

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS
FEBRUARY 13, 2016
FT JACKSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

1. Meeting called to order at 1015.
2. Prayers and Pledge of Allegiance completed.
3. Introduction of Congressman Joe Wilson and Mr. Bill Dukes, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army.
4. Chapters present: Columbia, Piedmont, Grand Strand, Aiken, Hilton Head, Keowee, Low Country.
5. Executive board present: David Lobb, Bill Koehler, Dale Ellenburg, Pam Durham, Tom Robillard, Warren Benson, Ed Burns, Richard Palmer
6. Congressman Wilson conducted the ceremony to induct the newly elected Board of Officers
7. Congressman Wilson had a few remarks:
 - The budget arrived that week, and now they have to go through it.
 - He talked about the current atmosphere in Washington these days.
 - * Military is the smallest that it has been in years.
 - * The old feelings were about “communism” and how we would approach it in the future----now the feelings are of “liberalism” and anything is game and they say “why not”.
 - Told us of his experiences in Bulgaria and how, that now, they are part of NATO and also a part of “us”. We never imagined that this could happen and we would be on the same side.
 - Addressed a bit about bombings and the administration’s feeling about the U.S. In general.
 - Addressed the widow’s tax.
8. Then Mr. Bill Dukes addressed the group:
 - February is Black History month.
 - The budget—proposals are to support Ft Jackson.

- There is a CODEL (Congressional Delegation) coming to Ft Jackson to observe the situations.
- Army wants to grow Ft Jackson.
- There are different programs in partnership with schools and Ft Jackson.
- VA Health Administration and Moncreith are cooperating in their programs.
- 100th anniversary of Ft Jackson on June 18th. There will be an Army Ball.
- The state employment system offers many employment to retired enlisted people.

9. Treasurer's Report:

- Pam needs updated list of chapter officers. It is important to keep the list current with her.
- The proposed budget includes coffee and donuts for the quarterly meetings.
- Discussion about insurance for the council. Suggested that an expert in the Aiken Chapter take a look at this and determine what the cost would be.
- We are currently listed as an "inc" is it better to be an "llc"?
- A motion was made to eliminate the costs in the budget for the coffee and donuts. It passed and the budget will be amended.
- Motion made to accept the budget with the amendment and passed
- Budget will be \$350 in the red for 2017

10. Discussion followed about the Charleston Chapter and their returning to the Council. We discussed the personalities who were involved and their objections which were unfounded.

11. Tom Robillard gave us the latest information about HR3147. He met with the state committee and will do so again in March. He will keep us updated.

12. Low Country reported on the conference. Made money and it was a great conference.

13. Next conference in 2017 anyone interested?

14. Chapter Reports:

- Aiken: Only had a very short report
- Grand Strand: Hosted a golf tournament and Gen Livingston from Charleston came for their membership drive.

- Hilton Head: Officers installation done by the MOAA National Chaplain. Had a garage sale fund raiser. Spouses have really helped. VAMC invited Mike to be on the VSO advisory board.
- Keowee: Working with their local chapter Navy League
- Low Country: Trying to set up a fund raiser with all the veteran organizations participating to highlight the area.
- Piedmont: Working hard to get a larger footprint within the local community.
- Coordinating with Spartanburg to participate in Operation Stand-Down
- Revitalizing the veterans council of all organizations.
- New VHA Clinic in Anderson.
- Howard Stammerjohn working with them to get a tour of the facility.
- In contact with Congressman Duncan in Upstate to become more educated about military issues.
- Have started conference calls about 2-3 times a year about military issues.

15. Board Comments:

- Dave: He has new business cards (which are very nice).
- Bill: Has visited chapters and has expressed greetings from the council and appreciation for their good works.
- Tom: Good to see newsletters from other chapters.
- Would it be possible to put those on the webpage?
- Dale: Congratulations to low country for the outstanding efforts in membership
- Dick: Gave the Webmaster Report.

16. Next meeting will be May 14, 2016

17. Adjourned at 1250 hrs

Respectfully Submitted,

Edward J. Burns III Colonel USAF (ret)
Secretary