MOAA™
Military Officers Association of America
Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter

CHAPTER BOARD

President
Ron Morgan 704-708-8866
rbmorgan943@aol.com
1st Vice President/Programs
Jay Garbus 704-708-8885
jgarbus@carolina.rr.com
2nd Vice President/Membership
Tim Dremann 704-596-4292
timdremsr@bellsouth.net
3rd Vice President/Legislative
Gloria Scienski 704-847-0405
g.scienski@gmail.com
Secretary
Ron Wilsbach 704-844-9450
rwilsbach@carolina.rr.com
Treasurer
Ron Wilsbach 704-844-9450
rwilsbach@carolina.rr.com
News Letter
Carol Morgan 704-708-8866
morgancc43@aol.com
DIRECTORS
Larry Stawicki 704-814-9739
stawickilp@aol.com
Harley Ellinger 704-544-7084
ellingerdds@hotmail.com
Carol Aljets 704-849-2886
NAVCDRmom@aol.com
Scott Morris 704-846-7429
Scottm79@gmail.com
CHAPLAIN
John Samb 704-572-0460
jwsamb@novanthealth.org

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, November 15, 2015

Red Rocks Cafe
4223 Providence Rd
Social Time 1500
Meeting with Meal 1530

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of all chapter members, I was extremely proud to accept the MOAA 5 Star Chapter Levels of Excellence Award streamer for 2015 on October 31st at the MOAA Annual Meeting in Orlando. The national meeting was very well done, informative, inspirational and patriotic. The honoring of MOAA Community Heroes from the greater Florida area was exceptional and very moving.

Our second straight 5 Star Award, based mostly on 2014 membership growth and activities, will be challenging to repeat in 2016 as, in January 2015, we dropped a number of non-dues paying members from our rolls that also had not participated in meetings or any activities since 2013. The good news is that after being credited with 27 new members in 2014, we have 12 additional new members so far in 2015.

For the remainder of 2015, we need to and will focus on: 1) an all chapter member effort to attract new members and get additional current members more active and involved, 2) finalize our JROTC Scholarship Award program with applications sent to all area high school JROTC Instructors by early December 2015 for Spring 2016 awards to selected outstanding cadets, 3) have great chapter meetings on November 15 with Will Groom presenting a program on West Point recruiting/selection and on December 6th for our chapter Christmas party with holiday décor and musical entertainment. Importantly, please bring your donations for Toys for Tots to either or both meetings. And 4) have maximum chapter attendance on January 8, 2016 (a Friday evening dinner & program) as we host the North Carolina Council of Chapters in Charlotte.

All my best for a great fall season and start to the holidays.

Ron Morgan, Colonel, USMC (Ret), President

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.

November 15 - Will Grooms, West Point Cadet Recruiter and Selection Board Member

Will Grooms, USMA West Point Class of 1974, was commissioned into the Ordnance Corps. Officer basic training at Aberdeen Proving Ground. 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks Hawaii. Platoon Leader, Shop Officer 725th Maintenance Company. S-4 1st of the 5th Infantry Battalion. While serving earned MBA. Company Commander 1st Maintenance Company, 1st Infantry Division, Ft Riley, Kansas. Inactive Ready Reserve (IRR) for 10 years. For the past 10 years served as a member of West Point's Field Force, recruiting potential cadets. During same period served as a selection board member for North Carolina Congressional District 9. Currently, Vice President of the West Point Society of the Carolinas.

Toys for Tots – Will collect donations at November meeting and the December 6th meeting.

December 6, 2015 – Chapter Christmas Celebration Dinner starting at 3:00**.** Holiday spirit, décor, camaraderie, special holiday music by keyboardist Jon Kan, a few carols and with final Toys for Tots collection.

