

NORTHWEST FLORIDA MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
LUNCH MEETING
1/4/2024

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The January 4th meeting of the NWFMOA was called to order by President Fran Hendricks at the Fort Walton Yacht Club at 1205. Tom Azar gave the invocation and then Dennis Phillips lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. After opening remarks, Fran announced the presence of our past Presidents who were present. He then had each of the 1st Sergeants who attended the meeting stand and state their name, rank, unit and base of residence. They were invited to attend this month's meeting and provide feedback on the impact of our Community Outreach Initiative—Commissary Gift Cards for Junior Enlisted Families at Thanksgiving. He then introduced Army LTC Sally O'Donald, US Army Retired, who was the guest of Paul Singleton. Fran recognized Bob Allen and Cecil Scalf as having birthdays in January and reminded the group of their member benefit of a free lunch during their birth month. Fran then relayed several important national events that happened in January and then announced we should all proceed to the lunch line.

Following lunch, we began the annual induction ceremony for the 2024 Officers and Board of Directors. Officiating was Maj Gen Richard Comer who gave the oath of office to the inductees. Newly elected officers include: President Fran Hendricks; 1st Vice President Karl Eschmann; 2nd Vice President Jeff Watson; Secretary Fred Westfall and Treasurer George Colton. Board members include: Ray Alexander, Bob Allen, Bob Gramm, Kevin Kirby and Dick Solt. General Comer then returned the gavel back to Fran to continue the meeting.

To show our members the impact that our Commissary Gift Cards had, Fran asked a for a 1st Sergeant representative from each base to address the group and give us a short summary of the impact that our initiative had on their junior enlisted families. Their stories had a significant impact on our members.

Fran detailed the significance of our 65th Anniversary. Of note was our banner ad initiative. He showed the group a live example of what the banner looks like on our website then offered anyone interested to make a \$25 or greater donation to have their name and/or picture on the banner for the remainder of 2024. In lieu of the traditional 50/50 drawing, this month we had bags on each table to collect donations to the Scholarship Fund. We collected \$300 from those present.

Fran thanked Dick Solt for arranging the Officers Call at Doc's Oyster Bar last month and announced that our next one will be on February 29, also at Doc's Oyster Bar. Fran reminded the group that there will be one each month in 2024 that has a fifth Thursday.

As members attending the lunch today (whose dues are current), were presented with our newly minted and numbered 65th NWFMOA Anniversary Commemorative Coin. Fran will personally present coin numbered 001 to Jake Bush, who turned 101 years old in November.

Fran then announced that there were 6 eligible members for the January Defender Quiz drawing. The winning name selected was Les Matheson. Since Les' birthday is next month, he volunteered to have someone else be drawn from the group of 5 remaining eligible members. Karl Eschmann was the lucky winner. The answer to the question: "Which aircraft was chosen in 1946 by the Navy's Blue Angels to replace the F6F-5 Hellcat as its main exhibition plane?" was the F8F-1 Bearcat. As there was no other business to conduct, Fran adjourned the meeting at 1315.

Attendance for the meeting was 47. Following the meeting a group picture of the 1st Sergeants with their "checks" was taken.

//signed//

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FRED WESTFALL, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
NWFMOA Secretary, FL-19

Distribution: Email to NWFMOA Chapter Members