**MIAMI VALLEY MILITARY AFFAIRS ASSOCIATION**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING - MINUTES**

9 January 2024

The Board of Trustees of the MVMAA met Tuesday, 9 January 2024 at the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Chamber of Commerce, 2090 Ferry Road, Sugarcreek Township, OH. President Brandon Creech called the meeting to order at 1800 hrs (6:00 pm).

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Trustees in Attendance:** Ralph Anderson, Cassie Barlow, Amber Begley, Chad Boone, Tony Colussi, Brandon Creech, Carolyn Destefani, Gina Franz, Kesha Harper, Susy Himelhoch, Brian Jarvis, Lauren Kincer, Tom Kirsch, Katie Lewallen, Sara Lommatzsch, Judy Madden, Mike Mayer, Patti Phillips, Donna Saraga, Woody Stroud, Rebecca Westlake, and Rick Whitaker

**DOD:** Col Travis Pond, 88 ABW, Interim Commander; Col Phillip Warlick, 655th ISR, Commander; Col Matthew Muha, 445 AW, Deputy Commander

**Liaisons**: Shevon Barnes, JFC; Keith Christian, JFC; Brittany Sommers-Woods, JFC; Erik Oberg, USO

**Welcome and Introductions:** President Creech swore in Gina Franz to serve as the MVMAA Secretary for 2024. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the executive board members.

**Guests**: Jodi Puterbaugh, Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Chamber Representative

Ms. Jodi Puterbaugh provided the history of Bellbrook, community make-up and involvement, schools and military involvement, new areas in the community, and points of interests/landmarks

President Creech thanked Ms. Puterbaugh for her presentation and hospitality and gave her an MVMAA coin.

**BASE COMMANDERS’ REPORTS:**

**88 ABW –** Col Travis Pond stated that the base mission continues. It is a two-year cycle of commanders, and someone will be coming in around spring to summer. He added that a new three-year lifecycle management is in command. They have need for space and the Air Force is making a lot of changes. With all the partnerships, he appreciates the continued support.

**445AW –** Col Matthew Muha stated he came from the Pentagon. He is a part-timer but is on orders. He is working at the research laboratory in Act III – Artificial Intelligence and is looking to tie his wing into Col. Pond’s organization.

**665 ISR** – Col Phillip Warlick stated he moved here last year and loves living on base and engaging with the community. He visits other locations and is on the road a lot. He is thankful for the MVMAA and it support.

**MVMAA Liaisons:**

**Junior Force Council –** Ms. Sommers-Woods stated they have begun planning for two big events this year – health and wellness, and the networking competition. She stated The Young Guns vs. Old Pistols will take place in April. The past president, Lexi Heironimus, is planning the leadership symposium for 12 September 2024. She thanked the MVMAA for their donation as this helped to make their 2023 symposium a success. They were able to have 11 sessions at the symposium.

**USO –** Mr. Oberg stated they had a successful year in 2023 at the USO. He stated in 2023 over 13,200 service members visited the center to take advantage of the amenities, 19,000 attended programs at the center organized by the USO or third parties (Wright-Patt community organizations) that make use of their space. He stated they supported the 88th military squadron at Wright-Patt in the annual Thanksgiving Potluck. They were the facility host for the cookie drive last year and it was a huge success and great partnership. They held a deployed family’s dinner in December, a special event a week before the holidays. They held an annual children’s holiday party and had 180 kids and 140 adults. The theme was “Reindeer Games” and they are thankful to the Dayton Elks Lodge and Centerville for their partnership. He added they have continuing partnerships with Boonshoft Museum and the MVMAA.

**CHAMBER REPORTS:**

**Beavercreek** (Wendy Rodgers) <https://beavercreekchamber.org/>

**Bellbrook** (Holly Beard) <http://bellbrooksugarcreekchamber.org/>

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

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

**Huber Heights** (Mark Bruns) <http://huberheightschamber.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** (Dwayne Adams) <http://www.smrcoc.org/>

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

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

**Vandalia-Butler** (Will Roberts) <https://vandaliabutlerchamber.org/>

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

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**By-Laws:** Mr. Mayer stated he was chairing the By-Laws review and welcomed any committee members and/or ideas to be submitted to him.

