



NEWSLETTER MARCH 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Chapter officers and the board know that having entertaining/interesting programs and speakers at chapter meetings is a most critical factor in attracting both long time members and new or potential members to our monthly meetings. This coming March 19th program will prove to be one that no one should miss.

I have often touted some of our speakers in the past, but know that Mark Beymer, a friend, fellow Vietnam vet, Ph.D, flyer (helos and jets), trainer for NASA and a MOAA Chapter leader from Salisbury will provide us with memories, insight and entertainment. I ask you to bring guests, especially a potential member to hear Mark. His short bio and topic is on the next page.

Our survey/questionnaire was sent all chapter members. If you have not already responded, please do so. We have gotten some good feedback for the board and chapter to consider.

Our initial MOAA Dining Day at California Pizza Kitchen this last week provided an opportunity for growth at future dining days designed to raise support for our programs. The next one will be in May. We will send reminders so that you can participate.

During April and May, we will be delivering and then presenting the MOAA JROTC Leadership Award medals and certificates at each of the 38 (yes, one more school added) area high school JROTC programs. We want to maximize the number of presentations where a chapter member can physically attend the school JROTC ceremony. We will start asking for volunteers to select high schools at the March chapter meeting. Everyone will appreciate the positive impact that JROTC programs have on their cadets and the school community.

Hope to see you March 19th.

Ron Morgan, Colonel, USMC (Ret), President

The mission of the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is to promote MOAA purposes and objectives. This will foster fraternal relations among retired, active, and former officers of the uniformed services, and their Reserve and National Guard components. The goal is to actively promote the protection of the rights and interests of members of the uniform services, their family members including survivors, provide useful services for members and their families, and serve the community, the active military forces (past present, and future), and our nation.

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NEXT MEETING

Sunday, MAR. 19, 2017

Red Rocks Cafe
4223 Providence Rd

Social Time 1500
Meeting with Meal 1530

PROGRAMS – JAY GARBUS

Chapter meetings are held at the Red Rocks Café, 4223-8 Providence Rd., Strawberry Hill area where Fairview/Sardis Rds. cross Providence, behind Fresh Market. Social starts at 3:00 PM, followed by a short business meeting, then dinner (order from the menu) and speaker presentation.

March 19 – Dr. Mark Beymer, Ph.D., Captain (former) USMC, President of the MOAA Central Carolina Chapter speaking on **“Lessons Learned as a Combat Helicopter Pilot”**. Mark is a veteran of Viet Nam serving for two tours, first as a helicopter pilot (CH -34) and awarded a Purple Heart, and then as a Jet Attack pilot (A-4’s). A feat that does not happen often. After leaving the Marine Corps in 1972, he entered the business world, worked with NASA, eventually as Chief of Training & Development at NASA Headquarters, obtained advance degrees, and served later as a professor and administrator in higher education. Living in Salisbury, he was Chairman of the City Planning Board for several years, has been very active in Civitans at the local, State, regional and national level and is currently the MOAA Chapter President.

April 23 – Joe Dixon, CWO 3, US Coast Guard (Ret) and new chapter member will provide a presentation on **“All Things Coast Guard”** (editor’s title). This military service branch, part of the Department of Homeland Security, performs a valuable security mission for our nation along with many other maritime services. It will be good to learn a lot of neat stuff about the USCG. We welcome Joe and his wife Melody to our chapter. As golfers, they are already part of our tournament committee and Joe’s knowledge of “social media” will be a great assist with recruitment efforts.

Announcements and Dates of Military and Veterans Activities.

As notified, we will be sending upcoming area military/veteran events to all on the chapter mailing list in separate emails.

March 19, 2017 – Chapter Meeting

April 23, 2017—Chapter Meeting

May 21, 2017 – Chapter Meeting

LEGISLATIVE – DICK STEEVES

CONCURRENT RECEIPT

MOAA continues to lead the effort to end the disability offset to retired pay and strongly supports a plan to phase out the disability offset for all disabled retired service members, with initial priority for those who were prevented from serving 20 years solely because they became severely disabled in service. This issue has been and remains one of MOAA's top legislative priorities.

Concurrent receipt means to receive both service-earned military retired pay and VA disability compensation. Up until 2001, any retired service member who also received VA disability compensation had an amount equal to the VA compensation deducted from his or her military retired pay.

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As the new 115th Congress has been sworn in on Capitol Hill, companion concurrent receipt bills have been introduced in both houses of Congress.

ARLINGTON ISSUES

“MOAA would like to see ANC remain open and active well into the future. We don't have a problem reserving a set number of plots for future Medal of Honor recipients and combat deaths. But we don't think an 80-year old retiree who's made plans for Arlington burial should lose eligibility to reserve space for an active duty member who dies in a car accident 150 or 200 years from now,” said MOAA Government Relations VP Col. Dan Merry, USAF (Ret).

COMMISSARY SAVINGS

On Monday, in response to a congressional mandate, DeCA released a new set of “baseline” estimates of commissary savings that reflect these factors and more.

Without reducing the value of the shopping benefit, DeCA says, it has redefined how it measures savings. Global savings across all 238 commissaries are calculated now at 23.7 percent and savings stateside at 20.2 percent. At 61 overseas commissaries, average savings are 44.2 percent against local food prices.

