



CHARLOTTE-METROLINA CHAPTER NEWS

May 2014

The Military Officers Association of America

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The winter is finally gone to be replaced with warm weather, green grass, and lots of blooming plants! As we prepare for summer the MOAA programs continue with the need for constant attention to government actions that influence the military benefits that we all earned during our military service. We must not relax for a moment during these coming months. Please pay attention to the legislative alerts from National MOAA and your chapter's legislative 3d VP Gloria Scienski. While most of the attention is focused at the national level, we must also not forget the state level legislative issues.

The chapter website will be ready very shortly, and will give us more visibility in the community. A big round of thanks goes to Ron Wilsbach who developed our website and will write the chapter E-Newsletter. This E-Newsletter will compliment our regular monthly newsletter published by Carol Morgan, and will be sent mid-monthly all year. **THE PURPOSE:** to provide rapid and timely communication with chapter members of important issues. Ron Wilsbach and Gary Aljets will share the respon-

sibilities of the operation of the chapter website.

Membership continues to be a very **HOT** topic in MOAA at all levels. 2d VP Carol Aljets has worked very hard to recruit 12 new members this year for our chapter, but she cannot do all the recruitment by herself. It is the duty and responsibility of all chapter members to recruit and welcome new members. These are very hard times for the military community, and we must band together to tell our story and help each other through the year. We are planning a joint meeting with our satellite chapter at The Pines in Davidson, NC this summer. Look for more information shortly.

1st VP Ron Morgan has planned another outstanding program for our next very special chapter meeting on Sunday, May 18, 2014. This meeting will be the 41st anniversary of the chapter. Dr. Jim Hogue, Professor of History UNCC, will present, "**THE RISE OF THE MILITARY PROFESSION**". I look forward to seeing all of you on Sunday May 18, 2014.

Harley Ellinger COL USA (RET)

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NEXT MEETING

Sunday, May 18, 2014

Red Rocks Cafe

4223 Providence Rd

Social Time

1500

Meeting with Meal

1530

PROGRAMS – RON MORGAN—1st Vice President

On **May 18, 2014 (Sunday) at 3:00 PM**, we will have Dr. Jim Hogue, Professor of History at UNCC, a West Point grad, who later in his Army career taught history at the US Military Academy. We have asked Dr. Hogue to discuss his latest project and “work in progress” on “The Rise of the American Military Profession”.

MEMBERSHIP – CAROL ALJETS—2nd Vice President

Recruiting has been going well this year as a joint effort and I want to thank everyone who has helped. The next three months are time off from MOAA for most of us but remember if you meet someone who is eligible to join MOAA and hopefully our chapter, you can always recruit and ask for my help, if needed. Try to get an email address if at all possible.

This month we will be working on giving awards to our 32 JROTC units and the Army and Air Force ROTC programs at UNCC. Thank you to all that took medals and I hope some of you are able to go and present the medal and the award. Gary and I have done a few each year and each time we have come away impressed and with hope for our youth.

2014 CHAPTER DUES ARE DUE

If you have not already done so, **please renew your chapter membership for 2014** by completing the enclosed form (last page of the newsletter) and sending it with a check to the P.O. Box. Shortly, an email or letter will be sent out to all still on the chapter roster who failed to pay annual dues for 2013 and are more than a year in arrears. Simply paying dues for 2014 (\$ 25.00 for regular members and \$ 10.00 for surviving spouses/auxiliary members) will fully reinstate a member.

LEGISLATIVE -- GLORIA SCIENSKI – 3rd Vice President

Top Brass Continue to Push for Pay Caps

According to Tom Philpott, the Joint Chiefs of Staff have been given an unusual and potentially powerful opportunity to persuade senators that the risk of reduced military readiness can be avoided. All seven of the nation's top four-star officers are to testify on May 6. They are expected to try to convince Congress to curb personnel costs in an effort to reduce the impact on weapons systems, training, and equipment. The JCS want Congress to stop shielding compensation from the effects of sequestration.

CS to Tell Congress: Allow Pay Curbs or Harm Readiness

The chiefs have said their budgets for 2015 and beyond offer a balanced approach to absorbing cuts because they include \$2.1 billion in compensation curbs next year and \$30 billion in pay and benefit

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savings over five years. If Congress won't back those, or offer alternative offsets, then the arbitrary across-the-board defense cuts of sequestration kick in.

The 28-star panel is expected to present fresh details on the consequences of that, for force structure, unit training, equipment and facility maintenance, worldwide operations and overall readiness.

The Pentagon proposals would:

- Cap military pay raises for several more years, starting with a one percent raise cap in January 2015 to match the 2014 increase.
- Dampen increases in basic allowances for housing until BAH recipients, on average, pay five percent of rental costs out of pocket.
- Consolidate TRICARE health insurance options into a preferred provider network that would have new fees and also higher fees.
- Make a phased cut in taxpayer support of commissaries so that average savings on groceries drop from 30 percent down to 10.

