



## NEWSLETTER APRIL 2017

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Two more meetings this Spring and we are looking for a strong finish before our summer break. That does not mean that our good work and fellowship is over as we all need to dedicate ourselves in getting commitments for sponsorships, raffle gifts, prizes and golfers for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual JROTC Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament scheduled for October 6<sup>th</sup> at Olde Sycamore. Sounds like it is a long way off, but trust me, it's not. We have one Prime Sponsor to date (Balfour Beatty Construction) and our hole-in-one car sponsor (Scott Clark Honda), but absolutely need more.

April and May is JROTC and ROTC Awards season. We want to maximize the number of high school's programs (39 of them) and the two UNCC ROTC programs where our members can attend and present the MOAA Leadership Award in person. If you have not been to one of these ceremonies in the past, volunteer to do so. You will be impressed and rewarded with a great feeling about these young cadets.

Our April 23<sup>rd</sup> program had to be changed and we will have two US Naval Academy Blue & Gold Officers from the local area talking about Annapolis, the recruiting, nomination and acceptance process plus cadet life at USNA. It will be an interesting discussion even for our Army, Air Force and Coast Guard brothers and sisters.

At the May 21 meeting, we will have our four 2017 JROTC Scholarship awardees, their parents plus their Senior JROTC Instructor. We will also be presenting our JROTC Instructor of the Year Awards and Certificates. Come and meet these very impressive cadets and high school JROTC program instructors.

See you on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and May 21<sup>st</sup>

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.*

### NEXT MEETING

**Sunday, APR. 23, 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.

**April 23** – Two local area Blue & Gold Officers of the US Naval Academy, Eli Edelkind and Ryan Chapman, a Navy guy and a Marine Corps guy, both Annapolis grads, will present a program about Naval Academy recruiting and life of the mids on campus. It will be fun and even interesting for our Army, Air Force and Coast Guard members.

**May 21** - Our May meeting, the last prior to the summer break, will include as our special guests, the four JROTC Scholarship awardees, their parents and JROTC Instructor. In addition, we will be honoring our chapter's JROTC Instructors of the Year presenting them with a certificate and gift card. We are planning for a full room of 60 at the Red Rocks Café. Come and meet these outstanding cadets and their dedicated Instructors.

**Volunteers Needed for JROTC Leadership Award Presentations** – We would like to maximize in-person presentations of the MOAA Leadership Award at each of our 39 JROTC programs we support in the area. Each high school has a JROTC awards ceremony sometime during April and May. Larry Stawicki is developing a schedule where high schools have contacted him. In other cases, we need chapter members to contact schools to arrange for medal/certificate delivery to the JROTC Instructor prior to their ceremony and, hopefully, arranging for attending the ceremony. We likely cannot attend all ceremonies, but do need to get the medals to each of the schools. Volunteer as you can for these deliveries. Contact Larry at: [Stawickilp@aol.com](mailto:Stawickilp@aol.com)

### **Special Appeal for Contributions to the Chapter Operating Fund – for Chapter award costs and program expenses**

As we have announced, the costs for MOAA Leadership Awards for JROTC/ROTC programs and the Gold Bar program for ROTC grads at UNCC are now 100% funded by MOAA chapters. MOAA National has had to pass these costs to the local level and, as a chapter, we have voted to continue to support both programs. Our first Dining Day at California Pizza Kitchen did not have the level of participation we desired to raise some funds to cover these additional costs. Note: Next CPK Dining Day is on May 24<sup>th</sup>. (See notice in newsletter).

Additionally, we could have up to 20 dinner guests (Scholarship and JROTC Instructor of the Year awardees/guests) for May 21 chapter meeting and need to cover these costs. We are putting out this special appeal for chapter member donations that will greatly help cover these expenses. Donations are tax exempt under our non-profit 501(c) 3 status. Give your check made out to Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter MOAA to Ron Wilsbach, our Treasurer, or send it to the P.O. Box. Thank you for your consideration.

### **Chapter JROTC Scholarship Awardees for 2017**

I am very pleased to announce the 2017 Chapter JROTC Scholarship Awardees. Each will receive a \$ 2,000 scholarship, payable to their chosen college/university. The JROTC cadet awardees for 2017 are:

Asael N. Salinas	Rocky River High School
Abram G. Magaldi	Myers Park High School
Jessica Dohman	Weddington High School

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These awardees with their parents and JROTC Instructor will attend our May 21st meeting to be recognized and be presented with a certificate. Please join us then to meet these outstanding JROTC student cadets.

