

## **Military Chaplains Association (MCA)**

**Minutes of National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting held May 1-2, 2018  
NCO Club Fort Jackson, South Carolina.**

**Tuesday May 1**

**Present:** MCA Officers: Mike Langston (President), Bob Hicks (Treasurer), Ken Ruppar (Secretary)

NEC Members: Dave DeDonato, Hayden Goodwin, Matt Woodbery

**MCA Staff:** Razz Waff (Executive Director), Lyman Smith (Communications Director)

Guests: Tuesday/Wednesday: Sam Boone, Allen Raines   Wednesday: Brian Bohlman, Donnie Hayes, Bill Griffin

President Mike Langston called the meeting to order at 0910.

Sam lead the NEC in the Pledge of Allegiance and Matt offered the invocation.

Mike Langston welcomed Razz Waff as the Executive Director and then acknowledged Lyman's past work and his new staff assignment as Communications Director.

Razz offered some introductory comments.

The NEC then began following the outline of the proposed agenda.

J. National Institute

The discussion concerning the next National Institute reviewed the items as listed on the agenda outline. The institute will be at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel in Arlington, VA. [The schedule in more detail was discussed at the end of the meeting.]

## A. NEC meeting on Monday November 5.

## B. General meeting on Tuesday November 6.

C. Awards banquet on Tuesday November 6 at 1800.

D. Annual business meeting, Memorial Service and keynote address likely will all

be on Wednesday November 7.

#### E. Luncheon on Wednesday to acknowledge Emerson status.

F Theme: "Chaplaincy in a post-truth world." Other themes suggested which work better in a seminar were 1. sexual exploitation and 2. diversity issues.

A brief discussion took place about how MCA might get timely information about deceased chaplains.

A discussion about the Emerson lunch helped clarify that we may need something different this year as we may not have any new Emerson contributors this year.

## II. Membership: Who Do We Represent?

49 The NEC discussed at length the similarities and differences in organizations and  
50 memberships representing a variety of chaplain programs such as various law  
51 enforcement chaplaincies, State Guard chaplains, Coast Guard Auxiliary, Federal Bureau  
52 of Prisons, and others. We also noted that while law enforcement chaplains have a  
53 significant organization in the International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC) we  
54 could seek to get former military chaplains in ICPC to also join MCA if they have not  
55 done so.

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57 Mike indicated that there is a need for changes to our Constitution and By-Laws to permit  
58 bringing other groups into MCA and expand our membership outreach. As background,  
59 Mike shared a change the SC Chapter did to its documents regarding membership for the  
60 State Guard chaplains. These chaplains are now considered eligible as Associate  
61 Members.

63 We discussed a need to make some changes in the MCA governing documents and then  
64 publishing the changes in preparation for a vote on them at the next annual meeting.

66 It was Moved, Seconded and Approved “that the President appoint a committee to  
67 consider changes to the MCA governing documents which will allow the chaplains  
68 of State Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary and other Federal Chaplain programs to  
69 affiliate as regular members of MCA.”

71 Mike appointed Hayden, Ken and Dave for this committee. Dave will serve as the  
72 chair and Lyman will be a primary resource. Results are due back at a conference  
73 call in August.

75 Discussion of membership status of support personnel and for finding a way we might  
76 choose to honor a support person.

78 **It was Moved, Seconded and Approved “that the President appoint a committee to**  
79 **consider changes to the governing documents in order to allow support personnel to**  
80 **affiliate as regular members of MCA.”**

82 Mike asked the previously appointed committee (Dave, Hayden and Ken) to make a  
83 recommendation on this.

86 11:30 break for lunch.

89 The NEC Meeting resumed at 1343. We continued with the published meeting agenda.

## IV. Chapter Reboot

The NEC opened discussion about chapters. The consensus was to focus on a few key areas such as San Diego, San Antonio and Washington D.C. and try these as test sites to set up new effective chapters. **Mike asked Bob Hicks to head up a Chapter Reboot Committee and asked Matt and Hayden to serve on this with Lyman serving as a resource person.**

Lyman indicated that getting flag bearers for ceremonies (e.g. Memorial Day and Veterans Day) at Arlington National Cemetery has been difficult in recent years.

### III. Finances

At 1415 Tom Grim, investment advisor with Wells Fargo Advisors came to present and discuss our investment portfolio. He explained the asset allocations and suggestions about rebalancing to meet current objectives and consideration of changing the guidance to permit increased risk.

Following the discussion, it was Moved, Seconded and Approved to ask the Finance Committee to consider rebalancing the portfolio.

Following the investment discussion Lyman Smith presented the financial report and answered questions about the report. Some highlights:

1. Expenses were reduced in 2017 because of the change in office rent (6% reduction) and the lack of funds to pay staff salary (58% reduction)
2. We did increase scholarship expense last year.
3. The journal only had 3 issues in 2017 and we are looking for 5 in 2018.
4. Our internet cost increased in 2017 due to redesign work
5. Net income was minus \$29,000 in 2016 and minus \$28,000 in 2017.

1540 – 1600 Mike introduced a special guest, MG Thomas S. Mullikin, Commander of the SC State Guard and President of the State Guard Association of the US. (SGAUS). MG Mullikin spoke about the role of state guards for the 23 states that have this volunteer program.

