CHARLOTTE-METROLINA

November 2014

The Military Officers Association of America

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY THANKSGIVING! We are rapidly approaching the holiday season and our first holiday – Thanksgiving Day – a celebration in America of the fall harvest season is just around the corner. Since we harvest crops almost around the calendar year here in America this may seem a bit quaint, but since the fall of 1863 by the direction of President Abraham Lincoln, America has celebrated Thanksgiving Day in November. Thanks to all of you that attended Oktoberfest which is the German way of celebrating the harvest. Hopefully you all have enjoyed the fall colors as the leaves change to the reds, golden browns, and yellows.

With our 5 star chapter award to celebrate at our next chapter meeting, I invite all to attend the meeting on November 16, 2014. This is a very special day and I want all of you to come and enjoy the festivities. This was the result of a lot of effort by a whole large group of members, and not just the current president. One does not do this by himself, but rather through the combined effort of our members going back over a number of years. This is your day!

The scholarship fund for JROTC is moving forward. With the passage of adendum #3 at the September 21st chapter meeting, we have a solid set of rules for the JROTC college scholarships. Now is the time to start raising money to fund the program. We are going to solicit money from a number of areas including our own chapter members, fund raisers, other organizations, and local businesses. **REMEMBER:** the goal of JROTC is to create good citizens and make sure that these citizens graduate from high school. With a 100% local high school student JROTC graduation rate (in some high schools that graduate 60% of their students) these programs have been extremely successful. Now is the time to help these graduating citizens go farther – on to college.

Our next chapter meeting is on Sunday, November 16, 2014 and will feature a presentation by Major General Cornell Wilson Jr., USMC (RET), Military Affairs Advisor for Governor McCrory, with the goal of making North Carolina the "friendliest state for the military" in America. See all of you on November 16, 2014 at 3:00 P.M. in Red Rocks Café.

Harley Ellinger COL USA (RET)

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

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NEXT MEETING

Sunday, November 16, 2014

Red Rocks Cafe

4223 Providence Rd

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

PROGRAMS – RON MORGAN—1st Vice President

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. Social starts at 3:00 PM, followed by a short business meeting, then dinner (order from the menu) and speaker presentation.

Chapter Meetings Programs

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 making North Carolina the friendliest state for the military services and businesses/industry that supports the military. This will be a great program. We urge members to bring guests, potential members or not, that supports a strong military presence in the State and understands the importance this has for a stable and growing NC economy.

December 7, 2014 (Sunday) – Chapter Christmas Party featuring live Christmas and holiday music by keyboardist Jon Kan. Carols will be sung, if you wish. We will be collecting for Toys for Tots. Please bring new and unwrapped toys and/or teen gifts for this worthy cause.

Future Meeting Dates – Place these dates on your 2015 calendars: January 18, February 15, March 15, April 12, & May 17.

Carolinas Freedom Foundation Breakfast – November 7th at 7:30 AM at the Sheraton Hotel. This annual event, supported by American Airlines (US Airways), is to "honor veterans and educating young people on the importance of patriotism and freedom". It is truly an inspiring event with many dignitaries and deserving veteran and community honorees. The founder is Colonel J. Quincy Collins, a true patriot and former Viet Nam POW. Individual tickets are $ 60.00 (tax deductible). Register and pay on line at: www.carolinasfreedomfoundation.org

North Carolina Council of Chapters Biennial Statewide Convention, 11 – 14 June 2015 at High Hampton Inn and Country Club – Cashiers, NC - For all MOAA members in this most welcoming and luxurious mountain locale, with great dining, amenities, and outdoor activities. See: www.highhamptoninn.com Lots of camaraderie, fun and just a small amount of business meeting time. Prices: Couple or 2 sharing a room $ 979. Price includes: room (3 nights), all meals, taxes, fees and gratuities. $ 100 deposit due by January 25. Registration forms will be available at chapter meetings. Also see: www.moaa-nc.org

JROTC Scholarship Fund Donations – A letter of request for donations for our chapter JROTC Scholarship Fund will be sent to all chapter members and some other supporters around Thanksgiving time. Prior to the end of 2014 and during the holiday season is a perfect time to provide a financial donation/gift (Tax deductible) to support scholarships for worthy Charlotte area JROTC students.

