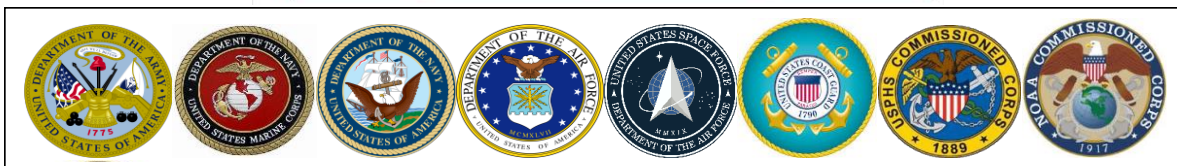




5 STAR
2015,18



5 STAR
2014,15,17,18



CHAPTER BOARD

President

Jay E. Garbus 704-400-0160
jgarbus@carolina.rr.com

1st Vice President/Programs

Joe Anderson 336-324-1008
joeanderson1970@yahoo.com

2nd Vice President/Membership

Carol Aljets 704-628-5192
NAVCDRmom@aol.com

3rd Vice President/Legislative

Tony Castle 980-224-8965
ccastle645@gmail.com

Secretary

Gary Aljets 704-628-5192

Treasurer

Ron Wilsbach 704-844-9450
rwilsbach@carolina.rr.com

DIRECTORS

Chris Coke 571-286-0994
Mongo.coke@gmail.com

Larry Stawicki 704-814-9739
stawickilp@aol.com

Surviving Spouse Representative

Mary Cuthbertson 704-563-9208
marycut3@aol.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT and BOARD MEMBER

Ron Morgan 704-708-8866
rbmorgan943@aol.com

CHAPLAIN

John Samb 704-572-0460
jwsamb@novanthealth.org

Newsletter

Jay E. Garbus Same as above

NEXT MEETING

October 18th

On Zoom

At 3:00 PM

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2020



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are having our first Zoom chapter meeting October 18th at 3 p.m.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THIS MEETING. PLEASE READ DETAILS ON PAGE 2 OF THIS NEWSLETTER IN THE PROGRAMS SECTION FOR MORE DETAILS REGARDING HOW TO REGISTER. **YOU MUST REGISTER BY OCTOBER 11.**

Joe Anderson is also the Chairperson for chapter officer and board nominations. Contact him if you want to become an officer or serve on the Board of Directors for 2021. We need and want new and long-time members willing to serve the chapter.

Not much is going on at this pandemic time, but as we start opening up for larger meetings and business services, I think we will be a lot better off. I know many businesses are hurting as are state and local budgets. However, stay safe and follow all guidelines.

If anyone has something they would like to share with the chapter please email me so I can put it in the newsletter. It could be weddings, birth announcement, the trip you took (or will take) or something else that you are proud to share.

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.

Publisher and Editor – Jay E. Garbus

The **Newsletter** is published monthly for members and friends of Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter, MOAA.

Editorial Policy: The Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter is affiliated with national MOAA. As such, the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter is nonprofit, politically nonpartisan. Editorial policies are established by the Chapter's Publisher and Editor and are in consonance with MOAA's. Advertising and sponsorship are accepted based on MOAA policies and standards.

Editor may be reached at (704) 400-0160

Chapter Website <https://www.charlottemoaa.org/> / **MOAA Website** <http://www.moaa.org/>

MOAA "Take Action" <http://www.moaa.org/takeAction/>

Membership Open to active duty, former, retired, and National Guard and Reserve commissioned and warrant officers of the uniformed services or their surviving spouses.

PROGRAMS

October 18, 2020 – ZOOM MEETING – REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THIS MEETING - Speaker – American Red Cross (David Laws and Robert Kitchen) – These representatives will present an interactive workshop which will focus on - **Stress Management and Relaxation Techniques during the COVID 19 pandemic.**

This virtual resiliency workshop was developed to bring support to military, veteran and military family communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. This module offers stress-management and relaxation techniques to connect with the pandemic as a live, interactive virtual workshop.

WHAT IS COVERED?

- Managing the Stress of Isolation
- Managing Health
- Caring for Family members
- Healthy communications during stressful times
- Getting Healthy Sleep
- And much more

ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING/WORKSHOP WILL REQUIRE REGISTRATION!!

If you are interested in attending this virtual workshop that will be conducted via zoom, please email Joe Anderson at joeanderson1970@yahoo.com NLT midnight, Sunday Oct 11 . Please contact Joe at 336-324-1008 if you have any questions.

