

Marion Military Institute
Alumni Brigade Board of Directors Meeting
January 25, 2020

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

Ex-Officio Members:

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

MMI Staff:

COL David J. Mollahan, MMI President *
Mrs. Suzanne McKee, Vice President for
Advancement *
Mrs. Dawn Curtis, Executive Director *

Board of Directors

Mr. John Anderson *
Mr. Carl E. Ardrey *
COL William "Bill" S. Bittner, Jr. USA (Ret)
Dr. Sean Bohannon
Mr. David Bone *
Mr. Bill Bright
Mr. David Coleman
Mr. Gus Colvin *
Mr. Robert H. Fuller **
CAPT L. Ethan Hamilton, USAR **
Mr. H.D. Hibbard *
Mr. Lennie Jeffrey Logan
MAJ H. Wayne Norton, USA (Ret) **
LTC James "Pat" Rudicell, USA (Ret)
LTC Jody S. Sanders, USA (Ret)
COL Curtis S. Strange, USAR *

*Present

**Phone In

Welcome

Camie Jones called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM, welcomed and thanked everyone for their participation, and opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Minutes

Curtis Strange made a motion to forego the reading of the minutes of the November 11th, 2019 meeting and approve as provided; H.D. Hibbard seconded the motion. Motion passed.

MMI Update

COL Mollahan reported that spring enrollment was on track to be between 380 – 390. He noted that those numbers were good, considering that the returning class had been small. COL Mollahan reported that the majority of the main Chapel renovation was complete, with only a few minor details left. He stated that renovations were still being completed on the Chapel's North Wing, which will primarily serve as the Academic Headquarters. COL Mollahan noted that the legislative cycle was about to begin. He stated that the Education Trust fund was flush with money, and the school was hoping to get a 10% increase in the O & M. Additionally, he stated that the school was hoping to get one-time capital improvement funding anywhere between \$1 and \$4 million. He noted that while it might not happen, this year looked more promising than years past. COL Mollahan reported that Executive Vice President, Susan Stevenson had announced her resignation to take a position in Tennessee. COL Mollahan stated that COL Passmore will assume Dr. Stevenson's role as second in command while Suzanne McKee will take over Dr. Stevenson's Chief of Staff duties. David Ivey will step in as the Chief Academic Officer. He noted that Dr. Stevenson would be staying connected for a while longer to help with the accreditation process. Ethan Hamilton asked if David Ivey would continue to teach classes. COL Mollahan responded that David Ivey already had a reduced course load but would be allowed to continue teaching. COL

Mollahan also noted that there would eventually be a search for a new Chief Instructional Officer and Academic Dean as David Ivey would remain the Chief Academic Officer.

President's Report

Mrs. Jones thanked everyone for coming out on Saturday in January during hunting season. She reported that the December Holiday Reception at the President's Quarters was a lovely event and thanked COL Mollahan for hosting. Mrs. Jones stated that she and Dawn Curtis had been working with the Football Committee for the Alumni Weekend Football Reunion. She also noted that she and Mrs. Curtis has been finalizing the details for the Baseball and Softball Reunion scheduled for January 31st and February 1st.

MMI Foundation Report

Suzanne McKee reported that the MMI Capital Campaign, Marion Made, had recently hit a milestone by reaching 103% of the original \$9.24 million goal. Mrs. McKee expressed her appreciation for those who had participated and made that goal possible. She noted that the Donor Recognition Ceremony was scheduled for February 21st and would be the first official event in the Chapel since the conclusion of the renovation. Curtis Strange inquired about the results of Give Day. Mrs. McKee and Mrs. Curtis noted that Give Day raised over \$43,000. Mrs. McKee pointed out that Give Day is a really special day with a high level of coordination across various campus departments. She also noted that it is an exceptional form of professional development for the cadets.

Treasurer's Report

Dawn Curtis gave the financial report. Mrs. Curtis noted that the Brigade ended December with \$184,612 in total assets. Mrs. Curtis reported the following balances from all accounts for the quarter ending December 31st, 2019: MMI Foundation- \$82,389; RSA (Alumni Brigade) - \$89608; RSA (Lifetime Membership Restricted) - \$1,624; and the Arthur Wilkerson CD at Marion Bank & Trust- \$11,000. Gus Colvin made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as read, and John Anderson seconded. Motion passed.

Nominating Committee Report

In Dan Hartzog's absence, Camie Jones gave the Nominating Committee Report. She reviewed the nominations and bios for the following candidates:

Beau Crum '85 HS '87 JC
Courtney Deason '93 HS
Kalen Early '17 JC
William Griffin '74 JC
Wynn Morgan '78 JC
Reki Mae Parker '88 JC
Sarah Wilbourne Wagoner '84 JC

Mrs. Jones reported that the officer nominations were as follows:

Pat Rudicell, President
Jody Sanders, Vice President
David Coleman, Secretary
Logan Grey, Treasurer

Mrs. Jones also presented current MMI Instructor Kirtley Brown and former Military Department Instructor LTC Joseph R. Pearces, USA (Ret) as the 2020 Honored Teacher recipients. David Bone made the motion to accept the Nominations as provided, and H.D. Hibbard seconded the motion.

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Executive Director's Report

Dawn Curtis provided the executive director's report. Mrs. Curtis reported that Alumni Connect currently has 688 users and encouraged everyone to use it. Mrs. Curtis reported that the Brigade's membership was currently at 1,222, with 834 of those being Annual members and 388 being Lifetime members. Mrs. Curtis reminded everyone of the following upcoming events:

Baseball Softball Reunion – January 31st and February 1st

Cresting – January 31st

Donor Recognition Ceremony and Chapel Ribbon Cutting – February 21st

Baseball/Softball Reunions – January 31st and February 1st

Marion Made Challenge – March 7th

Leadership Symposium – March 11th

Montgomery Mixer – March 25th at new location RSA Terrace

Alumni Weekend – April 16th – April 18th

SAP Convocation – May 6th

Honors Convocation – May 7th

Commencement – May 8th with Chancellor Baker speaking

Curtis Strange inquired if there was a plan for a focused approach in recruiting lifetime members at the upcoming reunions. Mrs. Curtis replied that it was something that should be discussed for Alumni Weekend, especially considering a larger attendance was expected.

New Business

Mrs. Curtis presented the schedule for Alumni Weekend and noted a few changes to the schedule. Curtis Strange suggested that the placement of a food truck at the Swamp Fox Tower on Saturday of Alumni Weekend. John Anderson committed the Marion Academy Food Truck for Lunch on the Quad on Saturday, April 18th. John Anderson also suggested creating EMT golf carts manned by the EMT/Fire College cadets. Mrs. Curtis proposed moving the Board of Directors meeting from Friday, April 17th to a date following Alumni Weekend. She stated that this would allow for helpful feedback from the board on Alumni Weekend.

Mrs. Curtis presented the board with a Marion Made Challenge sponsorship opportunity. Curtis Strange made a motion to sponsor the Marion Made Challenge in the amount of \$500, and H.D. Hibbard seconded. Mrs. Curtis also suggested that the board sponsor the Happy Hour for the Softball and Baseball Reunion. Gus Colvin made a motion to sponsor the Baseball Softball Reunion Weekend with a \$500 Donation, and John Anderson seconded it. Mrs. Curtis also reported that the Golf Tournament scheduled for March 31st in Huntsville had been postponed. Curtis Strange and Mrs. Curtis stated that they did have plans to revisit the Golf Tournament for the future.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn Curtis, Executive Director