Nominations Slate for 2105 Chapter Officers – A Nominations Committee has identified as proposed slate of chapter officers for 2015. This proposed officer slate will be presented and elected at the November chapter meeting. Additional nominations, if any, will be entertained prior to the election. The proposed slate for chapter officers and the Board of Directors is as follows:

- President	Ron Morgan
- First VP (Programs)	Jay Garbus
- 2nd VP (Membership)	Tim Dremann
- 3rd VP (Legislative Affairs)	Gloria Scienski
- Secretary/Treasurer	Ron Wilsbach
- Board of Directors	Harley Ellinger (Past President)
	Carol Aljets
	Larry Stawicki
	Scott Morris

Chapter officers for 2015 will be sworn into office and assume office at the January 18 chapter meeting.

MEMBERSHIP – (Vacant)—2nd Vice President

So far in 2014, MOAA national has us credited with 26 new members and providing incentive credit for 19 of those. Beyond that, we have an additional new member. He is John Narciso, Captain, USN (Ret). He, and his wife Gail, live in Fort Mill, SC

There are now three types of National membership:

Basic -- free and information comes by email only. This membership is primarily meant for junior officers

Premium -- 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

Life -- 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.

LEGISLATIVE -- GLORIA SCIENSKI – 3rd Vice President

On October 17, 2014 MOAA announced the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released final budget figures for FY 2014 showing the annual federal budget deficit shrank to its smallest level since 2008 - $486 billion - or nearly 25 percent smaller than last year's deficit.

The smaller deficit is attributed to increased government revenues (9 percent) spurred in part by a growing economy combined with more modest government spending growth (1 percent).

Although positive, it's important not to construe this forecast as anything close to sunny skies ahead. A $486 billion deficit is still significant — even if it pales in comparison to recent history.

In 2014, defense spending declined by $30 billion (5 percent), while Social Security and health care costs continue to climb.

The overall federal debt tops $17 trillion and is forecasted to grow, but at a slower rate in the near-term, to $27.1 trillion by 2024 in the absence of any changes to laws that govern federal taxes and spending.

MOAA recognizes we have a long way to go to reign in our debt, but this news may help blunt calls for continued deep, across-the-board spending cuts - especially on the backs of our men and women in uniform.

Did you know? The Department of Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO) works to educate our state policymakers and other stakeholders about the challenges and issues faced by service members and their families.

Each year the DSLO puts forth a list of Key Quality of Life Issues that will be addressed on the state level in the coming year.

In addition to the work on National/Federal Issues, MOAA also works on state issues with the DSLO. MOAA has been successful assisting with DSLO's state level issues through MOAA's robust chapter and council system.

To see how North Carolina is doing read the 2015 Quality of Life Issues and the NC status below:
1. Facilitate service members receiving licensure and academic credit for military education, training and experience (NC has made movement towards achieving desired outcomes; for example, passed best practice legislation, made policy changes, or shown where the state has policy supporting the desired outcomes)

2. Facilitate military spouse transition through licensure portability and eligibility for unemployment compensation (NC has made movement towards achieving desired outcomes; for example, passed best practice legislation, made policy changes, or shown where the state has policy supporting the desired outcomes)

3. Support development of veterans treatment courts open to eligible veterans and service members throughout the state (NC has not made changes that move towards achieving desired outcomes)

4. Increase access to quality, affordable childcare for military families (NC has made movement towards achieving desired outcomes; for example, passed best practice legislation, made policy changes, or shown where the state has policy supporting the desired outcomes)

5. Promote consumer protections and enforcement of the predatory lending regulation (NC has made movement towards achieving desired outcomes; for example, passed best practice legislation, made policy changes, or shown where the state has policy supporting the desired outcomes)

6. Allow service members to retain their earned priority for receiving Medicaid home and community care waivers (NC has not yet rated)

7. Improve absentee voting for military members and their families (NC has not yet rated)

8. Waive required waiting time to establish residency for separating service members to obtain in-state tuition rate (NC has not made changes that move towards achieving desired outcomes)

9. Assign an identifier for military children in education data systems (NC has made movement towards achieving desired outcomes; for example, passed best practice legislation, made policy changes, or shown where the state has policy supporting the desired outcomes)

10. Create state-wide memoranda of understanding between the DoD and the state child welfare agency to standardize relationships (NC has not yet rated)

You can 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!

