CHARLOTTE-METROLINA

The Military Officers Association of America

March 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Your Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter is a national MOAA award winner and is $ 1,000 richer. We were credited with 22 new "incentive eligible" (national MOAA members) members for 2014 and had the most new chapter members in our size category for the nation. Congrats!!

In the next several months, we will be looking for chapter volunteers to assist in delivering and presenting our JROTC leadership awards to a most deserving cadet in each of the 33 high school JROTC programs we support in the area. I ask you to step up, take a little time, and have a very meaningful experience through interaction with our JROTC students. A sign up list will be started at our March 15th meeting and/or contact Larry Stawicki at: stawickilp@aol.com.

Please see the newsletter included message about the new NC 4th Branch web site and ENGAGE program that provides all of us with an opportunity to electronically contact our state legislators, the Governor and staff about important legislative matters in NC. It will help to build a powerful voice and make a difference in influencing important matters to each of us.

Congressman Pittenger at March 15th Meeting – As a chapter, we want and need to maximize attendance at our March 15th meeting to welcome, listen to, and interact with Representative Robert Pittenger, our Congressman for NC Ninth District. He holds some very important congressional committee posts as he works for and is committed to our country, state, communities and families. He has a strong support for veteran issues and will be accompanied at our meeting by Bob Becker, his District Director, a very experienced and most effective veteran support specialist. Come to the chapter meeting and participate with the Congressman.

Ron Morgan, Colonel, USMC(Ret)
President

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NEXT MEETING

Sunday, March 15, 2015

Red Rocks Cafe

4223 Providence Rd

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

PROGRAMS – JAY GARBUS -- 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.

March 15, 2015 – Congressman Robert Pittenger, Ninth District North Carolina – The Congressman will join with us, interact, speak and answer questions at our meeting. His District Director and veteran affairs specialist, Bob Becker, a friend of our chapter, will accompany the Congressman. He is the Representative for most of us as the Ninth District covers most of the area north and south of the city. If you have not been attending chapter meetings very often, we urge you to not miss this one. If you want for info about the Congressman prior to the meeting, visit: http://pittenger.house.gov.
As the Congressman will speak before our short business meeting and dinner, we have asked our own BGEN Fisk Outwater to present, after dinner, information about "Operation Kids On Guard Deployment Day" for the 250 children and youth of NCANG members to be held Saturday, May 2nd.
April 12, 2015 – George Custodi, Captain, USN (Ret) and author of "Three Witnesses/Tre Testimoni: A Painter, A Prisoner, A Peasant" WW II Italian War dairies and memoirs.
May 17, 2015 – Richard J Berman, speaking on "The Evolution of American Independence and the Birth of the United States of America.

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 will be available at chapter meetings. Also see: www.moaa-nc.org

JROTC Scholarship Fund Donations – Thank you for the generosity of 17 members, so far, in response to the early December request. We will continue to seek tax deductible donations, both from chapter members and outside friends to support scholarships for worthy Charlotte area JROTC students. We would like to maximize chapter member participation regardless of the amount you can give.

MOAA Chapter JROTC Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament - SAVE THE DATE
Our JROTC Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament is scheduled for September 21st (Monday), 2015. It will be held at the Verdict Ridge Golf & Country Club, Denver, NC. with a shot gun start at 10:00 AM. Format is a Captain's Choice Scramble format. We need to maximize chapter participation as golfers and/or in getting other golfers, securing hole sponsors and prize donations and then as volunteers to assist on the day of the tournament. More information of how you can help and advertising flyers are coming soon. Contact Ron Morgan for more information and to volunteer.

MEMBERSHIP – TIM DREMANN -- 2nd Vice President

Kicking off our 2015 new membership campaign, the very best way to recruit new members is through personal contact and interaction with current, former and retired military service officers. We need everyone to do so and help others like us enjoy our "common camaraderie".
We are told by MOAA National that our 2015 recruiting lists will be out by the end of March.
Dues Reminder for 2015 – Chapter dues are due by January 1st, 2015. Renewal application attached.
ILL/Sick Members – We urge all chapter members to let the chapter know of any 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 & 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
4th Branch Coalition: www.4thbranchnc.org

