CHARLOTTE-METROLINA

The Military Officers Association of America

April 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Spring time and hopefully, consistently warmer days. Always wondered why these types of messages always start with a weather report. I guess, it's the way we start conversations.

Back in January I announced that my two primary "focus of effort" for 2015 was first to enhance our chapter support for JROTC programs in the Charlotte-Metrolina area, now numbering 33 high school programs. In addition to our leadership award presentations this Spring, we would launch a scholarship fund raising campaign and also participate in a North Carolina Council of Chapters program for recognizing outstanding officer and NCO JROTC program instructors. I am pleased to report that our initial efforts have gone well in both scholarship fundraising and in selecting great local candidates for the JROTC Instructor of the Year program for all of NC. We have a long way to go in scholarship fund raising, but with maximum chapter support, our scholarship fund golf tournament on September 21st will hopefully have a significant dollar impact and allow us to present several scholarships in the Spring of 2016 to most deserving JROTC students.

Secondly, we wanted to increase the opportunities for the chapter and/or our members to become more involved in the participation and support of community veteran activities. Watch for newsletter, e-newsletter and chapter website announcements of veteran-related activities we can become a part of.

We had a very good turnout for Congressman Pittenger at our March meeting and would like to see the same for our April 12th meeting. It will be a fascinating look at a portion of WWII history in Italy with George Custodi, Captain, USN (Ret) and author of "Three Witness/Tre Testimoni: A Painter, A Prisoner, A Peasant." Hope to see you there for enjoyable MOAA Chapter camaraderie.

Ron Morgan, Colonel, USMC(Ret)
President

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NEXT MEETING

Sunday, April 12, 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.

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. This is real life at war – in all its daily horrors and struggles and tragedies. George Custodi is past President and Founder of Partners in Friendship, an Aiken grassroots organization dedicated to enjoying a partner-city relationships with Orvieto, Italy and Shoalhaven, Australia. George was born in Trani, Italy, immigrated to America, became a citizen, attended Iowa State University under a NROTC scholarship and received a degree in Chemical Engineering and a commission in the Navy and served during Vietnam conflict receiving numerous medals and awards. George then attended Texas A&M University receiving a Masters in Chemical Oceanography and continued serving in the Navy until his retirement in 1992.

May 17, 2015 – Richard J Berman, speaking on "The Evolution of American Independence and the Birth of the United States of America.

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 – 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

Balancing the budget, while keeping our forces readiness strong, is a challenge. On March 18, 2015 Secretary of Defense Ash Carter issued a dire warning to Congress if it fails to repeal sequestration: the military may start cutting pay.

The services have already begun to cap pay, providing nominal pay raises that fail to match private sector wage growth, but this is the first time the Department of Defense has talked of actually reducing base pay for service members.

For FY 2016, the administration asked for a $561 billion base defense budget —$38 billion over the mandatory sequestration caps.

On March 19, the House Budget Committee passed its FY 2016 budget. The proposed budget boosts defense spending by adding money to a wartime funding account to make up for caps on the Pentagon's base budget. The plan would keep defense spending under caps mandated by the 2011 Budget Control Act and provide $90 billion to the Pentagon's overseas contingency operations (OCO) account, which is not subject to sequestration caps.

"The defense department shouldn't have to operate in this kind of uncertain budget environment," said MOAA's Deputy Director of Government Relations, Col. Phil Odom, USAF (Ret). "Defense planners need predictability and a repeal of sequestration. Failure to repeal sequestration puts national security at risk."

Good News - Effective 2015, the Department of Veterans Affairs has eliminated the use of net worth as a determining factor for both health care programs and copayment responsibilities. This change makes VA health care benefits more accessible to lower-income veterans. Instead of combining the sum of Veterans' income with their assets to determine eligibility for medical care and copayment obligations, VA will now only consider a Veteran's gross household income and deductible expenses from the previous year. Veterans may submit updated income information at www.1010ez.med.va.gov, or by

visiting their nearby VA health care facility. For more information, visit VA's Health Benefits webpage at www.va.gov/healthbenefits or call VA toll-free at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

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

North Carolina 4th Branch Web Site and ENGAGE Program

Thanks to the influence of our MOAA NC Council of Chapters reps on The 4th Branch coalition and Federal Retiree Task Force, we now have the opportunity to electronically contact our state legislators, the Governor and his staff about important legislative matters in NC.

As many of you know, The 4th Branch is a coalition representing military, federal, state and local public-service retirees working for fair and equitable treatment for all government retirees regarding taxation of earned retirement benefits.

The 4th Branch has launched its "Keep the Promise NC" campaign on behalf of more than 300,000 military, federal, state and local government retirees from across North Carolina. The goal of this effort is to urge the State of North Carolina to meet its responsibility to all government retirees by eliminating the unfair state income tax on their earned retirement benefits, which it promised would be tax-free when they began their careers of public service. We look forward to your participation in our effort. Please take the first step by signing up for important news updates, Action Alerts and other useful information about how you can make a difference!