November 15, 2020 / at Red Rocks Café, 4223 Providence Rd 8, **or via zoom.** Meeting at 3 p.m./Monthly Business meeting, election of Officers.

December 13th, 2020 / at Red Rocks Café, 4223 Providence Rd or via zoom. Meeting at 3 p.m./Monthly Business meeting and Christmas celebration.

January 24th, 2021 / 3:00 p.m./ Officer Installation at Red Rocks Café, 4223 Providence Road - Dinner meeting Monthly Business meeting and potential national MOAA rep visit/presentation

February 21, 2021; 3:00 p.m. at Red Rocks Café, 4223 Providence Road 8, Charlotte, NC 28211/Dinner meeting Looking for a program

March 21, 2021; 3:00 p.m. Red Rocks Café, 4223 Providence Road 8, Charlotte, NC 28211/Dinner meeting

NOMINATIONS (ELECTIONS) 2021 CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD – "In accordance with our Chapter By-Laws, elections of officers for the 2021 Calendar Year will take place at our November meeting to be held on Nov 15, 2020 at 3 p.m. If you interested in serving our chapter as an officer or as a board member, **please contact Joe Anderson, Chair, Nominating Committee NLT Sunday, November 1.** He can be reached at mobile # 336-324-1008 or email: joeanderson1970@yahoo.com.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for the fact that you are.....**STILL SERVING AMERICA.**"

CHAPTER DUES FOR 2021 – It is not too early to start thinking about paying annual chapter dues that are due by December 31st, 2020. If you earlier paid for multiple years and are unsure when you need to pay again, please contact Ron Wilsbach

LEGISLATION – **1. PURPOSE.** To seek enactment of legislation that is promilitary/veteran.

2. CONCEPT. Organize NC MOAA into 2 Elements: Council Team & Chapter Legislative Team to begin operations after the November 2020 elections.

a. Council Team: The Council will be led by the COC 1st Vice President. This team will focus on 2021 & 2022 Legislative Calendar & establish relationship with NC National Guard Adjutant General (TAG), NC Department of Military & Veterans Affairs (DMVA), and NC Veterans Council (NCVC).

1) Identify the bill numbers/bill language and House/Senate committees to which they are introduced. (We have agreed that we pick +/- 10 bills) to track.

2) Work with agencies above to develop military/veteran issues to be addressed in the 2021-2022 legislative session

3) Review pending 2020 veteran/military bills to insure they transition to the 2021 calendar.

4) Meet with Senate President & House Speaker Policy Advisors to put specific military/veteran legislation on "Fast Track."

5) Identify both Sen/House legislative principals to insure introduction of military friendly legislative bills.

6) Identify both Sen/House sponsoring Committee Chairs/Members and the bills with bill numbers.

7) Develop Point Papers for use by Council Team & Chapter Legislative Teams in communicating with legislators.

8) Attend both Sen/House Committee meetings as Council of Chapters (COC) resources permit.

9) Provide guidance/support to Chapter Legislative Teams in their advocacy efforts with bill sponsoring/bill supporting legislators.

b. Chapter Legislative Team: Focus on 2021 Legislative Calendar by subscribing to www.ncleg.gov North Carolina House and Senate Committee Meeting Notice and Bill Sponsor Notifications.

1) Develop a working knowledge in using www.ncleg.gov bill identification and bill tracking tools.

2) Identify and collect contact information regarding Senators/House legislators in your district following 2020 election.

3) Meet/brief your Legislators on bills supporting military/veteran issues.

4) Invite your Legislators to Chapter meetings.

5) Contact your legislators to support specific bills provided by Council Team.

6) keep Council Team apprised of your legislative activity.

NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

4th Quarterly Meeting

Based on the NC Governor's phase 3 pronouncement, the NCCOC quarterly meeting will again be held virtually. The meeting will begin at 0900 hours on November 14, 2020. The agenda and more details will follow.

The Council officers will have a premeeting on November 7, 2020 beginning at 1000 hours.

I was hoping that we could physically gather, but perhaps February 2021.

Jim Brumit
COL, USA, (ret)
President, NCCOC, MOAA

COUNCIL SECRETARY VACANCY - The North Carolina Council of Chapters is seeking an energetic person to become the secretary of the Council. Duties: Attend quarterly NCCOC meetings, take minutes of the meetings and forward to the webmaster for inclusion in moaa-nc.org (web site for the NC Council). Maintain historical records for the Council. Correspond with chapter presidents. Provide members with timely notification of meetings. Handling all administrative tasks at meetings (sign ins, desk name plaques, etc.,)

Qualifications: Previous corporate secretary experience not required.

