

## **Minutes of SHSU Military Science Alumni Club**

### **Board of Directors**

Date: 5 December 2020  
Time: 1200 hours  
Place: Via Zoom Teleconference

Attending: Hal Werlein, Larry Booth, Rich Mills, Neri (Tom) Terry, Buddy McCaig, Bobby Penry, Michael Whitten, & MAJ Christopher Holmes. Jimmy Dinkins and Gonzalo Correa provided input but could not attend.

The meeting was conducted remotely due to COVID-19 implications via Zoom teleconference. Buddy McCaig used his Zoom to host the meeting. (A remarkable note is that one director appeared from California, one from Virginia, and one from Arkansas. The rest were spread across Southeast Texas. What other club can say that?)

Rich Mills welcomed the attendees and gave a brief report on events taking place with the SHSU Alumni Association Board of Directors, and other notable calendar events. The AA will host a legislative event in Austin for legislators on 23 February. The Texas Legislature meets every two years, and the legislative event is for introducing new members to SHSU and its mission. There will be three home-field football games during the Spring Semester; a schedule change brought about by COVID-19. The SHSU Ring Ceremony will be held 7 April. This is a highly organized event in which the Bearkat Battalion provides around-the-clock guards of the rings prior to their distribution. Homecoming for 2021 will be the weekend of 22-23 October, including the Distinguished Alumni Gala, Homecoming Parade and Homecoming Football game.

Buddy McCaig reported on the recent election of Officers and Directors. A total of 39 votes were cast for the slate, with unanimous approval. There are three open director positions, two of which have intentionally never been filled. (Prior to the meeting, a suggestion was made to consider putting a MSIV cadet on the board. That was missed as an agenda item and will be developed at a future meeting.)

Incoming Treasure Jimmy Dinkins provided a financial report. The SHSU Best Range account has \$1,925. The Schuder's Best Ranger account has \$2,050. The Rowdy Inman Scholarship account has \$19,991. The two ranger awards are \$500 each per year with a knife; one in the spring and one in the fall. The Inman scholarship is \$1,000 and \$500, given each semester for a total of \$3,000 per year. Combined, MSAC provides \$4,000 per year in scholarships and awards, plus two knives at around \$100 each. It was brought out that a few weeks ago, one of the accounts had hit a zero balance, which came as a surprise to the Board. In May, the financial report had reflected adequate funding. Apparently, a reporting error caused the incorrect information. While the accounts continue to grow the need is great and all members are encouraged to contribute any amount they can.

Bobby Penry reported that MSAC held the scholarship board using written submissions. The Board consisted of Rich Mills, John J. Adams, Buddy McCaig, Hal Werlein and Larry Booth. The essays were on the subject of the five Army Values. Cadet Melissa Mize received the \$1,000 award and Cadet Courtney Paulson received the \$500 award. The consensus is that in-person interviews are best in order to allow board members to evaluate the cadets in person. In the event COVID issues continue, alternatively, the spring scholarship board will be conducted via Zoom in lieu of in-person interviews. We may also use a combination of writing plus the Zoom interview, but that is yet to be determined. Board members were universal in their praise of the essays that were reviewed. Outstanding! Was the main comment.

MAJ Holmes outlined the protocols used for getting the top essays to the scholarship board. His comments were very helpful in pointing out how the process works; including that we all prefer in-person interviews. In answering questions, he stated that the Cadre believes our award requirements are in line with the needs we are addressing.

Tom Terry proposed that MSAC begin a process seeking businesses sponsor a Leadership Augmentation Scholarship (or some such name) for specific cadets – the value objective is the ‘room and board’ delta. The purpose is to augment the ROTC scholarship and other cadets so they can focus full-time on their academics. A motion was made by Tom, second by Buddy, that a working group be formed to study funding requirements and an industry-student-MSAC partnership to enhance the financial contributions to students. Motion passed. Rich will appoint the committee. Tom pointed out the long and dedicated service Bobby Penry has made to the scholarship program, which extends well before MSAC was formed in 2013.

Hal Werlein reported that he has records on 184 active, dues paying members of MSAC; which means they are signed up with both the Alumni Association and MSAC. An adequate supply of coins and certificates are still on hand. Our signed membership is thought to be one of the largest, if not the largest, signed membership of any club in the AA.

Gonzalo has been able to update the MSAC webpage. It is looking even better than before. Our webpage continues to out-perform the entire AA website.

Larry Booth reported that the MSAC contact list contains 724 valid email contacts, 28 snail-mail contacts, 17 associate member contacts, and information on 292 deceased. There are 1,067 names on the list to be contacted. All members are urged to contact their individual, personal contacts, and get them signed on with MSAC, whether they join the AA or not.

A brief discussion was had about doing a spring event at Riverside this coming year. The event would be a day-time only event. The Board will look at the calendar and come up with a date and concept after the first of the year.

Rich Mills reports that the new president of the University, Dr. Alisa White, is a great fan of the military in general, and veterans and MSAC specifically. She wants to get to know us and about

what we do. SHSU is ranked as the third most veteran favorable college/university in Texas, and the seventh in the nation. Dr. White intends to continue that effort.

Following general discussion, the meeting was adjourned.



Buddy McCaig  
Secretary

TASK LIST:

1. Buddy to get copies of the scholarship contracts to Mike Whitten.
2. Rich and Buddy to work with Justin Haynes on getting a spring event date.
3. Rich to appoint a study group on Tom Terry's proposal.