

**Minutes of the  
Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
March 17, 2022**

**Call to Order:** Chairman Perry Nouis called the meeting to order at 11:00 am EST. The meeting was held via ZOOM teleconference.

**Roll Call:** The following members were present: Chairman Perry Nouis, President Brett Ashworth, Greg Smith, Treasurer Phil Ratliff, Directors Julie Briggs, John Gura, John Terino, Jim McGuire, Chuck Merlo and Carla Sylvester. A quorum was present.

The following board members was absent: John Dorrian (proxy given to Perry Nouis); Dave Phillips, Doug Kennett (proxy given to Carla Sylvester)

**Others attending:** Brig. Gen Rob Palmer, MA to SAF/PA Director, Art Forster, Jay DeFrank, Christine Queen, and Jim Hart.

**Minutes from the last meeting:** Chairman Nouis made a motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting as presented. John Gura seconded. Motion passed.

**Special Topic Briefing:** Chairman Nouis invited Art Forster to brief the status of a special topic, the potential renaming of our association to “The Air Force Public Affairs Association.” Art Forster briefed that under the leadership of Jay DeFrank a committee reached out to our counterparts with the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy, who both had similar associations including the word “Alumni” in their names, but chose later to drop that word. Rear Admiral Retired Tom Jurkowsky, Chairman of the Navy Public Affairs Association, and Doug Coffee, former President of the Army Public Affairs Association, were invited to share his perspective on the rationale for the Navy Public Affairs Association changing their name. Rear Admiral Jurkowsky shared his perspective that the organization started as a social organization with moderate participation, but in 2013 the organization changed its name to be more inclusive of active duty, reserve, officer enlisted and civilians. They dropped the \$100 membership fee to join that increased participation to 570. They are a 501.C19 organization, which requires that 75% of the organization’s members be veterans. The organization wants to be more relevant in assisting the active community, including a program to assist with professional development. There are about 50 active-duty members. The change was free of costs. An attorney for their group does an annual filing with the IRS. Intent is to support the active duty with training and professional development and growth of the organization.

Doug Coffee briefed next about the Army Public Affairs Association. The organization started in 2009, closely following the bylaws of the AFPAAA. Over time they determined they wanted to drive membership up, and became a 501c3 enabling more inclusive engagement. They file an annual return each year. They have a membership fee of \$35 dollars per year or \$300 for a lifetime membership. They sponsor an award of excellence for NCOs that helps NCOs continue promotions. They also have a lifetime

achievement award they sponsor for a member who continues to serve. Each year they do the recognition and share it with the Army PA community. There are about 500 current members, with more than half of the organization being active duty.

**SAF/PA MA Address:** Chairman Perry Nouis invited Brig. Gen Rob Palmer MA to PA Director Brig Gen Pat Ryder, to make remarks. General Palmer said SAF/PA was preparing to support communications for the budgetary process, and had the recent opportunity to attend a DINFOS graduation. He said the Pentagon was beginning to repopulate after COVID protocols eased.

**Financial Report:** Treasurer Phil Ratliff reported that as of March 17, 2022, the endowment fund had lost some momentum along with the dip in the market. The bank balance was about \$5000.

Greg motion made a motion to approve the Treasurer's financial report as presented by Phil Ratliff. The motion was seconded by John Terino. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Greg Smith to authorize transfer of \$5000 from the endowment to the bank account to cover expenses. Motion was seconded by Chuck Merlo seconded. Motion passed.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**A. Annual Meeting Committee:** Perry Nouis reported that the Dayton meeting has been canceled. Wright Patterson was unable to commit to supporting the event, which drove the decision to cancel. We have made contact with MacDill to support the annual meeting in late 2023. The hotel at Dayton was kind enough to allow cancellation without a fee, which saved the association. Chairman Nouis thanked Phil Ratliff for his great work coordinating the cancellation with the hotel.

**B. Membership Committee:** Christine Queen reported that membership is slowly dropping, with about 100 fewer members than we had in 2014. Christine recommended welcoming new members, with 3 joining since last meeting. Directories went out at the end of September. Motion to accept the membership report was made by Chuck Merlo, seconded by John Gura. Motion passed.

**C. Communications/Newsletter:** John Terino stated the newsletter for April was just about finished and will be in the mail in time to support the election. The newsletter included scholarship information and news of cancellation of the annual meeting. John reported he was in the process of transferring leadership of the newsletter effort to Dick Cole. He expected the July or October issue to be his last. He recommended inviting Dick to the next meeting to promote a smooth transfer of responsibility.

**D. Website/Oral History:** Jim McGuire reported that there were new additions to the website, and he was changing the navigation on the site. The PRSA stipend and the new election ballots were made prominent and user-friendly on the new site. Building the new Hall of Fame content will be the next focus area.

#### **Old Business:**

**Update on Hall of Fame: Committee Chair** Art Forster reported that the Board approved 5 new members of the Hall of Fame. He reached out to the individuals or their next of kin to gather more information for the website. For the next annual meeting, we will need to consider inviting the Best of the Best winners who were unable to attend a meeting and be recognized due to COVID 19 cancellations. The Committee will meet to discuss a wall display at DINFOS.

**Update on Dalton Scholarship:** Chuck Merlo reported we have four applicants for the Dalton Scholarship. Application window closes June 1. Chuck briefed that he will revise the application to gather enough information to evaluate applications in the event the scholarship becomes competitive. He emphasized that we'd like to assure we award the money fairly and for high performers.

**Perry Nouis made a motion that the next meeting be scheduled for June 23 at 3 p.m.** Chuck Merlo seconded. Motion passed.

**Jay Defrank thanked Art Forster for inviting our guests to brief the potential name change.** Jay recommended the Name Change Committee continue to study the change and present their findings to the board for a decision at the next meeting. Jay said that Jerry Renne's input will be solicited in the next committee meeting, to reflect the preferences of the active duty and current civilians. In addition, the group would also review the ramifications to our IRS tax status.

**Phil Ratliff moved to adjourn the meeting. John Gura seconded the motion, and all members voted in favor of adjournment.**