## **CHAPTER SECRETARY – RON WILSBACH**

### **Charlotte-Metrolina MOAA Chapter Minutes for March 19, 2017**

President Ron Morgan called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. at the Red Rocks Café. The invocation was given by Chaplain John Samb and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Ron introduced his guests, Al and Terry Claiborne, a professor and graduate of Wake Forest University and Founder/Chair of the Norman Lane Jr. Memorial Project, a 401(c)3 non-profit. Al gave a brief description of the work and objectives of the Lane Project. New members Larry Rogers and Neil Hohmann introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their military service.

The minutes for the February 19<sup>th</sup> 2017 meeting were approved without changes. Ron Wilsbach reported that the General Fund has a balance of \$3,756.12 and the Scholarship Fund has a balance of \$22,968.09. The raffle of \$37.00 was won by Scott Morris.

#### **Officer Reports:**

1. **1<sup>st</sup> VP – Programs** – Jay Garbus reported that the April 23<sup>rd</sup> speaker will be Joe Dixon who will speak about “All Things Coast Guard”. On May 21st we will honor the JROTC Scholarship Winners and the Instructor of the Year. There are no meetings during the summer. Meetings will be resumed on September 17<sup>th</sup> when the speaker will be Dr. Larry Rogers who will speak about his experiences as a MASH unit physician in Vietnam. The Chapter’s annual Oktoberfest celebration will be on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The program for November 12<sup>th</sup> is pending. The Chapter Christmas celebration will be on December 10<sup>th</sup>.
2. **2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Membership/Retention** – Dale Hogue reported that the responses to the Questionnaire seeking Chapter member’s opinions, desires and recommendations were returned on March 15<sup>th</sup>. He will review all responses and compile a summary and provide that information at a later meeting.
3. **3<sup>rd</sup> VP – Legislative Affairs** - Harley Ellinger, NCCOC second VP, summarized the position of the US military hardware capabilities verses the Soviet Union’s hardware recent advances. Harley stressed the importance of rapid responses to requests from National and State MOAA for messages to legislators. These actions need to be done right away, not in a few days. The websites that are set up to automatically respond to lobbying requests are: [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org) and [www.4thbranchnc.org](http://www.4thbranchnc.org). All members are encouraged to sign up and utilize MOAA National’s “Legislative Updates” as their primary method of responding to requests. Harley briefed the Chapter about VA benefits that are available to Vietnam Veterans who may have been exposed to Agent Orange. Harley also asked for a member living in Representative Adams’ District to visit with the representative to express MOAA’s Goals for 2017.
4. **Newsletter** – Carol Morgan is requesting that all inputs for the April Newsletter be submitted by April 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Old/New Business:**

1. **JROTC Golf Tournament Fund** – “All hands” are requested and needed to help with this effort. The committee is working on getting commitments from major sponsors. (Those companies willing to provide from \$200 to \$2,000 sponsorships.) This is the backbone of a successful tournament and commitments are urgently needed to insure the success of the 2017 fund raising effort. Golf Flyers are available at meetings and can also be downloaded from the website.
2. **JROTC Scholarship Awards** – The Scholarship Committee of Scott Morris, Gloria Scienski and Larry Stawicki have completed the review of 11 submitted applications and have selected four (4) cadets who will be awarded \$2,000 each for higher education pursuits. Winners names will be announced at a later date.

Winners and their parents will be the Chapter's guests at the May meeting. Ron Morgan will be awarding Charlotte Mecklenburg School JROTC winners at Bojangles' Arena on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

