

NORTHWEST FLORIDA MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
LUNCH MEETING
4/6/2023

LUNCH MEETING

Our April meeting was called to order by President Fran Hendricks at the Fort Walton Yacht Club at 1200. Following Fran's introduction and a list of accomplishments, Paul Singleton gave the invocation and then led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Fran told the group about the historical significance of April, especially to the military. Fran then recognized our guest and new member, Dave Swanick.

Following lunch President Hendricks introduced our guest speaker, Mel Ponder, Okaloosa County Commissioner for District 5. Mr. Ponder gave a brief personal history and then discussed several important issues and projects going on in the county. These included our low millage rate, the state of our county finances, projects completed or underway from the ½ cent sales tax, the excellent state of our airport including new carriers and routes from VPS, several projects in the north end of the county, the Shoal River Ranch, affordable housing initiatives, and broadband for several underserved areas of Okaloosa County. He then answered questions from our members. Following his remarks, Fran presented Commissioner Ponder with the NWFMOA challenge coin.

OTHER TOPICS

Fran then reminded the members of several initiatives that we are asking members to assist us with, including Calls to Action, the Hurlburt Open House, our June 22 Offices Call, the revised bylaws that will be voted on at our June meeting, and an appeal for someone to step up to take the Northwest Florida Area Vice President's position. Fran announced that our May meeting will be our annual Scholarship Awards lunch and that in June, Al Stearns and his coral group will entertain us with a number of military-themed songs.

Dave Parisot reminded the group of the April 15th Military Family Appreciation Day where we will have a booth representing the NWFMOA. He then held the 50/50 raffle drawing. The winner of \$71 was Scott Berry. Total contribution to the Scholarship Fund for April was \$70.

Attendance for the lunch was 43. The meeting was adjourned at 1320.

//signed//

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

Distribution: Email to board members and non-board members in attendance.