



Association of the US Army
Kuwait Chapter – Board Meeting
7 June 2008

Subject: Minutes of the June 7, 2008 Executive Board Meeting

The meeting was held at the Rotana Hotel in Fintas and was called to order by the President, Darrell Crawford. In attendance were nine board members: Darrell, Sonny Busa, Chris Campbell, Chaplain Sydney Marceaux, CSM Don Harbin, Randy Williams, Lole Meaole-Morrison, Salem Al-Shammari, and Gae Lyn Anderson. Three guests also attended: Rania Azmi, Jeremy Howard, and SGT Dave Snipes.

Ten board members were absent: John Homerin, David Hill, Dana Winner, Gail Camillo, Samar Mansour, COL Mark Conroe, LTC Clint Pendergast, LTC Keith Hunt, Tom Schneider, and CSM Philip Brown. Replacement officers for 1st TSC Liaison and SGT Audie Murphy Club Liaison have not yet been selected.

Not enough Board members were present for a quorum. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m.

Old Business:

1. Minutes were reviewed from the last meeting, voted upon, and entered into the record.
 2. The newly voted on Chapter officers list was reviewed by Darrell and will be distributed with the minutes and in the next newsletter.
 3. Darrell Crawford attended the Regional Conference in Europe in January. He recommended that another board member plan to attend AUSA National Training in Kansas City in August and the Regional Conference in Germany in January 2009.
 4. AUSA's Annual Meeting will be held in Washington, DC, October 6-8, 2008. Darrell encouraged all who could to attend. There will be corporate members' functions and luncheon. Sonny and Jeremy will try to attend. Others should if they can. Voting for uniform and hotel for Soldier of the Year and NCO of the Year is listed below.
 5. The draft newsletter was gratefully noted by Darrell to Lole and he expressed an interest in using the MS Publisher as a viable means to produce the next newsletter.
 6. The current status of the Clothing Locker at Ali Al Salem Life Support Area was duly noted as receiving a pledge for a generous donation from the AUSA Space Coast chapter in the amount of \$5,000 and a thank you letter will be sent to them when the check arrives. The AUSA Cincinnati Chapter sent a \$125 contribution and a thank you letter was already sent. The funds will be passed through the treasurer, David Hill, and given to Keith Hunt, VP, Clothing Locker. It was suggested that \$50 AAFES gift voucher for clothing be given to Service Members departing theater on emergency leave and R&R when the locker doesn't have their size of clothing, however, another suggestion was made just to purchase the items needed. Voting is listed below whether to maintain \$2,500 for emergencies in the Clothing Locker fund, and then also to purchase \$2,500 in clothing. The US Embassy Chapel recently made a monetary contribution that purchased
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170 sets (pants/shirts) for the clothing locker. Chris Campbell noted that the purchased items can be made through City Center for approximately 4.5 KD per set.

New Business:

1. The Army's 9th Finance Management Company at Camp Arifjan (and supporting all camps throughout Kuwait) will have their annual Organization Day on 1 July and have requested support from AUSA. If we vote to support we will only need a few volunteers for the event as no BBQ will be required. Jeremy Howard volunteered to help with the t-shirts (assuming the board votes to support the event) and Salem Al-Shammari with prizes for their triathlon. Tom will represent us at the event to present prizes and pass out t-shirts, as well as shake hands and 'show the AUSA flag'! Anyone wishing to participate please contact Tom (tomscuba1955@yahoo.com). You will need to be at the Zone 1 track not later than 0630 to see the triathlon end, present prizes, and have breakfast with them.
 2. The annual AUSA-Kuwait calendar was reviewed by Darrell and he asked for any comments to amend it. It was suggested that there would not be an Annual AUSA Banquet each year in conjunction with the Annual Golf Tournament each spring; however, there might be a dinner the day of the tournament instead. Jeremy Howard suggested using the Equestrian Club for this event. (Calendar attached.)
 3. Darrell stated that there are 122 AUSA chapters in the overall AUSA organization. Ft. Bragg has the largest membership at 14,000 members, whereas the Kuwait Chapter has approximately 200 members (up from about 100 this time last year). However, the AUSA Kuwait Chapter is currently 3rd in overall growth. We are one of the smallest chapters, but growth was 66%. The highest growth rate was Ft. Hood chapter at 73%; the Alaska Polar Bear chapter had the second highest growth rate with 67%. Darrell thinks we have a chance at being number one in this category for the year ending 30 June. (Note: Darrell's goal is to double our size again in the coming year (400 members) and 50% growth in corporate members (30)).
 4. Business cards were discussed for the AUSA Board. Darrell has them and uses them more than he ever imagined and thinks others might use them as well. Board members can get 1,000 cards for 15 KD if at least 15 place orders. Each Board member will purchase their own with a group discount. There will be a standard design with the title in the attached list of officers. Cards will have English on one side and Arabic on the other. Those interested should contact Salem Al-Shammari ASAP. (cpiswa@yahoo.com or 910-1399.)
 5. A satellite chapter in UAE was discussed. Sam and Beam Thompson have recently arrived in Abu Dhabi to open a new business office for Sam's company and he is interested in helping us do that.
 6. Support for a 4th of July gala at Camp Buehring was discussed but has since been cancelled. Not much interest was generated as many members will be traveling.
 7. Chaplain Marceaux is going to draft a proposal for our new family support program that Darrell wants to initiate. Before support would be offered, a soldier's unit, the Red Cross, and other resources would be approached first with AUSA resources being made
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available for unusual circumstances where other support is not available. Key to the – program will be the recommendations of unit senior enlisted personnel and supporting chaplains. A needs assessment will have to be validated and recommended through the chain of command for each family case. Darrell will facilitate a discussion for this potential program on 2 July Darrell with unit chaplains. If Darrell is not available due to travels, a handout will be prepared to be dispersed and the discussion will be re-scheduled.

8. Darrell reviewed the Leadership Links on the AUSA website and gave the Board the user name and password. He asked that the Board NOT use the email, but allow him to do the communicating in MS Outlook.
9. The annual plan for our fiscal year, 1 July 08-30 June 09, is attached. Darrell must submit this by the end of this month to meet the AUSA National suspense. Please vote and/or provide comment ASAP.
10. The following items are to be voted on via email since there was no quorum present:
 - a. Hotel and Uniforms for the Soldier of the Year and NCO of the Year in October
 - b. Thanksgiving program at the Hilton November 2008.
 - c. Annual Banquet or Dinner for the Golf Tournament in March.
 - d. Include Abu Dhabi as a Satellite Chapter of AUSA Kuwait

Attachments:

AUSA Chapter Officers

AUSA Calendar for 2008-09

Kuwait 2008-09 Annual Plan

Minutes taken by: Gae Lyn Anderson, Secretary

Sincerely,

<Original signed>

Darrell Crawford

President, AUSA-Kuwait Chapter