

Marion Military Institute
Alumni Brigade Board of Directors Meeting
June 17, 2017

Roll

Present: Lewis Shirley, Camie Jones, Reki Mae Garland, Sam Givhan, Lee Baker, Lesley Dyer, King Curry, Bill Lawson, Ben Lee, Lani Strange (on phone), David Ivey, Ed O'Neal, David Bone, Sean Bohannon, Logan Gray, David Coleman, & O'Neal Holmes

Welcome

Brigade President Lewis Shirley called the meeting to order at 10 AM, welcomed and thanked everyone for their participation, welcomed the new board members, and opened the meeting with a payer.

Approval of Minutes

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

MMI Report:

General: O'Neal gave the MMI update for COL Mollahan as he and Mrs. McKee were traveling back from San Antonio visiting Stuart Parker and Dr. Richard Keller. She let the board know that Bill Cheney '47 passed away and COL Mollahan, Suzanne and four cadets attended the service in Highlands, NC.

Personnel: Carmon Paige-Fields is now the Director of Human Resources and Title IX.

Hall of Honor: COL Mollahan and his executive assistant Dawn Curtis have taken over the administrative functions for the Hall of Honor. COL Mollahan is working with Jimmy Baker to secure funding for a full-time director. This year's ceremony will commemorate the 100th anniversary of WWI.

Capital Campaign: The Capital Campaign will officially launch on September 1st along with the 175th celebration. The silent phase of the campaign has generated almost \$5,000,000 in cash and pledges.

Capital Projects: The QM Project is underway and will be completed this fall. The HVACs are being replaced in the barracks this summer and Trustees and Murfee have been completed.

Brigade's President Report

Lewis Shirley reported that the Bylaws Committee is still working on the rewrite. They met this morning to review progress and plan to have changes completed by the September meeting. He encouraged everyone to participate in Move-In Days.

Treasurer's Report

O'Neal Holmes presented the financial report with the following balances from all accounts: MMI Foundation- \$235,002; the Arthur Wilkerson CD at Marion Bank & Trust- \$11,000; the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham- \$65,045; with total assets of \$311,047. Logan Gray made motion to accept the report as read and Reki Mae Garland seconded. Motion passed.

O'Neal also reported that Haynes Downard will prepare quarterly financial reports in exchange for a Dove Shoot Silver Sponsorship.

In response of the affirmative vote from the annual membership meeting to close out the Brigade's investments with the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham and reinvest the endowment with the MMI Foundation, O'Neal re-presented the following motion to the board.

Resolved, that the designated fund with the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham known as “the MMI Alumni Battalion Fund” be withdrawn in its entirety and reinvested with the MMI Foundation.

Dr. Bohannon requested more information about the fund’s performance and Mr. Shirley presented the returns. O’Neal reiterated that the investments will be managed by the MMI Foundation and its Investment Committee. Dr. Bohannon made motion to accept movement of funds with Mr. Givhan seconded. Edward O’Neal recused himself.

Camie Jones made a motion to accept the report as read and Lesley Dyer seconded. Motion passed.

Nominating Committee Report

Camie Jones reported that the online nomination form for the Honored Teacher and Board Members is now up on the MMI website. O’Neal demonstrated the form on the projector. David Ivey mentioned to add Ralph Livingston as a 2012 honoree.

Mrs. Jones also requested that each member sign the Commitment to Serve Contract. Lewis Shirley asked that the contract be located online.

Bylaws Committee Report

Mrs. Jones reported that the bylaws committee met this morning and are working diligently to rework the bylaws and the affiliation agreement. Ed O’Neal and David Ivey asked that the roles of the past presidents and Foundation Board Representative be defined. Mr. Shirley moved that David Coleman be appointed to the Bylaws Committee. Motion passed. He also encouraged members to bring any additional comments to Mrs. Jones.

