MOAA™
Military Officers Association of America
Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter

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NEXT MEETING

Sunday, December 6, 2015

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

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had a great program on November 15th with an almost full house, including three of our new members and spouses. Will Groom presenting on West Point recruiting and appointments was excellent. He was "kept honest" by Mike Rusho, our chapter member and his USMA classmate, as well as one of our new members, a 2005 West Point alum. We will continue into 2016 with other great programs and military fellowship.

Sunday, December 6th is our chapter Christmas celebration at Red Rocks Café. It will be a festive occasion with holiday décor, spirited Christmas music from keyboardist, Jon Kan and our "common camaraderie" celebration of the season. In line with the Christmas spirit, we will continue to collect Toys for Tots AND also collect care package items to send to our own 1st Lt. Tres Jones, who is deployed in Kosovo. (See note on next page on items we can send).

On January 8 – 9, 2016, we are hosting the MOAA North Carolina Council of Chapters (NCCOC) for their 1st Quarter meeting. The Friday night banquet/program will also be our January monthly meeting. We will be installing both council and chapter officers for 2016. All chapter members are invited and urged to attend the Friday evening banquet and program as well as the Saturday morning NCCOC business meeting and workshop. The NCOCC will be staying at the SpringHill Suites – Ballantyne. Everyone will receive a reservation/ payment form and information for the January 8th banquet/ program in a subsequent email in early December.

Have a great and joyous Christmas holiday season.

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.

December 6, 2015 – Chapter Christmas Celebration Dinner starting at 3:00**.** Holiday spirit, décor, our common camaraderie with a holiday touch, special holiday music by keyboardist Jon Kan, a few carols and with final Toys for Tots collection. If you have not already done so, please bring a new, unwrapped toy or gift for deserving youngsters and teens.

After the very short business meeting and during dinner, we welcome personal stories on the most memorable Christmas holiday you and/or your family had while serving in the military either at home or somewhere in the world. It does have to be well-organized so just stand up and tell us the story that is meaningful to you.

Care Package Collection for 1st Lt. Tres Jones – As many of you know, our youngest chapter member, Tres, has been deployed and serving in Kosovo since last Spring. It's time we recognized his service and sent him a "Care" package for the holiday season which we will do the week of December 7th. It takes about two weeks to get there, but if delayed, he would receive it by New Years. Tres says, no guns, TNT or booze (too bad). Also, no perishables. He also has fairly regular access to a PX, so maybe candy, baby wipes, good socks, reading material (magazines and paper backs that us military guys and gals like), etc. Maybe some items he can share with the troops. No large or heavy items, please. The package will go via USPS.

All items will be collected at the December 6th meeting. Tres's wife, Mary Ann, may be with us? She, the two boys, and Tres's parents leave for Germany on the 10th to spend 5 days while Tres is on leave.

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 5:45 PM reception (with soft/smooth jazz piano and a very affordable beer/wine cash bar) and dinner to follow. We are hosting the NC Council of Chapters First Quarter 2016 meeting with chapter and NC council leaders attending from across the state. Colonel Brian Anderson, USAF (Ret), the MOAA Deputy Director, Council & Chapter Affairs, will be the guest speaker and also again on Saturday morning for the NCCOC business meeting.

Included in the Friday night banquet and program will be:

- A delicious catered reception and buffet dinner with wine on all tables
- Wind Beneath My Wings Ceremony
- Presentation of Council Awards

- 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration Ceremony
    - There will also be a very professional and meaningful display of Vietnam War historical memorabilia that honors the service of all
- Installation of Council Officers by Colonel Anderson
- Installation of Charlotte-Metrolina Officers by new NCCOC President Ehrhardt
- Video of an all services musical tribute

It sounds like a lot, but all will be done appropriately and quickly.

The Friday night reception, dinner and program will be at the Regal Ballantyne Theatre (special events space above the theatre lobby) in the Ballantyne Village shopping area at the corner of Johnston Rd. and Ballantyne Commons Parkway. NCCOC out-of-town guests are staying at the SpringHill Suites by Marriott on Johnston Road (inside I-485) in the Ballantyne area. This is the location of the NCCOC Saturday AM business meeting/work shop which our chapter members are also invited.

We want to maximize chapter member attendance for the Friday evening banquet/program as well as the Saturday morning NCCOC business meeting. There will be planned spouse activities that morning for our visitors and chapter members. Additional info on these activities will be sent to all in a separate email.

Please see the included banquet reservation form in this newsletter. We would need all reservations and payments made **by December 28th, 2015**. If needed, let us know you will attend and we can take actual payment later.

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

LEGISLATIVE – GLORIA SCIENSKI – 3rd Vice President

Attend the January 8th 2016 evening meeting for an update.

Keep up to date on legislative action that affects you and your world. MOAA's weekly Legislative Update e-newsletter is a great service. 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. **Remember, your voice counts.**

National MOAA 800-234-6622 / 703-549-2311 Legislative affairs
legis@moaa.org

CHAPTER SECRETARY – RON WILSBACH

Charlotte-Metrolina MOAA Chapter Minutes for November 15, 2015

President Morgan called the meeting to order at 3:28 p.m. at the Red Rocks Café. The invocation was given by Chaplain John Samb and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Introduction of new members and guests followed. A motion to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2015 meeting was made, seconded and approved with no changes. Ron Wilsbach, Treasurer, reported that the General Fund has $3,465.50 and the Scholarship Fund has $9,153.07. He advised the Chapter that all funds have been moved to Fifth Third Bank. The 50/50 raffle of $25.00 was won by Greg Ainslie.