3. **JROTC Leadership Awards** – Larry Stawicki advised the Chapter that medals and certificates have been received. Chapter volunteers are needed to make distribution to the 38 JROTC Units within our area. Larry will provide an updated list of school presentation dates and times via the Chapter Newsletter and emails. Member participation is requested.
4. **Next Leadership Awards Fund Raiser – MAY 24<sup>th</sup>** - Get your California Pizza Kitchen "Dining Out" Flyer in the Chapter Newsletter in April and May, at the April and May meeting, on the website or look for it in a Chapter eNewsletter. Clip the coupon and give to your waitress for lunch, dinner or take-out **any time on May 24<sup>th</sup>** at South Park Mall CPK. Make a copy of the flyer and give to friends and relatives. The Chapter will receive 20% of the bill total to enable the Chapter to pay for JROTC Leadership Awards and ROTC Gold Bars.
5. **March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. – US Air Force Band and Singing Sergeants** will perform at Charlotte Catholic High School. Gloria Scienski provided address for additional tickets.
6. **Next Chapter Board Meeting – April 11<sup>th</sup>.**
7. **NCCOC Quarterly Meeting** – May 11-12 in Winston-Salem
8. **NCCOC State Convention** – September 7-10 at Colonial Williamsburg, VA
9. **Gary Kroeger** –gave a short program offering free phones for hearing impaired individuals paid for by the Americans With Disability Act.

**Presentation – Mark Beymer** spoke about "Lessons Learned as a Combat Helicopter Pilot". A question and answer session followed. The meeting adjourned at 5:15.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ron Wilsbach, Secretary/Treasurer



**Mark Beymer – March 19 presenter**

## MOAA Chapter JROTC Scholarship Report

**We want to share with all in the chapter, the response we got from one of our JROTC Scholarship Awardees from 2016, Melody Alexander from Ardrey Kell HS and now at UNC Chapel Hill. It is an excellent example of the quality of our scholarship awardees. Thanks to all for your support of the scholarship fund and program expenses.**

Dear Mr. Wilsbach and MOAA members,

First and foremost, thank you again for your generosity in selecting me as a scholarship recipient last year and for helping make my first-year loan and debt free. I cannot think of improvements to the program for award winners, but I can tell you all about my first year at UNC Chapel Hill.

As far as academics go, last semester, I enrolled in seventeen credit hours. This included Japanese 203 (4 credit hours), a first-year seminar on Infectious Diseases (3 credit hours), English 105 (3 credit hours), Math 110 (3 credit hours), Biology 101 (3 credit hours), and Biology 101 Lab (1 credit hour). I ended my 1st semester with a 3.5 GPA. This semester, I have been taking nineteen credit hours. My current classes are Anthropology 151 (3 credit hours), Chemistry 101 (3 credit hours), Chemistry 101 Lab (1 credit hour), English 129 (3 credit hours), a Service Learning class (2 credit hours), Japanese 204 (4 credit hours), and Religious Studies 109 (3 credit hours).

I also joined several on-campus organizations, including Carolina Tae Kwon Do, Mixed Asian Students Heritage Club, Enrich, and SOAR. In Enrich, I help teach English to adults who are learning it as their second language. In SOAR, we visit a predominately Latino middle school weekly to provide mentorship to disadvantaged students by working on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) activities as well as outdoor recreation.

My volunteer activities include working with Chapel-Hill-Carborro City Schools (CHCCS) and Admissions Ambassadors. Through CHCCS, I work in an English Second Language classroom for 3rd-5th grade students at a local Elementary school. In Admissions Ambassadors, I give tours at UNC to prospective high school students and families every week.

As service is important to me, I decided to take an alternative fall break and an alternative spring break to do volunteer work. The fall break was through the Carolina Women's Center, which sent ten students to Asheville to work with Our Voice, the local rape crisis center. Through the Center for Public Service at UNC, myself and ten other students worked in Latino Communities over spring break (specifically in Dunn, Durham, and Wilmington), and learned more about farmworkers.

Where I am going from now:

I have enrolled in Philosophy 165 as a summer class before I leave to study abroad this summer. I received the Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowship funded by the U.S. Department of Education to study Japanese in Tokyo for 7 weeks, and look forward to that.

All in all, I have had a wonderful first year. I know UNC is where I will succeed, and I cannot imagine myself anywhere else. I will never be able to express enough thanks to scholarship programs like yours, which has made affording college a reality.

All the best,  
Melody Alexander

## MOAA Member Questionnaire 2017 Summary – Dale Hogue

Eight members responded. There are common threads in the responses. A summary follows:

On the question of whether spouses should be members, 7 said yes and one no. As to whether there should be a spouses auxiliary, there was no clear sentiment.

A couple of members had been in Charlotte a long time but most arrived within the last 10 years, suggesting that new membership may be from newly arriving retired families looking for connection to the local military community. There is a common theme in why members joined this chapter. It is Camaraderie, fellowship, service, and contact with fellow veterans. Most of the respondents had served on a committee, such as golf, legislative affairs and/or scholarship and most had been or are current chapter officers. Most do not want to be officers in the future suggesting a need for new blood.

