

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