

20241218 SSBC Board Meeting Minutes- 6:15pm Bluestone Restaurant

Attendance: George Stakias, Frank Hilsher, Bill Gray, Rita Kurek, Randy Everett, Vickie Maas, Mike Spencer, Mike DeHaemer

Unable to attend: Chuck Rishell, JoAnne Paull

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** from Oct 3, 2024, Board Meeting-minutes distributed by Secretary/Treasurer Rita Kurek prior to meeting for review, approved unanimously.

2. **Treasurer's Report** (Rita Kurek)-Rita reported that the bank balance as of 12/18/2024 was \$5453.56. Two checks were written today to Frank Hilsher for the Army Guides at \$1176.90 and to Rita Kurek for \$224.72 for ticket printing costs for the paws4vets event. Balance after those checks will be \$4051.94. Rita distributed Treasurer's Reports for October & November 2024 and copies of the corresponding PNC bank statements prior to the meeting and both were approved. They will be posted to the website. The check for \$20,000 to the paws4vets Foundation was cashed but no recognition letter has been received as yet. All donations by members for the paws4vets throughout the year were included in that amount. One late contribution for \$50.00 was received from a non-member and will be paid to the foundation at the end of the year. Randy Everett commented that he appreciated the transparency and clarity of these reports.

3. **Secretary's Report** (Rita Kurek)-Rita reported that one reminder email was sent out on 10/17/2024 for the paws4vets event. Email correspondence was sent to the Board members following the paws4vets event regarding the \$20,000 proceeds raised. This information will be sent out to the general membership in the next newsletter.

4. **Discussion 60th anniversary SSBC Chapter Dinner-Jan 22, 2025** (George Stakias/Mike DeHaemer)

George & Mike both received Citations from the Governor. George requested the MOAA Citation and Mike is pursuing the Major and County Executive for Citations. Mike gave them a 1/10/2025 deadline. Frank Hilsher reported that the Loyola ROTC will provide the Color Guard and Rita will check with USAA for the \$300 contribution for their meals. Vickie Maas will order and bring the sheet cake; Mike Spencer will bring the Ceremonial Sword donated by Wally Dann for the cake cutting. Mike will provide a recording for the National Anthem and Chaplain Ted Knach will provide the Invocation & Benediction. Ceremonial Toasts will be provided for each service by Vickie Maas (AF) Mike Spencer (Navy) and Randy Everett (Army). Randy will also put together the Fallen Soldier's Table and read the description of its meaning. Cathy Hampton, who will be the new MD Council President by then, will be invited to give remarks and introduce the speaker. Mike DeHaemer will put together the brochure for the evening. He asked all Board members to email him with highlights from the last 10 years. George will contact MOAA to see if we can get the medals for the 5 Level LOE Awards received for 2023 so

they can be pinned on the flag banner that evening. He also reported that he made a request for the Adjutant General, MG Janine Birkhead to be the speaker at the meeting. He has not received confirmation to date. Randy made a Motion to approve the printing of the brochure up to \$300, motion seconded and passed. Mike Spencer made a Motion to approve the ordering of the FSK Busts given to speakers at the estimated \$600 cost but not to exceed \$800, motion seconded and approved. Mike DeHaemer will order the minimum 24 required and see if the company still has our original template to save on costs.

- **Board Meeting Dates for 2025** were set: **3/12, 5/7, 7/23, 10/8 and 12/10**

- **Dinner Meeting/Event Dates for 2025** were set: **1/22, 4/16, 9/10, 11/12**. A possible June event was discussed to coincide with the Army 250th Anniversary or tagging on to the ROTC Staff Ride to Gettysburg. Randy Everett will check into this possibility to include SSBC carpooling, \$20 movie & Cyclorama and lunch at the Visitor's Center.

