

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

- I. CALL TO ORDER: *1109 PDT/1400 EDT* 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, Ray Frovarp, Tilt Meyer, Jim Day, Rich Mullaney, Luke Dove, Steve Yevich, Ivan Davis*
- IV. BUSINESS MEETING:
- A. Regular Business:
1. Approval of agenda: *President Godshall called for a motion to approve the agenda, Director Padgett so moved, Director Rivero seconded the motion which carried unanimously.*
 2. Approval of Minutes: (17 Feb 2022) *President Godshall called for a motion to approve, Director Whitt so moved, Director Haase seconded the motion which carried unanimously.*
 3. Committee Reports
 - A. Financials - *Balance Sheet - very, very healthy 2021 and a substantially healthier 2022.*

P & L - shows a \$17,000 profit year to date which is due to increased donations and membership dues over 2021. He attributes these increases to a very successful SOAR XLV. Noted a significant drop in Quartermaster sales from 2021 SOG Knife sales. \$5,000 increased profit year over year.

Restricted Funds – every single fund is incredibly healthy. The SOA may struggle to find ways to spend the restricted funds going forward.
 - B. Brightlight Report – *Brightlight Committee Chairman Padgett reported that SOA member Ron Owens has agreed to Chair the committee.*

President Godshall called for a motion to approve Ron Owens as the new Brightlight Committee Chairman. Director Padgett so moved, Director McClure seconded the motion which carried unanimously.
 - C. Chaplain’s Report – *SOA Chaplain Padgett reported that SOA Dale Hanson has agreed to serve as the SOA Chaplain. The transition will take place during SOAR XLVI.*

Director Padgett moved that Dale Hanson be approved as the SOA Chaplain. Secretary Jensen seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

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C. Unfinished Business

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

Former SOA Board member Jim Day gave a 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.

2022-3-17 – Jim Day reached out to Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Oregon) on sponsorship. The Congressman replied twice. The first reply in pertinent part, “...we would need a strong Republican co-sponsor and vet groups would have to do a lot of work getting co-sponsors. You have to get 287 co-sponsors to move a bill like this in the environment and that is a huge challenge”. Second reply, “Not a lot gets through, generally way more nationally prominent than the MACVSOG’s incredible sacrifice which I know about because of you and my brother’s work. Let me know what you here back [from the BoD]”. Congressman DeFazio is retiring at the end of his term in November.

With one sponsor currently in hand, Mr. Day suggests that we put an article on MACVSOG in The Drop, VFW Magazine, and other various service publications asking members to contact their congressional delegation regarding sponsorship. He named Steve Cornacchia as a potential author. Secretary Jensen suggested John Plaster as another potential author due to his involvement with the SOG PUC.

President Godshall recommended a committee to further explore this matter. Former SOA President John Meyer suggested contacting Neil Thorne and Jim Moriarty as knowledgeable resources for exploratory efforts. Mr. Day will reach out to them as he moves forward with preliminary research.

VP Taylor identified Congressman Mike Waltz (R Fl) as a potential sponsor. Rep Waltz is a Col in the reserves.

2. **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.

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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. See New Business Item 2022.3.17.01 below

3. 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 he is reluctant to impose a 'penalty' in such a circumstance. Director Padgett suggested a sliding scale.

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

2022-3-17 – Treasurer Devon withdrew this matter from consideration.

4. 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.

2022-3-17 – Upon further review, it was determined that no copyright infringement has occurred. Director Padgett withdrew his objection to BRCC's use of the logo.

5. 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 donor contact info to President Godshall.

2022-3-17 – President Godshall reports that he has contacted the donor and strongly suggested he contact an estate planner. The donor said he would get back in touch with President Godshall.

D. New Business

1. SOA Agenda Item 2022.3.17.01: Review proposed By-Laws revision realigning the President and Vice President terms of office.

At the request of Vice President Taylor, SOA By-Laws Chairman Luke Dove presented a resolution to amend the by-laws to provide for staggered terms for the election of the president and vice president.

