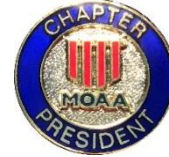




NEWSLETTER MARCH 2018



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We start the meeting on March 18th at the Red Rocks Café. Social starts at 3:00 PM, followed by a short business meeting, then dinner (order from the menu) and guest speaker Mr. Aaron Harper's presentation.

We are "business casual" with some men wearing jackets or not.

We are starting to get the JROTC medals out to the High Schools so if you want to help give the medals to the schools please see Larry Stawicki before or after the meeting.

We are still looking for someone to be the Secretary. The position of secretary may be divided to make it not as burdensome and time consuming, so if interested please see Ron Wilsbach or myself.

As I stated at the February meeting we would like to have more members involved in the chapter activities. See what committees there are that you may have interest in. It maybe only takes an hour a month or less.

Welcome new members Doug Lundell and wife Evelyn Lundell and Kevin and Anna Davis.

We will have a lunch get together at Pikes Soda Shop see info on page 2.

NC Council and Chapter meeting in Charlotte, 15-16 June, page 3.

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, it is in the Strawberry Hill shopping center on the corner of Providence and Sardis Rd.

Thank you for your participation with and for chapter goals attainment.
Jay E. Garbus, CW4, USA (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, March 18, 2018

Red Rocks Cafe
4223 Providence Rd

Social Time 1500
Meeting with Meal 1530

PROGRAMS – JOHN WILLIS

March 18th, 2018 - Mr. Aaron Harper, Sergeant, USMC Retired (Medical). He is a 5th Generation Marine and served from 1988-1993. Participated in Desert Storm (Saudi Arabia & Kuwait) as an Air Traffic Controller. He is currently serving at Atrium Health (formerly Carolinas HealthCare System) as the Manager of Military & Veterans Affairs. He is also the Chairman of the Freedom Award Selection Committee, and Ombudsman for the NC Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve, as well as the advisor/partner to NC Serves, Veterans Bridge Home, Charlotte Area Veterans Employer, Vet Charlotte, and Piedmont Veterans Coalition. He is President of the Carolina Marines. Mr. Harper resides in Weddington with his wife, NC Army National Guard LTC Michele Harper (Blackhawk pilot), and their 3 young sons.

He will discuss the Atrium Health's (formerly Carolinas HealthCare System) mission to Improve Health, Elevate Hope and Advance Healing for all. He will review this mission statement and how it applies to the CHS Military & Veterans Affairs Strategy titled PaTHS (Patients, Teammates, Health education, Service).

April 15th, 2018 – Mr. Kenneth Mortimer, Director, Charlotte VA Health Center

May 20th, 2018 – JROTC Scholarship awards.

LEGISLATION – DICK STEEVES

HB103/SB153 Equal Tax Treatment of Government Retirees. House Finance. If favorable goes to Pensions & Retirement

HB223 Disabled Veterans Plate for Motorcycles. Senate Rules and Operations.

HB483 Veteran Post Traumatic Stress Mitigating Factors companion bill SB402

HB813 Veteran Retirement Income Tax Benefit. House Finance

HB914 Enhance Suicide Prevention Awareness & Services. House Appropriations

SB643 Establish Veterans Treatment Court. R&O

NEW MEMBERS - Welcome new members Doug Lundell and wife Evelyn and Kevin and Anna Davis.

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 Veteran Bridge Home (VBH). It will likely be a veteran mentoring program designed by CBH and chapter volunteers. The grant application for 2018 was submitted on 28 February 2018. 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. If approved, we will be asking for some chapter members to train and serve as mentors for area vets.

Chapter "Informal" Luncheon Gathering at Pike's Old-Fashioned Soda Shop

March 15th at 11:30 meeting at *Pike's Old-Fashioned Soda Shop, 1930 Camden Road for a social get together*. Pike's is on Camden parallel to South Blvd. just over the LYNX tracks. The parking garage is one block further East on Hawkins at the intersection of Dogget. After parking you can walk next to the blue construction barrier to Camden and Pikes Soda Shop. Bring your parking ticket. Pikes will validate the ticket for free parking.

