

## SOA Executive Committee

### Minutes of the Meeting

**8 July 2015**

1. The SOA Executive Committee met on the 8 July 2015 in the PAO Conference Room. Attendance apologies received from Steve Covington, Allan Jeavons, Jürgen Walter, Scott Sunquist, Véronique Leroy, and Jean Vanderwal. The Agenda and the minutes from the previous meeting of 13 May 2015 were approved.
2. **Action Items for Discussion:**
  - a. President's engagement with the NMRs. Richard Laurent (RL) provided inputs from the meetings and discussions he has held with the Dean of NMRs. This included feedback from the letter to the NMRs from SOA President. The letter was well received and following discussions among the NMRs they confirmed an interest in meeting with the SOA for an exchange of views on 8 Oct 15 at a seated luncheon the SOA will host at the SHAPE Club. Several ExCom members will also participate. (Actions: CH will confirm availability of the Pathfinder room (approx 4 round tables) and ask for a menu proposal (a single menu will be selected). JH to draft a letter for Gen Shaud to make initial contact with BGen Kuhn, the new Dean of the NMR, ahead of the luncheon. RL to start preparing the talking points for Gen Shaud; if possible, a courtesy call with BGen Kuhn will be arranged before the luncheon)
  - b. Honorary SOA Presidency. Initial review by SHAPE and EUCOM legal authorities appear to have not identified any issues preventing SACEUR from being the Honorary President of SOA. A formal request for review will be made to finalize the approval. (Action: TBC)
  - c. SOA Flyer. Update is urgently required.  
(Action: JW)
  - d. SOA Sponsored Lectures. Agreement to pursue this initiative. Next steps to identify suitable topics and potential guest speakers. To be discussed with the NMRs as well.  
(Action: RL)
  - e. Engagement with Similar Organizations. Several organizations at SHAPE have been identified to begin a dialogue with in order to explore the possibility of mutual benefits. Plan is for SOA and SHAPE Cavalry and Armor Officers' Association (SCAOA) to co-host a beer call at the end of Aug 15. All Belgium based SOA members will be invited and the SOA will share the costs.. By way of reciprocity, SCAOA members will be invited to attend the 30 Aug 15 SOA Event.  
(Action: RL)
  - f. Article in September SHAPE Community Life. Following the ExCom meeting, RL made contact with the SHAPE Community Life office to inquire about possibilities to have an article about the SOA included in the 10 September edition. The reply was very positive! RL already circulated an initial draft article for comments and inputs. The article and selected pictures are due to SHAPE Community Life NLT 18 Aug 15.  
(Action: RL)
  - g. SOA e-mailing over the SHAPE unclassified network. RL discussed the matter with Director of Management (DOM), SHAPE. After due consideration of the possible options DOM decided that, should SOA need to send out an email over the SHAPE unclassified network, this would occur with an "ALL USERS MAIL" specifying in its heading that the email is for officers and civilians of equivalent rank only,  
(Action: Complete)

- h. SOA webpage makeover. Significant progress noted. Await update. (Action: JV)

### **3. Actions for the 2015 Symposium:**

- a. SOA President Meeting with NMRs. A lunch meeting hosted by SOA has been planned for 8 October 2015. Several ExCom members will also attend.
- b. Friday Evening Concert. The concert is planned for Mons but will be subject to financial considerations. Free attendance by SOA members has yet to be agreed.
- c. Saturday Social Program. Awaiting update. (Action: JV)
- d. Saturday Golf Event. Actions completed for participation at RGCH. Details will be included in the formal SOA Symposium Registration package.
- e. Menu for annual dinner. Grand Hotel in Valenciennes has provided a menu selection that will provide attendees with a choice of two menus. Details will be included in the SOA Symposium Registration package.
- f. Invitation to SACEUR. Formal invitation to SACEUR from President of SOA has been received at SACEUR's office.
- g. Review of draft Invitation. Completed.

### **4. Scholarship(s):**

- a. Review of Application(s). Sufficient funds exist for at least one scholarship award. Application deadline extended to 1 September 2015. Awaiting update. (Action: SS)

### **5. Social Activities 2015:**

- a. St. Denis Art et Saveurs festival and hike fully supported. SCAOA members will be invited as well.

### **6. Amendment of the SOA Constitution:**

- a. Consideration is underway for the reintroduction of Associate Membership to expand membership opportunities. The criteria for membership is being reviewed by ExCom and will be provided to the membership for agreement as this will require an amendment to the SOA Constitution.

### **7. Next Meeting - Wednesday 30 September 2015 in the PAO conference room.**

- 8. **AOB** – ExCom membership was discussed as the normal 2 year participation has arrived and some current ExCom members are considering retirement. More details following the 30 September ExCom Meeting.