

Minutes of the Maritime Air Veterans Meeting

Held at the Monterey/Ramada Hotel

Thursday, 13 Nov 2014

INTRODUCTION

- Attendance was 41 members. After an initial 'meet and greet', the members assembled at tables for the luncheon at 12:30. Following lunch, President Tap Fawcett, introduced the guest speaker: Paddy O'Donnell (Lt Gen ret'd). He announced that Paddy had graciously accepted the position as MAVA's National Honorary President.
- Paddy provided the members present with a thought provoking presentation on the future advocacy roles for our organization. He highlighted the initial projects underway for Veterans advocacy through the Veterans Consultation Assembly and with the National Association of Federal Retirees. He added that possible directions for our group would be in the support of Maritime Air and Naval policy formation. Today's challenge with the Canada First Defence Strategy is acquisition with a design to cost policy and a tight budget environment. He suggested that our best efforts may best be directed through a strategic alliance with naval groups and associated industries. He coloured his presentation with anecdotal accounts of various historical projects and the decision making process in NDHQ during his years there.

BUSINESS MEETING

ITEM

- **President's Report**
President Tap Fawcett opened the business meeting at 14:25 hrs. He advised members that Larry Gray a long time VPI Member had passed away last week. He welcomed new members: Sandy Saunders, Pierre Page, and Ernie Cable.
 - Tap reported on the two past golf tourneys In June and September. The June event had approx 40 participants while the September tourney had some 30 players.
 - The Dinner Dance held at the Monterey location was very well done and 31 attending. The late change in venue caught some reduced numbers but the entertainment, meal and comraderie made for a splendid evening.
 - Tap reported that we now have a website under development at www.mavaottawa.org thanks to the efforts of Jeff Tasseron who will be our new VP.

- **Treasurer's Report**
_JP Chabot reported a bank balance of approximately \$3,400.00. We are in good shape and can cover any costs required as deposits etc for events.
- **Membership Report** Paul Baiden was away attending the Nat'l Association of Federal Retirees meeting on our behalf. We do have 68 members presently paid up but our email list is over 120 persons. So those of you out there can help us by signing up. Contact Paul at pbaiden@rogers.com . It was noted that we do have official MAVAs lapel pins that are available by contacting Paul or at the next meeting. Cost is \$5.00 ea
- **New Vice President** Tap advised members that Jeff Tasseron had been approached and had agreed to run as MAVA Vice President. Jeff is recently retired and has a strong background in HS Operations and Staff appointments. (See website for more)

Motion: It was moved by Ernie Briggs and seconded by Ivan Hawley that Jeff Tasseron be accepted as MAVA Vice President. **Motion Carried**

- **Meeting Venues** President Tap advised members that we have had some challenges in getting a fixed venue for our meetings and social events. The Cedarhill Golf Club was originally selected but new management were unwilling to honour the previous financial arrangements. Subsequently we arrived at the present location the Monterey Inn which is now the Ramada. The Ramada has the added advantage of accommodation on site, which several out-of-town couples utilized at the dinner dance event. Recently, it appears that the Cedarhill may be open to returning to our original arrangement. The Holy M. Ivan and Fred will investigate and get the best arrangement for us.
- **New Executive Nomination Committee** Ed Fairbairn explained that the original replacement plan had been derailed and was requesting all members to consider running for the offices of: President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership and the Holy Mackerel or his deputy. The current officers have agreed to stay on until May 2015 as per the original transition arrangement. Ed can be contacted at: ed.fairbairn@rogers.com
- **Upcoming Events** The proposed following 2015 calendar for future meetings represent target dates pending availability of guest speakers and venues. The next meeting unless otherwise advised is to be at this location, Ramada previously Monterey Inn.

- Luncheon Meeting Wed Feb 18th

- Luncheon Meeting Wed May 20th
- Dinner Dance TBD September
- Luncheon Meeting Wed Nov18th

Further details will be provided by email to all members

- **Veterans Consultation Assembly** MAVA is a party to this assembly of some 23 Veterans organizations across Canada. It has been sponsored/hosted by the Royal Canadian Legion. A letter was sent to the Minister of Veterans Affairs advising him of the assemblies major concerns regarding the Governments “New Veterans Charter” These were items on which all parties had reached some consensus. The Ministers reply was less than satisfactory. There has been some controversy sparked by one individual who is opposed to much of the Legions approach. Ed Fairbairn had suggested that it might be worthwhile to have both parties in some panel format at a future meeting. The President took this under advisement and informed members that we were looking at future speakers in line with our advocacy ventures and, that we hoped to get the new Deputy Minister Vet Affairs to our podium. There was a reminder that any speakers we have would be speaking under the umbrella of a “Privileged Platform”
 - A Committee consisting of Paddy O’Donnell, Jeff Tasseron and Al Conrad are tasked with targeting guest speakers for future meetings and any input from members would be welcomed
- **50/50 Draw** The 50/50 draw was worth \$86.00. The winner was Bob Blouin.
- **Adjournment** A motion to adjourn was made by Joe Scoles and seconded by Phil Somers. The next luncheon meeting will be held at the Monterey/Ramada on 13 Feb (plus or minus a day)

(Original signed by)
B. Wattie (Secty)

(Original signed by)
M. Fawcett (Pres)