National MOAA 800-234-6622 / 703-549-2311 **Legislative affairs legis@moaa.org**

"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
October 12, 2014

President Harley Ellinger called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. at the Red Rocks Café. Harley welcomed all to this, the Chapter's Oktoberfest celebration, and thanked Huberta Barrett for organizing and planning the event. The invocation was given by John Samb and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Retired Air Force Col. Dick Steeves and his wife Rita were introduced as guests. Dick pointed out that he has been a member of the Chapter for some time, although he had not attended recently. Harley pointed out that Dick is very active in the USO Center at Charlotte-Douglas Airport. Welcome back Dick and Rita. John Willis was the winner of the 50/50 Raffle. ($30.00).

Officers Reports:

1st VP – (Ron Morgan): Ron reviewed upcoming programs**. November 16th**, MG Cornell Wilson, Jr. USMC (Ret), Military Affairs Advisor to NC Governor McCrory, will speak about efforts in making North Carolina the friendliest state for the military services and businesses/industries that support the military. Ron advised members that MOAA National will be inviting local MOAA members who are not currently affiliated with the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter. All are encouraged to bring guests. **December 6th** is our Christmas Party. Ron reminded all that we are, once again, participating in the **Toys for Tots Program** and members are encouraged to bring a wrapped children's gift. John Kan, a keyboardist, will play Christmas Music throughout the meeting. Ron reported that we have been credited with 26 new members for the chapter during 2014. We will receive incentive credit for 19 new members. Martha Ellinger reported that the chapter received a check for $250.00 for having more than 10 new members. Ron reported that the Freedom Foundation Breakfast, sponsored by American Airlines, will be held on **November 7th**. Cost per person is $60.00 or a table is available for $650.00. Ron also announced that the North Carolina Council of Chapters State Convention will be held June 11 – 14, 2015 at the High Hampton Inn in Cashiers, NC. Cost for the event is $979.00 per couple which includes room and meals. Applications are available. Ron announced the proposed slate of officers for 2015. The slate is as follows: President, Ron Morgan; 1st VP, Jay Garbus; 2nd VP, Tim Dremann; 3rd VP, Gloria Scienski; Sec/Trea, Ron Wilsbach; Board of Directors, Harley Ellinger, Carol Aljets, Larry Stawicki and Scott Morris. Additional nominations will be taken now or at the November meeting prior to the election. Ron expressed his thanks to Jay, Tim and Scott for volunteering to join the leadership.

3rd VP – (Gloria Scienski) - Gloria reported that The Military Retirement and Compensation Board reported out in July their findings and recommendations. Central to that report is the fact that the Board finally conceded that personnel costs have remained steady at 30% of the Defense Department Budget for the last 30 years. This admission is paramount, because for nearly a year the Defense Department and the Administration "speaking heads" have been trying to convince everyone that personnel costs within the Defense Department Budget are "spiraling out of control". The lone dissenting voice over the last year has been MOAA, specifically Col. Mike Hayden, who is to be commended for his steadfast efforts to correct the record. On October 8th, the Military Collation outlined their legislative agenda for the upcoming consideration of the 2015 Defense Department Budget. In the letter that went to all members of Congress the coalition praised the House for resisting the cuts recommended by the administration/DOD and asked members of the Senate to also resist those cuts as the bill is resolved in committee deliberations. Gloria pointed out that one new proposal by the DOD is to cease TRICARE notifications through the US Postal Service and to make all notifications via the internet. Members should be alert to this fact in order to continue participation in TRICARE Programs. Harley added that in addition to MOAA's primary mission of protecting benefits for military personnel, MOAA has recently added another primary mission of insuring that the U.S. has a strong military.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report – (Ron Wilsbach) Harley noted that the minutes for our previous meeting on September 21st were published and distributed through the Newsletter and called for their approval. Greg Ainslie moved for approval and was seconded by John Willis. Harley then asked if there were any corrections or additions. There were none. The minutes were approved as written. Harley requested that Ron give the Treasurer's report. Ron reported that our bank, BB&T, has set up another account for the scholarship fund so that those funds are maintained in a separate account. The main business account has a balance of $3850.41 and the Scholarship Fund stands at $1514.17. Ron, once again, advised that members that the Scholarship Fund balance does not include the proceeds from the Car Wash fundraiser. When all tickets from the fund raiser are sold the total proceeds will be transferred from the main business account to the Scholarship Fund. There are 15 Tickets remaining to be sold. Members are reminded that these are excellent "Stocking Stuffers" for Christmas and other gifts. Ron reminded the members that annual club renewal dues may be paid through MOAA national using a credit or debit card. Simply go to www.moaa.org/renew, log on and make your 2015 dues payment. Harley asked for comments about the e-Newsletter.

