

## **Minutes of the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter (NC04)**

### **Of the Military Officers Association of America**

**December 7, 2014**

President Harley Ellinger called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. at the Red Rocks Café. Harley welcomed everyone to the Chapter Christmas Party and reminded the Chapter that this is also Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. In honor of the 2400 plus American service members who lost their lives that day, Harley asked for a moment of silence and reflection. The Invocation was given by Darrell Long and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Harley introduced LTC (Ret) Dan Caldwell and wife Neta. The 50/50 raffle prize of \$30.00 was won by Larry Stawicki.

#### **Officer Reports:**

**1<sup>st</sup> VP – (Ron Morgan):** Ron advised that the next meeting will be January 18<sup>th</sup> when the new officers will be installed. Program speaker will be Col. (Ret) Jeri Graham, President of the North Carolina Council of Chapters, MOAA. She will install the newly elected Chapter Officers. Ron has invited Congressman Pittenger to speak during 2015. Ron said that Jay Garbus will be taking over the program chairmanship in January and asked members to be on the lookout for individuals who may be interesting guest speakers. Ron Morgan told the Chapter that we attained 27 new members during 2014. He stated that retention is a big part of an active chapter. Ron told the members that this past week he sent about 30 letters or emails to members delinquent in their dues from 2013 and earlier. The letter/email advised those members that unless they renew their membership with the Chapter by January 2, 2015 they would be dropped from membership (with a few exceptions). A new program to award outstanding JROTC Officer and NCO instructors is being developed throughout North Carolina. More information to follow. Ron said that on December 1, 2014 he sent a solicitation letter to all Chapter members for funds to increase the Chapter's scholarship program. Ron requested that members provide the names of individuals, organizations and businesses that may be potential donors. The goal for funding the program is \$25,000.

**3<sup>rd</sup> VP –Legislative Affairs (Gloria Scienski):** Gloria told the chapter that a joint conference committee of House and Senate has reached agreement on the 2015 Defense Authorization Bill. The three main items in the bill effecting personnel are the level of pay raise, housing allowances and pharmacy fee increases. She also told members that the year 2015 legislation will be challenging with sequestration requiring deep cuts to the Defense Department Budget. Gloria also reminded members to be diligent about sending MOAA recommended letters/emails to Congressional members when requested by Legislative Updates or MOAA Military Officer Magazine.

**Secretary Report - (Ron Wilsbach):** The minutes of the November Chapter meeting, November 16, 2014 were approved with no changes.

**Treasure's Report: (Ron Wilsbach):** Ron reported that the General Fund has a balance of \$4037.06 and the Scholarship Fund has a balance of \$1524.17. There were no questions regarding the report.

**Newsletter - (Carol Morgan):** Carol requested inputs for the January Newsletter by December 23<sup>rd</sup>. She also asked that members provide biographical inputs to feature in upcoming editions.

**Old Business:**

**Fund Raiser – (Larry Stawicki):** Larry has just seven tickets remaining from the AutoBell Carwash fund raiser.

**Announcements:** Harley requested members to go onto our Website, review and make suggestions and/or corrections to improve the site. Ron Morgan advised that Chuck Martin is now the MOAA Representative to Congressman Mulvaney in the State of South Carolina. He advised that the Chapter will be applying to USAA for a \$300.00 grant to co-host an event with Charlotte Bridge Home during 2015. Harley explained that the money from USAA is a once a year grant that must be used by the chapter within the community for outreach of military issues and cannot be used within the Chapter.

Ron Morgan told members that volunteers for committees will be sought during the coming year. Harley thanked the members for their very generous participation in the **Toys For Tots Program**. He reminded the Chapter that the next Board Meeting would be at the Red Rocks Café on January 7, 2015 and the next Chapter meeting would be January 18, 2015. The next NC Council of Chapters meeting will be in New Bern on January 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Harley reminded members of the Statewide Convention in Cashiers, NC on June 11-14, 2015 and asked for participation.

Harley introduced John Kan, Keyboard Instrumentalist who provided Christmas music during the meal and for the carol sing along after dinner.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Wilsbach, Secretary