CHARLOTTE-METROLINA CHAPTER NEWS

April 2014

The Military Officers Association of America

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While the calendar says it is spring, the temperature says otherwise. We have suffered through the worst winter this area has seen in many years, but we know it will not last forever. Easter is just around the corner, April will soon be here, and our chapter has many activities to complete before the summer vacations. First I want to thank 1st VP Ron Morgan for bringing to Charlotte our wonderful March program with COL Richard Erickson and his wife Joan. They represented National MOAA and COL Erickson's message gave us the clearest idea of what MOAA does for each of us in Washington DC. With our 10 lobbyists to Congress, and established access to the President and Secretary of Defense, we have been named the Most Effective Organization to promote military affairs.

We have some more Autobell Car Wash tickets to sell and you can obtain them from Larry Stawicki. Our next fund raiser will be on April 24 & 30, 2014 at California Pizza Kitchen in South Park Mall here in Charlotte. We get to keep 20% of the cost of the meals bought in the restaurant those two days. Ron Wilsbach and Gary Aljets are hard at work getting our website working. This will allow us better communication with our members and the public. At almost every chapter meeting there is at least one person who mentions that they did not know there was a MOAA Chapter in the Charlotte area. Yes, we have been here almost 41 years as of May 18th! This website will also give 3d VP Gloria Scienski better access to our membership through the e-newletter for her legislative alerts that we need to respond to in a timely manner.

2D VP for membership Carol Aljets, Ron Morgan, and National MOAA all get credit for the largest turnout of members at our last chapter meeting: - 57. We filled the room! Carol has done a tremendous job in getting new members to join our chapter. With so many Veteran Administration issues (over 500 days to process a claim) facing our members and the military in general, our April meeting is a must for all of us to attend. Mr. Paul Passaro of Concerned Veterans for America (CVA) will present their veteran support mission and the CVA project for VA accountability. **NOTE OUR NEXT CHAPTER MEETING IS EARLY!** See all of you on April 6th.

Harley Ellinger, COL USA (RET)

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NEXT MEETING

Sunday, April 6, 2014

Red Rocks Cafe

4223 Providence Rd

Social Time 1500
Meeting with Meal 1530

PROGRAMS – RON MORGAN—1st Vice President

Meeting Dates and Programs: April 6, 2014 (Sunday) At 3:00 PM – Red Rocks Cafe (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 across the country and the CVA mission and actions for **VA Accountability**. As we have discussed during the March meeting with Colonel Erickson of the MOAA National Board of Directors, the Veterans Administration (VA) has serious credibility and performance issues. Paul will be able to provide information and clarity on these issues and discuss what actions we can all take to assist in bringing about change to the VA. Paul graduated from the US Military Academy at West Point and had a 22 year military career as a combat arms officer, master –parachutist and Army Ranger.

On **May 18, 2014 (Sunday) at 3:00 PM,** we will have **Dr. Jim Hogue, Professor of History at UNCC**, a West Point grad, who later in his Army career taught history at the US Military Academy. We have asked Dr. Hogue to discuss his latest project and "work in progress" on "The Rise of the American Military Profession".

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.

Recruiting Actions since January 1, 2014

- Using the list of National members
  - Sent email to all with email address inviting them to our meetings
  - Having chapter members call all that provided a phone number
  - Provided talking points on what NC State Council of Chapter is doing on the state level and what the local chapter is doing locally
- A chapter member is calling all chapter members that have not attended a meeting recently to check on them and invite them to our meetings
- Attending a local LinkedIn group meeting of veterans both looking for work and those having jobs available

- Attending the Mecklenburg Country Veterans Service Council as a member providing and receiving information on local military events such as the ground breaking of the new Charlotte VA Health Care Center
- Developing a chapter website
- Publicity
- Work on the organizing committee for the Homeless Veterans Stand Down Day

Results:

- New Members – 8
- Potential members receiving email of our Newsletter- 15
- Members who have been inactive have come back and renewed their chapter membership – 1 known to date
- We had a great turnout for Col Erickson. Hopefully we can get a few new members from this event. I know I got the email addresses of those at my table and will be sending them a personal note of thanks.

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LEGISLATIVE -- GLORIA SCIENSKI – 3rd Vice President

Close to Home. Harley recently made us aware of the proposed closure of the 440th Air Force Wing at Pope Air Force Base in Fayetteville, NC. The base provides the air support for the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC. This action will leave the 82nd Airborne Division essentially grounded! The closure of the 440th Air Force Wing at Pope Air Force Base would significantly impact readiness and training. The 440th currently provides 23% of paratrooper airlift. In addition, support of Pope Field is the investment already made to prepare for the use of the newer C130 J airplanes. And, North Carolina would be impacted by an estimated $78 million a year out of our region's economy. It is critical that the 440th Air Force Wing remain at Pope Air Force Base in order to continue the needed level of preparedness.