LEGISLATIVE -- GLORIA SCIENSKI – 3rd Vice President

The administration's FY 2016 budget request once again includes several proposals that would severely harm servicemembers and retirees. Currently the 2016 administration proposals penalize those who have served our nation. The proposals include significant changes to military pay caps, health care, military housing and the commissary system.
* *Military Pay Caps*: The president's budget requests a 1.3 percent active duty pay raise, versus the 2.3 percent raise scheduled under current law. It would be the third consecutive year of capped pay and threatens pay comparability with the private sector.
* *Health Care*: The president's budget proposes consolidating TRICARE into one health care option for military families and retirees under 65. It would provide less coverage at a higher cost and eliminate choice for servicemembers and their families.
* *Housing*: The budget requires servicemembers to pay 5 percent of their housing costs out-of-pocket. This would further erode the purchasing power of servicemembers and military families.
* *Commissary*: The budget eliminates a significant part of the commissary benefit, decreasing savings for military families.

MOAA and proponents of the all-volunteer force believe the past 14 years of severe and protracted wartime conditions would have put the career force in the ditch without existing career incentives to sustain a strong national defense and a strong professional career force. MOAA fully expect Congress will look at these proposals deliberatively and consider the impact on retention and readiness of the

mid-grade, combat-tested noncommissioned officers and officer corps. These young servicemembers have been on a war footing since voluntarily joining the military.

A 2014 Military Times poll documents declining morale in the force: "Troops report significantly lower overall job satisfaction" and "declining interest in re-enlistment now compared to five years ago." It found a 43 percent drop among respondents who rated their pay as "good" or "excellent," while those rating overall quality-of-life plummeted from 96 percent in 2009 to 56 percent in 2014.

Proposed change of this magnitude demands a measured approach to ensure the nation makes the right strategy-based decisions for the right reasons. Nothing is more important to our national security in the future than recruiting and retaining the best and brightest talent. Let's take this opportunity to get it right.

Good News - On February 12, 2015, President Obama signed into law H.R. 203, *Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act*. The Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act (The Clay Hunt SAV Act) will help the Department of Veterans Affairs study new strategies for suicide prevention and give student loan incentives to recruit psychiatrists to work with veterans. The Act complements VA's ongoing, multi-faceted efforts to improve mental health care for our nation's veterans.

The Clay Hunt SAV Act seeks to quell the suicide epidemic by:

Increasing Access to Mental Health Care and Capacity at VA to Meet Demand
Improving the Quality of Care and Boosting Accountability at VA
Developing a Community Support System for Veterans

If you need assistance or know someone who does you can contact the VA Veterans Crisis HOTLINE at 1-800-273-8255 or www.VeteransCrisisLine.net

More Good News - Charlotte, N.C., Feb. 17, 2015 , The Walmart Foundation announces a $1 million grant to the Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University (IVMF) to help kick-off the Welcome Home North Carolina (WHNC) initiative to support a three year pilot to identify new ways in which the non-profit, public and private sectors can better work together to serve veterans.

A national search by the Walmart Foundation revealed Charlotte is ahead of many other communities in its work to coordinate services for veterans, said Kathleen McLaughlin, president of the Walmart Foundation. She specifically cited the work of Charlotte Bridge Home, a nonprofit created in 2012 to help recently discharged vets return to civilian life.

McLaughlin also lauded the city's corporate community, singling out Bank of America for its support of veterans' causes. The bank has committed more than $800,000 in the past year to support organizations helping vets, including Charlotte Bridge Home and the Central Piedmont Community College Veteran's Resource Center.

Welcome Home North Carolina will not launch until the summer. However, veterans in need of help connecting to services can call Charlotte Bridge Home at 704-332-8802 or visit: www.charlottebridgehome.org

Balancing the budget, while keeping our forces readiness strong, is a challenge. Please follow MOAA's updates and continue to send your comments to our representatives. 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.

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
February 15, 2015

President Ron Morgan called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. at the Red Rocks Café. The invocation was given by John Samb and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Ron introduced new member Joe Anderson and his wife Angie. Three guests were welcomed: Bob and Mary Jo Clark and Ron's son-in-law, Josh Orenstein. The 50/50 raffle of $24.00 was won by Kathleen Wilsbach.

