CHARLOTTE-METROLINA

December 2014

The Military Officers Association of America

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! The four seasons come and go with the changes we have become accustomed to expect. Certainly the last week was very cold, and winter has yet to arrive. But 2015 will be a year of change for our chapter as our new president Ron Morgan prepares to take charge. He will be joined by some new faces on the board with Jay Garbus as Ist VP for programs, Tim Dremann as 2d VP for membership/ ROTC & JROTC, and Scott Morris as a Director. Gloria Scienski will continue as 3VP for legislative affairs, and Ron Wilsbach as the secretary-treasurer. Joining Scott Morris as a director will be Larry Stawicki, Carol Aljets – a past president, and myself as a past president. Carol Morgan will also continue as editor of the newsletter, and Ron Wilsbach as editor of the e-newsletter.

As we enter the new year we will have many exciting challenges for our chapter with emphasis on outstanding programs, growing our membership, supporting the ROTC/JROTC programs, getting the JROTC scholarship program on a good financial footing with good fund raising efforts, becoming more active with other veteran organizations in the area, and supporting the legislative efforts at the national and state levels. The latter will be developing this year under the North Carolina Council of Chapters President, COL Jeri Graham USA (RET). In our current executive/legislative environment we must make ourselves heard! Remember, only 4% of all living Americans have served in the military – we are greatly outnumbered. **WE MUST MAKE EVERY VOICE HEARD! SEND IN THOSE E-MAILS AND CARDS!**

As I complete my term as president of the chapter I want to thank all of you for the tremendous amount of support all of you gave me during these past 4 years. I want to particularly thank Ron Morgan as 1st VP – programs; Carol Aljets/Larry Stawicki as 2d VP – membership – ROTC/JROTC; Ron Wilsbach/Gloria Scienski as 3d VP – legislative affairs; Greg Ainslie/Ron Morgan/Ron Wilsbach – secretary; Sue Barden/ Gary Aljets/Ron Wilsbach – treasurer; Bonnie Donovan/Carol Morgan – newsletter; and directors: Carol Aljets, Martha Ellinger, and Larry Stawicki. **THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

Our next chapter meeting and the Christmas Party will be on December 7, 2014 at 3:00 P.M. in Red Rocks Café in Charlotte at Strawberry Hill. Bring your unwrapped "Toys for Tots" gifts for the children. See all of you there.

Harley Ellinger COL USA (RET)

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

CHAPTER BOARD

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TOYS FOR TOTS
Collection Event

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, December 7, 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.

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 or gift cards for this worthy cause.

January 18, 2015 – Installation of Officers – The MOAA North Carolina Council of Chapters (NCCOC) President, Jeri Graham will install chapter officers and provide a look at the initiatives and actions of the NCCOC in cooperation with national MOAA and local chapters. She is a dynamic and engaging leader that all will enjoy hearing. We are also awaiting word from Congressman Pittenger's office on when he will be joining us either in January, February or March.

Future Meeting Dates – Place these dates on your 2015 calendars

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

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, including a historic golf course. 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, cocktail hours, taxes, fees and gratuities. $ 100 deposit now due by January 25. Registration form is attached to this newsletter and 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 just after Thanksgiving. 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. We would like to maximize chapter member participation regardless of the amount you can give.

MEMBERSHIP – (Vacant)—2nd Vice President

So far in 2014, MOAA national has us credited with 27 new members and providing incentive credit for 19 of those. The very best way to recruit new members is through personal contact and interaction with current, former and retired military service officers.

Emails and/or letters are being sent to all chapter members that have not paid chapter dues for 2014. Simply paying dues for the new year starting in January 2015 ($ 25.00 for regular membership and $ 10.00 for surviving spouses) will eliminate any past due amount. We want to retain as many current members as possible to strive to get them as active participants in meetings and programs.

