

Minutes of SHSU Military Science Alumni Club

Board of Directors

Date: 19 February 2022

Time: 10:00

Place: Hal Werlein's place; "Haltopia", Trinity, Texas

Attending: In person: Rich Mills, Hal Werlein, Bobby Penry, Jimmy Dinkins, Gonzalo Correa, Buddy McCaig, LTC Joe Contreras
Via Zoom: Larry Booth, Forrest LeBlanc, J.J. Adams, Brian Leighton

We gathered at "Haltopia" on a beautiful winter day, deep in the heart of the Texas Piney Woods, with the sun shining on Hal's lake, with birds flying and fish jumping. Hal provided a buffet of snacks and drinks. Buddy established a Zoom link to those unable to attend in person.

Rich Mills welcomed everyone, both in person and online. A quorum was established and the meeting opened for business.

Bobby Penry restated the Fall Scholarship Board results that were presented at the last meeting. 1 April is the next scholarship board and solicitation for volunteers will be going out next month. If you are asked to serve, it is a great opportunity to meet some of the top cadets in the Bearkat Battalion. Bobby tries to spread the duties so that more people can participate, salted with one or two members who have served on past boards.

Hal Werlein reported we still have 188 active members in MSAC. In order to be an active, voting MSAC member you must belong to SHSU Alumni Association and designate MSAC as your club. You may belong to any regional or area club as well as MSAC. MSAC is truly one of the only clubs that has a world-wide influence. All members are encouraged to solicit their own influence group to join MSAC. One of the objections that has been raised is the many emails and letters pouring out of the Alumni Association. There is a way to block some, if not all, of those emails and messages by working through the Association. Call the AA to discuss the procedure.

Larry Booth reported that there are still hundreds of names on our contact list that need to be contacted. While a tedious process, the results have been very good. Larry reports that due to the passing of many of the older members, our overall numbers are going down. Again, all MSAC members are encouraged to recruit peer group members who are eligible for MSAC.

The Treasury Report by Jimmy Dinkins is both good and concerning. MSAC has reached its endowment goal of \$25,000. That amount must be maintained for three years in order for the MSAC to have a fully endowed scholarship for the Rowdy Inman Memorial Scholarship; which is our premier effort for MSAC. We provide \$3,000 of scholarships per year out of that commitment.

The endowment fund is separate from the scholarship fund. MSAC has \$3,676 in the Rowdy Inman Scholarship fund. We will be awarding \$1,500 this Spring out of that fund.

The Schuder's Best Ranger fund has \$2,476. The SHSU Best Ranger fund has \$1,175. Each of those funds provide \$500 each, plus a Gerber Mark II knife. One in the Fall and one in the Spring. Gonzalo provides the knives.

MSAC total annual commitment to all funds is \$4,000. That takes effort. It was pointed out that if each active member gave only \$10 per month on the auto-debit, we would be well situated to continue, or even increase, our annual support.

LTC Contreras reported that the Battalion's sponsorship of the Annual Inman 5K run produces about \$5,000 annually, but it costs about \$2,500 to put it on. Still a great advertisement and good return on the effort by the students themselves.

MSAC proves about 20 to 25 percent of the total scholarships awarded each year to the cadets; which is a really good chunk of money.

Larry Booth reported on MSAC coming into possession of about 16 of the historic Lowman Rifles mugs that were available to LR members for many years. C.G. Swoebel has them and Rich Mills will try to get possession of them so that they can be preserved. Ideas were tossed around about an auction of the mugs to raise money for the scholarship fund. Further Board action will be needed.

Joe Contreras reported that SHSU ROTC was awarded the Cochise Award from Cadet Command for having the best small size program out of the 20 schools in the zone. This is a big deal. Last year's cohort of Seniors had 38% Distinguished Military Graduates; meaning they are in the top 20% of the nation. This year, 43% of the MSIV cadets are DMG. Next year the Battalion is likely to commission 28 new lieutenants. The current MS I cohort is even larger.

Scabbard & Blade Military Honor Society is coming back to SHSU! Back in the day, many of the current MSAC members were part of S&B. One of the MS III cadets is spear-heading the effort and Sam Houston will likely be the premier school for getting S&B back into operation.

Joe gave us several significant dates to calendar: 28 Feb the MS IVs are going to Fort Hood to meet with CPT Ackeroyd for several major excursions, then to San Antonio area for a staff ride. The Ranger Board for Schuder's Rangers will be 8-9 April, if anyone wants to participate. Spring Awards will be 28 April. We need a good turnout. Commissioning will be 13 May. Buddy McCaig pointed out that 50 years ago, commissioning was on 13 May—he was there.

LTC Josh Linberg will be replacing LTC Contreras as PMS. He will be on campus 19- 23 April for meetings and transition. He is an MI officer and SFA alumnus. MSAC will try to have an event 23 April to welcome him to the area. (More below)

Item 7 (Knives for MS IV graduates) was tabled until the proponent of the measure was available for discussion. It was noted that 2 knives were provided by Lynn Fite for the December 2021 graduates, independent of the MSAC board.

MSAC will schedule a membership-wide event at Riverside for Saturday, 23 April. This will be the big, annual get together that is sponsored by the Alumni Association. There will be virtually no cost for members to attend the event. We anticipate barbecue, snacks, and a great location to gather and visit. Rich, Hal and Buddy plan to cook brisket, ribs, and sausage. All the sides and condiments will be provided by AA. It will be BYOB. As soon as it is flanged up an announcement will go out.

Recognition of Paul Lohman, a former cadre member, now retired O6 living in Huntsville, was discussed. He was very supportive of the Ranger Company back in his day. Brian Leighton and Gonzalo Correa have his contact information.

It was discussed that Carol Sylvester may be a good candidate for future board membership. That will be explored. He was Cadet Corps Commander in '63, and is very active in Bearkat support.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Buddy McCaig
Secretary