



Texas Navy Association  
**MINUTES**

Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting

13 January 2024  
Rosenberg Library  
Galveston, Texas

**Call to Order**

TNA President Adm. WETZEL called the meeting to order at 1316.

The published Agenda for the meeting is attached.

TNA Secretary Adm. HOWELL took the minutes.

Adm. PEET gave the invocation.

Adm. COURREGES led the assembly in the Pledges to the United States and Texas flags.

**Roll Call and Quorum**

Adm. HOWELL conducted a Roll Call and recorded the following board members in attendance. Those indicated below in **bold with an asterisk\*** are voting members of the Board of Directors.

Adm. David WETZEL\*  
Adm. Scott POWELL\*  
Adm. Kathy HOWELL\*  
Adm. Greg DELK\*  
Adm. James BERNSEN\*  
Adm. Tom HAUSER\*

Adm. Andy HALL\*  
Adm. Bill TURNER\*  
Adm. Jimmy PEET\*  
Adm. Wayne COURREGES\*  
Adm. Terry MILLER\*  
Adm. Ron SCHOOLCRAFT\*

There were a total of 24 members and guests present.

As Twelve (12) of eighteen (18) voting members of the TNA Board of Directors were present (i.e., 67%), and under the TNA Bylaws a minimum of 40% voting members are required to establish a quorum for action. Adm. HOWELL declared a Quorum present.

**Approval of 15 October 2023 Minutes**

Minutes from the Fourth Quarter meeting on 15 October 2023 were APPROVED as distributed.

## **President's Announcements**

Adm. WETZEL gave brief opening remarks welcoming TNA members and guests in attendance.

Adm. WETZEL made the presentation of Squadron Affiliation Certificates to the Samuel May Williams Squadron, Zavala Squadron and the Tom Toby Squadron.

Adm. WETZEL led the board in the election of the new Board President.  
Adm. HALL nominated Adm. Scott POWELL. There were no other candidates.

Adm. POWELL was elected UNANIMOUSLY.

The gavel and President's Pin were passed over in a brief ceremony.

Adm. POWELL gave his acceptance speech and opening remarks.

## **Executive Committee Reports**

### **Vice-President's Report**

No report was given as Adm. POWELL had just vacated the position.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Adm. BERNSEN reported that the current bank balance is \$84,000. We are in a net positive of \$24,000 over the past two years. We still have a substantial number of members past due on their membership dues. The Ship Store is continuing to gain speed since its return. Out of that number there are two dedicated funds, one for The Invisible Search and another for the Seminars Committee.

### **Secretary's Report**

Adm. HOWELL announced for anyone who was not at the last meeting that the board voted to create an Audit Committee operating under the Finance Committee to get the organizations financials in order. Part of the motion was to hire a CPA/Bookkeeper. A discussion followed to clarify the actions taken by the board at the previous meeting.

## **Election of the Executive Committee**

Adm. Powell asked for nominations for Vice-President.

Adm. DELK nominated Adm. PEET. There was no opposition and Adm. Jerry PATTERSON moved that Adm. PEET be accepted by acclamation. Motion was seconded by Adm. TURNER.

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Adm. POWELL presented Adm. WETZEL with a custom embroidered TNA jacket as a thank you for his service as President.

Adm. POWELL then made a slide presentation on the committee structure of the TNA and what the roles are for each committee. The slide presentation is attached.

Adm. POWELL asked for nominations for Secretary.

Adm. HOWELL nominated Adm. BERNSEN. Adm. Jerry PATTERSON moved that Adm. BERNSEN be accepted by acclamation. Motion was seconded by Adm. HAUSER.

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Adm. POWELL asked for nominations for Treasurer.

Adm. WETZEL nominated Adm. HOWELL. Adm. SCHOOLCRAFT nominated Adm. GILLIAM.

Adm. GILLIAM was not present and was represented by Adm. Beth FISHER who gave his qualifications.

A written vote was taken and Adm. John SHANAHAN, Jr. acted as teller.

Adm. HOWELL was elected by MAJORITY VOTE.

### **Consent Agenda**

No Consent Agenda items.

### **Committee Reports**

Adm. POWELL charged everyone serving on a committee to live up to the duties of that committee and do it by what is in the bylaws. He also stated that he has an open door policy and anyone that needs assistance please reach out to him and he will provide assistance.

### **Education Committee**

Adm. LAUGHLIN was not present but emailed report.

### **Finance Committee & Ad-hoc CPA Search Committee**

Adm. Jerry PATTERSON reported for chairman Adm. FRY. The committee met via conference call on 7 January. The committee decided that the TNA does not need an audit but rather, needs an independent review as stated in the bylaws. Prior to the review the committee is recommending that the TNA hire a bookkeeper to get our books in order. The bookkeeper position would become permanent working with the Treasurer. The Treasurer would be responsible for reviewing monthly statements and reporting back to the Board as stated in the bylaws. The Treasurer would also be responsible for writing checks after approval from the President. The committee is recommending that the new bookkeeper be brought on board as soon as possible so they can get the cleaned up financials to the Finance Committee and a full report be made to the Board at the next board meeting in April.

