

Marion Military Institute  
Alumni Brigade Board of Directors Meeting  
April 12, 2019

**Officers:**

Mrs. Camie Salter Jones, President \*  
Dr. Daniel M. Hartzog III, Executive Vice President  
Mr. Logan Gray, Treasurer \*  
Mr. B. King Curry, Secretary \*  
Mr. Samuel P. Givhan, Vice-President for Joint Fundraising Initiatives \*

Mr. David Bone  
Mr. Bill Bright \*  
Mr. David Coleman  
Ms. Lesley Pratt Dyer \*  
Mr. Robert H. Fuller  
CAPT L. Ethan Hamilton, USAR \*  
Mr. Ben Lee  
Mr. Lennie Jeffrey Logan  
LTC James "Pat" Rudicell, USA (Ret) \*  
LTC Jody S. Sanders, USA (Ret) \*  
Mrs. Limanman "Lani" Strange \*

**Ex-Officio Members:**

Mr. Edward A. O'Neal, Jr. \*

**MMI Staff:**

COL David J. Mollahan, MMI President \*  
Mrs. Suzanne McKee, Vice President for Advancement \*  
Ms. O'Neal Crawford, Executive Director \*

**Special Guests:**

Mr. John Anderson III \*  
Mr. William S. "Bill" Bittner \*  
Mr. Carl E. Ardrey \*  
Mr. Gus Colvin \*  
Mr. H.D. Hibbard \*  
COL Curtis S. Strange, USAR \*

**Board of Directors**

Mr. F. Lee Baker \*  
Dr. Sean Bohannon

\*Present

**Welcome**

Camie Jones called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM, and opened with a prayer. She welcomed the new members and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**Approval of Minutes**

Logan Gray made a motion to forego the reading of the minutes and approve as provided; Lee Baker seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**President's Report**

**Regional Events:** Mrs. Jones reported on the past quarter's regional mixers in Daphne, Dothan, and West Alabama. She thanked Pat Rudicell for hosting the mixer in Daphne and commented about the great turnout. O'Neal Crawford added that the large turnout was largely due to the hosts encouraging others to come. Mrs. Jones reported she was able to attend the Dothan mixer and there was a good turnout for the area. Mrs. Jones thanked Sam Givhan, Suzanne McKee, Gus Colvin, and David Bone for hosting the West Alabama Mixer. She was very encouraged by the large age range of alumni who attend these regional events.

**Campus Events:** Mrs. Jones reported that the Brigade sponsored the Marion Made Challenge at the beginning of March. O'Neal Crawford briefed the board about the event and let them know that 250 people attended the event. The proceeds of the event benefited various cadet organizations. Mrs. Jones pointed out that the Marion Made Challenge was a great recruiting tool. Ethan Hamilton requested that the date be moved to second weekend of March due to conflicts with the National Guard. Mrs. Jones reported that she attended the Donor Recognition Ceremony that included a special celebration for COL and Mrs. Mollahan's ten-year anniversary. She informed the board that the MMI Alumni Brigade is a member of the Corps of Cadets Society (\$250,000 - \$499,999).

**Memberships:** Mrs. Jones reported that there are 1,129 total members of the Brigade [547 annual, 204 Parents Platoon, and 378 Lifetime] She encouraged the Board to sell lifetime memberships to their peers. Pat Rudicell asked for the lifetime memberships to be broken down by living and deceased. Mrs. Jones informed the Board

that she will be working with Ms. Crawford this summer to stand up the automatic renewal process. The membership drive will be held in May with a letter and an email going out to current and lapsed membership.

#### **New Initiatives:**

**Birmingham Mentorship Luncheon:** Mrs. Jones reported that 15 cadets will be paired with alumni for a mentorship luncheon called Lunch, Learn, and Lead. Mrs. Crawford added that this is a collaboration with the MMI Career Center. The event will be held in Birmingham and a way for alumni to share with cadets how they navigated life after MMI and to share their career advice. Ms. Crawford explained that the event will take place instead of a traditional Birmingham Mixer and will use funds from the mixer line item. Lee Baker asked if this will be a place to solicit new lifetime members and Ms. Crawford responded yes. COL Mollahan gave the history of the Career Center to the Board and how alumni can engage in their activities. Lesley Dyer recommended that the Alumni Brigade advertise this event as a service that they provide for alumni/cadets. Ms. Crawford shared that this will be a beta test for having similar events in other locations such as Huntsville, Montgomery, and Mobile.

**Baseball and Softball Reunion:** Mrs. Jones reported that the Alumni Brigade will help plan a reunion for the Baseball and Softball team on January 31, 2020. Ms. Crawford will work closely with Matt Downs to recruit a committee of alumni to plan the event. Lee Baker asked if it was a good idea to split the event from Alumni Weekend and who was funding the event. Suzanne McKee responded that this is to focus on just these particular constituents and help them feel special and to connect with the current team and coaches. The event will be paid for by the baseball and softball booster clubs. Ethan Hamilton suggested hosting a homerun derby.

**Football Reunion:** Mrs. Jones reported that the theme for next alumni weekend will revolve around football. She encouraged the Board to think about how to contribute to this effort. Ed O'Neal commended the initiative and said there has been a great deal of traffic on social media.

**Dove Shoot:** The tentative date for the Dove Shoot is October 24, 2019.

**Alumni Connect:** The app for Alumni Connect is live and Mrs. Jones encouraged all the Board members to download the app. There are over 600 users on the platform.

#### **Membership Committee Report:**

Lesley Dyer reported on the status of the class agents program. She discussed the challenges of getting the program off the ground. She encouraged all of the members of the Board to read the handbook and asked that the handbook be placed online as a resource.