Former SOA President John Meyer counseled against the change, suggesting that leaving the current base election year the same would provide future presidential candidates with

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an opportunity to campaign on behalf of a vice presidential candidate deemed most appropriate by the presidential candidate.

Vice President Taylor moved that the Board approve the resolution as presented by the SOA By-Laws Chair Luke Dove. President Godshall called for a second which was provided by Director Padgett. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Taylor will provide the notification language for the PRP, SOA Website, and other outlets.

2. SOA Agenda Item 2022.3.17.02: Review Silent Auction Analysis

John Vislosky, author of the analysis, was unavailable and asked that this item be tabled until the next meeting. President Godshall asked for a motion to table. Director Padgett so moved, President Godshall seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

3. SOA Agenda Item 2022.3.17.03: Review Lessons Learned to include SOAR XLV financials

President Godshall and Treasurer Devon gave a quick overview of previously discussed items. Treasurer Devon addressed a SOAR event calendar being put together by SOAR Chairman Woodson and encouraged everyone to provide the Chairman with information pertaining to target dates for decisions/actions relative to the execution of SOAR.

4. SOA Agenda Item 2022.3.17.04: Review/Approve expense estimate for Membership Chairman Wilson's attendance at the 2022 SFA Convention in Colorado Springs

Chairman Wilson was unable to attend this meeting, therefore this matter was tabled until next meeting.

5. SOA Agenda Item 2022.3.17.05: Disposition of SOA Riders' trailer

SOA Riders Chairman Whitt recommends that the trailer donated to the Riders be registered to the Chairman of the SOA Riders. The insurance coverage is covered by the owner of the vehicle towing the trailer.

6. SOA Agenda Item 2022.3.17.06: IT Committee

Bonnie Cooper, SOA Website Administrator, asked for authorization to purchase back-up services for the SOA Website for a fee of approximately \$29 per month. VP Taylor so moved, Director McClure seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

7. SOA Agenda Item 2022.3.17.07: 5th Group Museum plan and fundraising

The current plan is to provide three mannequins, Eldon Bargewell, Bob Howard, and Bong, Ken Bowra's interpreter. The cost of the mannequins is approximately \$1,300 each. The gear for the individual mannequins estimated to be \$3,000 each, and the cost of replica weapons is estimated at \$400 each. The approximate total for the display is estimated at \$15,000 - \$20,000. The target date is to have the displays in place for the 5th Group reunion in September.

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The week of March 21, President Godshall and others will be meet with 5th Group personnel at Ft. Campbell to discuss fundraising. Potential donors are the SF Charitable Trust, Green Beret Foundation, Black Rifle Coffee. Rob Graham of Savage Game Design recommended that SGD's latest donation to the SOA be ear marked for this project. President Godshall will provide a report on fundraising issues following this meeting.

8. **SOA Agenda Item 2022.3.17.08:** USASOC Red & Black Ball 5 May 22

The USASOC Red & Black Ball is the event where the annual Singlaub Award is presented. President Godshall and his wife Cathy will represent the SOA at this event.

Secretary Jensen advised that he had just received from USASOC contact information for the first three recipients. He will reach out to all recipients to gather personal contact information for Honorary Membership in the SOA.

9. **SOA Agenda Item 2022.3.7.09:** POW/MIA D.C. Meeting 1 Apr 22

The Joint SOA/SFA POW/MIA Committee has been invited to National VFW Hq on April 1st. The purpose of the gathering is to put pressure on DPAA with respect to POW/MIA recovery operations. Neither Chairman Taylor, nor committee member Wade Ishimoto are able to attend. President Godshall will represent the committee.

10. **SOA Agenda Item 2022.3.17.10:** Proposed Brightlight Chairman and SOA Chaplain

See IV, A, 3, B & C above.

11. **SOA Agenda Item 2022.3.17.11:** George C. Morton Scholarship application evaluation

Chairman Yevich reported that a current SOA member in good standing inquired about a scholarship for a "granddaughter" with no legal tie. The member states that the applicant's mother was his stepdaughter since 1994 but declined adoption to retain her father's name. Per the Scholarship SOP, "Applicants must be natural or legally adopted children or grandchildren of an active SOA member...". The applicant is reportedly a 4.0 student.