5. Final Update on paws4vets fundraiser -10/26/2024 (Rita Kurek)- Rita distributed a final tally of the Income & Expense report for the paws4vets Bull, Shrimp & Oyster Roast event held at Columbus Gardens prior to the meeting via email. Total income from the event was \$29,349.72. Expenses were \$9349.72 for a Net of \$20,000. The check was mailed to the paws4vets Foundation on 11/18/2024 and was cashed. No letter of recognition has been received to date. Rita contacted Randy Powers at the Foundation and asked if we qualified to name another dog and he said he would pursue that very likely possibility. Randy, however, has been dealing with some health issues and no response has been received. Rita left a message with the Foundation in the event Randy was unable to respond but still has not heard from them. She will continue to follow up on it. The Board voted to hold the event every other year due to the amount of work it is to coordinate so the next date voted on is for April 25, 2026. Everyone was pleased with the venue and the food and would like to have it there again.

6. Chapter committee updates

Legislative (Bill Gray)- Bill reported that the items indicated by the MD Coalition at last session did NOT pass. The 2025 Legislative Goals are again to include the elimination of the age restriction & tax on military retirement and to prohibit companies from charging veterans for claims unless the business is accredited by the US Veterans Administration. These are both refiles from the 2024 legislation. A new initiative includes expediting licensure for health professions like dentists, physicians & EMS' for spouses of uniformed service members through interstate licensure compacts (ie reciprocity). Bill reported that National MOAA is supporting raising the age to 26 (from 23) for the Tricare Young Adult Coverage Gap to be in line with commercial plan coverages.

Membership (Bill Gray)-Bill reported he is still trying to update our files with National MOAA. His recruiting efforts for SSBC is at a standstill but now that the General Legislative Session is over he will have more time to pursue these efforts. Randy volunteered to help Bill with recruiting ideas.

ROTC (Frank Hilsher)- Frank reported there was a lot of Cadre turnover in all the ROTC programs this year and that scholarships were cut and therefore cadet totals are down, especially at Morgan. Loyola & Hopkins programs are ok and he anticipates 60 commissioning's. He ordered 60 Army Officer Guides and bookplates so we are good for the spring ceremonies.

7. New business

--Discussion of fundraising opportunities:

a.) Board decided to continue paws4vets events but every other year. Rita will continue as Chairperson.

-- Find new Secretary or Treasurer-Rita stated she would like to have someone else take over one of these responsibilities. She will talk to John Dyer. The other possibility is for her to continue with both since she anticipates retirement this year from her full time job. No decision was made.

- Find new JROTC Chairperson- Randy Everett stated he will think about doing this.

-- Mike DeHaemer volunteered to contact Karen Seybold to see if she is interested in Surviving Spouse duties again since JoAnne's participation in Board & General meetings was nil this year. Rita tried to reach out to JoAnne via email and phone to attend this meeting but no response.

Action Items:

George Stakias- Contact MOAA for 2023 5 Level LOE medals

-Secure Speaker for 1/22/25 meeting

- Contact Cathy Hampton, invite to 1/22 dinner meeting for remarks & Speaker introduction

Mike DeHaemer- Secure Citations from Major/ County Exec,

Prepare & print brochure

Order FSK Busts

Contact Karen Seybold for Surviving Spouse

National Anthem recording for 1/22 meeting

Frank Hilsher- Secure Loyola ROTC Color Guard for 1/22 meeting

Mike Spencer- Bring Sword to 1/22 meeting

Prepare Navy Ceremonial Toast for 1/22 meeting

Vickie Maas- Order/bring cake for 1/22 meeting

Prepare AF Ceremonial Toast for 1/22 meeting

Randy Everett- Prepare Fallen Soldier Table/Reading for 1/22 meeting

Prepare Army Ceremonial Toast for 1/22 meeting

Help Bill Gray with recruiting

Consider JROTC duties

Check on SSBC participation in Gettysburg Staff Ride

Rita Kurek- Newsletter, Contact paws4vets for Dog Naming, post reports to website,

Contact USAA for ROTC contribution, contact John Dyer