CHARLOTTE-METROLINA CHAPTER NEWS

March 2014

The Military Officers Association of America

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The weather has turned warm melting the snow and spring seems just around the corner. As we enter the month of March we continue with our fund raisers to fund our ROTC scholarship program. Tickets are still available to sell for the Autobell Car Wash. We paid $7.50 for each ticket for a car wash, and we sell them for face value of $15.00. Another fund raiser is planned by Gary Aljets at California Pizza Kitchen in Southpark for April this year on a Thursday. The restaurant gives us 20% of the receipts for the day. Charlotte East Rotary supported this particular fund raiser back in October 2013, and I ask you to support their next fund raiser, which is a pancake breakfast, on March 15, 2014 (7:30-10:00 A.M.) at Red Rocks Café. Price for the breakfast is $10.00 per person.

INFLATION: This is a subject that I want all of you to pay very close attention to as it greatly affects all of us and our need for quick responses to legislative requests from MOAA. Also reading and listening to our 3d VP Gloria Scienski's legislative reports keeps us currently informed so that we can properly respond. The consumer price index does not include fuel and food, and both of these depend on the value of the dollar, use of ethanol in gasoline, and the price of petroleum. There are over 6000 products made from petroleum with 300 that we come in contact hourly/daily. All of the above affects the price of food. With an artificially depressed consumer price index, then any reduction military benefits is greatly magnified. **PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE:** respond quickly and completely to MOAA's requests for legislative action when they arrive in your e-mail.

This month's chapter meeting on March 16, 2014 is very special for our chapter as we have a visit from a National MOAA representative. COL (RET) USAF Richard Erickson and his wife Joan will be attending this meeting and COL Erickson will be presenting the program. 2d VP Carol Aljets will be doing a big push for new chapter members and 1st VP Ron Morgan, who has arranged the visit and program, will be pushing for a large attendance at this meeting. See all of you on March 16, 2014.

Harley Ellinger, COL USA (RET)

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NEXT MEETING

Sunday, Mar. 16, 2014

Red Rocks Cafe

4223 Providence Rd

Social Time 1500

Meeting with Meal 1530

PROGRAMS – RON MORGAN—1st Vice President

March 16, 2014, 3:00 PM – SPECIAL PROGRAM FROM MOAA NATIONAL – Colonel Richard Erickson, USAF (Ret), MOAA National Board of Directors – Colonel Erickson and his wife, Joan, will join us from Atlanta. He will provide an overview of MOAA national initiatives and, in particular, challenges to our veteran/retiree benefits as the Federal Government seeks to deal with the national debt.

We would like to maximize attendance for this March meeting. The national MOAA office is sending out invitations to all national MOAA members living in the area that are not members of our chapter. We hope to get a few new members from this mailing. We also will send out another email asking for reservations from all chapter members and guests that plan to attend. Unless you have already indicated you are attending, you will also likely receive a call from a Chapter board member. However, beginning now for this March 16th meeting, you can either **e-mail your reservation to: rbmorgan943@aol.com or call Ron or Carol Morgan at (704) 708-8866.** Current reservation deadline is Friday, March 14th.

Future Meeting Dates: April 6th (two weeks earlier to avoid Palm Sunday and Easter). Our speaker will be Paul Passaro of Concerned Veterans for America (CVA) who will discuss their veteran support mission and the CVA project for VA Accountability. On **May 18, 2014,** we will have Dr. Jim Hogue, Professor of History at UNCC, a West Point grad, who later taught history at the US Military Academy.

MEMBERSHIP – CAROL ALJETS—2nd Vice President

2014 CHAPTER DUES ARE DUE

If you have not already done so, **please renew your chapter membership for 2014** by completing the enclosed form (last page of the newsletter) and sending it with a check to the P.O. Box. Shortly, an email or letter will be sent out to all still on the chapter roster who failed to pay annual dues for 2013 and are more than a year in arrears. Simply paying dues for 2014 ($ 25.00 for regular members and $ 10.00 for surviving spouses/auxiliary members) will fully reinstate a member.

