



## NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2017

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

This newsletter is a little late as all efforts were focused on ensuring that the October 6 JROTC Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament was a success. We were very successful and had a great time doing it. A special report will be published next week. The preliminary report is that our scholarship fund is in great shape for 2018 awards.

We are putting a strong emphasis on current member retention and new membership growth. We have instituted an affordable post card mailing campaign to about 400 national MOAA members, not currently a chapter member. With the late September mailing, we are anxious to see the results during the rest of 2017.

The programs section of this newsletter (see page 2) highlights the November presentation by Pat Biddy, who we invited back to talk about his WWII MIA research project and updates from when he was last with us in February 2015.

The big news is the planning we are involved in for our Chapter Christmas/Holiday party to be held on December 17<sup>th</sup> at the Bella Sera Clubhouse, located in Matthews. A catered buffet by Southern Gourmet, provided appetizers, wine and beer, live acoustic guitar holiday music, festive décor and activities, all at a very reasonable price. We want to encourage members to attend and bring their guests. As this event is after the Toys for Tots submission deadline, we will be collecting gifts for several selected families that need support for the holidays.

As noted in the newsletter, we are still seeking nominations and members to step forward to become chapter officers for 2018.

Thank you for your participation and chapter goals attainment.

*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.*

### CHAPTER BOARD

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### NEXT MEETING

**Sunday, OCT. 15, 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.

**October 15, 2017 – OKTOBERFEST this Sunday. Reservations closed for the German menu selections, but you can come and order from the menu.** If you have no reservation and if you can, let Ron Morgan at: [rbmorgan943@aol.com](mailto:rbmorgan943@aol.com) or Ron Wilsbach at: [rwilsbach@carolina.rr.com](mailto:rwilsbach@carolina.rr.com) know you are coming.

**November 12, 2017 - Patrick Biddy**, first presented to the chapter back in February 2015 and we have asked him to return with an update on events surrounding the search for those still classified as MIA and the recovery of remains for WWII soldiers. Patrick was an Army medic with the 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in former West Germany from 1986-88. The primary mission was to patrol the West Germany border with East Germany and Czechoslovakia. He was later stationed with MEDDAC at Winn Army Community Hospital at Fort Stewart, Georgia from 1988-89. He is currently employed with Mecklenburg County. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain, Patrick has privately worked with Czech nationals and villages in the Czech Republic with research to assist with memorials and celebrations honoring WWII 2nd Cavalry troops who liberated that area and those still listed as MIA. Patrick, nor his involved veteran friends, are affiliated with any government agency in this MIA research. It is solely personal and private.

**December 17, 2017 – Chapter Christmas Party – A catered reception, buffet dinner and holiday festivities at the Bella Sera Community Clubhouse (Matthews, NC)** – We are planning a very festive party and high-quality buffet meal catered by Southern Gourmet as a break from our usual restaurant gathering. We want to entice and encourage all chapter members and guests to attend. We will begin with a “cocktail” social gathering (appetizers, wine and beer provided) with special live music and then enjoy a wonderful buffet and special desserts, again with live entertainment. Still in the planning are other holiday event activities. Costs will be under \$ 30 per person total. A holiday flyer with menu and a reservations form will be sent shortly. Guests and family members are welcomed. Clear your calendars for this Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> event from 3 to 5 PM.

### **January 21, 2018 – Chapter Meeting and Installation of Officers for 2018**

In addition to officer installation, we will have a very enjoyable program that is still to be confirmed at this writing.

## ***LEGISLATION – DICK STEEVES***

### **Steep Pharmacy Cost Share Increases**

Regarding pharmacy cost shares, the Senate proposal goes much further than even DoD's proposed fee hikes. The intent is to raise fees to encourage beneficiaries to fill their prescriptions for free on base. This logic presumes most retirees - who are, incidentally, the ones who use mail order the most - live near a base, but a large majority do not. These proposed fee hikes will hit TRICARE for Life beneficiaries and members of the reserve components the hardest.

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A common example would be a retired beneficiary using TRICARE home delivery who is on three generic medications and one brand-name medication. Their current out-of-pocket cost share for a 90-day supply is \$0 for the generic medications and \$20 for the brand-name. Under the new proposal, their annual costs

would increase, starting next year, from \$80 annually to \$232. Annual COLA increases would not even come close to covering these new costs.

### **Overseas Coverage for TRICARE Beneficiaries**

Have you ever traveled outside the continental U.S. and wondered what you would do if you or your family members needed health care? We might not have thought about it during active service travels, but it's a topic worth revisiting. The good news is, eligible beneficiaries do have TRICARE coverage when they travel.

A couple of things for retired TRICARE beneficiaries to keep in mind: If you are over 65 and eligible for TRICARE for Life (TFL), you must be enrolled in Medicare Part B to obtain coverage in TRICARE Standard Overseas. Even though Medicare does not cover care overseas, your TFL benefit will. This eligibility should show up in DEERS, so keeping that up-to-date is always important.

Additionally, there are some nuances to filing claims with the TRICARE Overseas Program. For example, claims outside U.S. territories must be filed within three years.

So as part of your travel preparations outside of the continental U.S., make it a priority to understand your benefits and take along the TRICARE Overseas Program geographical regional contact information. More information can be found at [www.tricare-overseas.com](http://www.tricare-overseas.com).

## **CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

### **MOAA Military Family Initiative (MFI) and Community Outreach Grant**

The board has approved for the chapter to apply for a MOAA MFI Community Outreach Grant in partnership with Charlotte Bridge Home (CBH). It will likely be a veteran mentoring program designed by CBH and chapter volunteers. The grant application for 2018 will be developed and submitted in the December 2017/January 2018 timeframe. The 2017 grants from MOAA FMI to some chapters were around \$ 5,000. Our MOAA chapter will have control of the grant funds and some members will need to serve as mentors. Planning continues. More news later this fall.