The Military Coalition, an umbrella group of 33 associations and veteran groups, has urged lawmakers to reject this "piecemeal" approach to curbing compensation and await the recommendations of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission due next February.

In a March 26 memo, acting Deputy Secretary of Defense Christine Fox described the department's scramble to shape a legislative proposal "that stands the greatest chance of enactment on a complex topic with the potential to impact not only our service members, their families and retirees, but also the exchange system and MWR [morale, welfare and recreation] funds" which are exchange profits used for on-base, quality-of-life programs.

Fox said the revised proposal would make two "significant changes to current statute" governing commissaries: lift one restriction that goods must be sold at cost, and another that commissaries can sell only brand names.

Proper compensation for our service members and their families continue to be of concern. Balancing the budget, while keeping our forces readiness strong, is a challenge. Please follow MOAA's updates and continue to send your comments to our representatives. The best way to be heard is to call the congressional switchboard at 202-224-3121. When calling this number you will reach a person that will forward you to the office of your Senator or Representative. Most effective are telephone calls made on Monday and Tuesday due to the voting schedule. Sign up to receive the Legislative Update by visiting www.moaa.org/email.

National MOAA 800-234-6622 / 703-549-2311 Legislative affairs legis@moaa.org

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." ~Margaret

CHAPTER SECRETARY – VACANT

Minutes of the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter (NC-04) Of the Military Officers Association of America April 6, 2014

President Ellinger called the business meeting to order at 3:30. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance followed. New members and/or first (some second) time attendees were invited to introduce themselves.

The 50/50 raffle was held.

Minutes of the March 16, 2014 meeting were approved as distributed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Report (Gary Aljets for Ron Wilsbach): \$ 4,857.23 including \$ 1,342.15 in the Scholarship Fund. We are in a profit situation with car wash ticket sales of \$ 284.89.

Officer Reports:

1st VP and Acting Secretary (Ron Morgan): The May 18th meeting program will be Dr. Jim Hogue, History Professor at UNCC, and a West Point grad who later taught history at the US Military Academy. We are planning for a summer meeting held in conjunction with the Lake Norman/Pines at Davidson satellite chapter. It will be a picnic and/or Lake Norman cruise is being planned for this summer (Date/time and place to be announced).

2nd VP (Carol Aljets): Carol talked about new MOAA-sponsored "Voices" membership program for enlisted and civilian personnel, providing legislative information and new affecting our active, former and retired military communities. **Larry Stawicki, ROTC/JROTC Awards Chairman,** then discussed our JROTC awards program and requested that members assist in the distribution and/or presentation of the medals and certificates to the 32 high schools we support. A sign up list was passed around and all deliveries were scheduled. Greg Ainslie requested assistance in early May for the presentation of Gold Bars to the new Lts. At UNCC

3rd VP (Gloria Scienski): Gloria discussed the national MOAA initiatives for this week's "Storming the Hill" campaign in Washington DC. She also requested that the membership contact their congressional representatives regarding these issues using the post cards included with the latest MOAA magazine and info included on the national MOAA web site.

Newsletter (Carol Morgan): Newsletter input is due for the September issue by 8/25/2014 for publication around 8/30/2014. An appeal was made for member military bios to feature in upcoming newsletters.

Old Business: - Another California Pizza Kitchen Fund Raiser for the Scholarship Fund is scheduled for April 24 and 30. A flyer was enclosed in the April newsletter for copying and distribution to friends, associates and family. The Chapter Board meeting will be held there on April 30.

Larry Stawicki reported that there are still 30 Auto Bell coupons to be distributed/sold. Gloria Scienski reported that work on the Scholarship Fund continues and we will accept donations at any time which are tax free for this 501(c) 3 effort.

New Business: - Will discuss future fundraiser at April 30 Board meeting. Summer meeting details to be planned and published. The potential for a satellite chapter at Sun City, SC is being discussed and explored. Zip codes 29707 (Indian Land) and 29708 (Fort Mill, SC), etc. will be requested to be assigned to our chapter.

Announcements:

- Chapter member support was again requested for the Blessed Assurance Adult Day Care Annual Charity Golf Tournament to be held on April 17th.
- MOAA NC Council of Chapters will hold a quarterly meeting in Durham on May 16-17.

Program: Paul Passaro, Local/State Director for Concerned Veterans for America - Paul presented an overview of his military and civilian career which led to his desire and decision to get involved in some form of direct support for veterans. He discussed last week's successful CVA's visit "to the hill" to develop congressional support for CVA's 2014 Legislative Priorities: 1) VA Reform through the Dept. of VA Management Accountability Act of 2014 (now has gained over 80 sponsors which is the number one mission, 2) DoD Reform, Audit the Pentagon, 3) Spending Reform (Federal and State-level Balanced Budget Amendments and 4) Military Voting Reform (Safeguarding Elections for our nations troops). Also discussed that "the real delay" for VA disability claims processing, largely because of the slow appeals process, is 4 ½ years. The VA and its leaders must be held accountable.

