

**MIAMI UNIVERSITY NROTC ALUMNI ORGANIZATION
MINUTES ANNUAL MEETING 18 April 2009**

President Chris Ryder called the Annual Meeting of the NROTC Alumni Organization to order at 2:47 PM. Board members present were: Jim Bodmer, Don Gerber, Don Harrington, Marty Hill, Jim Maynard, Steve Maynard, Dave Miller, Mike O'Neil, Chris Ryder, and Carl Stein. Also present were Assistant Professor of Journalism Cheryl Heckler, CAPT Stephen Johnson, NROTC Unit Commanding Officer; LT Tim English, USN, Associate Professor of Naval Science, and other organization members listed on the attached roster.

OPENING REMARKS:

President Chris Ryder opened the meeting by introducing CAPT Johnson, Unit Commanding Officer who then introduced his military staff. Assistant Professor of Journalism Cheryl Heckler was then introduced and presented a brief detailing a capstone course she has designed relating to *Media and the Military* (presentation detailed below.)

President Chris Ryder congratulated Loren Heckelman on his selection as the Souers Award recipient, briefly reported his progress in preparing the Annual Report for MUAA, and discussed the recent MUAA meeting with incoming President Marty Hill, Ray Mock and Mike Macechko. In closing his remarks President Chris Ryder noted this year's loss of Dr. David Gilboe and COL Wayne Howland, USMC-Ret, both members of the Class of '51.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The minutes of the previous Annual Meeting were approved as distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mike O'Neil reported the Friend's Account balance as \$18,311.00.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Mentoring Project- Dave Miller reported the problems working with the MUAA data base to identify potential mentors have recently been overcome.
- NROTC Unit History Project- John Morrow was unable to attend the Annual Meeting but reported to President Chris Ryder that he has identified significant University server space to host the web site.

NEW BUSINESS

- Media and the Military*- Cheryl Heckler, an Assistant Professor in the Journalism Department presented a brief of a semester long capstone course she has designed for the fall semester. Currently there are 20 Journalism majors registered for the course which is also open to all ROTC students. The focus of the course is the association between the media and the military, going back in history as far as the Spartans. The students will be responsible for the military history as well as the application of media technology. This will follow the department's WW II Veterans Project which is producing video histories of WW II veterans. These interviews are edited and uploaded to the web site www.cherylheckler.com. The 2008/2009 course will sponsor a Seminar / Conference, held in Marcum Hall, 10 - 11 November with the theme "Salute to WW II Veterans."

□ Communication Initiative- President Chris Ryder spoke of the Yahoo group we initiated during the past year. The group has received very little use. There was a clear consensus that a communication group within the organization would be very beneficial but the associated hassles severely limit use. Loren Heckelman volunteered to investigate an alternative to Yahoo groups.

□ 2008 Nominating Committee Report- Nominating Committee Chair Steve Maynard reported the following slate of officers for the coming year: President, Marty Hill; Vice President, open; Treasurer, Carl Stein; Recording Secretary, Mike O'Neil; and Corresponding Secretary- open. President Chris Ryder opened the floor for any further nominations. Jim Bodmer nominated Steve Maynard for the office of Vice President and Mike O'Neil nominated Dave Miller for Corresponding Secretary. Both individuals nominated from the floor agreed to serve. The slate was adopted by acclamation.

□ Election of New Board Members- President Chris Ryder reported the resignation of Corresponding Secretary John Zeola (09) and Director Sims Wayt (10); adding two open Director positions in addition to the position vacated by the passing of Dr. Gilboe (10). All other Directors with terms expiring this year have indicated a desire to continue to serve the Organization. President Chris Ryder asked for any interest from the floor to fill these three positions. Loren Heckelman, CAPT Mark Storch, USN, and CAPT Mark Pawlak, USN, responded. Loren Heckelman assumed the full two year term and CAPTs Mark Storch and Mark Pawlak each assumed a one year term.

□ Alumni Weekend- Don Harrington reported that the local members of the organization will again participate in producing an Open House on Saturday, 20 June (Alumni Weekend) between 2 – 5 PM.

COMMANDING OFFICERS COMMENTS:

Capt Johnson provided a recap of the past year. Last year he expressed his concern for the academic performance of freshman class Midshipmen. To address these concerns several changes were instituted; freshman orientation was realigned, mandatory study hall (minimum of 10 hours/week) for all freshman, and provision of tutoring for Calculus and Physics, and an increase emphasis on tracking performance and early intervention was instituted. As a result the GPA of the freshman class (2011) increased to more than 2.9 and the freshman class (2012) was just shy of 3.2.

The unit is growing due to the plus up of the Navy and Marine Corps. With a significant increase in freshman recruiting this year, it is anticipated that the strength of the unit next year will be 100+. In response to a question regarding the Army presence this year CAPT Johnson explained that a cooperative program has been created with the Army ROTC Unit at Xavier University in Cincinnati. There are currently several Army students at Miami under the auspices of the NROTC Unit. Xavier courses and instructors have received accreditation through the Miami University system allowing students credit toward their Miami degree. Students commute to Xavier for Army ROTC activities.

NEEDS OF THE UNIT:

LT English requested \$948.00 from the Friends Account to register 10 Marine Option Midshipmen and both Marine Instructors to attend a day long seminar next fall. The focus of this seminar is the effect of lethality on the war-fighter; research shows this type seminar significantly reduces the incidence of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in this population. Mike O'Neil moved that the request be approved, Dave Miller seconded the motion; the motion passed without dissent.

LT English also verified that the NROTC Alumni Organization was purchasing initial annual memberships for all graduating Midshipmen in the Miami University Alumni Association.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

President Marty Hill thanked Chris Ryder for his leadership over the past two years while serving as the organization's president. She suggested several initiatives for next year including an administrative review of our By-Laws and investigating the potential of reviving publication of **SOUNDINGS**.

NEXT MEETING: Saturday teleconference, 13 June 2009 @ 1100 AM
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Approved / as Corrected

Carl W. Stein Mike O'Neil

08 / 09 Secretary 09 / 10 Secretary

CC: Directors

CAPT Johnson

LT English