**Events:**  Ms. Himelhoch stated she provided the MVMAA upcoming events on a small sheet of paper at each seat and asked those in attendance to mark their calendars. The events included: the 44th Annual Bob Chiles Golf Classic, the 11 June 2024 Meet & Greet at the 88th ABW, the Navy Week reception during the week of 17 Juen 2024, and the MVMAA annual dinner meeting on 12 November 2024.

**Historian:** Ms. Westlake asked if anyone walking in after the briefing to make sure they get their binder, sign for it, and maintain it to pass along to their successors. She stated she is creating binders for the history of the MVMAA for Wright State University so that they can scan them and keep the history.

**Marketing/Communications:**  Mr. Anderson stated the website has grown in activity this year. It handled a lot of the golf outing through the site. He stated they paid $81 last year to use the square, and it gives them a good trail on knowing where the money is coming from. He added that the cost to run the website is $369/year. He asked for pictures of more recent events so that he can create a photo gallery on the website and that he would like to tie this in with Facebook and social media. He stated that there is a button on the site to contact him to send pictures and information. He stated that he has some historical photos of events along with newsletters. Ms. Westlake requested copies of those for the historian records.

**Membership:** Dr.Cassie Barlow stated there is a long way to go on memberships. Currently the membership is as follows: 25 annuals, 17 lifetimes, 5 corporate, 13 Five-year, 16 Charter, and 12 Honorary members. She reminded everyone to renew their membership; $35 is a low price, and the money goes to really good organizations.

**Social Media**: Ms. Kincer stated they have 357 Facebook followers and have more followers on LinkedIn, but it has not been updated for years. She asked Ms. Phillips if there was access to LinkedIn as she would like to work on that.

**PRESIDENT’S REMARKS:** President Creech presented Immediate Past President Susy Himelhoch with a certificate for her work and dedication to the MVMAA. He stated that the Dorm Council was presented with a $500 grant in December 2023 by President Elect Jarvis. He stated that most committees need volunteers, including Golf, Events, Marketing, and an Assistant Secretary. He encouraged those present to renew their membership if they have not already done so and encouraged new members to join. He requested chambers to provide a list of their members who may be interested in joining MVMAA. He explained that a letter would be sent out by Cassie Barlow, Membership Chair. This is similar to how MVMAA first attracted members in early 1980, although the ask letter was sent from the 88th ABW Commander at that time and resulted in 384 members. He asked those in attendance to share any community events with him that the executive board could attend so that they could spread the word about MVMAA.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** There was no unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There was no new business.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**MINUTES:** Ms. Lewallen presented the minutes of the 14 November 2023 Annual Meeting. Cassie Barlow moved, seconded by Donna Saraga, to approve the minutes. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

**FINANCE:** Mr. Colussi presented the report stating that it was back to what it had been as is still projected as a $3,000 deficit, but that is fine. They are above $20,000 and feels they can keep going. Donna Sarage moved, seconded by Cassie Barlow, to approve the financial report. All were in favor. **Motion carried.** Mr. Colussi presented the budget for 2024. Patti Phillips moved, seconded by Rebecca Westlake, to approve the budget. All were in favor. **Motion carried.** Mr. Colussi stated that he would file the 990 in the next few weeks.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** President Creechstated that with the new name badges board members had two options: keep track of them themselves, or leave them with Gina to bring to the meetings. He provided the information on the next meeting - **9 April 2024, at 1800 hrs (6:00 pm) hosted by the Xenia Area Chamber of Commerce, Greene County Media Room, 541 Ledbetter Road, Xenia, OH.**

Being that there was no further business, at 1917 hours (7:17 p.m.), Patti Phillips moved, seconded by Carolyn Destafani, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Lewallen

MVMAA Secretary