



NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we draw to the close of calendar year 2017, we can reflect on a year of both successes and continuing challenges. We have had some great and interesting programs and some not meeting expectations, presented \$ 2,000 higher education scholarships to four outstanding JROTC cadets and had another very successful golf tournament that will fund additional scholarships for 2018. We have continued to support 38 high school JROTC programs and 2 ROTC programs at UNCC with Leadership Awards. So far, we have added 12 new members in 2017, but have also eliminated some members for non-payments of dues since before 2016.

The chapter programs, activities and community veteran services initiatives the board has been discussing for 2018 will have a focus on increased membership involvement in chapter/community activities, retention and continued efforts to attract new active members from the younger generation of MOAA eligible officers. Having involved committees and volunteers, communication modernization, providing consistently great programs and succession planning for the future will be keys to a successful 2018 and beyond.

Toys for Tots – All members are urged to bring new, unwrapped toys to this coming chapter meeting on November 12th for donation to the local area USMC Toy for Tots program. It will be our only collection date for 2017 as our December Holiday Party on December 17th is after the final Toys for Tots collection date.

Chapter JROTC Scholarship Fund Year End Donations – As you are considering any year-end donations for 2017 giving (and tax relief issues), please consider a donation to the chapter's scholarship fund. Checks should be payable to: Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter Scholarship Fund and noted as such on the check. Thank you for your consideration. A letter acknowledging contributions will be provided.

Hope to see you at the festive and delicious chapter Christmas / Hanukkah Party on December 17th. Reservation form is included in newsletter.

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, NOV. 12, 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.

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 1st 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.

Toys for Tots Donation and Collection – NOVEMBER 12 meeting will be the only time this year when we can collection donations for the local area Toys for Tots. Please bring new and unwrapped toys. After the meeting all donations will be delivered to a designated collection site.

December 17, 2017 – Chapter Christmas/Hanukkah Party – A catered reception, buffet dinner and holiday festivities at the Bella Sera Community Clubhouse (Matthews, NC) – A very festive party and high-quality buffet meal catered by Southern Gourmet has been planned. We want to entice and encourage all chapter members and guests to attend. We will begin, **at 4:00 PM** 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 by Guitarist Steve Peralta. The Cost will be \$ 30 per person all inclusive. The holiday party flyer with menu and a reservations form has been sent earlier and is also included in this newsletter. Casual wear with holiday ties and sparkles. Guests and family members are welcomed. Clear your calendars for this Sunday, December 17th event from 4 to 6 PM.

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

The officer/board installation will be conducted by David Lee, Captain, USN (Ret) of the Salisbury, NC Chapter and the new President of the NC Council of Chapters. In addition to officer installation and wise words from our NCCoC leader, we are planning for Phil Mowry, a new chapter member and transfer from Florida, to address us on the role and issues of “former” officers in MOAA.

February 18, 2018 – Ron Clark and Veteran Housing Issues- Ron Clark, a former homeless veteran in Charlotte, will provide a real-life picture of the local homeless vet issues. We will also have a presentative from one of the local area non-profit organizations, i.e. Charlotte Bridge Home, Veterans Path Up, Purple Heart Homes, etc.) dealing with and providing solutions for this issue.

MEMBERSHIP AND RETENTION – DALE HOGUE

It's that time of year again for renewing your chapter membership by paying annual dues for 2018. We would like all to complete the renewal form including in this newsletter and submit prior to our January 2018 meeting. Rather than paying \$ 25 per year (Surviving Spouses at \$ 10/year), the chapter program of paying \$ 100 for 5 years (a savings of \$ 25) is still in effect. Thanks for early payment.

Chapter Officer and Board Slate and Nominations for 2018

During the November meeting, we will ask for any final nominations and then elect chapter officers and board members for 2018. We are still seeking chapter members willing to step and assume a role in our chapter's leadership as Recording Secretary and Newsletter Editor (hard copy). 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 – Dale Hogue
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, FACEBOOK AND ENEWSLETTER – Dale Hogue

We still have 2 spots open without any nominee. See Jay Garbus and/or talk to any current officer/board member. We need you.