MOAA Chapter Committee Assignments for 2015 – We are actively seeking "volunteers" to serve as a part of various committees for 2015. The more members involved leads to more and better ideas and fewer tasks for all. Committee opportunities will include: Membership and Retention, Programs, JROTC Scholarship Fund and programs, publicity/community outreach, auxiliary liaison, personal affairs, and others.

Dues Reminder for 2015 – Chapter dues are due by January 1st, 2015. See renewal application included in the newsletter.

Ill/Sick Members – We urge all chapter members to let the chapter know of any chapter members and/or spouses that are ill or home-bound for any reason. Simply call or email any chapter officer or board member.

Important Web Sites – The following web sites can be accessed to get timely information on upcoming events, legislative updates and provide local, state and national contacts.

Local military/veteran events (all services): https://carolinamarines.org/event_calendar.php

Statewide military veteran issues and benefits: www.NC4vets.com

NC Dept of Administration and access to all state departments, including Dept. of Veteran Affairs: www.doa.nc.gov

MOAA North Carolina Council of Chapters: www.moaa-nc.org

MOAA Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter: http://charlottemoaa.org

LEGISLATIVE -- GLORIA SCIENSKI – 3rd Vice President

Support Senate Defense Bill Amendments. Several critical amendments to the Senate defense authorization bill have been introduced for consideration. MOAA is asking us to contact The Honorable Richard Burr and The Honorable Kay Hagan to lend their support to the following amendments and ask Sen. Reid to bring these to the floor for a vote during the lame duck session:

- Sen. Marco Rubio's amendment (#3906) to sustain the 1.8 percent active duty pay raise established in law

- Sen. Mark Begich's amendment (#3714) to block cuts to the Basic Allowance for Housing

- Sen. Kay Hagan's amendment (#3789) to block proposed TRICARE pharmacy copay increases

Please request they do everything they can to ensure these important amendments are included in the FY 2015 defense authorization bill.

In addition, the 114th Congress will be facing some monumental challenges, and MOAA is going to need all hands on deck to achieve their legislative agenda. Contact your elected officials, and make sure the military community continues to have a powerful voice on Capitol Hill.

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
November 16, 2014

President Ellinger called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. at the Red Rocks Café. Harley welcomed all. The invocation was given by Darrell Long. Gary Aljets provided protocol for rendering honors to the American Flag. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. Harley asked that new members and guests introduce themselves. Jack Hagopian and his wife Janeen introduced themselves. Jack is a retired Army Artillery Officer and a resident of Charlotte since 1999. Tim Shea, guest of Larry Stawicki and supporter of all things military, attended to hear MG Wilson. Fisk Outwater, retired Air Force and Air National Guard BG is a new member of the chapter. Rudy Rudisill moved to Charlotte in 2013 and looks forward being a member of the chapter. The winner of the $34.00 raffle drawing was Darrell Long. Harley and Gloria Scienski presented the MOAA Leadership award to Cdr. Carol Aljets, USN (ret.) for the eleven years, serving as President and other leadership positions. Most recently she served as 2nd VP for Membership. In this capacity Carol is largely responsible for the 27 new members attained over the last year. The certificate was signed by Adm Ryan, President of MOAA.

5 Star Award Presentation--Harley presented the MOAA 5 Star Award Pennant to the Chapter. This is the highest award presented by MOAA to chapters that meet or exceed a wide range of capabilities in communication, retention and leadership during the year. Harley then asked Ron Morgan to propose a toast to the membership for attaining this Award.

Election of Officers for 2015 – Harley announced the following slate for 2015:

President – Ron Morgan
1st VP – Jay Garbus
2nd VP – Tim Dremann
3rd VP – Gloria Scienski
Secretary/Treasurer – Ron Wilsbach
Board of Directors – Harley Ellinger

Carol Aljets
Larry Stawicki
Scott Morris

There were no nominations from the floor. Nominations were closed and the above slate of officers was approved. Installation of officers will occur at the January 2015 meeting. NC Council of Chapter President Jeri Graham will preside over the installation.

