

Marion Military Institute
Alumni Brigade Board of Directors Meeting
November 16, 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 *

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

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

COL Mollahan pointed out that the July minutes inaccurately listed an opening for Athletic Director when in fact it was an opening for Athletic Trainer. The correction was noted and John Anderson made a motion to forego the reading of the minutes and approve as provided; Curtis Strange seconded the motion. Motion passed.

MMI Update

COL Mollahan reported that enrollment was currently up by 3.8% as a result of large incoming class. He noted that this year's incoming class number was 16.2 % higher than the previous year's. COL Mollahan noted that we started the year with enrollment at 409 and applications for next year were currently trending 9% ahead of total applications this time last year. He noted that enrollment for spring semester was up by 20% and approximately 35 incoming cadets were expected for the spring. Additionally, COL Mollahan reported that Admissions is on track for 315 for Fall 2020. COL Mollahan announced two new hires in Admissions—Kalen Early and Clayton Nicholson. He stated both are MMI graduates and both recent graduates of the University of Alabama. Mr. Early was enrolled in LEP while Mr. Nicholson was enrolled in ECP and each provided a unique perspective for prospective students. COL Mollahan reported that the Chapel renovation was 90% complete and they were awaiting the arrival of the pews around the first of December. COL Mollahan stated that the project was on track for the Chapel to reopen the first of January. Additionally, COL Mollahan noted that a formal ribbon cutting ceremony would take place during the Donor Recognition Ceremony in February 2020. COL Mollahan reported that the MMI Foundation had recently acquired the Alabama Power office located across from MMI's campus. He stated that the building will be used for classroom and training space for MMI's First Responder Program. Additionally, COL Mollahan noted that once the building is designated as an extension training site by the Alabama Fire College, local fire departments will have the option to use it for training as well. COL Mollahan noted that the Corps of Cadets marched in 2 Veterans Day Parades—the city of Marion's parade and the National Parade in Birmingham. COL Mollahan reported that the Ethics Bowl Team recently scrimmaged the UAB team (ranked #2 last year in the four-year college category) in preparation for a national competition. COL Mollahan

noted that the MMI team beat UAB by a significant margin, even with UAB professors as judges. COL Mollahan reported that Stacker had recently ranked MMI as the #1 community college in Alabama and #24 out of 1,100 community colleges nationwide. COL Mollahan also reported that Student Loan HERO ranked MMI #1 out of #513 colleges nationally. COL Mollahan noted that these two rankings were in addition to last year's US Department of Education's ranking as #3 among Alabama Colleges and Universities for salary after graduation.

President's Report

Mrs. Jones thanked Curtis and Lani Strange and Jody Sanders for hosting the Huntsville Mixer. She reported that it was great event and well attended with around 60 people, 11 of whom were new cadets. Mrs. Jones thanked all those that volunteered for Move in Days. She stated that it was another great turn out from our alumni volunteers and emphasized how much the cadets enjoy meeting and talking with alumni. Mrs. Jones thanked Sam Givhan for once again hosting the annual dove shoot. Mrs. Jones acknowledged Mrs. McKee and Mrs. Curtis and the Advancement staff for their behind the scenes work and commented that it was one of the best shoots yet. Mrs. Jones reported that she, along with Mrs. Curtis, would be working with Coach Downs on the baseball reunion scheduled for January 31st and February 1st, 2020. She noted that an invitation would be going out via mail and information had already been posted through social media channels. Mrs. Jones also reported that coordination for Alumni Weekend 2020 had begun, with plans to recognize Vietnam Veterans on Friday evening and a Football Reunion scheduled for Saturday evening. Mrs. Jones reminded everyone of a few upcoming dates, including the Holiday Reception at the President's Quarters on December 5th, Graduation scheduled for December 13th and Coach Down's annual Baseball Steak Dinner scheduled for January 18th. Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Curtis briefed everyone on the United Appeal Fund for cadet emergencies.