CHAPTER SECRETARY – RON WILSBACH

Charlotte-Metrolina MOAA Chapter Minutes for February 19, 2017

President Ron Morgan called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. at the Red Rocks Café. The invocation was given by Chaplain John Samb and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Ron welcomed Guest Speakers Nichole McGarity and Tammy Garlock. Ron also welcomed John Clare who joined recently. John is retired Coast Guard and was a member of the Chapter some years ago, moved out of the Charlotte area and is now back living in Pineville. Welcome back John. The 50/50 raffle of \$28.00 was won by Bill Baker.

Secretary/Treasurer Reports for the January 2017 Chapter Meeting were approved with the following corrections. Ron Wilsbach reported that due to an error adding \$3,000.00 instead of \$300.00 to the Scholarship checkbook ledger the total was incorrectly reported to be \$25,601.04 instead of \$22,926.04. Also, Ron Morgan wanted the minutes to reflect that as a result of the December 2016 request letter for end of year giving, the Scholarship Fund raised an additional \$1,400 for the Scholarship Fund. Ron Morgan expressed his thanks to those members making donations during 2016. A motion was made and seconded to reflect these changes to the January 2017 Minutes. The current balance of the General Fund is \$4,162.15 and the balance of the Scholarship Fund is \$23,015.56.

Officers Reports:

Programs – Jay Garbus reported that the March 19th speaker will be Mark Beymer, President of the Chapter in Salisbury will speak about his experience as a combat helicopter pilot in Vietnam. On April 23rd Joe Dixon will speak about “All Things Coast Guard.” The May 21st Chapter meeting will be dedicated to JROTC Scholarship presentations and Instructor of the Year awards.

Membership and Retention – Ron Morgan advised the Chapter that he has sent a letter to all Senior JROTC Instructors at the 37 high school units requesting their participation as members of the Chapter. Dale Hogue advised the members that he has authored a questionnaire asking members to express their perceptions about Chapter activities, the likes and dislikes and what can be done to improve Chapter activities. The questionnaire will be emailed very soon and responses are requested by March 15th.

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Legislative Affairs - Members are reminded that legislative updates can be received, free of charge on the following web sites: **National** – www.moaa.org – **request MOAA Legislative Updates.** **State Military/Veteran Info is available at:** www.4thbranchnc.org – both of the above web sites can be accessed

through the following web sites: <http://charlottemoaa.org> or www.moaa-nc.org . Please use the foregoing sites to keep yourself informed and respond when requested. Remember – **“THE SQUEAKY WHEEL GETS THE GREASE!”**

Newsletter – Deadline for the March Chapter Newsletter inputs is March 2nd.

Old/New Business:

- a. **JROTC Fund Golf Tournament** - Golf Tournament Flyers are available for use soliciting sponsors and golfers. Members who have not yet volunteered to help with this important endeavor are encouraged to come to the next Golf Committee Meeting on March 14th at Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation. Please contact Ron Morgan at 704-708-8866 if you would like to help out with this major event. Prime sponsors are vital to the success of the tournament and your efforts would be appreciated.
- b. **JROTC Scholarship Committee** – Applications were received on February 11th and the committee is meeting to evaluate the respondents and determine winners.
- c. **JROTC Leadership Awards** – Requests for submissions have been sent to each school district having JROTC Units in the Charlotte Metro area. The three high school units in South Carolina that were recently included in our catchment area have been included. Those high school JROTC units are Fort Mill High School, Nations Ford High School and Indian Land High School.
- d. **California Pizza Kitchen Fund Raiser** - February 22nd. Take your self and the family and your friends to eat anytime this day and the Chapter will receive 20% of your total bill. This fund raiser is to pay for JROTC Leadership awards and ROTC Gold Bars at UNC Charlotte. Prior to this year these awards were provided at no charge by MOAA National.

Announcements:

- a. **NCCOC (State Council) Quarterly** meeting in Greensboro March 17 – 18. See state web site – www.moaa-nc.org for details.
- b. **NCCOC State Convention** – Will be held on September 7 – 10 at Colonial Williamsburg. See state web site for details.
- c. **Fall meeting dates** – Sept. 17th; Oct. 15th; Nov. 12th and Dec. 10th.

Following dinner Nichole McGarity of AAA of The Carolinas and Tammy Garlock provided a compelling presentation of the dangers and tragic results from distracted driving because of the use of personal devices. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Ron Wilsbach, Secretary/Treasurer

REMINDER – Dues for 2017 are Past Due

February Chapter Meeting with AAA of the Carolinas

President Ron Morgan and Past President Harley Ellinger with the program presenters—(L) Tammy Garlock (Brian's Mom) and Nichole McGarity of AAA of the Carolinas. AAA of the Carolinas gave our Chapter \$5000 for our Scholarship Fund if we would require our scholarship applicants to include an essay on Distracting Driving. Tammy Garlock lost her son Brian due to distracted driving and has started an organization to inform others of the danger. She speaks to high schools and organizations about the dangers of distracted driving. Her website is www.DYINGCHANGESEVERYTHING.ORG