Officer Reports:

1st VP – Programs – Ron Morgan expressed his thanks for his nomination as President and also welcomed new members, Jay Garbus, Tim Dremann and Scott Morris to the Board. Ron reviewed upcoming programs. December 7th is our Christmas Party. John Kan, a keyboardist will provide Christmas music throughout the meeting. Members are requested to bring **unwrapped toys for "Toys For Tots".** The January meeting will be held on the 18th and officers installed. Ron briefed members about the NC Council of Chapters State Convention to be held on June 11-14, 2015 at the High Hampton Inn in Cashiers, NC. Cost of the event is $979.00 per couple and includes room, meals and "happy hour" each day. Information for the convention is available on the NC Council MOAA website. Ron advised the members that a letter will be coming to all regarding donations to the Chapter's JROTC Scholarship Program. The letter will ask for support of this program. A similar letter will be going to businesses in the local area that may be inclined to support our scholarship efforts

3rd VP – Legislative Affairs - Gloria Scienski asked for a show of hands from those that receive the weekly Legislative Affairs Alerts from MOAA. About half of the membership responded. Gloria cited that there are critical issues being discussed by the Congress at this time that require our attention. The three issues requiring our response are: (1) Encourage Congress to support Senator Ribio's Bill to provide the military and retirees a 1.8% pay raise vice the 1% proposed by the Administration; (2) Encourage Congress to block the Administrations reduce the active military housing allowance; (3) Encourage Congress to block TRICARE Pharmacy fee hikes for military and retirees. The Legislative Updates enable you to quickly and easily send an email to your Senators and Representatives to support the issues noted. Harley also added that MOAA is the single most influential military lobbying organization and we will only continue to be so if our members stay informed and let our Congressional delegations know what our positions are on critical issues.

Secretary Report: The minutes of the October Chapter Meeting, October 12, 2014 were approved.

Treasure's Report: Ron Wilsbach reported that the Chapter General Fund has a balance of $4077.38, pointing out that the funds for the car wash fund raiser are being held in that figure. Once the remaining 15 tickets are sold, those receipts will be transferred to the Scholarship Fund. The expected amount will be about $750.00. Members can pay their annual chapter dues by going to MOAA.org/renew and use a credit or debit card to pay their annual dues. The Scholarship Fund balance is $1514.17. In response to a member question, Ron and Harley assured the members that all contributions to the Scholarship Fund are tax deductible and a letter will be provided noting your contribution and provide our tax ID number.

Old Business:

Fund Raiser: Larry Stawicki told the members that he has 15 tickets remaining from the AutoBell Car Wash Fund raiser. Each ticket costs $14.99 and are good until used. These make great Christmas "stocking stuffers".

Announcements: Harley wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. The next Chapter meeting is December 7th and the next NC Council of Chapter meeting is January 16-17, 2015 in New Bern, NC. Ron Morgan requested that Carol be provided with additional member biographies for publication in the newsletter.

Program – Ron Morgan introduced our guest speaker, MG Cornell Wilson Jr. USMC (Ret). MG Wilson is the NC Military Affairs Advisor providing counsel to the Governor of NC. He is a graduate of the University of South Carolina and earned his commission through the ROTC Program. He and his wife, Mary make their home in Charlotte.

MG Wilson opened his presentation speaking about his and Governor McCrory's recent efforts in celebration of Veteran's Day festivities in Salisbury where they met with a 103 year old veteran. He went on to explain his role as the senior military advisor to the Governor. The goal of the Military Affairs Commission is to make NC the friendliest state to the military in the Union. The financial impact of the military in the state is $48 Billion, second only to agriculture. The purpose of the Commission is four fold:

- Protect the existing military infrastructure in North Carolina
- Promote new military missions and defense industry
- Improve quality of life for military
- Support economic opportunities for the State

MG Wilson addressed the four above items through a slide presentation. A question and answer period followed the presentation. Ron Morgan expressed his appreciation for Governor McCrery's efforts over the Veteran's Day celebrations throughout the State. He asked MG Wilson to thank the Governor on our behalf.