Hours: 30 per year

Compensation: Free coffee at meetings. Also, we offer comradery with Council Officers and Chapter Presidents. Otherwise, the compensation is \$0.00, but the comradery is priceless.

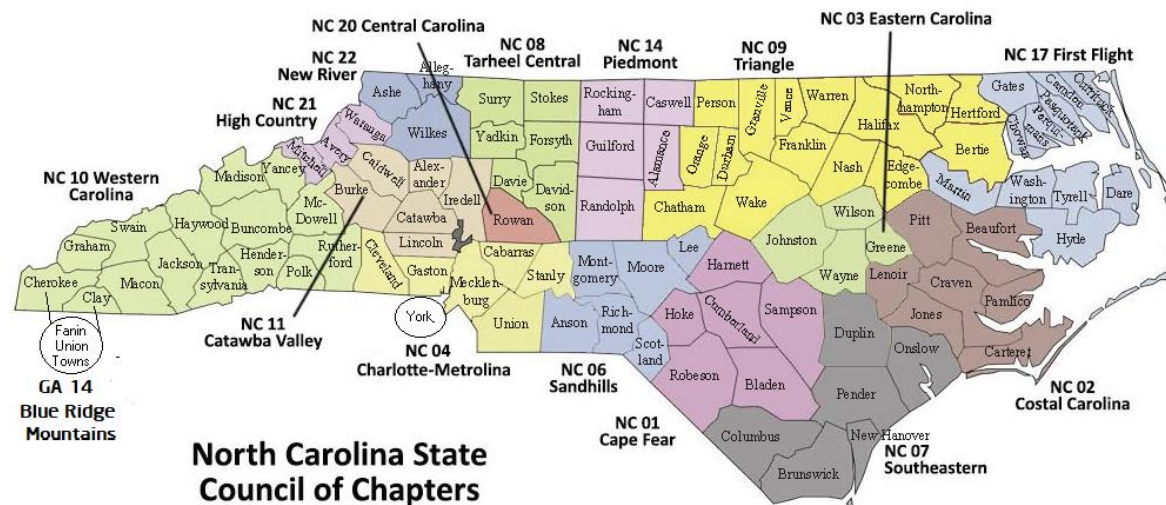
Vacation: 2,050 hours per year (2,080 available work hours per year less 30 work hours)

Healthcare: Whatever you currently have.

The position does not require a person to be an officer of the uniformed services of the U.S., but does require one to be a spouse and if you are currently serving in a chapter, this would be a good opportunity to learn what is happening at the Council level

Call COL (R) Jim Brumit, President, NCCOC or email at jimbrumit@aol.com

NEW NC STATE COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS AREA MAP -



MOAA NEWS

MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. We are a powerful force speaking for a strong national defense and representing the interests of military officers and their families at every stage of their careers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization. To reach our Member Service Center, please call 1-800-234-6622 or email us at msc@moaa.org.

TRICARE - Have you been billed for two copays related to a single outpatient medical appointment? MOAA's investigating similar reports, and your experience may help clear up a question of TRICARE policy.

Some TRICARE beneficiaries have been billed a copay for a facility fee in addition to the typical copay for their provider office visit, MOAA has learned recently. We are working to clarify how facility fees are handled by TRICARE, but in the meantime, we would like to get a better understanding of the scope of this issue.

If you believe you may have been charged a second copay for an office visit, related to a facility fee, please tell us at legis@moaa.org.

Facility fees aren't new. Hospitals are allowed to charge patients a facility fee, on top of the charges for medical services, to help cover the high cost of running a hospital. Patients sometimes encounter facility fees when they receive care from a provider office attached to a hospital or medical center.

A recently completed joint effort between the VA and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to digitize Vietnam-era deck logs should simplify and speed up the claims process for [Blue Water Navy](#) veterans.

VA Announces Completion of Vietnam-Era Deck Log Digitization

VA announced completion of the digitization of the Navy and Coast Guard records from 1956 to 1978 in a [Sept. 28 press release](#). All Navy deck logs from the period were digitized by December 2019, per the release, with the Coast Guard logs finished in September 2020.

