

NORTHWEST FLORIDA MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
LUNCH MEETING
9/5/2024

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The September 5th meeting of the NWFMOA was called to order by President Fran Hendricks at the Fort Walton Yacht Club at 1210. Chaplain Ray Alexander gave the invocation and then Bob Gramm led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Fran began the meeting by announcing open mic opportunity 1220-1230, then acknowledged the presence of our past Presidents who were with us today. He also announced those members who have birthdays in September and recognized our newest members, Victoria Hansen and Kathy Vandeburg and guest, Col Al Short. Fran then recognized our special guests, Lt Gen Brian Kelly, President and CEO of MOAA, his wife Garrety, and Col Steve Bond, President of the Florida Council of Chapters. Fran then recalled some special events that happened in September, including Hurricane Fran then invited everyone to enjoy lunch.

Following lunch Fran introduced our guest speaker, Lt Gen, USAF Retired, Brian Kelly. General Kelly started with a brief history of MOAA starting with when it was called TROA. He stressed that the primary mission of MOAA is advocacy and provided several examples of how MOAA accomplishes that mission. He stressed the need for former members to share the stories of both their good and bad times while serving and emphasized that by doing that we give the full story to those who wish to serve. He also stressed the need to get more officers who are separating from service to join MOAA, noting that only about 10% of eligible officers are MOAA members. He then answered several questions from our members. After his motivating presentation, Fran presented Lt Gen Kelly with the NWFMOA Chapter coin.

Fran then then announced that we have a new Treasurer, Doug Stauffer and that B/G Patt Maney will receive the Boy Scout's Distinguished Eagle Scout Award October 24th at the Hilton Garden Inn Ft. Walton Beach. He also thanked Dick Solt for setting up our Officers Call on August 29 and that the next would be on the last Thursday in October (Halloween, Thursday, Oct 31). For his Advocacy in Action minute, Fran spoke on the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Health Care and Improvement Act (H.R. 8371) and asked Members to visit the NWFMOA website main page, scroll down and click on the Take Action button. That will take you to the National MOAA website where you will find numerous legislative actions MOAA is working on.

Fran also announced that our October 3rd speaker will be Col David Skalicky, Commander of the 33 Fighter Wing at Eglin AFB.

Fran then announced that because Bob Allen was the one who submitted the question for the month but was ill and not able to attend today that the drawing for the monthly Defender quiz would be postponed until next month.

The 50/50 raffle was held for our E-4 Gift Cards project. The winner was Connie Hendricks who contributed her winnings to the project. A total of \$121 went to the Gift Card program.

Attendance for the meeting was 54. The meeting was adjourned at 1340. Fran and Gen Kelly left for the Town Hall meeting at the VFW and then on to the Community Celebration of our 65th Anniversary at the Air Armament Museum later in the day.

//signed//

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

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