Officer Reports:

1st VP/Programs – Jay Garbus announced that the December annual Christmas meeting will be held Dec. 6th. Program speakers are being sought for 2016.

2nd VP/Recruiting and Retention – Tim Dremman reported that we have 11 new Chapter members this year and that in order to maintain a strong organization we need to continue to provide new members through personal contacts.

3rd VP/Legislative Affairs – Gloria Scienski reported that the 2016 Defense Department Budget has been passed. DOD budget planners have made it clear that future health care costs will be passed onto beneficiaries. The recent issue of" Legislative Affairs Update" featured a health care survey of MOAA Members to be used in developing lobbying strategies. Members are encouraged to utilize this opportunity to voice their concerns. Gloria made an appeal for members to subscribe to MOAA's Legislative Update emails that are issued each Friday. This vehicle provides information of pending legislation and offers an opportunity for you to voice your concerns to Legislators.

Old/New Business

a. Jay Garbus presented the 2016 slate of officers for nomination. The slate proposed consists of the same officers that have served in 2015. He opened the floor for additional nominations. There were no additional nominations and nominations were closed. Jay requested a motion from the floor to accept the slate as presented. The motion was seconded and a voice vote was unanimous. Officers will be installed at the January 8th, 2016 meeting with NCCOC.

b. Ron Morgan reported the results of the MOAA national meeting in Orlando on October 30th and 31st. Of note, he accepted the Chapter's second 5 Star Chapter Award. Additional information regarding the meeting can be found at http:www.moaa.org/2015annualmeeting . Ron also advised that MOAA's Executive Director VAdm. Norbert Ryan will be retiring in January and will be replaced by LtGen Dan Atkins, USAF Ret.

c. The JROTC Scholarship Committee has met and finalized the application process and completed the scholarship award timeline. On November 16th letters will go to all 34 JROTC Units that the Chapter supports and four $1,000 scholarships will be awarded in spring of 2016.

d. Ron reported that the board has decided that we will hold another golf tournament to benefit the JROTC Scholarship Fund. The Chapter has contracted with Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation for a tournament on October 14th, 2016. This is a big undertaking and all members are encouraged to participate in some capacity.

e. Ron advised the Chapter that the satellite chapter at Davidson is eroding as more members age and others pass away. We are exploring what needs to be done with that affiliate. Also, we are looking into the possibility of establishing a satellite chapter in Sun City for our South Carolina members.

f. Ron Morgan presented Larry Stawicki with the Chapter's Certificate of Merit for his administration and support of the yearly awards to the 34 JROTC Units within the Chapter's area of responsibility.

g. Ron announced that the Chapter was going to put together a "care package" for Chapter Member 1st Lt Tres Jones, who is on active duty in Kosovo. He requested that members bring items for the package to the December 6th meeting. Please bring small items that can be easily packed.

Announcements

a. Next Board meeting – Dec 2nd - **Next Chapter meeting Dec 6th –Bring Toys For Tots**

b. Friday, **Jan 8th, 2016**– Joint Chapter and NC Council of Chapters meeting at Springhill Suites Ballantyne – 6 p.m. cocktails/music – Dinner. Program Speaker Col. Brian Anderson, USAF Ret., MOAA Deputy Director, Council & Chapter Affairs. Installation of Council and Chapter Officers. **Jan 9th** NCCOC meeting and workshop. Chapter members are encouraged to attend. Reservations and payment in early December. Spouses Saturday a.m. program in the works.

c. 2016 Chapter Meeting Schedule Dates: Feb. 21st; Mar. 20th; Apr. 17th; May 22nd.

d.

Program – Will Groom, a graduate of U.S. Military Academy Class of 1974. Will is the VP of the West Point Society of The Carolinas and serves as a "field force member" shepherding area high school students through the demanding requirements of qualifying for an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy. He also provides assistance to NC District 09 Congressman, Robert Pittenger, advising on matters of ranking the candidates vying for admission appointments to West Point. Will gave us an outstanding presentation about the rigorous process candidates must go through to qualify for the Nation's Military Academy.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary, Ron Wilsbach

MOAA NC Council of Chapters
1st Quarter 2016 Meeting
January 8-9, 2016
SpringHill Suites Ballantyne
12325 Johnston Road
Charlotte, NC 28277
(704) 817-1500
(Hotel reservation info for "MOAA-NC Council" provided earlier on NCCOC web site – Hotel reservations needed by Dec. 28th)

REGISTRATION FORM FOR MEETING AND BANQUET

Name: _____
MOAA Chapter: _____
Phone Number: _____
Email Address: _____
Name desired on badge: _____
Name of spouse/guest(s): _____
Name desired on badge(s): _____

Friday night, January 8th, Social, Dinner and Program will be at the Regal Ballantyne Theatre (Special Events floor) in Ballantyne Village approximately 1 mile from hotel. (Directions will be provided) Social/Reception begins at 5:45 with affordable beer/wine cash bar and fruit/cheese with program/dinner beginning at 6:30. Business attire.

Buffet costs with wines on the table is $ 35.00 per person
_____ Buffet(s) @ $35.00 = $_____
Total enclosed $ _____

Please enclose check made payable to: MOAA Charlotte- Metrolina Chapter. Send this form and check to:

Ron Wilsbach, Secretary/Treasurer MOAA
10944 Casetta Drive
Matthews, NC 28105-8003
Must arrive by December 29, 2015

Questions: Call Ron Morgan at (704) 708-8866(H) or (704) 941-7834 (C)
Or email: rbmorgan943@aol.com

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

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.