

NORTHWEST FLORIDA MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
LUNCH MEETING
10/5/2023

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The October 5th meeting of the NWFMOA was called to order by President Fran Hendricks at the Fort Walton Yacht Club at 1200. Past President Mike Griffith provided the prayer. He then asked Bernie Frakes to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. After opening remarks, Fran relayed several important national events that happened in October including the birthday of the US Navy on October 13th, and on other events that happened on October 5th. Fran then read the names of the three members who have birthdays in October and reminded the group that as a member benefit, a free meal awaits those who have a birthday during the month of our meeting. He then introduced our visitors and guests, including David Yang, Lt Col (Ret), Taiwan Air Force, the guest of Paul Singleton.

Following lunch, Fran introduced our guest speaker, Col (Ret) Andy Weaver from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. Col Weaver provided a very detailed and informative presentation of AAFES to include the difference between AAFES and other funded activities like base gyms noting that their employees are paid through sales not allocations, deployment capabilities of the AAFES and examples of their locations, integrating the services to support both active duty and retired members, updated the audience on new changes for who is authorized to shop in AAFES facilities, the structure of funds allocations throughout the systems, disaster operations like their support at Tyndall AFB after hurricane Michael, and what lies ahead for AAFES facilities to include partnering with Home Depot and expanding self-service checkouts. He ended his presentation by answering questions from the members. Following his presentation Fran presented Col Weaver with the NWFMOA challenge coin.

Fran reminded the group that the bylaws are online for their review and that we would be voting on them in November. Fran advised the group that our next Officers Call will be on November 30 at Doc's Oyster Bar in Niceville and that all future Officers Calls will be on each month with 5 Thursdays. He announced that our November speaker will be B/G Patt Maney, our State Representative. Fran also reminded the group of our December 14th Military Ball and we were provided additional information from Karl Eschmann, who also had information about the DAR's upcoming event honoring Vietnam Veterans. Fran reminded members that bags on the tables were temporarily replacing the 50/50 raffle and that the money received would go for buying commissary gift cards for E-4 and below families and to please be generous. Today's donations came to \$176. He reminded members of the upcoming Veterans Standing Down and noted that Dave Parisot is asking for volunteers to assist in that effort. Fran announced that we would be having a visit from the FCoC leadership later this month.

Fran then announced that there were 9 eligible winners for the October Defender Quiz. The winning ticket selected was Michael Griffith. The answer to the question: "Who, in 1943, was the General who appointed Robert Oppenheimer to lead the Manhattan Project?" was General Leslie Groves. The meeting ended with the group singing the Navy Song.

Attendance for the meeting was 39 and it was adjourned at 1325.

//signed//

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

Distribution: Email to NWFMOA Chapter Member