# CHARLOTTE-METROLINA CHAPTER NEWS

***September 2014***

**The Military Officers Association of America**

## *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*

Fall has almost arrived with the colors, falling leaves, and the football games with the halftime shows with the bands. The summer is gone with the days getting shorter and school has started with a whole new year ahead for teachers and students – both of which need all the help we can give them! As MOAA and our chapter head into the end of this year, and the beginning of a new federal fiscal year, the military faces another period of financial upheaval and uncertainty. The North Carolina Council of Chapters of MOAA spent the month of August 2014 visiting the members of Congress from North Carolina, Senators and Representatives and their staffs, lobbying them to help the soldiers and their families with pay, off post/base housing expenses, and TRICARE PHARMACY COSTS. Hopefully, we created support for these programs. Only 4% of currently living Americans served in the military, and education about military life for staffs of the Congress is vital.

Fall also brings us closer to implementing scholarships for JROTC. By the time you read this message, ADDENDUM #3 of our by-laws should be completed – the rules and regulations for the scholarship program. Once this ADDENTUM #3 is in place, then we must get extremely serious about raising funds. I plan to have copies of ADDENDUM #3 at our next chapter meeting and on the website. Please forward ideas to me about raising money for these scholarships to send JROTC students to college,

Our next chapter meeting will be on **Sunday 3:00 P.M., September 21, 2014 at Red Rocks Café.** The program will be presented by Mark R. Wilson PhD Assoc. Prof. of History at UNCC – contributions of American industry in WWII. Bring a friend to our meeting!

Harley Ellinger COL USA (RET)

*Check out our new Chapter Website at:*
http://charlottemoaa.org

Chapter meetings are held at Red Rocks Café, behind Fresh Market at 4223-8 Providence Rd, Strawberry Hill area where Fairview/Sardis Rds cross Providence. Social starts at 3:00 pm followed by a short business meeting, then dinner (order from the menu) and a speaker presentation.

### CHAPTER BOARD

**President**
*Harley Ellinger 704-544-7084*
*ellingerdds@hotmail.com*

***1st Vice President/Programs***
*Ron Morgan 704-708-8866*
*rbmorgan943@aol.com*

***2nd Vice President/Membership***
*Carol Aljets 704- 849- 2886*
*navcdrmom@aol.com*

***3rd Vice President/Legislative***
*Gloria Scienski 704-847-0405*
*g.scienski@gmail.com*

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

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

***News Letter***
*Carol Morgan 704-708-8866*
*morgancc43@aol.com*

***DIRECTORS***
*Larry Stawicki 704-814-9739*
*stawickilp@aol.com*
*Martha Ellinger 704-544-7084*
*mcellinger@hotmail.com*

## NEXT MEETING

***Sunday, September 21, 2014***

**Red Rocks Cafe**

**4223 Providence Rd**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Social Time** | **1500** |
| **Meeting with Meal** | **1530** |

## *PROGRAMS – RON MORGAN—1st Vice President*

**September 21, 2014 (Sunday) – Dr. Mark Wilson, Associate Professor of History at UNCC.**
**Topic: "American Business, the Military, and the Winning of World War II".** An engaging discussion about the business and politics of the U.S. military-industrial mobilization for World War II.

**October 12, 2014 (Sunday) – OKTOBERFEST –** Our annual German harvest celebration and dinner with great food, drink, music and video. Join us and bring guests for this German-Chef prepared meal. Requires advance reservations (by phone or email). Information and menu sent in a separate email.

**November 16, 2014 (Sunday) – Major General Cornell Wilson Jr., USMC (Ret), Military Affairs Advisor to Governor McCrory, State of North Carolina.** MGEN Wilson will discuss the efforts in NC in making North Carolina the friendliest state for the military and veterans.

**December 7, 2014 (Sunday) – Chapter Christmas Party** featuring Christmas and holiday music. Collecting for Toys for Tots.

