

### Roll Call of Officers

President	(COL-Ret)	Robert Chevas	Present
President (Elect)	(COL-Ret)	Eric Larson	Present
Vice President (Membership)	(CSM-Ret)	Knute Weick	Absent
Treasurer	(LTC-Ret)	Edgar Montalvo	Present
Secretary	(SGT-Ret)	Chip Wood	Present

## Directors At Large

Appointed by the President and serve a two-year term concurrent to the Association Board.

Position	Rank	Name	Contact
Director at Large (Senior) (P09-11)	MG (R)	Robert Heine	<a href="#">email a board member</a>
Director at Large (Programs & Events) (P13-15)	COL (R)	John Gessner	<a href="#">email a board member</a>
Director at Large (Eastern Chapter)	COL (R)	Lee Pryor	<a href="#">email a board member</a>
Director at Large (Eastern Chapter)	SGM (R)	Michele Marsden	<a href="#">email a board member</a>
Director at Large	COL (R)	Gerald Meyer	<a href="#">email a board member</a>
Director at Large (Newsletter)	LTC (R)	Robert Mittelstaedt	<a href="#">email a board member</a>
Director at Large (Historian & Death Notices)	CH (COL)	Robert Carter	<a href="#">email a board member</a>
Director at Large (VP Membership Assistant)	CSM (R)	Ed Evans	<a href="#">email a board member</a>
Director at Large (Co-Treasurer/501c focused)	COL (R)	Ken Yoshitani	<a href="#">email a board member</a>
Web Master (non-voting position)	Mr.	Shaun Murphy	<a href="#">email a board member</a>

Robert opened the meeting with the Roll Call of Officers

Lee provided an update on the Eastern chapters 19-21 May 2023 weekend retreat. The planning is underway to secure tickets for the US Army Museum. Twenty-five tickets have been allocated to us for members and guests. Our contact at the museum who has been extremely helpful said that adding additional tickets should not be a problem. The sooner we can give a tentative number of the additional

tickets needed the better. We are waiting on Michele to provide an update on the rooms for hotel reservations. It was proposed that a "flash" message be sent to all members to make a tentative commitment. If someone has any ideas about getting the word out to the entire association please share your ideas so we can then spread the word for the entire TEC to see if there is some interest among the active reservist soldiers if anybody wants to join us out there also if any Eastern Chapter members close to Washington or the Command Staff we need a message sent out in the next 2 weeks if at all possible to get the best response possible.

A message can be sent out to COL Woods the FEG East and Jerry Kecham and the people around there in Maryland and TEC Members that reside the Washington DC Area.

Lee stated that he will send out a message to ENCOM Forward Cell from Desert Storm. I have already given them an alert that we're doing this so I can now send them more information and an update on what we will be doing. Some of them now live in the area and may want to attend.

There are 4 or 5 choices for lunch, or everyone could be on their own, you could go to Museum Cafeteria for a minimum charge. We could have a private dining area for us to gather in for lunch. By the next time we meet in March, Lee will put together our dining options, so we can make a decision on. Lee will get a hold of the Community Club at Fort Belvoir we used that Club for the Saturday night dinner get together about six years ago it was a nice spot. It overlooks the Potomac River it was the beautiful old Officer's Club; I will start taking steps into to see if we can investigate having our dinner there on Saturday Night. Also, must look into other possible venues because it may already be reserved for another function, I will update everyone at the next meeting.

Michele stated that she has made a couple of options for the hotels one has a price of \$189 while the other is about \$89, but we have made a block of rooms at both hotels we are looking good. The 2 hotels are the IHG Army Hotel and the Hampton Suites both are on the Fort Belvoir Installation.

Robert started the meeting with The Meeting minutes, Eric Larsen chimed in and said that it's too long to read them so He suggested that I give an updated short version of the minutes from last month, also Robert suggested that if I can get the members a copy of the minutes 1 to 2 days before the meeting that would also be great. Eric also suggested that Edgar Financial Report also be a shorter version of the Financials.

Eric asked about LTG Bob Carlson coming to the luncheon or the Dinner, Robert said for the Saturday Dinner that would be the plan.

Robert met with the TEC JAG, gave an update on the Grant Sheets but there was construction going on the guy did not notice Robert and TEC JAG was not in the building; he also had an appointment with Mr. Murphy, but he was called away for TDY Robert dropped off some Association coins for the CG and DCG Robert left them on Mr. Murphy desk.

