

SOA Executive Committee

Minutes of the Meeting

11th January 2012

The SOA Executive Committee met on the 11th of January 2012 in the PAO conference room. The following agenda items were discussed and the consequent actions noted below:

1. Approval of the previous minutes: Minutes approved and the open items were addressed as indicated in this report.
2. Appointment of the Executive Committee Members: Following the previous canvassing work, the potential candidate for the position of Secretary was confirmed and Allan Jeavons, a recently retired NATO civilian, was formally welcomed to the Executive Committee. The position of Chairman remains a work in progress. Ideally, the Chairman should be a serving senior officer assigned to SHAPE.
3. Action Items discussed:
 - a. General Assembly: There are no open items from the General Assembly. The Voting procedures worked well, with at least 25% of the membership participating either directly, through a proxy or using the on-line capabilities. Comments by the attending members confirmed their interest in an associated 'Social Program'.
 - b. SOA Constitution: The draft SOA Constitution was carefully reviewed for legality and has now been submitted to the SHAPE MWR for validation and approval.
 - c. Membership Dues: Members will receive confirmation when their dues are paid and a SOA membership card will be attached to the receipt. A polite reminder will be sent by the end of January to those members who had not yet paid their dues for 2012. Failure to pay the dues by the end of February would result in the individuals being advised that their membership of the SOA had lapsed.
 - d. Recruitment Drive: There was some discussion on reinvigorating the SOA membership. A number of actions were proposed to include an article in the SHAPE Community Life, the Acting Chairman to approach the SHAPE NMR Echelon and individual actions by the Executive Committee members to contact colleagues who may be interested in the SOA. SOA members would also be asked to spread the word amongst their contacts.
 - e. Scholarship Program: The Scholarship Program initiated by Scott Sunquist had been accepted at the General Assembly and the Executive Committee set the ball rolling by donating 25% of the proposed 1000 Euro package for 2012. A detailed article is being prepared on the Scholarship Program and this will be published shortly on the SOA Web site, in the SHAPE Community Life and potentially in the USA Chapter Newsletter.
 - f. Tree Planting for General Shalikashvili: A tree planting ceremony is being arranged at SHAPE in recognition of General Shalikashvili. This will be scheduled during the week of

25th June 2012 to coincide with the 20th anniversary of Gen Shalikashvili's appointment to SHAPE.

4. Activities 2012:

- a. General Assembly: The date set for the 2012 General Assembly is 11-12 October 2012. This will follow the same format as the 2011 General Assembly, with an evening cocktail event on the Thursday and the formal Assembly Program on the Friday followed by a dinner. Following the members' feedback, plans for a social event are also being formulated for Saturday 13th October 2012 in addition to the usual 'Golf Day'. One option being examined is an excursion in coordination with SHAPE Trips and Tours - details will follow.
- b. Other Events: The Executive Committee is examining other activities that would interest the SOA membership during the year such as factory, museum or brewery trips. This idea would be opened up for membership suggestions at the social Happy Hour function immediately following this meeting.

5. Next Meeting: 6th March 2012 at 1430 in the PAO Conference Room.