**Nominations for 2105 Chapter Officers –** A Nominations Committee is being formed to identify chapter officers for 2015. Members interested in seeking a chapter office or board position should contact Ron Morgan, 1st VP and Chairman of the Nominations Committee. Results and a proposed officer slate will be announced at the October chapter meeting. Elections will be held at the November chapter meeting.

## *MEMBERSHIP – CAROL ALJETS—2nd Vice President*

Right now my husband and I are getting ready to go to the Chapter Leaders Symposium in Jacksonville, FL. This will be our third and I have learned so much at each one I have attended; usually about many issues including Membership. This year the primary focus is legislative issues as you have been told, but recruiting new members and getting them and individuals who have been established members more active is also crucial. I hope to return with much new information. Increasing our numbers gives the legislative chairs more numbers which increases our lobbying power.

There are now three types of membership. The first is Basic which is free and a great way to educate prior commissioned officers on the issues MOAA deals with in their working with the federal government and local chapters with state issues. The information comes by email only. This membership is primarily meant for junior officers. More senior officers can also sign up according to prior information for three years only. They and their spouses are eligible for most MOAA benefits.

The next is Premium Membership which has annual dues. The dues for one year are $37, two years are $72 and three years is $95. The information comes both by email and in printed form or a magazine. A new chapter member will receive a voucher good for one year of chapter dues.

The best value is a Life Membership and the dues are based on your age. The benefits for this membership additionally include bonus travel rewards and discounts; the initiation fee is waived at the Army and Navy Club of Washington, DC, and membership is transferred to the spouse.

There is another membership with $15 dues for enlisted and any individual interested in the military. It is called Voices for America's Troops (Voices). This increases membership numbers and provides the member information from MOAA by email. This is something we all should be trying to get members for to increase lobbying power.

## *LEGISLATIVE -- GLORIA SCIENSKI – 3rd Vice President*

Your voice is critical during the remainder of 2014. Congress must make some big decisions. The full House and the Senate Armed Services Committee completed their respective drafts of the FY 2015 defense authorization bill. The SASC-passed version of the defense bill would make a number of cuts to pay and benefits proposed by the administration. It's imperative that we let our legislators know how we feel.

The top three critical issues include:

- Capping the FY 2015 military pay raise at 1 percent, 0.8 percent below the increase dictated by current law to keep pace with private sector pay growth.
- Increasing Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) out-of-pocket costs for servicemembers by five percent over the next three years.
- Dramatically increasing TRICARE pharmacy copayments over next ten years and require all beneficiaries to refill maintenance medications via the mail-order pharmacy. The House-passed version of the defense bill rejects all of these cuts.

There are more acceptable actions for these critical issues. We must sustain the 1.8% pay raise. The Senate Armed Services Committee endorses the Pentagon proposal to cap military pay at 1.0% -- 0.8% below private sector wage growth. This is the second year of pay caps, with six more planned. This threatens retention and recruitment. House bill would protect current statute and match private sector pay growth of 1.8%. Please ask your representatives to support the House plan and oppose the Senate pay cap.

The Senate Armed Services Committee endorses Pentagon proposal to increase out-of-pocket housing costs by 5 percent over three years. DoD leadership requested current BAH benefits to protect recruiting and retention in early 2000s, now they're in danger of repeating past mistakes. House bill would protect current housing benefits. Request support of the House plan and oppose the Senate BAH cuts.

Congress has already enacted several reforms to lower military health care costs which will save DoD billions over the next decade. The Senate Armed Services Committee endorses a Pentagon proposal to dramatically increase TRICARE pharmacy copayments. The House bill would protect current TRICARE benefits. Our legislatures need to support the House plan and oppose the Senate Rx fee increases.

Keep up to date on legislative action that affects you and your world. 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. Remember, your voice counts.

