborn and that no funds will be needed from MVMAA; however, they are getting the credit for the idea. He added that through Col. Meeker they are looking to open up the Wright-Patt Club to community organizations, which would include access to the base for golf, pool, officer's club, etc. Discussion was held on having people from the community involved across the region.

**Social Media:** Ms. Kincer stated that Michelle has stepped away as she recent had a baby. She stated she needs ideas for content and anything frm history to share or anything else can be sent to her directly. She would like more involvement from members. She added that it is a great tool to use to show the community what they are doing.

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS:** President Himelhoch thanked Col. Kazmaier for hosting the tour. She stated that the Presidents Club of Dayton held their annual Outstanding Club Member Breakfast on Thursday, May 11, and the Chambers from Fairborn and Riverside were recognized. MVMAA filled two tables at the event. She stated the Presidents Club Citizen Legion of Honor Award nominations were due May 31. This is the region's premier volunteer recognition honoring community servant leders for their unselfish dedication to the area and its people. MVMAA nominated Dr. Cassie Barlow; her nomination included 17 letters of endorsement. The awards ceremony will be held at the Dayton Convention Center on Thursday, October 5, 2023, at 11:30 am. President Himelhoch shared that membership is at an all-

time high since the early 2000s. She added that volunteers are requested for the Events, Marketing, and Social Media committees so they are not just 1-deep for each committee.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** President Himelhoch asked for the board to review the bylaws as they need to present them to the membership. Any comments on the proposed amendments should be sent to her by 23 June 2023. She stated they may be doing amendments to bylaws, annually. If there aren't any concerns or questions by 23 June 2023, then she will get them to the board for approval and from there they will send to the general membership. The amendments are enhancements to the bylaws that have been submitted by the board and membership.

**NEW BUSINESS:** President Himelhoch stated the only new business was the luncheon next week with the Rear Admiral in partnership with the Presidents Club. MVMAA has partnered with the Presidents Club for the event on June 20, 2023, from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at Sinclair Community College. She added that registration is closed, but anyone wishing to attend needs to let her know today. Cost is \$28/person, and she needed to know their lunch selection.

### **BUSINESS MEETING**

President Himelhoch stated there were not enough members in attendance to have a quorum so everything will be sent out electronically for a vote.

**MINUTES:** No changes were mentioned at the meeting.

**FINANCE:** Mr. Colussi summarized the March, April, and May financials. He stated they are supporting two, \$500 grants, one for Tech Sgt. and Staff Sgt. Release Parties and the other to the Top III. They did this last year and are supporting at the same levels this year, as budgeted. Ms. Westlake explained a release party – the day they release the names for those who have scored for promotion is when they have a party. There are two different parties. President Himelhoch stated that the luncheon next week at Sinclair, and the Presidents Club got the room fee waived, so the financials should not be adversely affected. Anyone wishing to attend the luncheon should let her know by today or tomorrow. The cost is \$28/person.

Discussion was held on the financial split with the Bob Chiles Golf Outing and the Presidents Club.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** The next meeting will be held on **12 September 2023, at 1530 hrs (3:30 pm) hosted by the Dayton Chamber, 8 N. Main Street, Suite 100, Dayton, OH.**

Being that there was no further business, at 1608 hours (4:08 pm), Ms. Sara Lommatzsch moved, seconded by Ms. Rebecca Westlake, to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Lewallen  
MVMAA Secretary