

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

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- I. CALL TO ORDER: *1119 PDT/1419 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, Linda Leavitt, Ray Frovarp, Ivan Davis, Jim Day, Joe Wilson, John Vislosky*
- IV. BUSINESS MEETING:
- A. Regular Business:
1. Approval of agenda: *President Godshall called for a motion to approve, Director Padgett so moved, Director Whitt seconded the motion which carried unanimously.*
  2. Approval of Minutes: (17 Mar 2022) *President Godshall asked for motion to approve, Director Rivero so moved, Director Padgett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.*
  3. Committee Reports
    - A. Financials – *Treasurer Devon reported that the balance sheet is fantastic, \$382,000 of liquid assets and no liabilities, a significant improvement in the year-over-year balance sheet.*

*P & L statement – Having a very good year. Revenues are up substantially, and profits are \$36,000 YTD vs. \$13,000 for 2021.*

*Restricted Funds – Every fund is in a very healthy and in a good position to carry out their mission for a very long time.*
- B. 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*

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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.

2022-4-21 - Jim Day reports things are moving forward. John Plaster is working on the verbiage for the actual bill. He anticipates it should be done early next week. This will be followed by a Zoom meeting to clean it up. Plaster has offered to donate 20 copies of his book "SOG Photo History of the Secret Wars" for distribution to congressional sponsors. Tilt Meyer has offered copies of his "Across the Fence" book for the same purpose. Lastly, MG (Ret) Bowra has joined the group pursuing this goal.

Mr. Day informed the aviators present that they would be included in this endeavor. Secretary Jensen advised Mr. Day of the fact that he has downloaded a copy of the congressional bill authorizing the Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the OSS. And, as an aviator, Secretary Jensen also noted that he has copies of the two General Order authorizing the Presidential Unit Citation to MAVCSOG...the first that included Army and Marine aviators, and the second that then excluded Army and Marine aviators. He will send these documents following the conclusion of the meeting.

**2. 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.

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*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.*

*2022-4-21 – No action since 2022-3-17. Director Rivero recommends letting the member come forward at a time of his choosing. Treasurer Devon recommended establishing a conversation between the member, the Treasurer, President Godshall, and Director Rivero when he comes forward again.*

*President Godshall commented that perhaps the SOA should become a bit more proactive in providing guidance to the membership in such matters.*

**3. 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.*

*2022-4-21- John Vislosky presented his prepared analysis which included two recommendations, the first is modify the existing silent auction to a raffle ticket format for each item, or second, eliminate the silent auction format and use the bid ticket items as stand-alone raffles. Following a lengthy discussion of the analysis, President Godshall proposed to adopt Proposal 2 of the executive summary which eliminates the silent action and replaces it with individual raffles for an array of high demand, high value items such as Glock firearms, etc. The raffle tickets will be sold as books of 10 for \$20. Any unsolicited items that arrive at SOAR will be given as door prizes following the GMM or the banquet.*

*Director Padgett moved that President Godshall's proposal be adopted, Director Rivero seconded the motion which carried unanimously.*

**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.*

*2022-4-21 – Chairman Wilson, be unfamiliar with SOA reimbursement policies, used the government travel reimbursement guidelines which equated to approximately \$2,300. He questioned whether or not attending the SFA Convention is worth the expense. Treasurer Devon stated that reimbursement for POV travel is currently limited to \$.25/mile. VP Taylor also mentioned that the SOA does not reimburse for meals and incidentals, travel and lodging only.*

*Director McClure made a motion to send Chairman Wilson to the SFA Convention. VP Taylor seconded the motion. President Godshall called for a discussion. VP Taylor asked how many attendees would be eligible for SOA membership. Former Membership Chairman Frovarp observed that many post 9/11 veterans would be eligible. He further mentioned that local SOA members may be willing to man an SOA table during the*

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*convention. Chairman Wilson opined that someone familiar with membership criteria would be a better presence. Director Haase stated that having Chairman Wilson present would be a good supplement to the SOA's advertisement in SFA's The Drop.*

*Following the discussion, President Godshall called for a vote on the motion, it carried unanimously.*

C. New Business

1. **SOA Agenda Item 2022.4.21.01:** Confirm AWM 2022-4-4, 5<sup>th</sup> Group Museum SOG Display fundraising

*President Godshall called for a motion to confirm AWM 2022-4-4. Director Padgett so moved, Director Haase seconded the motion which carried unanimously.*

2. **SOA Agenda Item 2022.4.21.02:** Discuss changes to SOA Website

*President Godshall stated that the submitted proposal contained so good ideas, but recommends these issues between himself and the IT Committee prior to bringing them before the BoD.*

3. **SOA Agenda Item 2022.4.21.03:** Discuss the disposition of VHP Interviews and membership and SOCOM access and security

*VHP Chairman Dennis Cummings reports that former SOA Systems Administrator Mo Worley has relinquished possession of the back-up hard drive containing VHP interviews. He and interviewer Lisa Allen now have all copies of the interviews. Cummings is seeking BoD guidance on the final disposition of the back-up hard drive.*

*Chairman Cummings also reports that he continues to work with SOCOM on getting SOG interviews archived on their classified servers. A MOU will need to be generated to outline SOCOM access and usage restrictions, as well as security issues.*

D. Good of the order:

**Registrar Ivan Davis** – *What is the anticipated date for finalizing the registration fees for SOAR XLVI? The new registration computer is coming online and will be awaiting the fee schedule before going live. President Godshall said he is working with Chuck Woodson, Phil Devon, and Dani Burris to schedule a meeting to finalize BEOs and any rate increases. The current schedule is late May. If the meeting goes much beyond that, there may be a \$5 or \$10 increase.*

V. MEETING ADJOURNMENT: 1316 PDT / 1616 EDT

Respectfully Submitted by

*Duffy Jensen*

Secretary, Special Operations Association