

NORTHWEST FLORIDA MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
LUNCH MEETING
8/3/2023

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The August 3rd meeting of the NWFMOA was called to order by President Fran Hendricks at the Fort Walton Yacht Club at 1200. Chaplain Tom Azar wrote a prayer which Fran read to the group. He then asked Connie White to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. After opening remarks, Fran relayed several important national events that happened on August 3rd and the names of important individuals who had birthdays on this day. Fran then read the names of the four members who have birthdays in August and reminded the group that as a member benefit, a free meal awaits those who have a birthday during the month of our meeting.

Fran asked for members to introduce their guests. Patrick Johnson introduced Colonel John and Joanne Wambaugh. Pat then reminded us of the death of Colonel Bill Byerley and that Bill's services would be on August 12th.

Following lunch, Fran introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Lamar White, who is the Okaloosa County School Board representative for District 1. He started his presentation by sharing the history of his family's ties to Okaloosa County and attachment to the military community. He then presented many facts and myths about what the School Board is and what it does. Noting that there are literally thousands of Federal laws that govern education, Florida also has a very thick manual of laws that govern what can and can't be done by various School Boards. He noted that essentially the Okaloosa County School Board acts as the CFO and approves or rejects recommendations of the Superintendent of Okaloosa County Schools. He ended his presentation by answering questions from the members. Following his presentation Fran presented Dr. White with the NWFMOA challenge coin.

Fran then announced that next month our guest speaker would be Austin Bury from Representative Matt Gaetz's office. He then asked Board members and others if they had any remarks. Dick Solt asked the group if anyone had seen a UFO and then recommended a book on the subject by a friend who had seen one. Elvira Chiccarelli announced that the Air Force Armament Museum will be participating in the Veterans Stand Down on November 18th.

Fran then announced that there were six eligible winners for the August Defender Quiz. The winning ticket selected was Nick Marotta but he was not present to win. The answer to the question: "Who was the only President who was not a commissioned Officer?" was James Buchanan.

Attendance for the meeting was 42 and it was adjourned at 1332.

Following the meeting, Dave Parisot conducted the 50/50 raffle. Dr. White picked the winning ticket which belonged to Mike Griffith. Mike donated his \$58 to the Scholarship Fund. Total for the fund this month was \$116.

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FRED WESTFALL, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Secretary
NWFMOA Chapter FL 19

Distribution: Email to NWFMOA Chapter Member