The digital records will ease the validation process for whether beneficiaries served in the waters off Vietnam, establishing a presumptive exposure to toxic defoliants such as Agent Orange and making them eligible for benefits under the [Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019](#). NARA will make the logs available online to researchers and others.

That law went into effect Jan. 1. Since that date, VA has paid out \$641 million in benefits to 22,254 Blue Water Navy veterans and survivors, per the Sept. 28 release. That means nearly \$60 million has been paid out since July 31, when VA [reported \\$583.8 million in total payments](#) for 20,690 granted claims.

The current list of 14 Agent Orange presumptive diseases can be found [at this link](#). MOAA has supported language in the Senate draft of the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that [would add three conditions](#) to the list: bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinsonism symptoms.

[TAKE ACTION: Write or Call Your Lawmaker In Support of Expanding Coverage Connected to Agent Orange Exposure]

The release did not address submarine deck logs, which were not included in the original grouping from the archives. This group is not included in the toxic-exposure presumption, and there is no official estimate of when, or if, this group will be included.

Veterans, dependents, and surviving spouses can contact VA at (800) 827-1000 for more information on filing a claim, or can reach out to an approved [veterans service organization \(VSO\)](#) for guidance.

MOAA GUIDANCE ON PARTISAN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Partisan Political Activities. As organizations exempt from federal taxation under Sec. 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code, MOAA and its affiliates must take care to avoid engaging in partisan political activities. Under IRS rules, we are prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.

Candidates for Public Office. A candidate for public office is an individual who offers himself or herself, or is proposed by others, as a contestant for an elective public office, whether such office is national, state, or local, and includes incumbent candidates. The prohibition also extends beyond declared candidates and may apply to efforts to recruit an individual to run for office or advance exploratory activities. The prohibition also applies to advocating for the platform of one political party over another.

Prohibited Activities.

Activities which constitute participation or intervention in a political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to a candidate include, but are not limited to, the publication or distribution of written or printed statements or the making of oral statements on behalf of or in opposition to such a candidate. It is clear that the prohibition on partisan political activity prohibits such outright actions such as posting a "Vote for Biden" or "Vote for Trump" on the organization's website, or "Support Republican Candidates" or "Vote Democratic."

In addition to these obvious examples, the prohibition goes well beyond direct expressions of support. In determining whether an organization is engaged in unlawful partisan political activities, the IRS applies a "facts and circumstances" test. The IRS looks not only to the expressed language, but to external factors, such as the

communication's timing, its targeted audience, and how the message relates to public policy positions that distinguish a candidate in a campaign.

Consequences for Violations. The consequences to an organization that violates the prohibition on partisan political activity can be severe including the loss of its tax exempt status and the imposition of certain excise taxes. For public charities, like The MOAA Foundation and the MOAA Scholarship Fund, the IRS can disallow tax deductions for charitable contributions. In addition, for an organization whose mission involves advocacy on key military community issues, MOAA must seek support from elected representatives from both parties. Engaging in partisan political activities on behalf of one party or candidate would seriously undermine MOAA's ability to achieve the bipartisan consensus on key issues essential to achieving its legislative objectives.

Personal Opinions. As individuals, members and leaders of MOAA and MOAA's affiliates are not prohibited from engaging in partisan political activities so long as they do so in way that makes it clear they are acting for themselves and do not appear to be speaking on behalf of MOAA or its affiliates. For example, it is permissible for an individual to express his or her personal preference in support of or in opposition to a candidate or political party. And they may do so publicly. However, when expressing their personal opinions or preferences, they may not make reference to their MOAA position, use MOAA communications channels, use MOAA letterhead or newsletters, identify themselves as MOAA leaders, or imply that MOAA or its members share their beliefs.

Leadership Responsibilities. Those in leadership positions have a special responsibility to separate their personal political opinions from statements that are or can be attributed to MOAA or its affiliates. For example, it is improper for a chapter leader to use the chapter's newsletter to advance the leader's personal political beliefs. This goes beyond statements expressly advocating for a specific candidate or party by name. Statements that incorporate campaign messaging, campaign slogans, and political positions identified with a particular candidate or party are also prohibited. No MOAA leader is authorized to use MOAA's or an affiliate's resources to communicate their personal political beliefs. This is an outright violation of the leader's fiduciary duty to the organization and a serious leadership and ethical failure.