Gave an update on the Mr. Murphy's for the Silver De-Flora, Robert talked to the Guys at the School House on Thursday, it's past thru their committee it's now sitting now sitting on CSM of the School's Desk it's waiting for final sign-off to the School Commandant, the Deputy Commandant who I talked to LTC Gillespie on Thursday should be accomplished next week as soon as it's approved he'll inform me he's claiming it will be approved he leaning that it will approved. I should know something next week. It kind of got lost over the holidays we'll now soon. It back on track we'll have it soon then decide when we want to award it to Mr. Murphy, at the VA Weekend or another ENCOM Event we'll see.

Dewayne Nelson asked if there is any talk about the possible 75<sup>th</sup> of the TEC in 2025, have you any discussions of the Anniversary Celebration, Robert replied that he has heard anything yet, But Robert will ask when, that's a good question he'll ask. Eric asked did they do anything for their 50<sup>th</sup>, Dewayne said there was a commendation of the audio presentation and video presentation of the celebration we also had a dinner for all was positioned there is also video CD but it was on a videotape but I have not converted to a CD yet.

Next on the agenda was Michele's information on the Newsletter since she has dropped off the meeting as far as you understood Eric that she will publish the final version of the Newsletter this month, Eric replies that it was his understanding that it was correct it was to be the finalization. Eric thinks Bob should send her a note to follow-up.

Edgar stated that I was not unable to meet up with Gayla Smith she had to go down to Florida to take care of her ailing sister. Gayla Smith for those who remember her, she ran the Barbecue of the Brave I was trying to put together a Transition Letter to letting know if they want to contribute, they can make a Donation to our Organization. Robert interjected that that would be great to see if we can get the Donor List from her, would appreciate if you would follow up with her. This could also be an item we discuss next month.

Under New Business, Robert put down a brief note: Ken Yoshitani had sent association coins which are basic membership coins as opposed to challenge coins, basically I wanted to give one of them to the CG and DCG since without asking them they went to the Website and signed up for Life Members, so I dropped them off at their desk when I was at the TEC.

Then was talking to Knute about redesign of coins if we need to do a new one cause the old ones are small, compared today's Challenge Coin and he has done this in the past. He was prepared to redesign the if we needed to. Then Robert interjected that the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is coming up in 2025 which may a good reason for a New Coin for the Association

We then discussed about the possibility of the New Coins nothing confirmed just a table discussion that's all.

John Gessner brought up the meeting in November, Robert stated that "yes, we will have a Dinner/Meeting, that's the meeting that we'll switch out the board at that time. we'll like to settle on a location before I head to Turkey in May. Then John asked about a get together in May, it was decided to go with Lee's event in May this year. John will be prepping the venues for the November Meeting get together will be reporting back to the board next month.

February meeting was adjourned at 9:50 AM

The Next Get Together is scheduled May 20-21, 2023, at Fort Belvoir, VA

The Next Meeting will be on 4 March 2023 - @ 0900

# Survivor Benefit Plan Open Season

By **Patty Cruz**, *Survivor Benefit Plan Program Manager*



The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2023 includes a Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Open Season. The SBP Open Season began on Dec. 23, 2022 and ends on Jan. 1, 2024.

## **Survivor Benefit Plan/Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan Enrollment**

The SBP Open Season allows certain retirees who are not currently participating in SBP to participate in SBP. It will also allow Reserve Component (RC) members and Gray Area Retirees who are eligible for non-regular retired pay and are not participating in the Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP) to participate in RCSBP. Enrollment will require payment for past premiums for coverage from when the member or former member would have first been eligible for participation. In addition, the monthly premium cost will be charged until the member is age 70 and has made 360 monthly payments. Additional information will be released on the premium rates and procedures soon. Check the websites linked below for updates.

## **Survivor Benefit Plan/Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan Discontinuation**

The SBP Open Season also allows retirees currently participating in SBP to discontinue participation. It will also allow RC members and Gray Area Retirees who are currently participating in RCSBP to discontinue participation. Discontinuation will be permanent and will not allow participation in the future. For RCSBP discontinuation, this will also mean discontinuation from SBP at non-regular retirement. No premiums will be refunded and any premiums owed for RCSBP coverage already received will be due when the Soldier receives retired pay.

The Department of Defense, along with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) and the branches of service, are working on implementation guidance, forms, policies and procedures. For the most up-to-date information, go to <https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/provide/sbp/SBP-Open-Season-NDAA2023/>. Check <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/survivor-benefit-plan> for Army-specific information.

We will publish more information as it is received.