State Legislative Affairs. During the CY 2017 Session of the NC General Assembly over 40 Bills were introduced that had some applicability to our military community. Of those the following

were passed and the rest reside in various committees within the House and Senate. The next session of the Legislation will commence in January of 2018.

The following were approved during the CY 2017 session:

- **NATIONAL GUARD EDUCATION ASSISTANCE CHANGES:** Directs the University of North Carolina System and the State Community College System to Adopt and Implement a Uniform Policy to Require that a Student Who is a National Guard Service Member Placed on Active Duty Status be Given an Excused Absence for the Period of Time the Student is on Active Duty and to Provide Additional Options to the Student for Completion or Withdrawal from Classes that will not Penalize the Student Academically; to Broaden the National Guard Tuition Assistance Program to Cover Students Enrolled in an Approved Professional Certification Program; to Ensure Compliance with Federal Law for InState Tuition for Veterans; and to Prohibit the Closure of the Eastern Carolina State Veterans Cemetery in Goldsboro.
- **VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMISSION/STRATEGIC PLAN:** Requires the Veterans' Affairs Commission to Adopt a Comprehensive Strategic Plan to Enhance Benefits for Veterans and Their Dependents and to Require the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to Study Program Outcomes for Military Veterans and Their Families.
- **MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION/STRATEGIC PLAN:** Requires the Military Affairs Commission to Adopt a Comprehensive Strategic Plan to Enhance North Carolina Military Installations and Their Missions.
- **VETERANS' HISTORY AWARENESS MONTH:** Establishes Veterans' History Awareness Month in November.
- **VETERANOWNED SMALL BUSINESS/ANNUAL REPORT;** Requires the Office of the Secretary of State to Annually Compile Information About the Number of Veteran Owned Small Businesses and Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses and to Provide this Information to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

JROTC SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING

Chapter Year End Donations – As you are considering any year-end donations for 2017 giving (and tax relief issues), please consider a donation to the chapter's scholarship fund. Checks should be payable to: "Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter Scholarship Fund" and noted as such on the check. Thank you for your consideration.



CHRISTMAS/HANUKKAH PARTY



Sunday, December 17, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.
Bella Sera Clubhouse, Matthews
2700 Bella Sera Way off Hwy. 51 North

Guys wear your favorite holiday tie

Gals wear your sparkles

Entertainment by Guitarist Steve Peralta

Social time with hors d'oeuvres and beverages followed by a short business meeting.

Menu catered by Southern Gourmet

*Vidalia Chicken, Roast Beef with Pan Sauce,
Buttermilk Mashed Potatoes, Country Green Beans, Holiday Fruit & Nut Salad
Rolls & Corn Muffins, Pumpkin Spice Cheesecake, & Red Velvet Cake
Beverages: Wine, beer, soft drinks, coffee & tea*

\$30.00 per person/cash or check payable to: Charlotte-Metrolina MOAA. RSVP with names by Dec. 7th to rwilsbach@carolina.rr.com or call 704-942-8003. Send check to: Ron Wilsbach, 10944 Casetta Dr., Matthews, NC 28105

Total Meals x \$30 = _____

Names of Attendees:

Charlotte-Metrolina MOAA Chapter Minutes for October 15th, 2017

President Ron Morgan called the Oktoberfest 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.

Recently joining members and their spouses introduced themselves and new members were introduced. Barb Christie, retired Air Force LtCol and surviving spouse recently joined the chapter and Philip Mowry and his wife Elise were also introduced. Philip formerly served as an Air Force Major who lives in Matthews and comes from the Lakeland, Florida MOAA Chapter. Eric Kelly, a JROTC Instructor in Union County and his wife Madeline were also introduced. John Vanderbleek, a recently retired Army Colonel is living in Fort Mill and is actively looking for employment in the Charlotte area. Ronald Barratt, a long-time member introduced his new wife, Patty.

