

Marion Military Institute
Alumni Brigade Board of Directors Meeting
April 24, 2015

Roll

Present: David Ivey, Irby Pope, Kirtley Brown, Sam Givhan, Mike Gratz, Fraser Sparkman, Ken Barton, Ted Bridges, Donny Barton, Lewis Shirley, Bill Frink, Camie Jones, Cleve Shearer, O'Neal Holmes, Suzanne McKee, and Col. David Mollahan, Don Heacock

Absent: Lee Liles, Cile Banks, Brian Miller, Wynn Morgan, Kit Agee,

Welcome

Brigade President David Ivey called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM, welcomed and thanked everyone for their participation, and opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Minutes

Lewis Shirley made a motion to forego the reading of the minutes and approve as electronically provided; Irby Pope seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Brigade's President Report

David Ivey reported on the following items:

1. Alumni Mixers:
 - a. Huntsville Mixer was a great turnout with 30+ attending and four lifetime members joined.
 - b. Tuscaloosa Mixer sponsored by Lewis Shirley, Rex Zeanah, and King Curry was also successful. Two additional lifetime memberships were purchased.
2. PAC Meeting: COL Mollahan discussed the master plan and forecast for the upcoming projects over the next five years.

Treasurer's Report

David gave the report for Treasurer Brian Miller. David Ivey reported that he needs to send an email to The Greater Birmingham Foundation to allow O'Neal to access quarterly reports. He reported the following balances from all accounts: MMI Foundation- \$157,540.81; the Arthur Wilkerson CD at Marion Bank & Trust- \$12,004.64; and Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham- \$61,776.00 totaling \$231,321.45. \$152,399.93 has been earmarked for the QM renovation. Fraser Sparkman asked if the \$52,399.93 earmarked for the QM project are specifically the \$500 lifetime membership. O'Neal responded that the sum is comprised of the lifetime memberships as well as additional donations made specifically to the project. Bill Frink asked what the return on investment of the Alumni Brigade's assets. He would like to see how it is being invested. Fraser Sparkman wanted to know if the free flow fund has increased or decreased since April of 2014. Fraser Sparkman made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; Bill Frink seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Memberships: She reported the Alumni Brigade memberships as: 204 annual memberships and 277 lifetime memberships, for a total of 484 memberships. She expressed that it was low due to not sending out alumni brigade renewal reminders, so there will be direct mail solicitation on the docket for July 2015. There are 300 participants in the lifetime membership campaign.

Social Media: The hashtag for social media is #AW2015. O'Neal plans to ruck on Thursday. There is a lot of activity on Facebook for alumni weekend and various mixers.

Graduation Picnic: The picnic is scheduled for May 8th. David Ivey encouraged people to attend the event. Emerson Brooks Franklin will be the commencement speaker this year. 96 students will graduate this spring.

Mixers: O'Neal reported that the Huntsville Mixer was a success. It was a dutch treat and about 30 people participated. The Tuscaloosa Mixer was April 9, 2015 at Indian Hills Country Club. David Ivey encouraged everyone to host/coordinate a mixer in their area.

MMI President (Col. David J. Mollahan) Report

Col. Mollahan reported on the following items:

- 1.) **QM Renovation:** The renovation will be postponed until spring of 2016. The renovations will be paid through the school in order to not pay taxes. The process requires approval from the State Board of Education and takes several months. COL Mollahan stated that the extended timeframe allows the Alumni Brigade and the school to think about staging the renovations into multiple phases. The grill will most likely be the first phase. Additional plans might include the bookstore instead of study rooms. There will be a more in depth report in July. David Ivey added that the gift shop was previously located in the QM. COL Mollahan answered Bill Frink's question regarding auxiliary services, by stating that Sage dining plans to operate the grill portion as an outside vendor. The details of the agreement are not final at the present time.
- 2.) **Community College System:** COL Mollahan reported on the changes to the State Board of Education. MMI's accrediting entity, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) has expressed concern about having a governing body that is overseeing two very different entities, k-12 and the community college system. In response to the request the State Board of Education will split into two boards. The Community College System board will be appointed by the Governor. COL Mollahan is optimistic about the changes ahead and believes that it will be positive to MMI.

Ted Bridges asked about the possibility of getting a grant for the QM Renovation. O'Neal reported about the possibility of a 0% loan from ADECA. Generally giving priorities are focused more on academic programs instead of student life.

Old Business

Dove Shoot

O'Neal provided a list of the previous year's Dove Shoot Sponsors. We are waiting on the Dove Season Dates to be posted.

New Business

Move In Days

Move in Days will be August 10 and 11, 2015. O'Neal plans to send out an email to request participation in the event.

Alumni Weekend

Alumni Weekend 2016 dates will be April 22-23, 2016. They will not be conflicting with Judson or Perry County High School reunion dates.

David Ivey presented a certificate to the outgoing board members and thanked them for their participation.

The next meeting was scheduled for Saturday, July 18, 2015 at 10:00 AM.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

O'Neal Crawford Holmes, Executive Director