Officer Reports:
President – Ron Morgan – Ron announced that his goals for the year would be to highlight the funding efforts for the JROTC Scholarship Program and getting members involved in other veterans organizations within the Charlotte Area.
1st VP/Programs – (Jay Garbus): Jay announced that Congressman Pittenger, accompanied by District Director Bob Becker, will be our primary speaker. The Congressman will address issues under review in Washington. April's speaker will be George Custodi, author of "Three Witnesses" a true story about survival in Italy during the Second World War. In May, Rich Berman, Professor of History at UNCC, will speak about the US Revolution and the American Constitution.
2nd VP/Recruiting/Retention – (Tim Dremann): Tim advised that in March MOAA National will be sending a recruiting list of national members in the local area that are not associated with any chapter. Tim will be seeking volunteers to contact potential members. Ron Morgan advised that in 2015 we have gotten two new members and two old members previously dropped have paid their 2015 dues.
3rd VP/Legislative Affairs – (Gloria Scienski): Gloria advised that because of the potential cuts to benefits and pay, it is very important to maintain a close watch on the Legislative Alerts Newsletter published each Friday and to respond when requested. She reported that the administration's proposed consolidation of health care plans into one plan would have a negative impact on future retirees and lead to higher costs for all. For active duty personnel, the administration is requesting a 5% fee to housing allowances. Significant cuts to commissary benefits are proposed by the administration. Your

input is needed when MOAA asks for your endorsement through the Legislative Alerts e-mail response system.

Secretary's/Treasurer's Report – (Ron Wilsbach): Minutes for the January 18, 2015 meeting were approved with no changes. Ron reported that the General Fund has a balance of $4998.21 which includes a $1000.00 MOAA national award to the Chapter for new member recruitments during 2014. The Scholarship Fund balance is $4589.06.

Newsletter – (Carol Morgan): Carol requested inputs for the March Newsletter by February 25th. She also asked for more members biographies.

Old Business:

Fund Raising: President Morgan reviewed the past year scholarship fund raising activities. Anticipating the Chapter will continue to solicit individual member donations, as well as looking for corporate donors, members are requested to forward names of companies that may be contributors. The Chapter will be sponsoring a golf tournament later in the year to benefit the scholarship fund.

JROTC: Larry Stawicki reported that an award to each of the 33 JROTC and 2 ROTC units within our area for each school's outstanding cadet will be distributed during April and May. Larry is requesting assistance from members to deliver awards to our schools. In most cases this involves dropping off the certificate and medal at the school but could also require a presentation at the school's awards assembly. A signup sheet will be circulated at the next chapter meeting for volunteers to distribute awards. Greg Ainslie, and Chuck Martin will be handling the Air Force ROTC "Gold Bars" program for our units at UNCC. Carol Aljets, Scott Morris and John Willis will handle the Army ROTC presentations at UNCC.

NCCOC Initiative: Ron advised the chapter about NCCOC's initiative to present a yearly award to one outstanding JROTC Officer and one JROTC Instructor award for the State. Individuals vying for this award would be selected throughout the state from submissions made by individual schools principals.

Charlotte Bridge Home: Ron reported that a request for a $300 award from USAA has been submitted to be used in conjunction with Charlotte Bridge Home for an athletic event and cook out called "Red, Light and Blue scheduled for May 16th. This event is targeted to local veterans and their families.

Announcements:

Feb 17th – Welcome Home North Carolina Kick-Off at Charlotte Convention Center.
Feb 24th – Military Vet Health Services at 1 p.m. at UNCC. Must register.
Mar 4th – Next Board Meeting at 5 p.m. at Red Rocks Café.
Mar 15th – Next Chapter Meeting at 3 p.m.
Jun 11-14 –NCCOC State Convention at Cashiers, NC

Program: Patrick Biddy presented an extremely interesting program about his efforts to locate and identify the remains of a WW II soldier in what is now The Czech Republic. This program was especially inspiring because most of the researchers are volunteers and making these efforts on their own time and with their own money. Pat's primary efforts are being devoted to positively identifying one individual, Pfc Fred Ashley, through DNA Testing.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Wilsbach, Secretary

NC Council of Chapters President's Message

Greetings and Thank You! You've all done a super job in welcoming your new slates of Chapter officers and taking care of all of the administrative matters that get us off in good stead for 2015! Our new officers are very busy, "drinking from the fire hose". Here's a great opportunity to go to the Council Website, www.moaa-nc.org , find your Chapter President's picture, click on the email address listed, and send a brief Thank You message! We have a wonderfully dedicated team statewide because of the dedicated service of chapter members and leaders.