1630 NEC in recess until Wednesday morning. Members of NEC were invited to join local MOAA folk for an evening cruise on Lake Murray.

Wednesday May 2, 2018

0900 NEC meeting called to order by President Mike Langston.

Razz opened a discussion about assisting congregations to become more veteran/military friendly. He invited Everett Price by phone to share information about the Brothers of St. Andrew to consider partnering with MCA. One suggestion was to at least share website links on our sites.

139 Another resource discussed was HC4V.weebly.com connected to the National Guard  
140 Partners in Care Program. This program might also help a local MCA chapter get  
141 motivated to help others.

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143 **Matt agreed to partner as MCA contact with Everett Price on this issue. He will**  
144 **lead a committee with Donnie Hayes, Ron Skaggs, Clifton Montgomery. He will**  
145 **also contact Phil Clark.**

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147 At 0946 we discussed an update on the Professional Military Chaplaincy program.  
148 Jan McCormick and Razz and Mike will attend the APC annual conference in Anaheim,  
149 CA this summer.

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## 152 **VI Professional Military Mentoring**

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154 Mike gave an overview of how this started and the current status. The SC chapter started  
155 the Mentoring program and it still functions well. Currently this involves students at  
156 Denver Seminary and at Columbia International University (CIU). Jan McCormack is  
157 the contact at Denver and Mike Langston at CIU.

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159 Clark McGriff is completing a doctoral project on this program and following completion  
160 of his degree work will run this program for MCA.

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162 The issue of the Army sponsored women's conference this summer in MD came up.  
163 **Mike will contact Jan McCormack about this and also ask Clarke McGriff to**  
164 **contact Loraine Potter who will keynote the conference.**

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## 167 **XI Strategic Partners**

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169 Partner with other organizations to keep MCA visible and viable. Some suggested  
170 organizations were: NCMAF (endorsers), MOAA, USACCRA (Army regimental  
171 association), and the Military Coalition in Washington, D.C. Brief mention was made  
172 about other groups such as YWAM, OCF and Navigators.

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## **VIII Electronic Presence**

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176 Suggestion to hire a new webmaster, Jeff Baker of Greenville, SC.  
177 **It was Moved, Seconded and Approved to hire Shoes Optional (Jeff Baker) for our**  
178 **webmaster.**

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Social media: Looking for committee members.

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## Other Issues:

Recognition of NCO Club: Sam Boone raised the idea of giving an MCA certificate to the Fort Jackson NCO Club in recognition of its support for our meetings. **Lyman will create it and Sam will handle the framing and presentation.**

## Officers of MCA

The VP position is vacant, and Mike is appointing Dave DeDonato to this role. Dave is willing to stand for election in November.

**It was Moved, Seconded and Approved to affirm the appointment of Dave DeDonato as Vice President.**

Following a discussion of other vacancies on the NEC and Finance Committee it was **Moved, Seconded and Approved to affirm the president's appointment of Brian Bohlman and Ken Colton to the NEC and Allen Raines to the Finance Committee.**<sup>1</sup>

There are three openings on the NEC ballot this November. As we look for candidates the consensus was to seek candidates in the areas identified for new chapters, e.g. San Diego, San Antonio and Washington D.C.

## The *Military Chaplain* journal

Following Mike's departure at 1100 we discussed the journal. Ken and Bob offered a suggestion on a book review committee and process. This included a cadre of folks who commit to writing a review within 30-45 days after receiving a book, contacting publishers and authors, and considering some books for just "briefly noted" write-ups in the journal while others get a longer review.

It was suggested that this be part of the journal committee responsibilities. The need for a committee was discussed but no committee identified as yet. Part of the committee's work would be to find articles, such as those written by attendees at the various War colleges. Lyman asked the NEC to send him 2 names of persons for consideration as part of the Journal Committee.

Lyman shared some information about the journal: the mailing list includes about 3000 addresses such as chaplain offices around the world, endorsing agents, MCA members, military coalition members, theological schools, supporters of the MCA and the branch chaplain schools.

A further suggestion was to include abstracts where possible of selected papers from the war colleges and other sources.

<sup>1</sup> Following the meeting Mike received confirmation that Ken Colton and Allen Raines accepted their roles on the NEC and Finance Committee respectively.

229                   Writing award  
230                   The idea of an award for a writing project at the various chaplain schools  
231                   was raised as a way of involving currently serving chaplains.  
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233                   Institute Schedule  
234                   Prior to adjournment Razz asked Lyman to provide a sample schedule for  
235                   the November Institute. He suggested:  
236                   Monday 1300 NEC meeting  
237                   Dinner as a group for those interested.  
238                   Tuesday  
239                   0900-1000 first seminar  
240                   1000 break  
241                   1015-1115 second seminar  
242                   1130 – 1330 Lunch “on your own”  
243                   1330-1730 2 presentation on the conference theme  
244                   1830 Awards banquet  
245                   Wednesday  
246                   0830 Memorial Service  
247                   0900 Business meeting  
248                   1015 Keynote speaker followed by Q & A  
249                   1130 Lunch honoring contributors, supporters etc.  
250                   Adjournment after lunch  
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252                   USACCRA meets starting at 1700  
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256                   Executive Director Razz Waff adjourned the meeting at 1135.  
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259                   Respectfully Submitted,  
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262                   Kenneth M. Ruppar  
263                   CH (LTC), USA, Retired  
264                   Secretary