

Minutes of 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 “messaging 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