January 8 (Friday) – 9 (Saturday), 2016 – Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter hosting NC Council of Chapters meeting – Our January chapter meeting with be on January 8th, Friday evening beginning with a 6:00 PM reception (with soft/smooth jazz piano) and dinner to follow. We are hosting the NC Council of Chapters First Quarter 2016 meeting. Colonel Brian Anderson, USAF (Ret), the MOAA Deputy Director, Council & Chapter Affairs, will be the guest speaker and also on Saturday morning for the NCCOC business meeting. We will be installing both NCCOC and Chapter officers for new terms starting in 2016.

The dinner and meeting will be at the SpringHill Suites by Marriott on Johnston Road (inside I-485) in the Ballantyne area.

We want to maximize chapter member attendance for the Friday dinner meal and installation/meeting. In early December, we will start taking reservations and dinner entrée selections from all. Chapter members are also invited to the Saturday morning NCCOC business meeting and spouse activities that morning. More info and reservation form to follow.

Future Meeting Dates for Spring 2016 – February 21, March 20, April 17 and May 22

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2016—*Final nominations will be taken for chapter officer and board positions for 2016. The position of Chapter President has one more year to serve. See 1st VP Jay Garbus to indicate your interest and/or to place someone in nomination. The election will be held at the November 15th meeting.*

LEGISLATIVE – GLORIA SCIENSKI – 3rd Vice President

APPROPRIATIONS WATCH: FY 2016 - Last updated 10/28/15

The appropriations process is in full swing on Capitol Hill. Lawmakers passed a continuing resolution funding the government through December 11, 2015 at Fiscal Year 2015 levels. The next step is for policymakers to negotiate an agreement for the remainder of FY 2016. The House will soon vote on a http://crfb.org/blogs/budget-deal-truly-offsets-only-half-its-cost budget deal to lift the statutory caps. If the deal goes through, appropriators will continue working on FY 2016 bills
.

The budget conference agreement laying out the topline spending levels, known as 302(a) allocations, passed the House by a vote of 226-197, and passed the Senate by a vote of 51-48. As we noted http://crfb.org/blogs/appropriators-jump-gun-and-start-fy-2016-funding-race , the House has already moved to floor consideration of some bills, while the Senate is holding hearings and markups.

Please follow MOAA's updates and continue to contact your 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

CHAPTER SECRETARY – RON WILSBACH

Charlotte-Metrolina MOAA Chapter (NC-04) Minutes for October 18, 2015

President Ron Morgan called the meeting to order at 3:25 p.m. at the Red Rocks Café. The invocation was given by Chaplain John Samb and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Bill McKenna introduced his sister, Eileen, visiting from New York. The Geisler's introduced their son, Jim. The 50/50 raffle of $30.00 was won by Huberta Barrett. A motion to approve the minutes of the September 20th Chapter meeting was made by Greg Ainslie and seconded by John Willis. The minutes were approved. Ron Wilsbach, Treasurer, reported that the General Fund has $3109.05 and the Scholarship Fund has $9065.57.

Officer Reports:

1st VP/Programs – Jay Garbus said that the speaker at the November 15th meeting will be Will Groom, a graduate of The US Military Academy. He will speak about recruiting for West Point in the Charlotte area.

2nd VP/Recruiting and Retention – Tim Dremman reminded the Chapter the best results to get new members will come from " one on one" efforts. Tim also opined that another tact might be to take the 1300 names of MOAA national members in the Charlotte Area and divide up the list into particular services. We could then assign like Chapter members to call those in their respective services; Army – Army; Navy – Navy; etc. Ron Morgan advised the Chapter that the Davidson Satellite Chapter is fading away. There are efforts to revitalize the Satellite Chapter by tapping into those national members from those provided by MOAA National. Carol Ritter, a Chapter member from the "Up- State Area" of South Carolina, expressed her desire for the Chapter to expand efforts to acknowledge the South Carolina participation in our Chapter.