Adm. Jerry PATTERSON has drafted a new fundraising letter. Hard copies are available. There is a general message for renewal and joining. There are also letters for targeted audiences such as asking for donations from Lifetime Members. The website will have new links added making donations easier. Other fundraising methods have been discussed

including a dues increase, Board members make a required annual donation, consider having lifetime membership again. There has also been discussion about starting a legacy gift program.

### **Strategic Planning Ad-hoc Committee**

Adm. POWELL reported that the results of this committee's findings were sent out to the membership. A short discussion followed about the findings.

### **IT Committee**

No Report. Adm. TYSON passed over the list of user names and passwords to Adm. POWELL.

### **Seminars Committee**

Adm. TURNER gave a synopsis of the committee's activities for 2023 and upcoming for 2024.

The following were videos from 2023 – Battleship Texas 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Marines of the Texian Republic, The Colt Patterson Revolver, The Three Texas Navies and an educational video for Robin Sebo,

Projects for 2024 – Two videos to be posted with a North Texas Teacher's Research site. Working on another educational video for Robin Sebo. The committee is still working on filming Dr. Bruce Winders with his presentation on the Colt Revolver and James Woodrick's presentation on the Cannons of the Texas Navy. They are working on two Museum Minutes; The Texas Military Forces Museum in Austin and The Lexington. Other projects are a presentation by Derrick Birdsall on the relationship of Sam Houston to the Texas Navy and a video on Samuel Rhoades Fisher is also in the planning stages.

The Zavala exhibit is possibly on permanent hold.

### **Membership Committee**

Adm. DELK was elected by acclamation as the new chair of the committee due to Adm. PEET vacating the position to be Vice-President.

Adm. PEET stated that we have a total of 516 active members. Of this, 219 are annual members, 210 are life members for a total of 429 Admirals, 73 Commanders and no Lieutenants. Of this, 7 are over 75 and pay a discounted dues of \$20. We had about 100 new members join in 2023. As Vice-President he plans to remain active with recruitment so we can not only get more members but also more younger folks interested in the TNA.

### **Ship's Store Report**

Adm. Jerry PATTERSON reported that the Ship's Store had \$23,421.94 in sales in 2023. Of this \$1,932.21 is sales tax due and an approximate \$1,900 in fees to Shopify which is around 3%-4%. There were 347 total online transactions. We still have old inventory included in this number so it is difficult to pin point the cost of goods sold. He is concerned that much of these sales were from pent up demand from when the Ship's Store was not available. So far, our sales for January are \$2,632.61.

### **Operations Committee**

Adm. COURREGES gave a special thank you to Adm HALL in his assistance with booking the Rosenberg Library for today's meeting.



**There was a short break from 1513 – 1534**

Upon reconvening Adm. TURNER motioned that Adm. HAUSER and Suzanne HAUSER be added to the Operations Committee. Adm. PEET seconded.

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **Squadron**

Adm. POWELL announced a little different format for today. The following are Squadron representatives.

**C.E. Hawkins Squadron – Adm. Bill TURNER**

**Chester W. Nimitz Squadron – Adm. Nick GILLIAM**

**Edwin Ward Moore Squadron – Adm. Kathy HOWELL**

**First Navy of Texas Squadron – Adm. Ron SCHOOLCRAFT**

**M. B. Lamar Squadron – Adm. Dave HAGLAND**

**Sam Houston Squadron – Adm. Carolyn LIGHTFOOT**

**Samuel May Williams Squadron – Adm. Greg DELK**

**TNS Zavalla Squadron - Adm. Tom HAUSER**

**Tom Toby Squadron – Adm. Terry MILLER**

## **New Business**

### **2024 Budget**

Adm. POWELL presented the 2024 Budget for approval. An extensive discussion followed with several changes. The original and amended budget are attached.

Adm. MILLER moved to approve the budget as amended. Adm. PEET seconded.

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **Presentation of New Admirals**

Adm. HALL presented new Adm. John Shannahan with his certificate and stars.

Adm. PEET presented new Adm. David Hamaker with his certificate and stars.

Adm. Edwin Sellards was not present but Adm. Hamaker will make the presentation at a later date.

### **Proposed quarterly meeting dates**

Adm. POWELL announced that the meeting dates for the year are 1/13, 4/7,7/13 and 10/19. The Executive Committee will be meeting shortly to decide on final dates and meeting locations. An announcement will be sent out when these are finalized.

Adm. POWELL reminded everyone to send in items for the newsletter. The letter will be coming out quarterly. Submission deadlines are 3/14, 6/13, 9/16 & 12/16.

### Old Business

Adm. POWELL announced that the Financial Committee will be working on the Annual Financial Review.


Adm. POWELL asked for volunteers to work on the Marketing Brochure.

### Open Floor for Questions


There were no questions.

Adm. POWELL adjourned the meeting at 1642.

  
Adm. Scott Powell - President

  
Adm. Jimmy Beet - Vice-President

  
Adm. Kathy Howell - Treasurer

  
Adm. James Bernsen - Secretary