The ROTC/JROTC MOAA Leadership Awards Program - At the March 18th meeting we need volunteers to distribute awards to the High Schools.

The UNCC ROTC Gold Bars Program – Scott Morris heads up the Army program and Chuck Martin heads up the Air Force program.

JROTC SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING - Chapter JROTC Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament on **October 5th, 2018**. Planning is ongoing for 2018. We are actively seeking Prime Sponsors at the \$ 1,000 level and up. Support material and tournament information will be distributed soon. Hole sponsorships are \$ 200. Let us know about any potential new sponsors and start getting commitments from our previous sponsors. Get involved now!

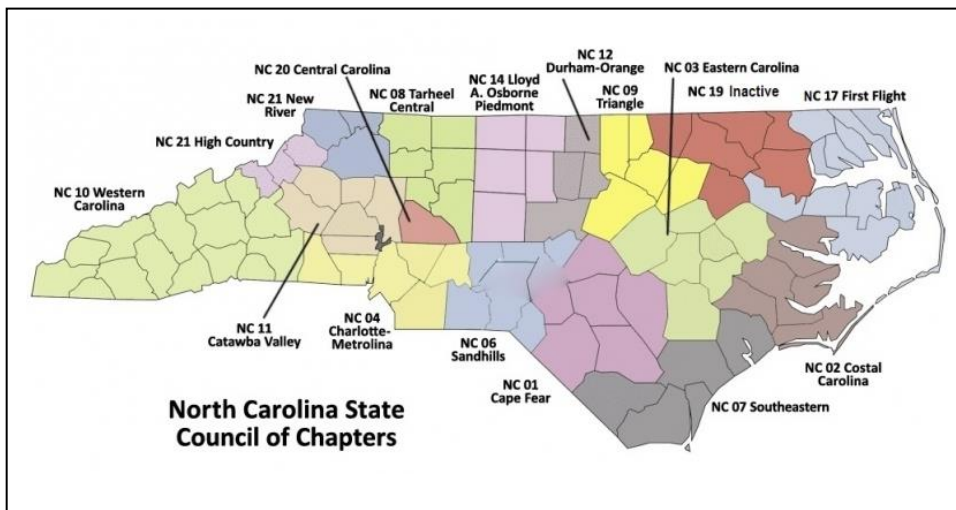
SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON - Gloria Scienski

NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHAPTER MEETINGS

June 15 and 16, 2018 - Charlotte, NC

September 7-8, 2018 - Columbia, SC, Council and Chapter Leadership Workshop

October 19-20, 2018 (Tentative) - Wilmington, NC



MOAA NATION MEETING - November 1-2, 2018 - Phoenix, AZ

THE 4TH BRANCH LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE & PETITION

4th Branch has launched a new website and advocacy center in support of our efforts to eliminate the state income tax on government retirees' hard-earned retirement benefits! If you're receiving this email, you're already part of the new advocacy center and have access to alerts, calls-to-action, petitions and more.



We Need Your Help! To help us launch the new site and our online advocacy tool, we've launched a new petition (in advance of this year's legislative session) to gather names to show the strength of our cause. Please take just a moment to visit the action center at the website and click "Take Action" (or the arrow beside "1 Petition") to add your name and help us validate our membership. As always, being a part of the 4th Branch is free and open to ANYONE concerned about ending the taxation of military, federal, state and local government retirement benefits. Feel free to share this email or the website with any of your peers. Thanks to Geri Graham

ON GOING EVENTS

- The 1st Thursday of every month from 0900 to 1000, the Levine Senior Center in Matthews sponsors a Veteran's Coffee. All are welcome.
- The 4th Saturday of every month join the LOPH for breakfast at 0900 at the Golden Corral in Matthews, on Highway 74 (Independence Blvd.).
- Veterans Bridge Home:

