

DESERT MUSTANGS

Spring Newsletter 2018

Greetings for our first newsletter of 2018. We hope all are well though we've had two of our members on the sick list – Iva Spurgeon recently had bout of pneumonia and John O'Hara has had some health problems which necessitated him in moving to Tucson. This will give greater access to the VA in Tucson. Sadly we've also lost a fine Marine, Captain Dale Manifold. We wish his wife Elaine, and family our condolences. We know that Dale has reported to Sky 6 for duty as Officer of the Day for the Heavenly Guard of Marines at the Pearly Gates.

Saturday 17 February we held our first meeting of the year, the following were present – Mark & Cindy Blaydes, George & Jo Meegan, John & Evelyn Culver, Bud & Beverly Franz and Jim Geiser.

The business of day consisted of the necessity to replace Don Mosley as Secretary/Treasurer. He has had to resign due to health problems. President Mark Blaydes opened the floor for candidates as none of the membership had responded to his e-mail soliciting candidates. After much discussion Jim Geiser stepped forward and accepted the position of Treasurer and Cindy Blaydes accepted the role of Secretary. The latter is not a precedent as Sue Haley had been Treasurer in the past.

Following the election, George B. Meegan discussed No. 1 -The cancelled planned picnic at the Arizona State Veterans Home. It had been cancelled due to resignation of Don Mosley No. 2 - New date will probably be in the early fall. A definite date will be selected after a liaison with the representative of the Arizona State Veterans Home. No 3 - JROTC reports – all schools are in full swing and have been contacted as to the dates of their respective awards' ceremonies. The majority occur in April with a couple in May. Once dates and times are available you will be notified. As always you are encouraged to attend the ceremonies along with George B. Meegan, who has been presenter for the past 20 years, He welcomes other members to present awards in junction with him or to have a member make the presentation at the various ceremonies. No.4 - Platoon reports – Phoenix, John Culver, responsible for our use of the VFW Post facility in Scottsdale, stated he contacted the various members in the Phoenix area, with no reports of illness or needs; Yuma - Don Mosley reported he had met the new SMI of the Kofa JROTC unit. It is unknown whether he is a Mustang, nothing else was reported other than the passing of Captain Dale Manifold.; Tucson - Report of Iva Spurgeon's health was received and that she is back home, Sue Haley did not attend the meeting as she no longer drives long distance or at night due her age.

Awards - plaques will be purchased the first week in March in order to be ready for upcoming JROTC award ceremonies. All donors have deposited their donations, which enables the Chapter to have sufficient funds without depleting the bank account. Plaque and cash award is \$150.00 per school and as we sponsor (07) schools now that comes to \$1050.00.

National Muster of the Association is scheduled to be held in San Antonio in August. Exact date is available on the Web Site. John & Evelyn Culver are planning to attend and are asking for other members to join them. It would be appropriate as we are the most, also seemingly the only one, active chapter in the Association.

Meetings – the next meeting is tentatively scheduled in conjunction with Coolidge's award ceremony the 2nd Friday in May. Our meeting would occur then on Saturday the next morning at 1100. Confirmation will be made and publish to all.

A suggestion for a future meeting i.e. in February 2019 to be a Family picnic meeting, kids, members etc. This is to encourage younger Mustangs and families to become members. Proposed planned Picnic for Vets at Arizona State Veterans Home could also be a "Family Type affair", it would depend on Vet Home regulations on children being present but is feasible.

GOOD OF THE ORDER – Jim Geiser is involved in the Veterans Memorial at ASU. Memorial honors all of the veterans who attended ASU through the years. The dedication ceremony is November 3rd, time will be published at a later date.

An idea was presented to get greater notice of the Association and Chapter by participating in a parade i.e. Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Iwo Jima "Ira Hayes" parade in Sacaton, Gila reservation. The latter is held in an around 25 February annually. If you have a contact on any of the foregoing let us know so we can see if it is feasible for us to participate. Naturally we would ride in a vehicle i.e. red pickup to save the legs of our members.

GENERAL INFORMATION: The following is available to you – 1) New address for Annuitant Pay DFAS – US Military Annuitant Pay 8899 East 56th St. Indianapolis, Indiana 46249-1300
2) Military Retiree newsletter is available at: The Retiree Activities Office Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, California 90740-5000.

Newsletter is very informative and has timely information for retirees. E-mail rao-nwsjb@navy.mil or google the RAO NWS Seal Beach California.

A late Happy New Year to all and be in touch we all like to hear from you.

Semper Fi

George B. Meegan