A suggested solution by Chairman Yevich is that, with BoD approval, the applicant be allowed to apply while he revises the Annex J to accommodate these types of situations on a case-by-case basis of BoD approval. President Godshall offered an additional option that accepted an application, and if otherwise worthy of a grant, the funds from the SOAF might be made available. Director Padgett, Executive Director of the SOAF, said the SOAF would support such an option. VP Taylor stated that a thorough review of the By-Laws must be done to accommodate Chairman Yevich's proposal. A real-time review of the By-Laws by Bonnie Cooper and Secretary Jensen found no reference to scholarship eligibility. Treasurer Devon expressed concern about opening a Pandora's Box...if the SOA is willing to waive this requirement, what other requirements will be waived on a case-by-case basis going forward?

The SOA BoD directed Chairman Yevich to accept an application from the "granddaughter", and if she is above the cutoff point, the SOAF will be approached to fund her grant.

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E. Good of the order:

President Godshall –

- *Lindsey Butler, daughter of SOA founder Jim Butler, is putting together a DVD on RT Intruder for general consumption and in pursuit of an MOH for Cliff Newman. She is also preparing a more extensive DVD on SOG. She is looking for tax deductible entity for donations to expense the cost of these efforts. The projected costs are \$25,000 and \$100,000 respectively.*

VP Taylor relayed that the some of the people behind the effort to get Cliff's decoration upgraded are the SFCT. He has been contacted by Terry English, former Chairman of the SFCT, seeking eyewitness statements from people on the ground. VP Taylor does not see a role for the SOA in this matter and recommends Ms. Butler reach out to the SFCT. President Godshall will call Terry English.

- *Eldon Bargewell – the memorial park dedication has been postponed until Veteran's Day 2023. President Godshall reports that he received written communication from the organizer regarding the SOA's continued interest in providing a flagpole at the memorial park. He will share the communique with Director McClure for input on his reply and will reiterate the SOA's commitment to "help" with the flagpole feature.*

Rich Mallowney, Fundraising Chair –

- *Reports that SOG Specialty Knives & Tools, LLC has been sold. His contacts are no longer with the company. He is skeptical about the company's continued support of the SOA.*

Chas Fisher, who attended SOAR XLV, was very impressed with our organization and is now General Manager of Boker USA, an old German knife making company with a history dating back to the Civil War. Fisher has expressed an interest in supporting SOA, either monetarily, or through product. Rich likes the potential of a reproduction of the original SOG knife by Ben Baker.

- *The SOA is unable to contact the gentleman who won the 2020 AAR Texas Paterson Memorial reproduction pistol. Multiple attempts over the months since SOAR XLV, including conversations with his son, have been unsuccessful. With no definitive guidance in such matters, Rich is going to make one last email attempt at contact informing the winner that barring immediate contact, the pistol will be put up for the next raffle.*

Marcus Whitt, Chair of the SOA Riders –

- *Chairman Whitt advised that this year's SOA Riders event will be held June 8-11 in the vicinity of Morristown, Tn. This year's ride will feature a trip to the Wheels Through Time Motorcycle Museum in NC on the 9th, a visit to the Tennessee Air Museum on the 10th, and the traditional wreath laying on the 11th. Admission to both museums is gratis. Final note, another member has joined the SOA Riders, Michael Silars (Sp) of 6th Group.*

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Secretary Jensen –

- *Advised that given the transition to the electronic election process, no election ballot will be incorporated into the PRP. The ballot will be replaced with an advisory notice of the new election procedure. Mail-in ballots and return addressed envelopes will be mailed to members without an email address, whose emails bounce back, and those that specifically request one.*

Former President John Meyer –

- *When is Ron Owens expected to assume Chairmanship of the Brightlight Committee? Yesterday was President Godshall's reply. Departing Chairman Padgett will guide the transition.*

V. MEETING ADJOURNMENT: 1311 PDT/1411 EDT

Respectfully Submitted by

Duffy Jensen

Secretary, Special Operations Association