For this and other matters, we can be a POWERFUL VOICE by registering in the system and contacting everyone you know living in NC and asking them to do the same. As a group and as individuals, we can then have a strong influence on our state government.

Go to: www.4thbranchnc.org

- Complete the registration. Where it asks for organization, put *NCCOC Military Officers Association of America*
- Where it asks for where you have served, check off all applicable boxes including MILITARY
- Make sure that you put all numbers in your "five + 4" zip code. Need the complete zip code to be sure your state reps are contacted.

You are now registered and can participate.

CHAPTER SECRETARY – RON WILSBACH

Minutes of the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter (NC-04) Of the Military Officers Association of America March 15, 2015

President Ron Morgan called the meeting to order at 3:25 p.m. at the Red Rocks Café. The invocation was given by Darrell Long and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Ron introduced Neal Moran and his wife, Phyllis, back to the chapter meeting. Neal is a "Charter Member", of the chapter and a member for over 40 years. Dana Tucker, a member of the Catawba Chapter and a twenty year member of the NC Air National Guard, visited the meeting from Mooresville. The 50/50 raffle of $31.00 was won by Neal Moran.

President Morgan introduced our guest speaker, U. S. Congressman Robert Pittenger, of the Ninth Congressional District of North Carolina. The Congressman's primary message was to assure veterans who cannot get medical appointments in a timely manner from VA hospitals, or have emergencies, may go to local doctors and hospitals as a result of legislation passed by Congress. This also applies to veterans who served during the last 10 years.

Congressman Pittenger favors expanding the military because, "the world is safe when America is strong." He also said "In my travels around the Middle East, I have received comments from Arab leaders expressing a need for U.S. leadership in solving conflicts." The Congressman also noted that the military ready force is lower today than the pre Pearl Harbor period.

In response to a question about sequestration spending cuts and how the cutbacks are hurting the military, Congressman Pittenger noted that a funding request for military requirements for an additional $571 billion dollars, which he supports, is currently in debate in Congress. With an 18.3 billion dollar deficit, the Congressman said, 'Sequestration is a necessary evil, with spending spiraling out of control. Only 17% goes to military spending and 67% goes to social services where there is much fraud and abuse." He concluded his remarks by advising the chapter that his office has made available a pamphlet entitled "Preparing Your Home, Family, and Business for Terrorist Attacks," an emergency preparedness publication to give constituents a head start in responding to terrorist threats and natural disasters.

Ron Morgan thanked the Congressman for his presentation and then presented an honorary Chapter membership certificate to Congressman Pittenger and his local district representative, Bob Becker.

Approval of Minutes - Ron Morgan requested a motion to approve the February 15, 2015 minutes that were distributed in the Chapter Newsletter. The minutes were approved as written.
Approval of Treasurer's Report - Ron Wilsbach gave the Treasurer's Report. The General Fund has a balance of $4847.94 and the Scholarship Fund has a balance of $4714.06. There were no questions.

Officer Reports:
1st VP/Programs – (Jay Garbus): Jay outlined programs through May.
2nd VP/Recruiting /Retention – (Tim Dremann & Ron Morgan): Ron noted that another email would be sent to those who have not yet paid 2015 dues.

3rd VP/Legislative Affairs – (Gloria Scienski): No report. Harley Ellinger advised that April 15th was designated "storming the hill" day in Raleigh and Washington, DC and that MOAA members would be actively meeting with state and federal legislators to push those interests of importance to members.
Newsletter – (Carol Morgan): Submissions are due to Carol on March 26th.

Old Business:
Awards - Ron Morgan advised that the chapter was awarded a $1,000.00 check by MOAA for the most new members for our category chapter. We also received $50 from MOAA for submitting our chapter roster prior to January 15th.
JROTC Scholarship Fund - Ron Morgan noted that we were continuing to go outside the chapter to businesses for additional funding. We are also in the planning stage for a golf tournament to be held on September 21st at Verdict Ridge Golf and Country Club in Denver, NC. More information on this major effort to come.
JROTC Leadership Awards Program –Larry Stawicki has sent out letters to 33 units requesting their inputs for their awardees. Larry has requested members to sign up for delivery of certificates and medals near the close of the school year.
JROTC Instructor Awards Program – Ron Morgan advised that so far we have one officer and one NCO application in the local area to compete on the state level.
USAA has presented a $300 check to the Chapter for sponsorship of the "Red, Light and Blue" event to be held on May 16th with Charlotte Bridge Homes.

New Business:
4th Branch – Ron Wilsbach advised the members that the 4th Branch web site and the ENGAGE program is now operational for members to communicate directly with state legislators.
5 Star Award – Gloria Scienski is working on the submission of this important MOAA award.