Harley again requested members stay for a group to commemorate the 5 Star Chapter Award.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Wilsbach, Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS:

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: Jay E Garbus, CW 4, US Army (Ret)

JAY E. GARBUS, CW 4 Ret, Special Agent (USACIDC) born on 6 Oct 1950, Suffern, NY. Enlisted April 28 1970. I attended basic training in Fort Campbell, KY; Military Police School, Criminal Investigation Course; USAR Readiness Training Center; Warrant Officer Candidate School; Military Police School, WOTTCC, CID Agent (311A); Military Police School, Advanced Fraud Investigations; USA Military Police School, WOAC; USA Military Police School, Child Abuse Prevention and Investigation Techniques Course; USA Military Police School, Hostage Negotiations; USA Military Police School, Advanced Crime Scene and Military Police School, Weapons of Mass Destruction (CBRNE).

My military assignments were: CID Agent, (IMA) PANAM; CID Agent, (IMA) FT BRAGG; CID Agent, (IMA) HQUSACIDC; CID Agent, Presidential call up Fort Benning, GA; CID Agent, Ft Gillem, GA; CID Agent, (IMA) Fort Jackson, SC; CID Special Agent, Fort Meade, MD; CID Agent, Presidential call up, Fort Belvior, USACIDC HQ, VA; Instructor/Writer (IMA) USAMPS, Fort Leonard Wood, MO. My last military assignment was Fort Belvoir, VA, USAPSB and Protective Service for the Secretary of Defense, Joint Chief of Staff, Army Secretary and Army Chief and Vice Chief of Staff.

Military decorations/badges: Army Commendation Medal (2 OLC); Army Achievement Medal (3 OLC); Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (9 OLC); National Defense Service Medal (2 Star); Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal; Armed forces Reserve Medal (3 M/Silver HG); NCO Professional Development Ribbon (3); Army Service Ribbon; Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon; & Drill Sergeant Badge.

I retired after spending 36 years in all three services in the Army, Active Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard. I married Robin Garbus and we have two children, Wendy and Aaron.
I a member of MOAA (Life Member), AUSA, USAWOA and employed with Mecklenburg County, North Carolina as a Building Inspector.

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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.

Please join us at the
Biennial Statewide Convention
11-14 June 2015 at the
High Hampton Inn and Country Club – Cashiers, NC

Every two years, we gather together and do something very special in a particularly welcoming venue. The past two NCCOC State Conventions have been held on cruise ships. This time, we wanted to stay "home" and thus we looked at a variety of great places from mountains to the coast. We selected the *High Hampton Inn and Country Club* which has a fantastic reputation for being a most welcoming and luxurious mountain locale, with great dining, amenities and many opportunities for great exploring (www.highhamptoninn.com) We're planning on lots of camaraderie and just a small amount of quarterly business time. This event is for ALL MOAA members and their families and friends with a goal of *Connecting, Learning and Building* our organization and certainly making wonderful memories. We're on the National MOAA calendar and have invited a great group of Very Special People to join us from MOAA and the Great State of North Carolina.

REGISTRATION FORM

Member Name_____ **Name on Badge**_____

Spouse/Guest Name_____ **Name on Badge**_____

Address_____ **City, State, Zip**_____

Telephone Home_____ **Cell**_____ **Email**_____

Dietary Restrictions _____ **Accessibility Requirements**_____

If single, do you want a roommate? **Do you want help finding a roommate?**

Prices: Couple or 2 sharing room $979/Single $849 . Price includes room, all meals, taxes, fees and gratuities.

Deposit of $100 / per couple or $50 for single - due 15 October 2014. The balance will be due 15 March 2015.
Please make checks payable to : MOAA/NCCOC
Mail to the NCCOC Treasurer: COL Ed Baisden, USA (Ret)
2000 Country Club Court, Sanford, NC 27332

Please contact COL Jeri Graham, USA (Ret) with any questions or concerns at (910) 616-3487 or email: jigrahamusa@gmail.com Please check www.moaa-nc.org for information and updates.