Executive Director’s Report

Memberships: The Alumni Brigade has 1156 members, annual 612, parents platoon 198, and lifetime 346. Membership renewals will go out soon. David Coleman and Camie Jones suggested having automatic renewals for memberships.

Mixers: O’Neal reported about the great turnout at the Huntsville Havocs event. She shared the following dates:

Huntsville Cadet Dinner is tentatively scheduled for July 21st,
Birmingham Barons July 30th,
Move in Days August 7th & 8th,
Cresting Parade & 175th Kick off September 1st,
Parents Weekend October 13th & 14th,
Dove Shoot October 19th,
AB Board Meeting September 16th,
AB Board Meeting November 11th.
AB Board Meeting January 27th, 2018
Alumni Weekend April 13th & 14th, 2018
Graduation & Commissioning May 5th 2018

She encouraged members to sign up to volunteer for Move in Days & Dove Shot. Sign up is available online. The Brigade will host the cookout for the Athletes, ECP & LEP on August 7th. Lee Baker asked how the Alumni Brigade is “branding” itself at these events. He suggested napkins with our crest. O’Neal Holmes also reported that she attended the Raiders Reunion held in Destin, Florida. This event could be a model for other affinity groups to follow for reunions.

Community Affairs: O’Neal reported that the City of Marion, in collaboration with Renaissance Marion, has been accepted as a Designated City with Main Street Alabama. She stressed that the success of the town is vital to the success of MMI. She will sit on the Main Street Board as the MMI representative. The kickoff will be held on June 20th downtown.

Merchandise: O'Neal reported that there has been \$2,320.04 in revenue from 1.17-5.17. \$1,333.88 was generated from Alumni Weekend. She also reported that the bookstore will have online capabilities beginning in September.

Camie Jones made a motion to accept the report as read. Lesley Dyer seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Old Business

Alumni Weekend: The total attendance for Alumni Weekend was 306; with 248 who attended paid events and 56 who attended free events. Eleven alumni joined as a lifetime member during the weekend. The total income of weekend was \$9,050 and the expenses were \$12,232. The response from the weekend was very positive from the survey.

MMI Ring: O'Neal passed around the class ring options available for purchase this fall. Ordering is available online.

QM: O'Neal led a discussion about the latest floor plan for the QM renovation and ways to incorporate the history of the space into the new design. David Coleman and other board members were in favor of honoring Dead Eye Posey, Flo, and RL Coleman.

New Business

Class Agents: O'Neal led the discussion for Class Agents. Prior to the meeting she asked that each board member recommend 10 people in their age group who would be ideal candidates for class agents. She reported that the current alumni annual giving is 3.4% and the national average for a 4yr college is 8%. Alumni Class Agents will help the improve communication among alumni, obtain more accurate alumni contact information, build synergy between MMI & alumni, and increase alumni giving & participation to MMI. She presented the responsibilities of the class agents, the alumni office, and MMI in regards to starting the Alumni Class Agent program.

Alumni Directory: Publishing Concepts, Inc. will be producing the alumni directory and collecting the data from July 2017 until December 2017. The alumni directory will be available in both digital and printed platforms. There will be four different sections in the alumni directory; editorial, biographical, class year and geographical. MMI Alumni office has corrected the HS vs JC discrepancies in the database.

Online Portal: MMI Alumni Connect will launch on the MMI website on September 1st. It is a way for the MMI alumni to connect or reconnect with new and old friends. O'Neal led a demonstration of the portal with the board members that have already made their page. O'Neal has asked all board members to make a page and give her any feedback they may have about the site. There are still some concerns about privacy and the board members want to be sure that all alumni will be protected along with their privacy.

After Lunch, the Board went on a tour of recent campus projects including the Chapel, QM, Student Success Center, Weight Room, and the Obstacle Course. They were accompanied by COL Ed Passmore.

The next meeting was scheduled for Saturday, September 16, 2017 at 10 am.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, O'Neal Crawford Holmes, Executive Director