The Mecklenburg County Veterans Council has received books from the Republic of Korea, about the Korean War, that are available for any Korean War Veteran. If you are a Korean War Veteran or know one please let me know at navcdrmom@aol.com or call me at 704-849-2886. This book is free to all Korean War Vets, enlisted or officer, and is a gift from the South Korean government.

It is getting close to the time of year when this chapter gives out medals and awards to 32 JROTC units and the two ROTC units at UNC-Charlotte. Greg Ainslie and I usually take care of the ROTC units. In the past several members have gone to the various schools and presented these medals and awards. Once Larry Stawicki has the dates for the schools programs, we will be looking for volunteers to make these presentations to the honored students. This gives us a chance to give membership information to the

instructors and to help create a closer bond with the school. Gary and I have enjoyed every ceremony we have attended and have found it very rewarding for us and it means a lot to the student receiving the reward to get it from the sponsoring organization. I realize not all of you might be available to do this but please give it some serious thought.

I will have call sheets with names of National MOAA Members who live in our area and are not members of a chapter. Below are the seven good reasons for anyone who is eligible to join a MOAA chapter:

- Make yourself heard.
- Giving back to the community.
- Value added to chapter member lives.
- Networking with fellow officers.
- Stay informed.
- Influencing state legislation.
- Camaraderie with a purpose.

LEGISLATIVE -- GLORIA SCIENSKI – 3rd Vice President

Congress Votes to Repeal COLA Cap

The repeal of the so-called COLA cap on military pay passed both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives. Both had pledged to find a way to eliminate the Bipartisan Budget Act mandated cap on the annual cost-of-living-adjustment on working-age military retiree pay. The remaining issue is that the repeal does not protect career service members who join in 2014 and beyond.

Regarding the FY 2015 budget submission, acting Deputy Secretary of Defense Christine Fox said, "We are seriously considering proposing additional changes to compensation, not retirement … but modest proposals on other parts of compensation."

Fox outlined in her statement that "Secretary [Chuck] Hagel, the Joint Chiefs, and the service secretaries agree that we cannot afford to sustain the rate of growth in military compensation that we've experienced over the last decade." Much of the rate of growth since the early 2000s "reflects the convergence of multiple motivations, all of them well-intentioned," such as eliminating the pay gap and zeroing out out-of-pocket housing expenses.

The gains over the past 13 years are now targets for cuts. What's on the chopping block? The following forms of pay and benefits have emerged as leading candidates:

●capping pay raises or even freezing pay
●making additional end-strength cuts
●changing basic allowance for housing to make service members assume more of the costs
●reducing the commissary benefit savings
●means-testing TRICARE fees and establishing TRICARE For Life/TRICARE Standard enrollment fees

These and maybe more are facing the chopping block. More clarity will surface once the budget rolls out March 4. The bottom line is the Pentagon will push pay and benefit cuts, and they will be more than "tweaks." These proposed changes will definitely impact the purchasing power of military families.

We continue to need your help. The key to grassroots legislative power is staying informed. MOAA's weekly Legislative Update e-newsletter is a great service. The best way to be heard is to call the congressional switchboard at 202-224-3121. When calling this number you will reach a person that will forward you to the office of your Senator or Representative. Most effective are telephone calls made on

Monday and Tuesday due to the voting schedule. Sign up to receive the Legislative Update by visiting www.moaa.org/email.

CHAPTER SECRETARY – VACANT

Minutes of the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter (NC-04) Of the Military Officers Association of America February 16, 2014

President Ellinger called the business meeting to order at 3:30. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance followed. A brief introduction of all members and guests started the meeting.

Minutes of the January 19, 2014 meeting were approved as distributed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Report (Ron Wilsbach): $ 4,225.06 including $ 1,312.15 in the Scholarship Fund.

National MOAA Leadership Award – Greg Ainslie was presented with the National MOAA Leadership Award. The certificate and pin was presented by President Ellinger and Vice President Scienski. Greg served the chapter for over a decade in the offices of President, Vice President and Secretary. The award recognizes Greg's leadership during challenging times, his dedication and attention to administrative detail as Chapter Secretary for the past six plus years.

