MOAA™
Military Officers Association of America
Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter

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NEXT MEETING

Sunday, February 21, 2016

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

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A belated Happy New Year for 2016. May we all have a healthy and prosperous year, or at least, survive another one in good spirits, even if it is an election year. I promise, no further political comment.

2016 promises to be a good, but challenging year for our chapter. This Spring we will be evaluating JROTC cadet applications for our initial scholarship awards which we will present at our May meeting. At the same time, we will be planning for and initiating a fund raising campaign for our 2016 JROTC Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament to be held on Friday, October 14, 2016 at Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation. In order to have a successful and fun tournament and, most importantly, raise substantial funds for 2017 JROTC Scholarships, we need total member support to assist in raising funds over the summer and early fall from generous sponsor partners. Anyone that knows of potential sponsors at any level, please let us know and then help secure their participation as donors and golfers.

At our very successful January 8th meeting and banquet with the NC Council of Chapters, we were very fortunate to have 11 area national MOAA members that are not currently chapters members attend and enjoy great food, music and program. We feel very encouraged that they will decide to join the chapter and attend future meetings. Hence, all you first timers, with this newsletter, please fill out the chapter membership application form and then attend the February 21st meeting. No reservations needed, just show up. Join in the "common camaraderie", good food, informative and fun meetings and the good work we do in the community.

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.

February 21, 2016 – Richard J Berman, our speaker last May, joins us again and will present an interesting look at the Civil War conflict, always a controversial subject for some in NC and SC. He is a retired Special Agent of Homeland Security Investigations of the US Department of Homeland Security (formerly US Customs Enforcement). He is a recipient of the Outstanding Law Enforcement Office (OLEO) of the Year award as conferred by the Southern District of Florida, US Attorney's Office, and a Certified Public Accountant/Tax specialist with Arthur Andersen and the Internal Revenue Service.

March 20, 2016 – Nobie Thrasher will join us for an update on our fantastic local USO at the Charlotte-Douglas Airport.

April 17, 2016 – Our own, 1st LT. David "Tres" Jones, NC National Guard, will give us a military travel log presentation on his adventures and military deployment and service in Kosovo over the past year. Don't miss this one. We want to show support for our youngest (maybe?) chapter member.

May 22, 2016 – Program to be announced and presentation of the 2016 Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter Scholarships to deserving local area cadets who will be our guests.

MEMBERSHIP – TIM DREMANN -- 2st Vice President

2016 Chapter Dues are Due (Past Due) – The real deadline for paying Chapter dues for 2016 was December 31st. As of January 15th, 2016 we have 30 members that have paid their 2016 dues. We have a total of 104 members on the roster; 84 regular members and 18 auxiliary members (surviving spouses). Every January we are required to pay the NC State MOAA Council $1.50 per each paying members. So -------- we really need those of you who have not yet paid your dues, to do so. It could not be easier (Regular Members $25 and Surviving Spouses $10)– cash, check (send to our PO Box) or go to MOAA.org and pay on-line through the national office. Click here for direct access to the MOAA website dues paying area. If you would like to send a check, the renewal form is on the back of every Chapter Newsletter with the chapter's post office box number. Please do so now! Of course, new members can pay when they join and are not, past due.

LEGISLATIVE – GLORIA SCIENSKI – 3rd Vice President

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

"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

Charlotte-Metrolina MOAA Chapter Minutes for January 8, 2016

The January Chapter meeting was a joint meeting with the North Carolina Council of Chapters held at the Regal Ballantyne Village Theatre Special Events area on Friday, January 8th, 2016. President Ron Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The invocation was given by John Samb followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Ron Morgan introduced 11 National MOAA members from the local area who are not currently members of the Chapter, asking those potential members to consider joining the Charlotte Chapter.

President Morgan then introduced COL Brian Anderson, USAF (Ret), Deputy Director, Department of Council and Chapter Affairs, MOAA, who spoke about the challenges facing retired and active duty personnel in the coming year. COL Anderson discussed the ongoing efforts of the Administration and the Department of Defense to reduce the benefits of the TRICARE Program and other benefits. COL Anderson stressed that all members will need to keep aware of efforts to decrease those promised benefits and to make your positions known to your elected officials.

President Morgan introduced Jon Kan and Ken Leahy who provided music during the dinner.

Following dinner, COL (Ret) Jeri Graham, outgoing president of the NCCOC, offered remarks and thanks to all who helped support her efforts over her two year tenure. President Graham then introduced the "Wind Beneath Our Wings Ceremony", presented Council Awards and introduced the 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemoration Ceremony.