Please continue to send your comments to our representatives to keep the base open. 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
March 16, 2014

President Ellinger called the business meeting to order at 3:30. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance followed. Based on a total attendance of 57 members and guests all first-time attendees were asked to stand and be recognized. 16 guests attended from the MOAA National mailing.
The 50/50 raffle was held.
Minutes of the February 16, 2014 meeting were approved as distributed in the newsletter.
Treasurer Report (Ron Wilsbach): $ 4,594.52 including $ 1,332.15 in the Scholarship Fund.

Officer Reports:
1st VP and Acting Secretary (Ron Morgan): The program for April 6th will be Paul Passaro, local Director 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. We are planning for a summer meeting held in conjunction with the Lake Norman/Pines at Davidson satellite chapter. It will be a picnic and/or Lake Norman cruise is being planned for this summer. Date/time and place to be announced. He also announced that chapter dues for 2014 are past due and requested all to send in their checks as soon as possible.

2nd VP (Carol Aljets): Carol talked about new membership efforts that have shown some success in the first two months of 2014 with 8 new members. She also discussed the support needed for ROTC (2 programs) and JROTC (32 schools) MOAA awards program

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 messages from national MOAA as well as a DOD proposal to deactivate/close a USAF air transport Wing at Pope Air Force which would have an adverse affect on the capabilities of the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg and economic impact.

Newsletter (Carol Morgan): Newsletter input is due by 3/21/2014 for publication around 3/28/2014. An appeal was made for member military bios to feature in upcoming newsletters.

Old Business: - Another California Pizza Kitchen Fund Raiser for the Scholarship Fund is scheduled for April 24 and 30. A flyer will be enclosed in the April newsletter for copying and distribution to friends, associates and family. The Chapter Board meeting will be held there on one of the dates.

Larry Stawicki reported that there are still 30 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.

Announcements:

- Chapter member support was requested for the Blessed Assurance Adult Day Care Annual Charity Golf Tournament to be held on April 17th.

- Ground breaking for the new Charlotte VA Health Care Center will be on March 28 at 2:00 in the West Tyvola Rd. and Cascade Pointe area. Public is welcome.
- The MOAA NC Council of Chapters will hold a quarterly meeting in Durham on May 16-17.
- The Lake Norman Satellite Chapter held a meeting on March 18th.

Program: Colonel Richard Erickson, MOAA National Board of Directors, visited with wife Joan, from Montgomery, AL. He presented an engaging talk about the work and efforts of the national board and staff to support chapter growth and effectiveness. It is recognized the large role that Chapters have in accomplishing the MOAA mission and goals within the local community, the state and the strong impact chapters and member have in influencing their congressional representatives. He discussed the leading issues that MOAA will promote in "Storming the Hill" the first part of April. This includes the COLA cap issue and other assaults on the benefits and retirement system, adverse impacts on active duty retention when Congress and DOD are "messing with" benefits and personnel-related budget cuts. He also addressed VA claims processing issues and introduced a new MOAA sponsored program called "Voices for America's Troops" that provides a vehicle for involving military enlisted personnel.

With 57 members and guests attending, this was the largest chapter meeting we have had in many years. The meeting and presentation adjourned around 5:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Morgan, Acting Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 6, 2014 –MOAA Chapter Meeting, Red Rocks Café, 3:00 pm
April 17, 2014 – Blessed Assurance Day Care Charity Golf Tournament, Olde Sycamore GC
April 24-30, 2014 – Scholarship Fundraiser, California Pizza Kitchen, South Park
May 16-17, 2014 – MOAA NC Council of Chapter Meeting, Durham NC
May 18, 2014 –MOAA Chapter Meeting, Red Rocks Café, 3:00 pm

FEATURED MEMBER: COL Ronald B Morgan, USMC (Retired)

Born and raised in Hillsdale, Michigan, graduating from high school in 1961, attended Michigan State University. My freshman class was the last class required to participate in mandatory ROTC during the first two college years. In Air Force ROTC during the spring semester of my sophomore year, I "forgot" to attend drill based on a job conflict and received a "No Pass". ROTC Instructors told me that I had messed up any chance of getting an officer's commission. However, in the fall of 1965, I and a friend walked into the MSU Student Union and saw a USMC Officer Selection booth and a Marine Captain in Dress Blues surrounded by some long-haired protestors. Realizing that after graduation in 1966 we faced the draft for the Army, we waded through the ring of "hippies" and several hours later raised our right hands, taking an oath "to protect and defend" as Marines.