Divisive Social Issues. We are all aware of the divisive nature of the debate over today's leading social issues – protesting during the national anthem at sporting events, racial justice, public protests, and the conduct of law enforcement officers. These are issues over which many Americans have deeply held, but differing, personal beliefs. This is also true within the military community among the ranks of active duty and retired officers and within MOAA itself. MOAA leaders have an obligation to keep this in mind when communicating on behalf of MOAA or its affiliates. Suggesting that MOAA only supports one side of a deeply divisive issue sends a message to those with a different belief that MOAA is not for them. Officers today have grown up in a military culture that is very different than the past. Many are accepting of attitudes and views that were not mainstream when many of us were in uniform. If MOAA is going to connect with the newest generation of uniformed officers, it needs to be clear that those with strong views on racial and social justice imperatives are just as welcome as those who adhere to more traditional expressions of patriotism and officership.

SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON - Information or to join MOAA's Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter, email mssvc02@gmail.com. An [online application](#) also is available.



Dr. Vivianne Wersel provided a report regarding why she was stimulated to apply for a position on the MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisory Council. The NCCOC congratulates Dr Wersel for this great honor. She also reinforced why being engaged with your legislators is important to so many issues.

ON GOING EVENTS (If not cancelled during this period)

1. Mecklenburg Veterans Council – 1st Tuesday every month at 11:30 am. Valerie C. Woodard Center, 3205 Freedom Drive, Ste. 2000 (Community Support Services), Bldg. D, Charlotte, NC. The meeting room is the Queen City Conference Room, 2029
2. Veteran Network breakfasts on the first Thursday of every month, starting at 0730 at Another Broken Egg in Ballantyne. Total cost is \$ 13. Is available via zoom. See VBH newsletter

3. **Veteran Network Uptown Lunches** on the second Wednesday of every month starting at 11:45 at the Covenant Presbyterian Church Community Room. Total cost is \$ 10.00. Pre-register at Veterans Bridge Home website and lunch is only \$ 5.00. This lunch has great speakers. Is available via zoom. See VBH newsletter

AMAZON SMILE CHAPTER DONATIONS - **Ronald Wilsbach**, Thank you for registering Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter of the MOAA at org.amazon.com and welcome to AmazonSmile, where Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible smile.amazon.com purchases to the charities selected by customers. Spread the word to your supporters so they can generate donations for your organization when they shop. When customers sign up for AmazonSmile, they're asked to select one of over a million charities to support. When customers click on your unique link, they skip this charity selection process. Instead, they're taken to smile.amazon.com and are automatically asked if they want to support Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter of the MOAA.

Your unique charity link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-3779812>

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) RESOURCES AND UPDATES

If you believe you may be suffering from the virus and you are:

- *A TRICARE beneficiary:* Call the Military Health System Nurse Advice Line at 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273), option 1, to receive guidance. You can also connect with a nurse via web or video chat at www.mhsnurseadvice.com.
- *A VA beneficiary:* Contact [your local VA facility](#) prior to visiting. You can also [send a secure message via the MyHealtheVet portal](#) to receive guidance. Learn more about virtual care options [here](#). UPDATE: As of March 19, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Regional Offices no longer will offer in-person services, including scheduled appointments.
- *Outside the VA and TRICARE networks:* Call your health provider.

Coronavirus Resources

- [Coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus Website](#)
- [CDC Advice for Higher-Risk Individuals](#)
- [VA Coronavirus Website](#)
- [TRICARE Coronavirus Information](#)
- [DoD Coronavirus Response Website](#)
- [Health.mil Coronavirus Information](#)
- [National Institutes of Health Coronavirus Information](#)
- [Latest Coronavirus News from Military.com](#)
- [Latest Coronavirus News from Military Times](#)





Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter

ENROLLMENT/RENEWAL FORM

New Member _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

First Name _____ Initial _____ Last Name _____

_____ Rank _____ Branch _____ DOB _____

_____ Spouse's Name. _____ Street Address : _____

_____ Email _____ City _____

_____ State _____ Zip _____

National Membership Number _____ Ph: _____

Annual Dues - \$30.00

Surviving Spouse Dues remain at \$10.00 annually.

Please remit check and completed renewal form to: Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter MOAA
PO Box 31394
Charlotte, NC 28231-1394

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. Spouse members are encouraged but not required to hold both memberships. (Surviving spouses of deceased MOAA Life Members retain their spouses membership.)

Not a MOAA national member yet? A basic membership is free. A Premium membership is available for \$48.00 per year. Get all the details at msc@moaa.org or call 800-234-6622.