***"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." ~Margaret Mead***

## *CHAPTER SECRETARY – RON WILSBACH*

# Minutes of the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter (NC-04) Of the Military Officers Association of America May 18, 2014

President Harley Ellinger called the business meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. at the Red Rocks Café. He announced that it was the Chapter's 41st anniversary. The original Chapter was established on May 18, 1973 with 71 members. The invocation was led by Darrell Long and the Pledge of Allegiance followed. Harley thanked Ron Wilsbach for getting the new website up and running for the anniversary (www.charlottemoaa.org). Guests, Jane and David Knight were recognized as well as new member, Mike Rusho. Gary Aljets won the 50/50 raffle. Minutes of the April 6, 2014 meeting were approved as distributed by the newsletter.

**Officers Reports:**
**Treasurer (Ron Wilsbach)**: Cash balance - $4922.03. Scholarship Fund - $1367.16.

**President (Harley Ellinger):** Harley (3rd vice president of MOAA NC Council of Chapters) reported on his attendance at the quarterly meeting in Raleigh on May 16th and 17th. The issues were:

The Bailey Patten Act – Law that allows exemption of military retirement pay from taxation by the State of North Carolina Military retirees from August 12, 1984 forward do not qualify. MOAA is lobbying to change that rule, however, the state of NC does not have the money to make it inclusive. Other state government employees and teachers also qualify for this tax relief.

College Tuition – This is a national MOAA legislative issue to be brought before Congress that would allow active duty and retired military personnel to pay in-state tuition anywhere in the United States regardless of their State residence.

Chapter membership – Harley reiterated that spouses who are auxiliary members in this Chapter have the right to vote and that the dues for spouses are covered by the treasury.

**1st VP and Acting Secretary (Ron Morgan):** On vacation. No report.

**2nd VP (Carol Aljets):** Carol talked about MOAA's Voices for America's Troops (Voices) initiative first launched by the public and senior enlisted personnel to get behind a strong national defense and support service members. Voices membership is intended for those who do not qualify for MOAA membership such as enlisted personnel and the general public. Pamphlets are available from Carol.

**3rd VP (Gloria Scienski):** Gloria reported that the House Armed Services Committee followed the lead of the Personnel Subcommittee and rejected administration proposals for cuts that affect military personnel. In addition several key MOAA concerns are: Improving sexual assault prevention and prosecution; $45 million budget for behavioral and mental health programs for Special Forces; report on the Defense Health Agency's structure; protection of child custody arrangements for deployed service members; and additional study of reporting of service member and family member suicide.

**Newsletter: (Carol Morgan):** Newsletter suspense for September is August 22nd.

**Old Business:**

**JROTC/ROTC -** Larry Stawicki reported that 35 area schools that have JROTC and ROTC programs were recently visited by Chapter members to hand out certificates and medals. Weddington High School was recently added with a Marine Corp unit. Larry thanked all those who helped him with this project: Greg Ainslie, Scott Morris, Chuck Martin, Ron Morgan, Larry Litton and Carol Aljets. It was noted that students who participate in JROTC have a 100% graduation rate. Larry reported that the Auto Bell Car Wash Coupon ($15) fundraiser will show a profit of $750 when completed. There are 16 Auto Bell coupons outstanding to be purchased or sold by Chapter members.

**New Business:**

**Hubertha Barnett Honored –** President Ellinger and 3rd vice president Gloria Scienski presented Hubertha with a Chapter Certificate of Appreciation for her 15 years of organizing the annual Oktoberfest celebration for the Chapter meeting, with authentic German table decorations, musical entertainment and delicious German food.

**Picnic At the Pines Summer Meeting –** The Lake Norman Satellite Chapter will host the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter at the Pines at Davidson for "a good time and good food get together" on **Wednesday, June 18th at noon at the Gazebo** (or the Davidson Room if weather is inclement). Menu: Hamburgers, franks, baked beans, cole slaw, potato salad, chips, condiments, cookies and brownies. Beverages will include iced tea, lemonade, soda and Sangria. **Cost is $14 per person. Reservations by check only by Friday, June 13th** to Treasurer, COL Eric Wruck at 429 Pine Road, Davidson, NC 28036. Directions can be found on the website at charlottemoaa.org.