3rd VP/Legislative Affairs – Gloria Scienski reported that the Defense Budget passed with minimal negative impact to active and retired personnel, although our national MOAA lobbyists expect future "hits" to the retired benefits package. This is the third year in a row that the active duty forces pay has been capped. Harley Ellinger, NCCOC Legislative Affairs, reminded us that COLA will not be increased next year. Harley said that the state system for contact with state senate and representatives is now active. Instructions are available through the NCCOC website. The biggest victory in the state legislative arena was the establishment of the Military Department, a cabinet level agency headed by MG Wilson, who spoke to the Chapter in 2014.

Old/New Business

- **a.** JROTC Committee will meet prior to the end of October to finalize application process, selection of awardees and the administration of funds for the scholarship program.
- **b.** On November 9th the Carolina Freedom Foundation Breakfast will be held at **The Hilton City Center beginning at 7:30 a.m.** The Chapter is sponsoring a table. Chapter members wishing to attend should contact Ron Morgan.
- **c.** Nominations for 2016 Officers and Board are open. Election will be held at November meeting. Contact Jay Garbus if you would like to participate.
- **d.** Ron and Carol Morgan will be going to Orlando, Florida on October 31st to attend the annual MOAA National Meeting to accept the Chapter's 5-Star Award.
- **e.** Next Board Meeting is November 4th; Next Chapter meeting is November 15th. Toys for Tots drive begins.
- **f.** December 6th – Chapter Christmas Party. Music included. Toys For Tots.
- **g.** January 8th – Friday – Chapter will host the NCCOC first quarter meeting at the Springhill Suites Ballantyne. This will be the Chapter's January meeting with installation of officers and board. More information to follow.
- **h.** Chapter Meetings for 2016 – Jan 8th; Feb 21st; Mar 20; Apr 17th; May 22nd.

Events Announcements

- **a.** Nov 6th – USMC Birthday Ball, Charlotte Convention Center
- **b.** Nov 7th – Charlotte Veteran Day Celebration/Parade
- **c.** Nov 9th – Carolina Freedom Foundation Breakfast – 7:30 a.m.
- **d.** Nov 11th – CBH Vet Network Picnic – Veteran's Park @ 11:30
- **e.** Nov 11th – Veterans Day Program – Stumptown Park, Matthews – 11:00 a.m.
- **f.** Nov 13-14 – USNA Men's Glee Club w/Charlotte Symphony

Oktoberfest Meal and Historical Readings – Harley Ellinger and Ron Morgan

a. A very special thank you to Huberta Barrett and her son Ron for Oktoberfest celebration.

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

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Ron Wilsbach

Announcements and Dates of Military and Veterans Activities

November – Military Family Appreciation Month

November 7—Charlotte Veterans Day Parade

November 9 – Carolinas Freedom Foundation Breakfast – Hilton City Center Hotel

November 10—OohRah! HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARINES!

November 11—Veterans Day Network Picnic, 11:30 Veteran's Park – Charlotte Bridge Homes

November 11—Wreath Laying Ceremony, Charlotte

November 13 – 14, 2015 – U.S. Naval Academy Men's Glee Club with the Charlotte Symphony, Knight Theatre. www.charlottesymphony.org – *"A Salute to Americas Heroes"*

Levels of Excellence 4 & 5 Star winners from NC Chapters
At 2015 MOAA Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL

CHAPTER 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

JROTC 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.

The U.S. Naval Academy Men's Glee Club
Guest Artists with the Charlotte Symphony
Friday and Saturday, November 13-14, 2015 at 8:00 pm

Knight Theater
At
Levine Center for the Arts
Charlotte, NC

Tickets go on sale
3 August 2015
Charlotte Symphony
Ticket Office
704-972-2000
charlottesymphony.org

Celebrate America with the 70 stirring voices of the U.S. Naval Academy Men's Glee Club. A tribute to America's heroes with all of your favorite red, white, and blue melodies. Patriotic anthems, Broadway hits, choir classics, and more!

Col Ron Morgan, President of Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter with General Via at MOAA Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, October 31, 2015