Of all of the many important activities we've got going on, which you'll read about in this Council Comments edition and on our collective websites and newsletters, here's one that is history in the making.After many months of investigation, decision making, collaboration and process improvements, we can all now have electronic communications with our NC legislators. We've learned from years of TAKING ACTION with National MOAA important legislative matters, that having the use of technology enables us to have a much more powerful collective voice. I represent you on the Communication and Legislative Committees of the 4th Branch. Your NCCOC 4th Branch and Federal Retiree Task Force members were also heavily involved in the decision making and support of taking this historic step. We went with the CQ Roll Call ENGAGE and now YOU are asked to take the important step of Registering in this program. This is the most important step. Remember that this company has an impressive security system and is very widely used by other advocacy groups. The new 4th Branch website houses this program. You'll find important links to the mission of the 4th Branch, news feeds and a messaging component where you'll receive messages to TAKE ACTION. Please go to www.4thbranchnc.org and then do the following:

* Complete the registration. Where it asks for organization, you may include NCCOC-MOAA.
* Where it asks for where you have served, please check off all applicable boxes including MILITARY.
* Make sure that you put in all numbers in your "five + 4" zip code.

So now that you are registered, let's build that POWERFUL VOICE in NC by contacting everyone you know and asking them to also register. YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A MOAA member to have a voice in this system. You just need to live in NC and complete the registration and there you go! I'd love to know that you registered and are doing what you can to make a difference in influencing very important matters. This system will also enable us to target messages for organizational groups. This is a start! It will not be effective if we don't all participate. I'm counting on each and every person to get ENGAGED!!! And please know that I welcome your questions and concerns. jigrahamusa@gmail.com
Thanks again, for all that you do every day to demonstrate that you care and advocate for ALL service members, retirees, veterans, families and survivors. HOOAH!

All my best,
Col Jeri Graham, USA-R
President, MOAA NCCOA

FEATURED MEMBER: JOE L. ANDERSON, SR, Lt. Col., USA (Ret)

Joe L. Anderson, Sr., son of Veola and the late Leroy Anderson, was born in Washington, Georgia and grew in Charlotte, NC. where he attended the Charlotte/ Mecklenburg County Schools, graduating with honors from West Charlotte High School. Joe continued his education at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, N.C. where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Economics, graduating with honors in 1970. He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army in 1970 and served on active duty from 1971-73, during the Vietnam Era.

After leaving active duty, he continued in the Army Reserves, retiring as Lieutenant Colonel in 1996. Joe retired from Eastman Kodak Company in 2002, as a Senior Human Resources Manager. While at Kodak, he also served as President of the Veterans Network of Kodak Employees (VETNET). VETNET is one of seven employee networks at Kodak where approximately 5000 veterans were employed. In addition, he was a founding member and past Chairman of the Board of Directors of Network North Star, a network of African-American Employees at Kodak

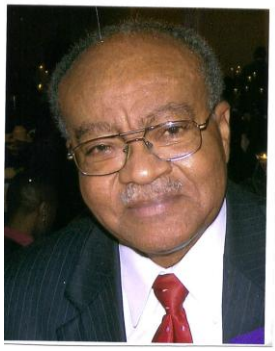
He has been active in community activities, serving as Chair, Board of Directors, Fairport Baptist Homes Caring Ministries, a Continuing Care Retirement Community. He was also a founding member, first President and Immediate Past President, Rochester Chapter, N.C. A&T State University Alumni Association. He is a former member of the Board of Visitors at NC A&T State University and he is a past recipient of the university's Distinguished Service Award.

He has also been active in military organizations, serving as a member of American Legion Post 899 in Pittsford, NY where he has held the position of Adjutant. He has also been a member of Genesee Valley Chapter of Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) where he has served as Vice President and Transition Liaison Officer.

He has been a part of the Deacon Ministry at several churches and most recently served at Mount Olivet Baptist Church in Rochester, NY, where he also served as Superintendent of Sunday School, Christian Education Workshop Coordinator, Member of the Human Resources Committee, and Instructor, New Members Orientation Committee. He has previously served as Vice President, Area 3, NY State Baptist Laymen's Auxiliary, having responsibility for men's fellowships at member churches in Rochester, Buffalo and Niagara Falls.

He is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity where he serves on the International Human Resources Committee. He served as Chaplain of Theta Omicron Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity for 18 years and is a past recipient of the fraternity's Omega Man of the Year Award and Community Service Award.

He is married to Angeles Webb Anderson, a registered nurse, and they have three adult children and 9 grandchildren.



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.