## **JROTC SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING**

**Chapter JROTC Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament on October 6 Results (Preliminary)** – Our golf tournament held this past Friday was a huge success. The weather was fantastic, the golfer turnout at 89 was fantastic, the organization was fantastic due to the chapter volunteers, Olde Sycamore was in great shape, service for all for breakfast, drink carts and the BBQ buffet was fantastic, and the awards ceremony and door raffle and auction went fantastically well. We got kudos from all, even the losers.

AND we cleared more than \$ 10,000 for the scholarship fund. A complete report and recognition of the volunteers and our sponsors will be published next week. Planning begins for 2018. Get involved now!

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**Chapter Officer and Board Slate and Nominations for 2018** – It's the time of year when we are seeking nominations for chapter officer positions and chapter members willing to step and assume a role in our chapter's leadership. We ask that you give this your consideration. Any chapter member, including spouses, are eligible to hold a chapter officer or board position. The recommended slate for 2018, as it stands now is:

**CHAPTER OFFICERS:**

PRESIDENT - Jay Garbus

1ST VICE-PRESIDENT – John Willis

2ND VICE-PRESIDENT – (Open)

3RD VICE-PRESIDENT – Dick Steeves

SECRETARY – (Open)

TREASURER - Ron Wilsbach

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

DIRECTOR - Scott Morris

DIRECTOR - Larry Stawicki

DIRECTOR – Carol Aljets (Chapter Liaison to Mecklenburg Veterans Council)

PAST PRESIDENT – Ron Morgan

SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON - Gloria Scienski

CHAPLAIN – John Samb

EDITOR OF NEWSLETTER – (Open)

WEBSITE MANAGER AND ENEWSLETTER – Dale Hogue

We still have 3 spots open without any nominee. See Jay Garbus and/or talk to any current officer/board member. We need you.

## **Charlotte-Metrolina MOAA Chapter Minutes for September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

President Ron Morgan called the meeting to order at 3:25 p.m. at the Red Rocks Café. The invocation was given by Chaplain John Samb and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ron Wilsbach, Treasurer reported that the General Fund had a balance of \$3070.37 and the Scholarship Fund had a balance of \$18,720.57. The 50/50 raffle of \$37.00 was won by Scott Morris.

### **Officer Reports**

1. **1<sup>st</sup> VP – Programs – Jay Garbus** reported that programs for the remainder of 2017 are as follows:
  - a. **15 October** – the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Oktoberfest celebration – reservations required; \$17/person – German Beer and Wine will be available. Call Carol Morgan for reservations - 704-708-8866.
  - b. **November 12<sup>th</sup>** – Several Speakers on Veteran Support in Charlotte.
  - c. **December 17<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas Party/Catered Dinner at **Bella Sera Villas, Matthews**. Reservations required. Watch Chapter Newsletter for Flyer.
2. **2<sup>nd</sup> VP –Membership and Retention** – Dale Hogue described the new “calling cards” for potential members. Cards provide an “elevator speech” for potential Chapter members. Dale also notified members that a Chapter Recruiting Post Card has been sent to 400 national MOAA members in the Charlotte area not associated with any Chapter.
3. **3<sup>rd</sup> VP – Legislative Affairs** – Harley Ellinger, State NCCOC Legislative Affairs VP, outlined activities being pursued at the NC State level. Because of the lack of progress of state and national legislators to honor the past benefits earned by active duty personnel and retired veterans, Harley encouraged all members to pay particular attention to national MOAA and NC State MOAA requests to contact elected officials.
4. **Newsletter – Carol Morgan** – to be published by September 29<sup>th</sup> – Oktoberfest reservations will be included in this issue and are due to Carol by October 11<sup>th</sup>.

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

1. **JROTC Scholarship Golf Tournament** - October 6<sup>th</sup> at Olde Sycamore. **Volunteers are needed** . Please call Ron Morgan at 704-708-8866 to help. Next Golf Committee meeting is September 26<sup>th</sup>, 4 p.m. at Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation.
2. **MOAA Military Family Initiative (MFI) Community Outreach Grant Program for 2018** - This new MOAA initiative provides an annual \$5,000 grant to Chapter awardees for a community outreach program teaming with a local veteran’s organization serving veteran mentoring initiatives. Ron Morgan suggested that we team with Charlotte Bridge Home to make this program a reality. Volunteers and Program Leaders are needed to move this program forward.
3. **Feedback from NCCOC (State MOAA Council) annual Meeting –**
  - a. 4 star award presented by MOAA President, LT. Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret).
  - b. MOAA/USAA Credit Card – new exclusive telephone number for USAA alerts agent that the caller is both MOAA and USAA member. Tel. # 1-877-913-6622 or USAA.com/MOAA.
  - c. Chapter Polo Shirts will be available very soon at an unbelievable cost of \$12.00.
4. **Carolina Freedom Foundation Breakfast** - November 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 a.m., Sheraton Hotel, 555 S. McDowell St., Charlotte. \$80/person. Register and pay on line at: [www.carolinasfreedomfoundation.org](http://www.carolinasfreedomfoundation.org). To get a reservation form call 704-519-0722 (attn: Rita).

**Presentation – Chapter Member Larry Rogers** spoke about his journey from a Salisbury teenager to his experiences as a combat surgeon during the Vietnam War.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ron Wilsbach, Secretary/Treasurer