COL Anderson then presided over the installation of the new NCCOC Officers. Those being installed were: President – CAPT Douglas Ehrhardt, USN (Ret); 1st Vice President – CAPT David Lee, USNR (Ret);

2nd Vice President – COL Harley Ellinger, USA (Ret); 3rd Vice President – LTC Gary Marlar, USA (Ret); Secretary – CDR Carol Aljets, USNR (Ret); Treasurer – LtCol George Brudzinski, USMC (Ret); Surviving Spouse Council Liaison – Carol Ivey.

Newly installed President, CAPT Doug Ehrhardt, made brief remarks expressing his hopes for the future of NCCOC efforts. President Ehrhardt then installed the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter Officers. Those being installed were: President – COL Ron Morgan, USMCR (Ret); 1st Vice President – CW4 Jay Garbus, USA (Ret)(absent); 2nd Vice President – COL Tim Dremann, USMCR (Ret)(absent); 3rd Vice President – Gloria Scienski, USMC, Surviving Spouse; Secretary/Treasurer – CDR Ron Wilsbach, USN (Ret); Chaplain – LCDR John Samb, USN (Ret); Board Members – CDR Carol Aljets, USNR (Ret); COL Harley Ellinger, USA (Ret); COL Scott Morris, USA (Ret); LtCOL Larry Stawicki, USMC (Ret).

Ron Morgan closed the meeting by thanking all for their attendance and participation.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ron Wilsbach, Secretary

Thank You Message from Colonel Jeri Graham, Past NCCOC President

Thank you all for joining us at the MOAA North Council Of Chapters and Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter Dinner and 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemoration Ceremony, held on 8 January 2016, at the Regal Ballantyne Village Theater in Charlotte. This wonderful event was hosted by the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter and let us join hands again with a great round of applause for their grand work. Your participation was very important to our history of bringing MOAA members together from all across North Carolina to Connect/Reconnect * Learn * Build.

We started our program by honoring spouses in our Wind Beneath Our Wings Ceremony. I presented CDR Jack Overman with the Heavy Lifter Award, CAPT Ehrhardt with the MOAA President's Leadership Award and Council Officers with special recognition. We recognized those who served during the Vietnam War period and their family members, during our Commemoration Ceremony. All attendees were able to review our fantastic display of memorabilia of that period.

We were honored to have Colonel Brian Anderson, USAF (Ret), Deputy Director of Council and Chapters Affairs provide inspiring words from National MOAA and to preside over the installation of NCCOC officers. Then CAPT Doug Ehrhardt, USN (Ret) new NCCOC President, presided over the installation of Charlotte-Metrolina Officers and Board members.

I was so honored and humbled to receive the MOAA Chairman's Award and the Governor's Order of the Long Leaf Pine. Doug Ehrhardt's handcrafted, nautical stained glass MOAA art proudly hangs in our house. (My personal note: Both awards are a really big deal both in MOAA and the State of NC – Congrats Jeri – Ron Morgan)

The camaraderie, food, service, music, ambiance was just great! I was so pleased that COL's Mike Rogers and Tonya Dickerson, from Maryland were able to surprise us with their presence. And I'm very grateful to our new friends who joined us that evening as a result of MOAA's outreach program.

We have much to continue doing to support our service members and their families, past and present. Our support of JROTC and ROTC units across the state is exceptional. We provide great leadership within our communities and do such great work in supporting the legislative goals of National MOAA and our State. It is an absolute joy to NEVER STOP SERVING with you!

Sincerely,

Jeri
COL Jeri I. Graham, USA-R
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Sanford, NC 27332
E-Mail : jigrahamusa@gmail.com Mobile: 910.616.3487 / Home: 919-499-4228

* ANCA * MOAA * NCVC * MANAVC *

Announcements and Dates of Military and Veterans Activities

Wednesdays: Weekly workouts with Charlotte Bridge Home, their office parking lot
Thursdays: Weekly Veterans Coffee, Richard's Coffee Shop, 165 N Main St, Mooresville NC
February 10—Charlotte Veteran Network luncheon, 11:45 am at Dillworth Neighborhood Grill
February 21—Chapter Meeting, 3:00 pm, Red Rocks Café
March 3—Veterans Path Up Comedy Night Event & Fundraiser, Dillworth Neighborhood Grill, 1800-2000
March 20—Chapter Meeting, 3:00 pm, Red Rocks Cafe
April 11—Charlotte VA Health Clinic Grand Opening
April 17—Chapter Meeting, 3:00 pm, Red Rocks Café
May 22—Chapter Meeting, 3:00 pm, Red Rocks Café

NC-04 CHARLOTTE-METROLINA CHAPTER MOAA

ENROLLMENT/RENEWAL FORM

New Member _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

First Name _____ Middle Initial ____ Last Name _____

Rank _____ Branch_____ DOB _____ Spouse's Name _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____ Phone # _____

I would like to receive my newsletter by: _____ US Mail _____ E-mail

National MOAA Member? Yes _____ No _____ Are you a life member? _____
Membership No. _____
(Found above your first name on magazine 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.