The overall evaluation of the meeting time, place and venue was supportive of Red Rocks on Sunday afternoon. One respondent said the time and place was inconvenient. There are suggestions of trying an occasional alternate meeting venue and time such as a Saturday brunch, Tuesday lunch, etc. And maybe a meeting at a church facility with catered meals. Food quality was generally OK. One respondent said that the cost of the meals at Red Rocks is too high for retirees. Another said the menu lacks variety and no specials. The overall consensus is that the meeting place, time and food are OK. It came through loud and clear that **speaker quality and subject matter is critical and needs to be improved**. Some suggested expanding speaker topics beyond military themes to topics of general interest especially to spouses.

The overwhelming suggestion for improving the monthly meetings was a focus on better and more interesting speakers. Further suggestions are positively welcoming new members and an occasional new meeting site.

The consensus was to continue to support the JROTC programs. One member would drop the support. It was hoped that the JROTC instructors would join MOAA. And the school principles should also be supportive. Our chapter support for JROTC should continue as is and possibly add mentoring and training assistance if requested.

On the question of whether the chapter should support other community or veteran's group the response is mixed. One member wants to set up a veteran's support program, another said that there are many existing veteran's groups and another that the "Charlotte Bridge Home" is a suggestion. One said no since other veteran's groups are already providing programs. My take away is that there is interest in outreach to other veteran's groups and community support but we need more information to make a suggestion on which to support if any. This suggests a study committee.

There is consensus that there is a need to attract new members. The leading suggestions to do this are social media and fun meetings - and community outreach. As members meet people in the community and find out that they are former officers invite them to meetings. One suggestion is to have a printed card to hand out to prospects with information on MOAA and contact info. And we should recruit younger members. But there is no consensus on how to do it. But if we do want to recruit them, we should find out their interests and tune our programs to them. One suggestion is to find two young members and let them advise us on what programs are attractive to young members. (How do we find these two?) Suggestions

are for family activities like picnics. My impression is that we don't know how to recruit younger members. And

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younger potential members may not be good targets. They already have a busy life. Based on the relatively short time in the Charlotte area of the majority of respondents to this survey it may be that retired (read older) new Charlotte arrivals are looking for social contacts. This view of the data suggests focusing on recruiting retired (older) officers moving into the area.

The majority of respondents want more social activity but they don't want to be on a social committee (a few would serve). Most respondents are now serving or have served. Suggestions for social activities are: golf, day trips within 2 hours; military events (air shows), games such as cards and board games, movie night, dining out, pub night (happy hour), etc.

Regarding the mission of the chapter, it is expressed in our charter. The consistent theme in the replies is camaraderie; furthering veteran and military interests, and community service.

Miscellaneous suggestions are as follows - in no order of importance:

1. More members will require a different meeting venue.
2. New focus on social media and community events for chapter publicity.
3. Implement survey results.
4. Focus on service to community, veteran's benefits, fellowship, event location, and embrace change and variety of activities.
5. Reengage old members.

My take away from the survey is our members seek camaraderie and community service. Marketing this theme may resonate with prospective members.

**REMINDER – YOUR DUES FOR 2017 ARE NOW PAST DUE**



**california**  
**PIZZA KITCHEN**



May 24<sup>th</sup> 2017

## **“MOAA DINING DAY”**

CPK & CHARLOTTE- METROLINA CHAPTER ARE TEAMING UP TO  
RAISE FUNDS FOR JROTC LEADERSHIP AWARDS AND ROTC GOLD  
BARS.

### **CPK AT SOUTH PARK MALL**

TAKE THIS FLYER WITH YOU FOR LUNCH OR DINNER – GIVE IT TO  
YOUR WAITER - **CHAPTER GETS 20%** OF YOUR BILL – GIVE FLYER  
TO YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS.

**HOW EASY IS THAT?**

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## NC-04 CHARLOTTE-METROLINA CHAPTER MOAA

### ENROLLMENT/RENEWAL FORM

New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Branch \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive my newsletter by: \_\_\_\_\_ US Mail \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

National MOAA Member? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Are you a life member? \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_

(Found above your first name on magazine label)

**First Year New Members \$5.00**

Annual Renewal \$25.00

Surviving Spouses \$10.00

Renew for 5 years \$100.00

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.