

**SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**  
**BOARD OF OFFICERS, DIRECTORS & SPECIAL STAFF**  
**Video/Teleconference Meeting Minutes**  
**17 Feb 2022**

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- I. CALL TO ORDER: *1114 PST* President Godshall
- II. ROLL CALL: *President Godshall, VP Taylor, Secretary Jensen, Treasurer Devon, Director McClure, Director Padgett, Director Rivero, Director Haase, Director Whitt*
- III. INTRODUCTION OF GUEST: *Bonnie Cooper, Linda Leavitt, Ray Frovarp, Joe Wilson, Jim Day, Ivan Davis*
- IV. BUSINESS MEETING:
- A. Regular Business:
1. Approval of agenda: *President Godshall called for a motion to approve. Director Padgett so moved, Director McClure seconded the motion which carried unanimously.*
  2. Approval of Minutes: (17 Nov 2021 & 20 Jan 2022) *President Godshall called for a motion to approve both sets of minutes. Director Whitt so moved, Director Padgett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.*
  3. Committee Reports
    - A. Financials – *Treasurer Devon reports that the SOA financial position is really good, relatively unchanged from December. Balance sheet shows \$343,700 in assets and \$7,500 in liabilities. The liability listed has been paid.*

*The P&L Statement show relatively little activity which is typical for January. Year over year shows a \$2,700 loss this year vs. \$4,700 loss for 2021.*

*Treasurer Devon asked that the SOAR XLV financial statements be included for discussion during the next BoD Meeting.*
    - B. Membership – *Chairman Wilson gave an overview of his submitted Membership Report (attached).*

*Chairman Wilson said that he had been invited to attend the 2022 SFA Convention in Colorado Springs, CO and asked for reimbursement for hotel expenses. President Godshall moved that Chairman Wilson be reimbursed for this expense. Director McClure seconded the motion. VP Taylor interjected that the SOA also has an approved milage reimbursement policy. He also stated that any convention attendance fees should also be included for reimbursement. Director Padgett moved that President Godshall's motion be tabled until next meeting pending when Chairman Wilson has generated a cost estimate. President Godshall seconded Director Padgett's motion which then carried unanimously.*

*Treasurer Devon addressed the Chairman's recommendation to continue the Membership Recruiting Ad in the SFA DROP at a cost of \$3,840 for the year. He said that this continuing cost is not sustainable, but likely a good investment as a follow-up*

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---

*to the joint SOAR/SFA Convention in 2021. VP Taylor moved to approve the expenditure. Director Padgett seconded the motion which carried unanimously.*

*Chairman Wilson closed out with a heartfelt thank you to the Frovarps, Bonnie Cooper, and Director Rivero.*

**B. Unfinished Business**

1. **SOA Agenda Item 2021.4.15.09:** Realignment of President and Vice President terms of office. *This issue has yet to be addressed by the Ad Hoc By-Laws Committee.*

*2021-8-19 – This item to be continued until 2022.*

*2022-1-20 – 2022-1-20 – President Godshall reports that JAG Luke Dove is working on a draft revision of the SOA By-laws.*

*2022-2-17 – By-Laws Chairman Dove has presented a draft revision of the By-Laws to President Godshall and VP Taylor. President Godshall directed Secretary Jensen to make this an action item for the 2022-3-17 BoD Meeting.*

2. **SOA Agenda Item 2021.11.17.07:** SOAR cancellation fee to cover costs

*At issue is the 2.8% credit card fee associated with each cancellation. Treasurer Devon said the vast majority of cancellations were due to medical issues and his is reluctant to impose a 'penalty' in such a circumstance. Director Padgett suggested a sliding scale.*

*Treasurer Devon asked that this item be held over to the next meeting in order to generate a formal proposal.*

*2022-2-17 – Treasurer Devon asked that item be continued until the 2022-3-17 BoD Meeting.*

3. **SOA Agenda Item 2022.1.20.01:** Consideration of Membership for Special Operations MOH recipients

*President Godshall stated that the issue arose at the funeral services for MOH recipient Gary Beikirch and opened the floor for discussion. Director McClure asked if this included SEALs, Force Recon, Air Commandos, etc. President Godshall said 'yes' in his view.*

*Director Padgett asked what category of membership? Ray Frovarp said that Honorary was the only category available and that there is precedence for this. Vice President Taylor expressed concern about starting down a slippery slope...what do we say to SF members that served along side the recipient during the action for which the MOH was awarded?*

*President Godshall directed that this item be revised to read Special Operations MOH recipients and be revisited at the next meeting with a list of all potential candidates.*

*2022-2-17 – Vice President Taylor reiterated his concern about starting down a slippery slope...what do we say to SF members that served alongside the recipient during the*