In August 1966, I was at USMC Officer Candidate School in Quantico, VA wondering "What am I doing here?", but survived 12 grueling weeks and was commissioned a 2nd Lt. Then attended The Basic School from November 1966 through April 1967 to learn about becoming an Officer of Marines and Infantry leader. Less than a

month after graduation I was in the Republic of Viet Nam at Gio Linh on the DMZ as the Platoon Commander of 1st Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment. My second night at Gio Linh we received 1100 rounds of incoming artillery, rockets and mortar fire and I wondered then if I would make it home. However, for the following 13 months, served as Company Executive Officer (XO), filled in as Company Commander (CO) twice after the CO's were medivaced and then finished my tour as the Battalion Intelligence Officer (S-2). Was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" along with all the "I was there" medals.

Returned to Camp Lejeune, NC in 1968, married Carol, and served in 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines as a platoon commander, company XO and Company Commander during a 6-month Caribbean Cruise. Wanting to know another part of the Marine Corps, I applied for and was sent to Flint, Michigan as an Assistant Inspector-Instructor of an Infantry Reserve unit with the additional duty of Casualty Affairs Officer for the region, which took up most of my time. Mostly to escape casualty duties, I decided to leave active duty in November 1970.

My early Marine Corps Reserve career starting in 1971 included billets with a Communication Support Company in Indianapolis, as team commander of an Interrogator-Translator Team, Battalion Staff and Staff Group (exercise planning) member in Detroit, and Staff Group (battalion readiness inspections) member in Chicago completing reserve duty periods on both the east and west coasts. I also attended over two summers the Reserve version of Amphibious Warfare School (AWS) in Quantico.

Moving to the Washington DC area in 1982 for a new civilian position with my contract food service company, later on, as a Major, I became a member of the Reserve Support Unit for Fleet Marine Force (FMF) Atlantic in Norfork, VA. in the G-5 (Plans) office. During that same period, I attended two summer periods of Command and Staff College and, after making Lt. Colonel, served as the Senior Reserve Coordinator for AWS. In 1988, I was fortunate enough to be promoted to Colonel. I was also very fortunate to have civilian employers that were supportive of my time spent on reserve duty.

As a Colonel, I moved my reserve duty to Headquarters, Marine Corps (HQMC) in Washington D.C. and became the Head of the reserve officers working in the Plans section of the Plans, Policy and Operations (PP&O) Division. We all performed a lot of active duty periods at HQMC and the Pentagon leading up to, during and after Desert Strom/Desert Shield. After an almost 5 year period, I was appointed as the lead reservist supporting the Recruiting Division and recruiting stations across the country. I was also on active duty as a Senior Watch Officer at HQMC during the Somalia deployment.

Moving to Jupiter, Florida in 1993 with a new company as National Sales Director, I was fortunate to be selected to serve in the G-4/7 (Logistical Planning) for the US Central Command (USCENTCOM) over in Tampa. Working mostly Host Nation Support issues, I retired in November 1996 after 30 years of commissioned service.

During all of this time as a civilian, from 1970 to 2002, I was in contract food service operations and then sales for several companies. In 2002, after my position was eliminated with Compass Group PLC, I became a consultant for them and other companies, traveling to Kuwait and Iraq in 2003 at the start of the second Iraq war and later in 2004 to Liberia, Africa auditing a company contract with the United Nations. I formed R Morgan Consulting Inc. and still support a small minority business with service contracts at both the US Military Academy (West Point) and the US Naval Academy.

I owe much to my wife Carol and the kids (Eric, now a US Navy Commander) and daughter Lisa for putting up with the hassles and inconveniences of maintaining a military reserve career. We had several family vacations while I was performing reserve duty or attending military schools. We also had several good family trips connected to my time as a national officer of the Marine Corps Reserve Officers Association.

I am now involved in reunion planning for my Basic School class (TBS 3-67). We had our first reunion in 2011, a Quantico memorial dedication in 2012, another reunion in San Francisco in 2013 and are now planning for our 50th reunion in 2016.

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.

Pizza with a purpose.

Bring in this flyer, present it to your server, and we'll donate **20%** of your check to the organization listed below. Purchases include dine in, take out, catering and all beverages.

FUNdraiser in support of:

Military Officers Association of America Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter

April 24th & April 30th, 2014
(All Day)

MOAA
Military Officers Association of America

Valid at the following location:
California Pizza Kitchen
SouthPark Mall
4400 Sharon Road
Across from Dick's Sporting Goods
704.364.6280

Join the **Pizza Dough™ Rewards program** on your next visit or at **cpk.com** and receive a **free** Small Plate for registering.

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PIZZA KITCHEN

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