

1 **Military Chaplains Association (MCA)**

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

5
6 **Tuesday May 1**

7
8 **Present:** MCA Officers: Mike Langston (President), Bob Hicks (Treasurer), Ken
9 Rupp (Secretary)

10 NEC Members: Dave DeDonato, Hayden Goodwin, Matt Woodbery

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

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

15
16 President Mike Langston called the meeting to order at 0910.

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

18
19 Mike Langston welcomed Razz Waff as the Executive Director and then acknowledged
20 Lyman's past work and his new staff assignment as Communications Director.

21
22 Razz offered some introductory comments.

23
24 The NEC then began following the outline of the proposed agenda.

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26 **I. National Institute**

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

31 A. NEC meeting on Monday November 5.

32 B. General meeting on Tuesday November 6.

33 C. Awards banquet on Tuesday November 6 at 1800.

34 D. Annual business meeting, Memorial Service and keynote address likely will all
35 be on Wednesday November 7.

36 E. Luncheon on Wednesday to acknowledge Emerson status.

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

39
40 A brief discussion took place about how MCA might get timely information about
41 deceased chaplains.

42
43 A discussion about the Emerson lunch helped clarify that we may need something
44 different this year as we may not have any new Emerson contributors this year.

II. Membership: Who Do We Represent?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11:30 break for lunch.

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.

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

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

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

VI Professional Military Mentoring

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

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

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

XI Strategic Partners

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

VIII Electronic Presence

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

Social media: Looking for committee members.

185 **Other Issues:**

186
187 Recognition of NCO Club: Sam Boone raised the idea of giving an MCA
188 certificate to the Fort Jackson NCO Club in recognition of its support for our meetings.
189 **Lyman will create it and Sam will handle the framing and presentation.**

190
191 **Officers of MCA**

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

194
195 **It was Moved, Seconded and Approved to affirm the appointment of Dave**
196 **DeDonato as Vice President.**

197
198 Following a discussion of other vacancies on the NEC and Finance Committee it was
199 **Moved, Seconded and Approved to affirm the president's appointment of Brian**
200 **Bohlman and Ken Colton to the NEC and Allen Raines to the Finance Committee.**¹

201
202 There are three openings on the NEC ballot this November. As we look for candidates
203 the consensus was to seek candidates in the areas identified for new chapters, e.g. San
204 Diego, San Antonio and Washington D.C.

205
206 **The Military Chaplain journal**

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

212
213 It was suggested that this be part of the journal committee responsibilities. The need for
214 a committee was discussed but no committee identified as yet. Part of the committee's
215 work would be to find articles, such as those written by attendees at the various War
216 colleges. Lyman asked the NEC to send him 2 names of persons for consideration as part
217 of the Journal Committee.

218
219 Lyman shared some information about the journal: the mailing list includes about 3000
220 addresses such as chaplain offices around the world, endorsing agents, MCA members,
221 military coalition members, theological schools, supporters of the MCA and the branch
222 chaplain schools.

223
224 A further suggestion was to include abstracts where possible of selected papers from the
225 war colleges and other sources.

226
227
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¹ 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.
232
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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258
259 Respectfully Submitted,
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261
262 Kenneth M. Ruppar
263 CH (LTC), USA, Retired
264 Secretary