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---

*action for which the MOH was awarded? Honorary Membership for MOH recipient is a special SOA honor recognizing their accomplishment.*

*Director Padgett moved that MOH recipients be offered Honorary Membership in the SOA. Director Rivero seconded the motion. The ensuing discussion amended the motion to be “qualified MOH recipients”. In this context, ‘qualified’ means recipients listed in the most current USSOCOM Fact Book. President Godshall called the question to approve the motion as amended. The vote to approve was unanimous.*

**4. SOA Agenda Item 2022.1.20.05: Delete Annex R – SOA System Administrator**

*This was a recommendation by Chairman Worley who contends that this SOP has been superseded by the IT Committee SOP. Bonnie Cooper, and Ray and Ronnie Frovarp observed the IT Committee does not oversee the membership and registration computer programs and databases which are the heart of the SOA. Vice President Taylor suggested that they converse with Chairman Worley and develop a unified recommendation on how best to proceed.*

*2022-2-17 – See New Business Item 2022.2.17.04.*

**5. SOA Agenda Item 2022.1.20.06: Follow up on letter to Black Rifle Coffee**

*This refers to the matter of Black Rifle Coffee using the SOA logo on packaging. President Godshall said he would contact David Greene and Tom Cunningham regarding this matter and report back.*

*2022-2-17 – President Godshall has spoken to Tom Cunningham who was unaware of the issue. Mr. Cunningham will contact David Greene regarding the matter.*

**D. New Business**

**1. SOA Agenda Item 2022.2.17.01: Upgrade Billy Hoopes membership to General**

*This is a request by past President Meyer. The Membership Committee has reviewed Mr. Hoopes’ application and finds that by his own admission, he was just an “observer” and not a combatant which does not qualify him for general membership. VP Taylor said the committee’s findings should be shared with former President Meyer. And suggested that if he wishes to pursue this matter, he can assist Mr. Hoopes in reapplying with more justification for general membership. President Godshall said he would convey the Boards position to former President Meyer.*

**2. SOA Agenda Item 2022.2.17.02: Lessons Learned**

*This item has been added to the Agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting on 17 Mar.*

**3. SOA Agenda Item 2022.2.17.03: Nominate Ray Frovarp as Administrator of the Computer Systems. Confirm Ray Frovarp as Administrator as appropriate.**

*President Godshall moved that Ray Frovarp be approved as Administrator of the Computer System. Director Padgett seconded the motion which carried unanimously.*

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---

4. **SOA Agenda Item 2022.2.17.04:** Approve revised Annex R – Computer Systems Administrator

*VP Taylor moved to approve Annex R. Director Haase seconded the motion which passed unanimously.*

5. **SOA Agenda Item 2022.2.17.05:** Approve unattended remote assist service AnyDesk

*AnyDesk is a software application that facilitates remote access to unattended computers such as membership and registration. Remote access to tended computers is currently accomplished using Windows 10 Remote Assist. It is unclear if this feature is available in Windows 11. The estimated cost is roughly \$20 per month.*

*President Godshall called for a motion to approve this expenditure. Director Padgett so moved, Director Rivero seconded the motion which carried unanimously.*

6. **SOA Agenda Item 2022.2.17.06:** Discuss potential Estate Donation

*Director Rivero stated that he is in contact with an SOA member who wishes to leave his estate to the SOA. In light of the fact that there is an ex-wife and estranged children, the potential donor is looking for assistance in creating an airtight will.*

*President Godshall recommended reaching out to the membership to see if there are any lawyers or accountants with a background in estate planning. He also expressed concern about letting too much time lapse without action in this matter. Director Rivero will provide contact info to President Godshall.*

7. **SOA Agenda Item 2022.2.17.07:** Confirm SOAR dates for 2023, '24, '25

*Treasurer Devon made a motion to confirm SOAR dates as the third week of October through 2025. President Godshall seconded the motion which carried unanimously.*

8. **SOA Agenda Item 2022.2.17.08:** Approve revised Annex I – Tally Committee

*VP Taylor moved to approve Annex I. Director Rivero seconded the motion which passed unanimously.*

9. **SOA Agenda Item 2022.2.17.09:** Explore Congressional Gold Medal for MACV-SOG

*Former SOA Board member Jim Day gave an presentation on the Congressional Gold Medal and opined that the MACV-SOG mission surely warranted an award of this distinguished medal.*

*It takes 2/3 of the House of Representative and the U.S. Senate to approve such an award. It is believed that an introduction by an SF qualified member of congress would enhance the chances for congressional authorization.*

*Mr. Day will do additional research, including finds, and report back at the next BoD Meeting scheduled for 17 Mar. Secretary Jensen will distribute the Congressional Research Service report Congressional Gold Medals: Background, Legislative Process, and Issues Congress dated 10 Jan 2022 to all meeting attendees.*