**Veteran Emergency Medical Care –** Gary Aljets was informed by Bob Becker, Congressman Pittenger's Military Advisor, that any veteran needing immediate emergency room care can go to their local emergency room in lieu of a trip to Salisbury. This would include the use of an ambulance. If the VA challenges the cost, the veteran is to contact Bob Becker for assistance in resolving the medical claim.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS:***

**June 10th through June 13th -** Blessed Assurance fundraiser at California Pizza Kitchen in the SouthPark Mall. Contact Gary at glaljets@aol.com for electronic flyer.

**June 18th –** Picnic at noon at the Pines hosted by the Lake Norman Satellite Chapter
**2015 - NC Council of Chapters Convention** will be held in the NC mountains.
**Program:** Dr. Jim Hogue, a 1980 West Point grad and current Professor of History at UNCC at Charlotte presented a ten point program on the United States Commission on Military History from 1895 through 1995. Dr. Hogue, a former USA artillery officer, demonstrated through his power point program how wars, politics, and presidents have affected the size and cost of troop strength. Dr. Hogue noted that although the current defense budget is at a low of 4 percent of the GDP, our country is still the leader for military strength in the world.
The meeting attended by 26 members and visitors was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Wilsbach, Auxiliary Member

## *ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS:*

**September 4-6 – MOAA Chapter Leadership Training, Jacksonville, FL**
**September 21 – MOAA Chapter meeting**
**September 22 – Charlotte Bridge Home Benefit Golf Tournament at Verdict Ridge Country Club**
Contact: www.CharlotteBridgeGolf.org
**September 24 – MOAA Chapter Board of Directors Meeting**
**September 26-27 – Bar-B-Q for Blessed Assurance Adult Day Care**
**September 26 – Fore the Troops – USO Golf Tour, Tradition of Honor Cup, Charlotte**
**www.usoncforethetroops.com/index.cfm**
**October 12 – MOAA Chapter Meeting & Oktoberfest**
**October 14 – Mecklenburg County Veterans Stand Down, Grady Cole Ctr**
For volunteer opportunities contact: james.prosser@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov

## FEATURED MEMBER: Larry Stawicki, Lt Col (Ret), USMC

**Larry Stawicki**, a native of Chelsea, Massachusetts and a 1978 graduate of Boston College, was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps through the Officer Candidate Commissioning program in April 1979.

His training included: The Basic School, Quantico Virginia; the Engineer Officers' Basic Course, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; the U.S. Army Engineer Officers' Advanced Course, Fort Belvoir, Virginia; the Marine Corps' Command and Staff College, Quantico, Virginia; the professional Project Management Certificate Program, Florida Institute of Technology, Alexandria, Virginia; and the Advanced Program Management Course, Department of Defense Systems Management College, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Larry holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry from Boston College, a Master of Science Degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern California, and a Master's Degree in Military Studies from the Marine Corps University, Quantico, Virginia.

His Marine Corps duty assignments included: Engineer Platoon Commander, Company C, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, California; Beach and Port Officer, Beach and Port Company and Commanding Officer Company C, 3rd Landing Support Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group, Okinawa, Japan; Executive Officer, Marine Barracks, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, Maine; Commanding Officer, Company C, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group, Okinawa, Japan; Detachment Commander, Marine Wing Support Squadron 471, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, Detachment A, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Marine Expeditionary Force Engineer Officer, III MEF, Okinawa, Japan; Commanding Officer, Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Okinawa, Japan; and Assistant Project Manager, Department of Defense Mobile Electric Power Program, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Larry retired from the United States Marine Corps on 1 September 2001 as a Lieutenant Colonel after more than 22 years of service.

From September 2001 until June of 2005 he was the Senior Marine Instructor for the Central High School, JROTC program, Pageland, South Carolina. Currently, Larry performs corporate training, operations and logistics consulting.

Larry Stawicki is married to the former Kayoko Izumikawa of Naha City, Okinawa, Japan. They recently celebrated their 30th Wedding Anniversary. They have two children, Lawrence Jr., a graduate of Virginia Tech and Christine, a graduate of East Carolina University.

# 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.