Announcements:
Next Board Meeting – April 1st – Red Rocks Café
Next Chapter Meeting – April 12th
Fall Meeting Dates – Sept 20th, Oct 18th, Nov 15th , Dec 6th.

Following the meal President Morgan introduced member Fisk Outwater who briefed members on a program he developed for the NC Air National Guard entitled "Operation Kids On Guard Deployment Day". This program is a one day event for dependents of Air Guard personnel designed to teach the kids what their parents and relatives do when they go off to deployments and weekend training. It is a full day of activities that has been very well received by all. The event will be held on May 2nd. Volunteers are welcome.

Ron Morgan told the chapter that Tres Jones, our youngest member, would be deploying to Kosovo with his NC National Guard Unit in two weeks. We all wish Tres a safe deployment.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Wilsbach, Secretary

FEATURED MEMBER: FISK OUTWATER, BGen, NC Air National Guard (Ret)

I consider myself pretty much a Charlotte native after having been born in Pittsburgh in 1942 and lived there until 1953 when we moved to Long Island and finally to Charlotte in 1956 when I was 15. I graduated from Myers Park High School in 1960, then attended Clemson, getting my commission thru the AF ROTC program. I served on active duty with the USAF from 1966-1971 (flight school in Selma, Alabama, then Taiwan, Tennessee, and Arkansas flying C-130's). I left the active duty Air Force in 1971 and returned to Clemson for my masters.

While in graduate school I joined the NC Air National Guard in 1972--again flying C-130's. I retired in January of 2000 as a Brigadier General and the NCANG as Assistant Adjutant General for Air/ Commander.

On the civilian side, after graduate school I worked for 5 years as combustion engineer, was then hired by Eastern Airlines where I flew from 1978-1989 out of New York and Atlanta and then for United Airlines from 1990, flying out of Chicago, thru February of 2002 when I retired.

I married my high school sweetheart Carole, and we will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary in August. I have a son and daughter and two grandchildren all of whom reside in the Charlotte area.

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Announcements and Dates of Veteran Activities

April 8th - Veteran's Network Luncheon's – Every second Wednesday of each month at Dilworth Neighborhood Grill – starts at 11:45. An informal networking of veteran area business professionals and veteran's seeking opportunities. Sponsored by The Charlotte Bridge Home.

April 12th (Sunday) – MOAA Chapter meeting

April 15th – MOAA NCCOC "Storm the Hill" in Raleigh and also Washington DC

April 16th – Blessed Assurance Adult Day Care Golf Tournament at Olde Sycamore – Contact Nate Huggins, Chapter member, for more info at: 704-576-4754

April 23rd – CMS District JROTC Awards program at Bojangles Arena – We plan to present the MOAA Chapter Instructor of the Year Awards to the local awardees.

May 2nd – Operation Kids on Guard Deployment Day for the NCANG in New London at the Stanley County Airport

May 16th – "Red, Light and Blue" Fitness Challenge and Fund Raiser for Charlotte Bridge Home. A Team Spearhead led event concluding with a family cookout, sponsored in part by our MOAA Chapter and USAA. More info later.

May 17th – Next Chapter meeting.

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.

Blessed Assurance
Adult Day Care

BA

To benefit disabled Veterans, Seniors and other Adults with Alzheimer's, Dementia and various diseases of the elderly.

4th Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Olde Sycamore Club

(7500 Olde Sycamore Drive · Mint Hill, NC 28227)

Thursday, April 16, 2015

11:45 a.m. Shotgun Start
Lunch: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Dinner: Following Tournament

1. Gold Sponsor: $4,000 (includes 2 foursomes, display corporate tent & banner, name/logo on tournament signage, recognition in print/social media, lunch dinner and awards program)

2. Silver Sponsor: $3,000 (includes 2 foursomes, display of corporate banner, name/logo on tournament signage, recognition in print/social media, lunch, dinner and awards program)

3. Bronze Sponsor: $2,000 (includes 1 foursome, corporate name/logo on tournament signage, recognition in print/ social media, lunch, dinner and awards program)

4. Putting Contest Sponsor: $1,000 (include 1 individual round of golf, T-box signage, Table promotions and media advertisement)

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

___Individual Player: $100 ___Hole Sponsorship: $150 ___Foursome: $400 ___Foursome & Hole Sponsorship: $550

(Mulligan Package: $20 – 2 Mulligans per player, 2 Putting Contest Tickets, 1 Raffle Ticket)

Team/Player Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

1._____
2._____
3._____
4._____

Please return this form by April 1, 2015 with payment to Blessed Assurance Adult Daycare (Charity Golf Tournament), 13001 Idlewild Rd., Matthews, NC 28105

Information only may be faxed to 704-845-1562 or emailed to blessedadultcare@juno.com. Payments may also be made on line via PayPal at BlessedAdultcare.org and we will send you a receipt. For more information contact Blessed Assurance at 704.576.4754 or 704.845.1359.