- ❖ Veteran's Coffees on the 4th Fridays of every month at the Dilworth Grill on Morehead and Mc Dowell from 0800 to 0930. \$5 Breakfast
- ❖ Ballantyne Breakfast the 1st Thursday of the month at Another Broken Egg Café from 0730 – 0900. Pay your own meal.
- ❖ Lunch at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1000 E. Morehead Street. (The attendance has been so popular they had to move from Dilworth Grille.) They meet the 2nd Wednesday of every month from 1145 – 1300. \$10 Buffet.
- ❖ Breakfast at Covenant Presbyterian Church every 4th Friday 0800-0930.
- ❖ University Coffee every 3rd Friday 0730-0900 at UNCC ROTC Memorial Hall.

TRICARE CONTRACTING TURBULENCE FOR MILITARY BENEFICIARIES - Recent reforms of the Military Health System included plans to reduce TRICARE regions from three to two. The objective was to reduce federal spending while decreasing administrative hassles for military beneficiaries, who tend to move between regions frequently. This part has worked out well.

What has not worked so well for beneficiaries have been numerous issues caused by the change in TRICARE contractors Jan. 1. Contractor changes between regions happen every five to seven years, and although most beneficiaries expect a few glitches, they typically are well planned and anticipated. This transition has been anything but smooth sailing.

MOAA has received an earful from members describing billing and claims problems, referral and authorization issues, dropped enrollments, poor customer experience, lack of provider networks resulting in higher cost shares, and many other concerns. We met with TRICARE officials this week to discuss these problems, find out if the Defense Health Agency was aware of them and, if so, learn what they are doing to solve them.

We were happy to find the DHA is very aware of these issues and is taking action to hold the new contractors accountable. Both managed care support contractors, Humana Government Business and Health Net Federal Services, have experienced early challenges with customer call centers, websites, etc.

Humana is compliant with all major requirements except provider directory accuracy. Unfortunately, Health Net - which has TRICARE's West region - remains noncompliant with several major requirements and has been placed on a corrective action plan to fix key issues, including:

- Customer Service - failure to meet multiple contract standards, call center standards, etc.
- Referral and Utilization Management - more than 70,000 backlogged referrals
- Provider network adequacy - failure to meet targets (85% coverage is required) in multiple Prime Service Areas and Select networks; this includes both primary care and specialty providers shortages, with some areas having no network providers
- Provider directory accuracy - multiple issues
- Medical management - multiple issues with web-based systems

Needless to say, these are serious issues affecting beneficiaries right now. To address them, the [DHA has put out guidance](#), effective immediately through March 18, allowing Health Net to waive its usual authorization process for TRICARE Prime referrals in the West Region as well as addressing specialty care referrals, enrollment applications, and call center wait times.

MOAA is monitoring these mitigation strategies and contract performance deficiencies closely; we will continue to report beneficiary experiences to officials at the DHA. We appreciate the oversight efforts by the DHA and would like to see the needle move in the right direction on these issues as quickly as possible. These issues have resulted in more out-of-pocket costs for many beneficiaries, which is totally unacceptable.

CHAPTER GROUP ACTIVITIES – Anyone for clay shooting outing. Rocky Creek Sporting Clays in SC is one such venue. If this is of interest, Dale Hogue can explore and then set up a date for those who want to go.



USNA GLEE CLUB COMING TO TOWN - Yes, it is true the USNA Glee Club is coming to town to put on a show. The internationally-acclaimed U.S. Naval Academy Glee Club will appear in concert on Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Myers Park Baptist Church. The acclaimed 100-member ensemble will present an evening of fine music, to include patriotic selections, music from Broadway, choir classics, and a performance of Durufle's REQUIEM, accompanied by Naval Academy Chapel organist, Monte Maxwell. Tickets will be \$20 and will be available at the door on evening of performance



From Military.com - In case you haven't heard, the VA is offering veterans a [free ID card](#) which can be used to prove your veteran status when needed at businesses and other locations.

