



United States Army
Warrant Officers Association
Southeastern Region

P.O. Box 720185
Orlando, Florida 32872-0185

Minutes of 17 June 2006 Meeting

1. Call to Order:

The June meeting of the Southeastern Region was called to order at 1030 hours on the above date at the Jonesboro VFW with the following present:

Bob Arms, Atlanta Chapter
Percy Butler, Assistant VP, WOA
Brian Callaway, Swamp Fox Chapter
Jackie Gaddis, Rising Eagle Chapter

Dick Sauer - Florida Sunshine Chapter
Art Wiechert, Atlanta Chapter
Judy Wiechert, Atlanta Chapter

The pledge of allegiance was led by Brian Callaway and the invocation was offered by Dick Sauer, who advised of the status of Region Director Bob Lee and prayed for his health.

2. Chapter Round Table:

- A. Bob Arms advised that the **Atlanta Chapter** has corrected significant procedural issues to get its status on post reestablished, with new by-laws completed and recertification pending. Participation is declining, with seven members the most likely to attend a meeting. Financially, the chapter is in good shape, with \$2,700 in the bank, most of it coming from sales of coins, shirts, and hats. The chapter will have a representative at the annual meeting and will offer memorabilia for sale there. Efforts are underway to stimulate more participation in chapter activities.
- B. Jacky Gaddis advised that the **Montgomery Chapter** also usual has no more than seven people attending meetings. The chapter president was mobilized and the vice president has stepped up to the president's role. The golf tournament was postponed due to lack of participation and other commitments; the chapter will try again to conduct it in the July-August time frame. Jackie is grooming a junior warrant officer with whom she has close contact, and he is working on annual meeting needs.

- C. Bryan Callaway reported that the **Swamp Fox Chapter** has found more success via informal warrant officer lunches at which the attendance of the senior warrants on post attracts others. The lunches are not chapter meetings, *per se*, but chapter business is dealt with at them, and this works well. There were 15 in attendance at the last meeting. He hopes to get a general officer or the post commander out to one of their sessions and to invite Percy Butler. Bob noted that there may be hope for revitalizing the Rucker chapter, as the individual who was hindering it is leaving. Bob plans to send out an e-mail urging everyone to write to the powers that be in Washington to support the targeted pay raise presently being proposed in Congress. He also proposed putting together a "How-To" book based on the experience of those who have run WOA in the past—how to set up the AMM and numerous other WOA-related activities. No other activities currently are planned due to lack of involvement, but efforts are being made to get more involvement. A senior CWO is coming to Fort Jackson who will help, and Brian speaks regularly to the warrant officer basic and advanced course classes. Efforts are made to retain those warrant officers lost at the end of the free year received upon appointment.
- D. Dick Sauer reported that the **Florida Sunshine Chapter** has elected new officers, with Mac McInnis now president, Don Hoskins vice president, Bob Lee treasurer, and Dick secretary. The chapter had a good meeting the previous week with Percy Butler, and it is gearing up for the AMM in St. Petersburg.
- E. Percy Butler also noted his participation in the Florida Chapter meeting, and he spoke about leadership and the importance of senior warrants setting the example. He noted the disparity between military-designated retirement disability and VA disability ratings. The individual retired by the military for disability is not awarded combat-related disability pay as is the retiree with a VA disability rating. This can cost the individual a great deal. Percy plans to bring this disparity to the attention of Congress. He also noted the importance of having a current will, citing examples of problems that developed when people died without one.

3. Old Business:

- A. In the absence of a Fort Gordon representative, the name of the individual who will head the ballot committee from that chapter could not be ascertained. This will have to be accomplished via phone contact with Gordon.
- B. Brian will chair the proxy committee, and it was agreed that national will be asked to print the proxies so as to call for member number, printed name, and chapter (or at large). The forms should contain instructions that they be sent to Dick Sauer at P.O. Box 720185; Orlando, FL 32872-0185. Dick will forward them regularly to Brian via priority mail until Brian leaves for St. Petersburg; thereafter Dick can give them to him at St. Pete. This will prevent any proxies

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being missed as they might be if mailed directly to Brian and didn't get to his address before he left.

- C. It was agreed to purchase the metal coffee mug with tapered bottom for auto mug holders. 150 are to be purchased, with only the rising eagle engraved. Art will get printed a clear sticker which can be placed on the other sign indicating the Annual Meeting of the Members, St. Petersburg, 2006. These then can be attached to the mugs given to attendees, but mugs left over can then be sold without the sticker.
- D. Jackie said that thus far she has gotten a commitment from the Tesla Corp to sponsor breaks. They wish to set up at display at the meeting. She sent the original letters out in April and will sent another one shortly to prospective sponsors.
- E. Percy hopes to get sponsorship from Quad-A; Atlanta will endeavor to contact all chapters for raffle items.
- F. Dick reviewed the progress Bob Lee has made to date, noting the meal choices, the costs of the various activities, and the draft of the registration form soon to be on the web and in the next *Newsliner*.
- G. A lead person for the golf tournament still needs to be recruited.
- H. The next regional meeting will take place at the AMM site, the Hilton Hotel in St. Petersburg, at 1115, Saturday, 9 September. An overnight room there can be arranged for \$99 by contacting Bob Lee.

4. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 1155.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Sauer
Deputy Director