Officer Reports:

1st VP and Acting Secretary (Ron Morgan): Announced March 16 meeting speaker as Colonel Richard Erickson, USAF (Ret), MOAA National Board of Directors. For the March meeting, we will need reservations as the national office has sent letter invitations to all area MOAA members that are not chapter members. A reservations signup sheet was provided at the front desk. The program for April 6th will be a local representative (Paul Passaro) for the Concerned Veterans for America who will discuss CVA's campaign for Veterans Administration Accountability. The May 16th meeting program will be Dr. Jim Hogue, History Professor at UNCC, and a West Point grad who later taught history at the US Military Academy. He also announced that chapter dues for 2014 are past due and requested all to send in their checks as soon as possible. A letter will be sent out shortly to all those who have not paid dues for the past 2-3 years. Any non-payers, by mid-April, will be dropped from the chapter roster.

2nd VP (Carol Aljets): Carol talked about new membership efforts that have shown some success in the first two months of 2014. She talked about our participation in the area Veteran's Council. There is a fairly large tabletop book about the Korean War that is available for free to all veterans. Contact her for details. She discussed a 10% new membership growth goal for 2014.

3rd VP (Gloria Scienski): Gloria discussed the plans for continuing budget cuts that would affect current active duty forces and reminded all to pay attention to future ealert messages.

Newsletter (Carol Morgan): Newsletter input is due by 2/21/2014 for publication around 2/28/2014.

Old Business: - Another California Pizza Kitchen Fund Raiser for the Scholarship Fund will be scheduled in April 2014. (Gary Aljets for action). Larry Stawicki reported that there are still 41 Auto Bell coupons to be distributed/sold. Gloria Scienski reported that work on the Scholarship Fund continues and we will accept donations at any time which are tax free for this 501(c) 3 effort.

New Business: An effort is on-going to advertise the chapter in local events/meetings and to hand out business cards. Our membership growth effort will include announcing chapter meetings and programs in area publications (regional/area papers, etc.) upcoming events columns, etc.

Announcements: Gary Aljets announced the "Star Spangled Girls" program, sponsored by the Matthews American Legion Post, to be presented on March 15 and 16. He also discussed chapter member support for the Blessed Assurance Adult Day Care Annual Charity Golf Tournament to be held on April 17th.

The MOAA NC Council of Chapters will hold a quarterly meeting in Durham on May 16-17.

Program: Kurt Geske, Director of Veteran Services for Gaston County and historian presented an engaging, and at times amusing, account of the development, running and closing of Camp Greene surrounding WW I. It was one of 39 camps developed across the country. After city leaders campaigned heavily for placement of the camp in Charlotte, after the war they did not mind at all that the camp was disassembled and closed. Others like Camp Bragg and Camp Jackson did not close, but that is another story.

The meeting and presentation adjourned around 5:30 PM.
Respectfully submitted,
Ron Morgan, Acting Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 15-16, 2014 – Star Spangled Girls, Matthews Fullwood Theatre
March 16, 2014 – MOAA Chapter Meeting, Red Rocks Café, 3:00 pm
April 6, 2014 –MOAA Chapter Meeting, Red Rocks Café, 3:00 pm
May 18, 2014 –MOAA Chapter Meeting, Red Rocks Café, 3:00 pm

NC-04 CHARLOTTE-METROLINA CHAPTER
Of the Military Officers Association of America
ENROLLMENT/RENEWAL FORM

New Member? _____ Renewal? _____

First Name _____ Middle Initial ____ Last Name _____

Rank _____ Branch _____ Spouse's Name _____

Address: _____
Street

_____
City State Zip code

E-Mail Address _____ Phone No. _____

I would like to receive my newsletter by: _____ US mail _____ E-mail

National MOAA Member? Yes ___ No ___
Membership No. _____
(Found above your first name on magazine mailing label)

*Enclosed is my check for $25.00
$10.00 for Surviving Spouses
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.

Greg Ainslie was presented with the National MOAA Leadership Award (certificate and pin) by President Ellinger and Vice President Scienski. Greg has served the chapter for over a decade in the offices of President, Vice President and Secretary. The award recognizes Greg's leadership during challenging times, his dedication and attention to administrative detail as Chapter Secretary for the past six plus years.