

20250507 SSBC Board Meeting Minutes- Zoom 7:30pm

Attendance: George Stakias, Rita Kurek, Randy Everett, Frank Hilsher, Bill Gray

Unable to attend: Vickie Maas, Mike Spencer, Chuck Rishell, JoAnn Paull (past President Mike DeHaemer -resigned from Board)

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: March 12, 2025, Board Meeting-minutes distributed by Secretary/Treasurer Rita Kurek prior to meeting for review, approved unanimously.

2. President's Update (George Stakias)- Upcoming dinner meeting May 28th, sent report for 1st Qtr to Maryland Council of Chapters. Received 2024 award for Communications & website 5 Level (Cathy Hampton presented the award at the OCS event). The Chapter award is still pending. Chapter will break for the summer in June-July-Aug except for one Board meeting.

2. Treasurer's Report (Rita Kurek)-Rita reported that the bank balance as of 5/6/2025 was \$3821.79. Rita distributed Treasurer's Reports for March/April 2025, and a copy of the corresponding PNC bank statement dated 5/6/2025 prior to the meeting and all were approved. They will now be posted to the website. Rita reported that the \$500 deposit check for Columbus Gardens was sent on 4/29/2025 and has not cleared as yet. The Board approved expense for the Website Administrator, Joe Leonard, for yearly subscription of \$409 was paid. She also sent the check to the MD Council for our yearly membership contribution of \$46.

3. Secretary's Report (Rita Kurek)-Rita reported that the March newsletter that was distributed on 3/10/2025 was updated with the rescheduled Dinner Meeting date of 5/28/2025 and redistributed.

5. Chapter Committee Updates

Legislative (Bill Gray)- MOAA Coalition is working on which bills can be stressed for the next legislative session. Some bills for job reciprocity did pass except for Social Workers. The bill giving preference to military spouses did pass.

Membership (Bill Gray)-Still checking with MOAA to update and coordinate members records. Rita reported we currently have 36 Active members, Bill agreed to make calls to members who recently did not renew before we de-activate them. Randy Everett asked if we had a Chapter brochure. Bill Gray stated that we did have a membership brochure which would need to be updated and he would look for a copy.

ROTC/JROTC (Frank Hilsher)- Frank reported that two out of the three PMS are leaving again this year. He has completed all the awards & decs for the ROTC programs. He will attend Morgan's luncheon & commissioning on 15 May 2025 and Loyola on 22 May 2025. There was a reduction in NG cadets this year so 58 AOGs will be distributed, leaving 22 for Dec. Frank reported that there was an excess of Army commissioned

officers and that ROTC scholarships are being cut. Chuck Rishell will present the JROTC MOAA Award at Franklin HS and John Backer will present at Baltimore Polytechnic HS. Randy Everett declined to take over the JROTC program due to job staff ride obligations at the same time of year. We still need a member to take over the JROTC program! George offered to ask one of the Paolucci brothers to take over the program.

6. Old business

-- Next dinner Meeting rescheduled to 5/28/2025. The Gettysburg staff ride was conducted on 4/22/25 but unfortunately no SSBC members were able to attend. Randy Everett did talk to the cadets from Loyola and the subsequent staff ride with Hopkins about joining MOAA. Randy offered to do any format we might be interested in at Gettysburg or Antietam or the Battle of Baltimore solely for our Chapter.

--**250th Army Anniversary-Army Museum-** Randy checked out the Army Museum for programs. He stated that there are exhibits, interactive programs and military dedicated events for which we would qualify -there is a calendar online to look up the events if we're interested.

--**Defenders Day-Sep 7, 2025-**Randy stated he was not sure if there was an event this year. He offered to go to Ft. McHenry and check it out.

-- George Stakias & Rita Kurek, along with Council President Cathy Hampton attended the Our Community Salutes (OCS) event on 4/28/25 at Greektown Square. There were 75 HS grads who were going directly into the military being honored. Mary Bubala, WBFF Fox News anchor was the Emcee and Command Sgt Major Michele Jones, the first female CSM of any Army Component was one of the keynote speakers.

--George mentioned again that there will be officer vacancies come September, including him stepping down from the Presidency.

7. New Business

-- Speakers are needed for the Sep and Nov meetings. Randy suggested Julie Shively, Glenn Williams, Frank Arminger or Joe Balkoski who could all speak on a topic related to the Army 250th Anniversary. He will contact them with their availability.

--**paws4vets-** Rita mentioned that the information was in the newsletter about the "Puppy Shower" for our new puppy Stella, which gave several ways of donating to the paws4vets cause this year since we will not have another event until April 2026. So far only 2 contributions have been made. Rita will encourage members at the dinner meeting on 5/28/25 to take another look at the newsletter.

Action Items:

George Stakias- Recruit JROTC Chairperson (one of Paolucci's?), new folks for September elections

Randy Everett- Visit Ft. McHenry for possible Defender's Day event in September

Bill Gray-Coordinate MOAA membership records with our Chapter, call members who did not pay dues to encourage continuance with the Chapter, look for previous Chapter brochure for possible update

Frank Hilsher -attend ROTC Events, send pix to Rita

- Future Board Meeting Dates for 2025: **7/7 (note change)**, 10/8 and 12/10

- Future Dinner Meeting/Event Dates for 2025: 9/10, 11/12.