COL Strange inquired about plans for honoring Vietnam Veterans during Alumni Weekend, specifically access to information regarding Valor Awards. Mrs. Jones stated that details were being discussed. Mr. Hibbard questioned if we would be contacting the University of Alabama's Archives for pictures for the Football Reunion. Sam Givhan stated that he had entered the planning process for bringing up a Huey helicopter from Ozark for Alumni Weekend.

Treasurer's Report

Dawn Curtis gave the financial report. Mrs. Curtis noted that the Brigade began the year with \$153,898 in assets. She reported that after completion of the \$25,000 sidewalk project and a \$7,000 donation to the Leadership Center, the Brigade's year end assets were \$148,725. Mr. Givhan questioned if the \$37,807 listed in Special Event Revenues was secured from the Dove Shoot. Mrs. Curtis stated that Special Event Revenue is any revenue collected from the Dove Shoot, Alumni Weekend, and any other special events. Mrs. Curtis provided the following balances from all accounts for the year ending September 30, 2019: Mrs. Curtis reported the following balances from all accounts for the quarter ending September 30th, 2019: MMI Foundation- \$49,554; RSA (Alumni Brigade) - \$86,601; RSA (Lifetime Membership Restricted) - \$1,570; and the Arthur Wilkerson CD at Marion Bank & Trust- \$11,000; with total assets of \$148,725. H.D. Hibbard made 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 stated that nominations had been received for both Kalen Early ('17) and William Griffin ('72 HS '74JC). Mrs. Jones noted that 2 former board members, Reki Mae Garland and Wynn Morgan, had expressed interest in coming back on the board and both had served the board well in past terms. Mrs. Jones also reported that Sarah Wagoner (JC '84), Beau Crum ('85 HS '87 JC) and Courtney Deason ('94 HS) were interested in joining the board. 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 stated the candidates for the board and officers would be formally presented in January.

Executive Director's Report

Dawn Curtis provided the executive director's report. Mrs. Curtis reported that Alumni Connect currently has 677 users and encouraged everyone to use it. Mrs. Curtis reported that the Brigade's member was currently at 1,221, with 837 of those being Annual members and 385 being Lifetime members. Mrs. Curtis reported that 27 of the Lifetime members are deceased. Mrs. Curtis again thanked Curtis Strange and Jody Sanders for hosting the Huntsville Mixer on August 8th at Valley Hill Country Club. Mrs. Curtis again noted the record number of attendees with over half of the 61 in attendance being new cadets and their families. Mrs. Curtis reported that the Auburn Mixer took place on September 19th and was once again hosted by Jerry & Nancy Smith and RADM Paul and Jeanne Robinson at the Saugahatchee Country Club. She noted attendance was small this year, due in part to a football game. Mrs. Curtis reported that she and Logan Gray will work on a different approach for next year. Mrs. Curtis reported that Family Weekend on October 18th-19th was well attended. She stated that approximately 8 Parents Platoon Memberships were sold as well as 100 shotgun tickets. Mrs. Curtis thanked Mr. Givhan for hosting the annual dove shoot and reported the following record numbers: 33 sponsorships, 2000 shotgun ticket sales, and over \$103,000 raised. Mrs. Curtis also reported that COL Mollahan and Suzanne McKee had attended the Maryland Mixer immediately following the Dove Shoot. She noted that the Maryland Mixer is hosted annually by the McCollum family and there were approximately 17 people in attendance, including the family of a new cadet. Mrs. Curtis reminded everyone of the following upcoming events:

Give Day – December 3rd

President's Holiday Reception – December 5th

Alumni Brigade Board Meeting via Conference Call – January 25th

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

Marion Made Challenge – March 7th

Leadership Symposium – March 11th

Marion Made Golf Tournament – March 30th in Huntsville

Alumni Weekend – April 16th – April 18th

Mrs. Curtis briefly went over a tentative schedule for Alumni Weekend and the pricing for all events. She noted that a confirmed schedule would be available in January.

New Business

Mrs. Jones noted that the January meeting was scheduled to be a conference call. Everyone agreed a board meeting on campus would be best.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn Curtis, Executive Director