The meeting and presentation adjourned around 5:45 PM.

Our next Chapter meeting on May 18, 2014 will be the 41st Anniversary of the chapter's founding.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Morgan, Acting Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 16-17, 2014 – MOAA NC Council of Chapter Meeting, Durham NC

May 17, 2014 – Armed Forces Day Celebration – Thompson Park (see flyer at end)

May 18, 2014 –MOAA Chapter Meeting, Red Rocks Café, 3:00 pm

Date to be Announced – Possible Summer Meeting with Lake Norman chapter

FEATURED MEMBER: P. Scott Morris, COL (Ret), U.S. Army

Scott Morris grew up on a small farm in Monongalia County, WV, and attended West Virginia University on an Army ROTC scholarship. Immediately after receiving a BS in Civil Engineering, he was commissioned as an Army Second Lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers and entered active duty. After initial officer training, LT Morris deployed to Germany for his first assignment leading troops first in the 23rd Engineer Battalion, 3rd Armored Division, in Hanau, Germany, and then in the 79th Engineer Battalion in Karlsruhe, Germany. Staying in Europe for over four years, he met his future wife, Betsy Vaughan (originally from Kingsport, TN), who was working as a Department of Defense school teacher, in Karlsruhe. They spent their first year of marriage in Europe and traveled extensively when schedules permitted.

Scott & Betsy raised four sons while moving all over the globe with a military career, with assignments in multiple states, Germany, and Australia. All four of their sons were active Boy Scouts, with three achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. The four brothers have all graduated from different colleges (VA Tech, WVU, VMI & Clemson) and are pursuing successful careers in the United States. Two sons run their own businesses, one in North Carolina and one in Alaska.

Scott was a successful leader, commanding units from platoon to brigade level. He commanded D Company, 548th Engineer Battalion (Combat Heavy), at Ft. Jackson, SC, as a Captain, and his battalion command was the 54th Engineer Battalion (Combat Mechanized), Wildflecken, Germany, and Southwest Asia. He also completed several key staff assignments, such as Operations Officer (S-3), 8th Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, Deputy District Engineer of Galveston District (weathering two hurricanes), Corps of Engineers Headquarters, AMC Headquarters, and an extraordinary assignment as an Exchange Officer to the Australian Army from 1984 to 1986 in Sydney's western suburbs. Scott is a combat veteran, and one son, Reese, is also an Army veteran with two combat tours in Iraq.

Scott became a Professional Engineer in 1977. The Army also sent him to Georgia Tech for a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering, and to the Naval War College for a Masters in Strategic Studies. He also attended the Army Command & General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS, and the Texas A & M Construction Executive Program at College Station, TX.

Scott holds numerous military awards, including the Bronze Star Medal for his combat leadership as the Commander of the 54th Engineer Battalion (Combat Mechanized) attached to the 1st Armored Division during Operation Desert Storm. He also holds the Legion of Merit with Oak leaf Cluster and seven awards of the Meritorious Service Medal. Kentucky Governor John Y. Brown proclaimed Scott a Kentucky Colonel in 1983 for three years of service in Kentucky. Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee appointed him an official Arkansas Traveler in 1998 after completing three years as the Little Rock District Engineer (brigade command) for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

At the conclusion of a highly successful Army career with the rank of Colonel in 2000, Scott transitioned to the civilian world and has successfully worked a variety of executive positions in the design, engineering and construction industry. Scott & Betsy currently reside in the Charlotte suburb of Weddington, NC.



**NC-04 CHARLOTTE-METROLINA CHAPTER
Of the Military Officers Association of America
ENROLLMENT/RENEWAL FORM**

New Member? _____

Renewal? _____

First Name _____ Middle Initial _____ Last Name _____

Rank _____ Branch _____ Spouse's Name _____

Address: _____
Street

City State Zip code

E-Mail Address _____ Phone No. _____

I would like to receive my newsletter by: _____ US mail _____ E-mail

National MOAA Member? Yes ____ No ____

Membership No. _____

(Found above your first name on magazine mailing label)

*Enclosed is my check for \$25.00

\$10.00 for Surviving Spouses

Mail to: Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter, MOAA

P.O. Box 31394

Charlotte, NC 28231-1394

Scholarship Donation: _____ Receipt: Yes ____ No ____

Membership Requirements: Commissioned and Warrant Officers of the seven uniformed services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and U.S. Public Health Service) and the reserve and other components of these services may become regular members. Widows and widowers of any deceased individual, who would, if living, are eligible for membership as auxiliary members. Regular members must hold and maintain membership in both the national organization as well as the local chapter. Auxiliary members are encouraged but not required to hold both memberships.