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E. Good of the order:

**President Godshall –**

- *A letter has gone out to the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs inviting him to speak at SOAR XLVI on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>.*
- *Was in attendance at MG Singlaub's memorial service. The funeral will be at ANC some time this summer. He will attend the ANC services as well. SOAF ED Padgett said he will also be in attendance and that the Foundation will contribute to the reception following interment.*
- *Met with the 5<sup>th</sup> Group commander regarding the SOG display at the 5<sup>th</sup> Group Museum at Ft. Campbell.*

*The mannequins, Singlaub, Bargewell, and Howard, will likely be accompanied by an indigenous team member patterned after MG Ken Bowra's interrupter Bong. The SOG equipment reportedly stored in a warehouse at the JFK Special Warfare Museum has not been located. Donations of equipment and/or money from members, Bruce Christenson, and Jason Hardy will be sought to outfit the mannequins. Simon Gunning of Modern Forces is also a resource for equipment.*

*The goal is to have the display complete for the 5<sup>th</sup> Group reunion in September.*

- *Asked if there were any objections to asking the 5<sup>th</sup> Group Commander to be the keynote speaker at the SOAR banquet. None were raised.*

**Director Padgett -**

- *Looking to divest himself of ancillary SOA obligations in order to better serve the SOAF. He has approached Paul Longgear, an ordained minister, to assume the role of SOA Chaplain, and Dr. Mike Dwyer undertake the task of the SOA Health and Welfare briefing event at SOAR. Membership noted that Longgear has not been active in the Association since 2009.*

**Treasurer Devon –**

- *Made a motion to transfer \$500 from the SOA to the SOAFAC as seed money. President Godshall seconded the motion which carried unanimously.*

V. MEETING ADJOURNMENT: 1312 PST

Respectfully Submitted by

*Duffy Jensen*

Secretary, Special Operations Association

# Report to the Board of Directors

17 February 2022

## 2021 STATE OF THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

### I 2021 NEW MEMBERS

- A. 61 new records (all types), were added to the database
1. New records by type
    - 36 General (21 Post 911)
    - 13 Associate (10 Post 911)
    - 9 Honorary
    - 3 Widow
  2. Post 9/11 Members
    - a. 2021 – 31 Post 9/11 warriors were approved.
      - 2 are General Officers.
      - 5 attended SOAR 45.
    3. Since 1977, 184 Post 9/11 members have been approved.
      - a. 69 were approved 2020 - 2021.
        - Several have referred/sponsored other applicants.
        - 7 Post 9/11 members who joined between 2020 and 2021 attended SOAR 45.
        - 4 volunteered at the registration desk.
- B. Deceased Members
1. 213 members (all types) were reported deceased in 2021.
  2. 2022 YTD, 16 members have been reported deceased.
    - a. 14 were on the active roster.
    - b. 6 had attended a SOAR in the past 3-5 years.
- C. Annual Membership Renewals
1. 2021-22 renewals have been robust.
    - a. Annual members in the active roster.

#mbrs	Dues years
445	2022-2026
105	2020-2021
    - b. 30+ Changed status to life.

## **II ATTRITION**

### **A Deceased Members**

1. 213 members (all types) were reported deceased in 2021.
2. 2022 YTD, 16 members have been reported deceased, one from 2018.
  - a. 14 were on the active roster.
  - b. 6 had attended SOAR in the past 5 years.

### **B Reasons for High 2021 Reported Deceased Members**

1. Possibly some pandemic related.
2. In house research of Inactive Membership by Webmaster.
3. Many deaths not previously reported (as far back as 1986).

## **III MEMBER RECRUITMENT MARKETING PLAN**

- A. The recruitment plan was launched in 2020 emphasizing a redesigned website, online application process, recruiting print ads in the DROP, ACH, PRP and AAR publications, and an updated Facebook page.

On 1 May 2020, the first redesigned monthly newsletter was published. Prior to that time, the open rate averaged less than 40%. The current average is 65%.

- B. Positive outcomes of recruitment initiative:

- The quality and quantity of applications being received
  - Average processing time is less than 7 days.
- New post 911 members are referring/sponsoring others to join and volunteering.

- C. Recommendation to continue the ads in the DROP – \$3,840.

- Most new members stated on their application that they heard about the SOA through contacts in the military community – SOA/SFA friends, Chapter meetings, Podcasts, google searches, Facebook, etc.
- The Drop has a subscription of over 10,000.
- The 2022 SFA convention will be held in Colorado Springs, CO. Attendance at the Convention by Membership should result in membership applications.

I would also like to thank the SOA Webmaster, Bonnie Cooper, for her continued support and work in web-based recruiting efforts and in identifying deceased members and obtaining their obituaries.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joe Wilson, Membership Chairman