

NORTHWEST FLORIDA MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
LUNCH MEETING  
11/7/2024

**LUNCH MEETING**

The November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NWFMOA was called to order by President Fran Hendricks at the Fort Walton Yacht Club at 1210. Fran read an invocation written by Chaplain Tom Azar and then Jeff Watson led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Fran began the meeting by announcing open mic opportunity 1220-1230. Fran acknowledged the presence of our past Presidents who were with us today and special guests, members from the DAR who were with us today to make a special presentation. He also announced those members who have birthdays in November and also a visiting guest from the Crispy Warrior, Jeff Powell. Fran then recalled some special events that happened in November and then invited everyone to enjoy lunch.

The DAR then presented awards to Les Matheson with their Bronze Medal of Distinction and Karl Eschmann with their Outstanding Veteran Volunteer Award. Pictures are online in the Community Outreach area.

Following lunch Fran introduced our guest speaker, Ms. Kim Jackson, Director of the Eglin AFB Commissary. Ms. Jackson started with a brief overview of the benefits of the Commissaries in general and then gave specifics on many excellent current deals for shoppers. She then detailed several benefits that many shoppers may not know exist, like the YES (Your Everyday Savings) tags, various recipes posted online, the rewards/coupons program, pick-up orders and others. She ended her presentation with a personal offer to assist any member with special orders. She also shared how the produce department has been redone and the lessons learned about keeping produce fresh from a seminar in Jacksonville. She then answered several questions from the members present. After her informative presentation, Fran presented Ms. Jackson with the NWFMOA Chapter coin.

Fran then then recognized member B/G Patt Maney for his recent election win and his Boy Scout's Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. He also invited members to attend our next Officers Call that will be on January 30, 2025. Fran encouraged members to visit the NWFMOA website main page, scroll down and click on the Take Action button and support the Pay Increase for Junior Enlisted (E4 and below) initiative.

Fran then recalled Ms. Jackson to the stage and presented her with a check for \$8,500 for 340 (\$25) Commissary Gift Cards for E-4 and below families. Those cards will later be distributed to the various First Sergeants at local bases to give out over the holiday season. Karl Eschmann then spoke about the Military Ball coming in December and then read the names on the 2025 Officers and Board of Directors slate. Voting on the slate will be at the December 2024 lunch meeting. The slate consists of: President-Fran Hendricks; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President-Jeff Watson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President-Bob Allen; Secretary-open, Treasurer-Doug Stauffer; Board members: Ray Alexander, Karl Eschmann, Bob Gramm, Kevin Kirby, and Dick Solt.

Fran announced that our December 5th lunch will again feature the OPUS ONE choral group from Niceville and then held the drawing for the November Defender quiz. Karl Eschmann was again the picked as the winner.

The 50/50 raffle was held for our E-4 Gift Cards project. The winner was Rod Gerdes who contributed his winnings back to the project. A total of \$160 went to the E-4 Gift Card program.

Les Matheson then announced a series of Christmas music events that members may enjoy attending.

Attendance for the meeting was 39. The meeting was adjourned at 1320.

**//signed//**

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

Distribution: Email to NWFMOA Chapter  
and posting on the NWFMOA website