The [free ID card](#), which originally rolled-out in late November, was ordered by Congress in 2015 as a way to give veterans proof of service at businesses without carrying a copy of their DD-214 forms. It is available for all honorably discharged veterans, regardless of era or time in service.



Veterans who are enrolled in the [VA healthcare system](#) already have a VA issued ID card, but that leaves the majority of veterans without any valid proof of service that may be required to get special benefits from private firms.

HOW DO YOU GET THE VETERANS ID CARD?

Getting the card is actually pretty easy, at least as easy as dealing with the VA can be. It took me about 15 minutes to log on to [VETS.GOV](#), create an account, enter my service data, and upload a selfie that I took with my phone. Of course, I did this back in November when the program started and had several issues with the website freezing up. According to the VA, those problems have been fixed. Although I applied in three months ago I still haven't gotten my card, but the website will let you download and print out a paper copy of the card if you want to.

WHY GET THE VA ID CARD?

This card helps to fix that problem. Historically there hasn't been a better time to be a veteran. If you want a discount at the store, a free meal, a special parking space, [special benefits from the state or local government](#) this is the time for you.

Now, before you harrumph and say that those benefits are worthless and tacky for all you did, let me just say that most of us didn't join the military to get heaped in praise by our fellow citizens. Most of us got 3 hots and a cot and paid every 2 weeks, and that is all we asked for.

WHAT WILL THE VA ID CARD DO FOR ME?

While the card won't necessarily get you any new federal or state benefits it will possibly get you some special little perks like free meals on veterans day, parking spots closer to the door, and [discounts at many retailers](#). If big companies want to give me a parking spot close to the grocery store entrance, a free meal every now and then, a discount when I buy furnace filters, or a few thousand bucks off a new car I'll take it. Heck I'm even going to make sure my new bright shiny veteran card is right under my driver's license so if I get pulled over for speeding the nice officer can see I'm a veteran, it never hurts to try.

Having this veterans ID card ready to show anybody who gives me a sideways look when I park right next to the handicapped and expectant mothers spots makes me feel good (especially when it is cold or raining). It kind of makes up for all those late night watches and dress formations. I feel like I'm finally getting a little respect for my service, and I get it every day - not once a year.

My advice, get the card. It never hurts to accept a little bit of gratitude when it is offered, you never know when it will come again.



MOAA
CHARLOTTE-METROLINA CHAPTER



Committees for 2018

1. Programs - John Wills - Chairperson
2. Membership/Retention - Dale Hogue Chairperson
 - a. Ron Morgan
 - b. Phil Mowry
3. Legislative Affairs - Dick Steeves - Chairperson
 - a. Harley Ellinger
4. The ROTC/JROTC MOAA Leadership Awards Program- Larry Stawicki Chairperson
 - a. Carol Aljets
 - b. Gary Aljets
 - c. Joe Anderson
 - d. Bill Baker

The UNCC ROTC Gold Bars Program

- a. Scott Morris (Army)
 - b. Chuck Martin (USAF)
5. JROTC Golf Tournament - Ron Morgan - Chairperson
 - a. Ron Wilsbach
 - b. Scott Morris
 - c. John Vanderbleek
 - d. Harley Ellinger
 - e. Carol Aljets
 - f. Charlie Allison
 - g. Dennis Harris
 - h. Fisk Outwater
 - i. Tony Clark
6. JROTC Scholarship - Scott Morris - Chairperson
 - a. Larry Stawicki
 - b. Gloria Scienski
7. Nomination Committee - John Wills - Chairperson
 - a. Harley Ellinger
 - b. Larry Stawicki
 - c. Gloria Scienski
8. MOAA Military Family Initiative Community Outreach – Ron Morgan Chairperson
 - a. Carol Aljets
 - b. Phil Mowry
 - c. Bill McKenna
 - d. Scott Morris

9. Surviving Spouse Liaison - Gloria Scienski - Chairperson

President - Serves as an ex-officio member, with right to vote, on all committees except the nominating committee.



MOAATM
Military Officers Association of America
Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter



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.