Newsletter – (Carol Morgan) Harley advised that inputs for the next edition were due to Carol by October 24th for publication on October 31st. Carol also noted that she needs more biographical inputs from members.

Old Business - Larry Stawicki still has about 15 tickets for the AutoBell Car Wash fund raiser. As mentioned above, these are excellent gifts. Let's get this effort wrapped up. Harley announced that the next Board Meeting will be November 12th at Red Rocks Café, 5 p.m. Primary discussion topic will be future fund raisers. Harley advised the members of his pending surgery to repair his torn rotator cuff on October 30th. Rehab will take about 4-6 months. Harley also encouraged the members to get out and vote on November 4th. Harley announced that he would not be going to Washington, DC on October 28th to accept the Chapter's 5 Star Award but it would be accepted by North Carolina Council of Chapters (NCCO) President Jeri Graham. The award will be available at our November 16th meeting. Harley announced that the next NCCOC meeting will be held in Raleigh, NC on Nov, 7/8, 2014 and Ron Morgan will represent the Chapter. Harley also asked for major participation by the members for the November 16th Chapter meeting featuring MG Cornell Wilson, Jr. USMC (Ret). Gary Aljets announced that The Marine Corps League will provide rifle honor guard for veteran's funerals. Contacts for this are: Larry Sloop at 704-229-5108 or John Ellis at 704-839-6576 or 704-847-4812.

Oktoberfest - Harley provide the members with background regarding the establishment of this holiday in Europe following two years of harvestless farm production due to volcanic activities in the Far East. He also provided background about beer production and consumption. Ron and Carol Morgan provided a trivia quiz for tables. A good time was had by all. Following strudel and ice cream, the meeting attended by 26 members, adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.
Ron Wilsbach, Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 7 – US Airways Freedom Breakfast, Sheraton Hotel, Carolinas Freedom Fndn
November 7 – Wreath Laying Ceremony, Uptown Charlotte, The Square, Carolinas Freedom Fndn
November 8 – US Airways Salute to Veterans Parade, Uptown, Carolinas Freedom Fndn
November 8 – Military/Veterans Fair, Uptown,, Carolinas Freedom Fndn
November 16, 2014 – MOAA Chapter Meeting

Major General Cornell Wilson Jr., USMC (Ret), Military Affairs Advisor to Governor McCrory, State of North Carolina.

December 7, 2014 – MOAA Chapter Christmas Party -- Collection for Toys for Tots.
Future Meeting Dates – The dates for chapter meetings in Spring 2015 are:

- January 18
- February 15
- March 15
- April 12
- May 17

June 11-14, 2015 – NC Council of Chapters Convention, High Hampton Inn, Cashiers NC

FEATURED MEMBER: John R Willis, CW02, US Army (Ret)

John was born in Raleigh, North Carolina and has lived in eastern PA, middle PA, and upstate NY. He was raised in Slippery Rock, (western) Pennsylvania, and attended Guilford College in Greensboro, NC, where he studied Chemistry. In 1973 he joined US Army from which he retired in 1993 as a Nuclear Weapons Maintenance Technician. His tours of duty took him overseas for three years in Guam, three years in Greece, five and a half years in Turkey, and two in Belgium. In the US he was stationed at Ft Ord, CA; Ft Bragg, NC; and Picatinny Arsenal, NJ. All his schooling was at Redstone Arsenal, AL.

Generally, he maintained Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Weapons in stockpile. As part of this effort, he trained US and NATO soldiers in offensive operations, defensive operations, and peacetime and wartime physical security. He was the Liaison Officer to the Belgian Army and to the Turkish military; coordinated training, co-authored joint agreements, facilitated joint meetings, coordinated General Officer visits, and briefed US, NATO, and Host Nation General Officers and US State Department personnel. John was also a Quality Control Officer for a Nuclear Weapons Ordnance company and wrote Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological War Plans, then briefed them to General Officers and high-level diplomats.

After retirement, John worked for a company in New Jersey that provided on site solvent recycling using a mobile vacuum distillation system. He then worked for a company that designed and produced delay-and-sum beamformer systems using stripline and microstrip methods used in satellites . After that he worked for a company that designed and produced valves. He has worked in the Aerospace division focusing on valves for rockets, missiles, and satellites with some experience in fixed wing and rotor wing systems. ###

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.