#### **Committee Discussion:**

Mrs. Jones asked Logan Gray to sit on the Finance Committee. He encouraged others with financial background to join the committee.

Mrs. Jones asked for potential participants for the Football reunion committee. Jody Sanders recommended Vernon Atchinson. Camie Jones reported that Gus Colvin is willing to help. Lesley Dyer recommended William and John Andrew Griffin.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Logan Gray reported the Statement of Financial Position for 2018. He reported that the income and expenses have increased. He mentioned that the golf tournament was a great new revenue stream for the Brigade. As of December 2018 our total assets are \$142,237, cash account: \$53,421, RSA Account - \$76,315, Lifetime Membership account \$1,501, and Wilkerson CD \$11,000. Please see attached report.

O'Neal Crawford presented the Management Report. She reported that the Dove Shoot yielded \$25,090 in income. She went through the list of income and expenses for the quarter. Please see the attached report.

Lee Baker presented the Board Resolution 18-01 that established a Restricted Investment Account for the purpose of sustaining the MMI Alumni Brigade operations (less direct financial support to MMI). He reported that the

access to the corpus shall require a 75% affirmative vote by the currently serving voting members of the Board of Directors. He also explained that the Account must maintain a level of two years working capital as calculated at the end of the financial year by the sum of the last two years operating expenses. He presented the last two years of working capital as \$31,217 and \$31,108 totaling \$62,325. He also explained that during any year there is a deficiency, interest or dividends shall be retained. During a year in which there is a surplus, the interest earned shall be unrestricted and become available for inclusion as income in the cash account.

Lee Baker explained the Lifetime Member Restricted Account where 80% of membership is to be placed in the investment account and excluded from calculating the Restricted Investment Account fund balance. The purpose of the account is to sustain Brigade services to lifetime members.

Mr. Baker presented the return of the RSA investment account and reported on the quarterly and annual performance. He urged the Board to continue to look at the performance closely as it is their fiduciary responsibility. The 2018 annual return was 6.5%. He also relayed to the Board that the MMI Foundation Investment Committee closely manages this fund with little cost to the Brigade.

Pat Rudicell made motion to accept the Financial Report as presented. Lesley Dyer seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **Executive Director's Report**

O'Neal Crawford reported that there are over 600 members on Alumni Connect. She discussed upcoming events including Lunch Learn and Lead on April 23rd, Montgomery Mixer on May 1<sup>st</sup>, Greenville, SC mixer on June 27<sup>th</sup>, the Golf Tournament on September 30<sup>th</sup>, and the Dove Shoot on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Lani Strange asked if the Brigade wanted to schedule another new cadet dinner in Huntsville. Ms. Crawford responded with yes and they would get together to schedule a date. The additional regional events will be scheduled by the July meeting. The Campus Events include Graduation and Commissioning on May 11<sup>th</sup>, Move-in Days on August 12-13<sup>th</sup>, Giving Tuesday is December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the baseball and softball homecoming is scheduled for January 31<sup>st</sup>, and Alumni Weekend is 16-18·2020. She explained how the alumni volunteer at Move-in Days by working in the uniform department and host a welcome picnic for everyone on campus.

### **Nominating Committee Report**

Ms. Crawford gave the nominating in Dan Hartzog's absence. She reminded the Board that the annual meeting will take place tomorrow at 8:30am in the chapel. She thanked the outgoing board members for their contributions to the Board.

### **New Business**

Camie brought up for discussion possible projects for Brigade investment. Ms. Crawford reported that the Brigade has a surplus of \$20,887 in the cash account and \$13,998 in the investment account for \$34,885 in surplus. Lee Baker reminded the Board that in order to access the full amount of surplus in the investment account, the Board would have to dip into the corpus. The potential projects are the Excess House renovation, sidewalks from the cadet parking lot to the softball field, and the podium dedication for the chapel. Mrs. McKee explained that the Excess House renovation covers the kitchenette upgrade and the porch replacement. The sidewalk project would help connect the parking lot to the campus and would impact the entire Corps of Cadets. Additionally, there are future plans to pour a slab for a pavilion for the parking lot (sidewalk - \$22,000, baseball sidewalk \$8,000, slab - \$7,000). Ms. McKee expressed that the most immediate need is the sidewalk project and said that the Foundation could make up the difference if the Brigade was not able to cover the full cost of the project. Lee Baker asked about the \$30,000 surplus as reflected in the annual report. Ms. Crawford explained that \$10,000 was transferred to the investment account in January. Pat Rudicell suggested that the Board make sure that there is signage for any of the projects so the Brigade gets recognition. He and King Curry liked the podium idea because of its high visibility. Ms. Jones encouraged the board to consider the sidewalk project because it is an immediate need. COL Mollahan also encouraged the Board to consider the sidewalk project because it is a discreet project that impacts every cadet and is a retention tool. Lee Baker asked if there is any room in the budget to find an additional \$5,000 for the project. Ms. Crawford said there should be room in the budget. Ethan Hamilton also suggested selling bricks for the sidewalk as a fundraiser. After discussion, the board agreed to fund the sidewalk project.

Lee Baker made the motion for the Brigade to donate \$25,000 from the cash account for the sidewalk project. Sam Givhan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Ms. Crawford presented another possible major project for the Brigade which is to lead the effort in selling chapel pews for dedication. The total cost of the pews, \$96,000, has already been secured, but there is a \$142,000 potential revenue. The proceeds from the pews would go to fund additional renovations in the Chapel. After much discussion, the board agreed to table the discussion until the July board meeting.

Lesley Dyer asked if the board meeting could be moved to a later time in the schedule tomorrow. Ms. Crawford replied not at this late date.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
King Curry, MMI Alumni Brigade Secretary