Ron Morgan called for approval of the minutes of the September 17th Chapter meeting. The minutes were approved without changes. Ron Wilsbach, Treasurer reported that the General Fund has a balance of \$3,164.03 and the Scholarship Fund has a balance of \$23,533.88. Ron also reported that the recently completed JROTC Benefit Golf Tournament netted \$10,109.90.

The 50/50 raffle of \$35.00 was won by Barb Christie.

Ron Morgan announced that the **November program** speaker will be Pat Biddy. Pat spoke to the Chapter in February 2015 and is back to update us on his MIA recovery activities. Ron advised the Chapter that on **December 17th the Chapter Christmas Party** will be held at the Bella Sera Villas Clubhouse in Matthews. Initial plans are underway, but additional members are needed to work on the details of this effort. A committee meeting will be held on Saturday, October 21st at 10 a.m. at the Bella Sera Villas Clubhouse in Matthews. Ron noted that additional Christmas Party information will be sent to members soon. "Toys for Tots" are being collected at the November meeting.

Old/New Business

1. **MOAA Military Family Initiative** – This new MOAA National Program provides a grant of up to \$5,000 for Chapter Community Outreach Programs. Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter will partner with Charlotte Bridge Home for a veteran mentorship program. **CHAPTER VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THIS PROGRAM.** Please see Ron Morgan to offer your help.
2. **2018 CHAPTER OFFICER SLATE** - Ron Morgan announced that a nominating committee for next year's Chapter Officers and Directors has presented the following slate of officers: President Jay Garbus; 1st VP John Willis; 2nd VP Dale Hogue; 3 VP Dick Steeves; Secretary TBD; Treasurer Ron Wilsbach; Directors: Scott Morris, Larry Stawicki, Carol Aljets; Past President Ron Morgan, Surviving Spouse Liaison, Gloria Scienski, Chaplain John Samb. Newsletter Editor is TBD. The slate will be voted on at the November meeting. New officers will sworn in at the January 2018 meeting.
3. **DAVIDSON SATELLITE CHAPTER** – Efforts are underway to rejuvenate activities at the Chapter Satellite branch in the northern Charlotte area. New member Christopher Coke has volunteered to lead this effort. Anyone wishing to contribute to this effort please contact Ron Morgan.
4. **NON-National MOAA Members** – Chapter members who are not members of National MOAA are encouraged to join the national organization. Not only will you have access to all programs driven by the national organization but you will also be benefiting the Chapter by reducing the total non-national members on our roster. Chapters with more than 10% of their membership being non-national members cause points to be deducted in the yearly Level of Excellence Competition. The Chapter currently have 13% of membership being non- National members.
5. **POLO TYPE CHAPTER LOGO SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE** - \$12.00. Chapter MOAA insignia shirts are now available. See Ron Morgan for details.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER.

1. **OCTOBER 20TH – NCSERVES METROLINA 2 YEAR ANNIVERSARY AT UNCC 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

2. **OCTOBER 21ST - USMC BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION – EMBASSY SUITES CONCORD**
3. **NOVEMBER 4TH – VETERAN’S Parade in Uptown.**
4. **NOVEMBER 6TH - Carolinas Freedom Foundation Breakfast – Sheraton Uptown - \$80/per.**
5. **NOVEMBER 12TH – CHAPTER MEETING – 3 P.M.**
6. **NOVEMBER 17TH – 18TH – NCCOC MEETING – CAPE FEAR CHAPTER – FT. BRAGG**
7. **NOVEMBER 14TH – Women Who Serve(d) Forum – CPCC Harris Campus**

PROGRAM – Chapter Past President Harley Ellinger provided an enlightening talk about the historical nature of Oktoberfest celebrations, food production and natural disasters affecting those celebrations.

President Ron Morgan thanked Huberta Barrett, and son Ronald, for her 19th production of the Chapter’s Oktoberfest Celebration.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Wilsbach, Secretary/Treasurer