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,March 20, 2016

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

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am very pleased to report that the Chapter Board has approved the Chapter Scholarship Committee selection of four truly outstanding JROTC cadets to be recipients of our first 2016 JROTC Scholarship awards. The work of the evaluation/selection committee of Harley Ellinger, Gloria Scienski and Larry Stawicki was very commendable as the final selection was highly competitive. When we meet these cadets at our May 22nd meeting, I am certain that all will be very impressed and understand the value of our scholarship fund raising efforts.

We have held our initial 2016 golf tournament and fund raising organizational meeting. Plans are underway in developing effective fund raising initiatives and in identifying company and organization prospects, as well as, getting commitments from golfers for our October 14th tournament at Olde Sycamore. However, we still need assistance and input from all chapter members in helping to raise sponsorship funds and securing donations of items/services for raffle and door prizes. All of us need to understand our JROTC Scholarship Fund mission and purpose. Let us know how you can help.

Ron Morgan, Colonel, USMC (Ret), President

The mission of the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is to promote MOAA purposes and objectives. This will foster fraternal relations among retired, active, and former officers of the uniformed services, and their Reserve and National Guard components. The goal is to actively promote the protection of the rights and interests of members of the uniform services, their family members including survivors, provide useful services for members and their families, and serve the

community, the active military forces (past present, and future), and our nation.

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.

March 20, 2016 –Nobie Thrasher, USO North Carolina - Charlotte Advisory Board
Born in Birmingham, AL and raised in the small town of Trussville, Alabama. Graduated Hewitt Trussville High School 1991. Served in the US Marines June 1991- June 1995. Owner of Kaleb & Tucker Const. Co based in Matthews, NC - Licensed NC & SC General Contractor. Licensed NC Realtor/ Broker & owner of Thrasher Realty, LLC. based in Matthews. Appointed to the inaugural Matthews Veterans Affairs Committee by town Commissioners. Ran for Matthews Town Council in 2015. Currently serving a 3-year appointment by Mecklenburg Co. Commissioners to sit on the B.E.R. Board (Board of Equalization & Review). Third year as State Commander for C.O.I.R. Coalition of Independent Riders (legislative for independent motorcycle riders) and 3rd year with the C.B.A. Concerned Bikers Assoc (a legislative group for biker rights). Entering 4th year on the USO-NC Charlotte Advisory Board.

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 – This will be a great program as we present our $ 1,000 scholarships for 2016 to four outstanding JROTC cadets from area high schools, who will be our guests along with their parents. We will also present our JROTC Instructor of the Year awards to an outstanding officer and staff NCO.

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 March 1st, 2016 we have 58 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 -------- if you have not paid your dues yet, please 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. New members can pay when they join and are not, past due.

LEGISLATIVE – GLORIA SCIENSKI – 3rd Vice President

Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret) MOAA *President and CEO* wants us to know that MOAA remains the strongest and most effective veteran's organization in the U.S., but challenges lie ahead. Military health care, in particular, is an easy target in tough budgetary climates. These challenges aren't new — absent MOAA's ongoing advocacy, you'd be paying an additional $1,500-plus each year for health care — and more proposals for increased beneficiary costs are imminent in future budgets.

MOAA set these 10 Legislative Goals to protect benefits during the 2016 reforms.
1. Ensure any TRICARE reform sustains top-quality care
2. Prevent disproportional TRICARE fee increases
MOAA's clout in Washington has never been stronger. In 2015 alone, this led to significant legislative gains blocking means-testing for TRICARE Prime/TRICARE For Life. And, ending the annual threat of large Medicare/TRICARE payment cuts

The fee changes proposed in the FY 2017 DoD budget will make your head spin:

- new enrollment fees
- new names for TRICARE Prime and Standard
- means-tested fees (basing fees on your retired pay amount)
- different charges for seeing in-network versus out-of-network providers
- changing some cost shares from a percentage of the doctor bill to flat fees that vary for different kinds of providers
- adjusting fees by a new measure of health care inflation instead of the same COLA that applies to retired pay

3. Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector
4. Block erosion of compensation and commissary benefits
5. Protect military retirement/COLAs
MOAA was instrumental in repealing the COLA cap, with members sending more than 300,000 messages to Capitol Hill in just a few months.
6. Sustain wounded-warrior programs and expand caregiver support
A RAND Corp. study of caregivers found more than 1 out of 6 of our nation's 5.5 million caregivers are caring for post-9/11 veterans. Nearly 40 percent of these caregivers are under the age of 30 and will remain in the role of caregiver for decades to come. Also, establishing a culture that encourages individuals to seek help as an act of strength rather than as a sign of weakness is central to transforming the willingness of service members to seek treatment.
7. End disabled/survivor financial penalties
8. Fix Guard/Reserve retirement
9. Improve spouse and family support
10. Assure timely access to the VA, and eliminate the VA claims

It's critical we stand unified to preserve the value of these benefits. There is power in numbers. Sign up for the MOAA Legislative 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. **Remember, your voice counts.**

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

CHAPTER SECRETARY – RON WILSBACH

Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter Minutes for February 21, 2016

President Ron 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. Ron welcomed all guests and members. The 50/50 raffle of $33.00 was won by Jim Dorsey. The minutes for the January 8th combined meeting with NCCOC were approved without changes. Ron Wilsbach, Treasurer, reported that the General Fund has $2960.85 and the Scholarship Fund has $10,298.83.

Officers Reports:

1st VP/Programs – Jay Garbus announced that the March Chapter Meeting speaker will be Nobie Thrasher who will speak about USO efforts in Charlotte. April's speaker will be Tres Jones, who will speak about his deployment experiences this past year in Kosovo.

2nd VP/ Recruiting and Retention – Tim Dremann asked members to be on the lookout for potential members to join the Chapter.

3rd VP/Legislative Affairs – Gloria Scienski advised members that MOAA has issued its 10 Top Priorities to be pursued during the coming legislative year. Gloria asked members to be particularly alert to calls from MOAA to help influence lobbying efforts by our national MOAA staff. Harley Ellinger, NCCOC 3rd VP announced that Jeri Graham, immediate Past President of NCCOC, has joined the staff of the NC Veterans Council in Raleigh and will lend her efforts to pursuing veteran's issues at the state level.

Newsletter – Carol Morgan advised members that inputs for the March Newsletter are due March 4th.

Old/New Business

a. Harley Ellinger reported that submissions for 2016 JROTC Scholarships were due on February 13th and scoring of those applications is underway.
b. Ron Morgan announced that the 2016 JROTC Scholarship Golf Tournament Fund Raiser is scheduled for October 14th at the Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation in Mint Hill. Volunteers for numerous jobs are urgently needed. Please call Ron Morgan to volunteer your services for this event.
c. Ron Morgan announced that efforts are underway to organize a MOAA effort in the "Upstate Area of South Carolina". Member Chuck Martin, a resident in SC, is assisting with this effort.
d. Ron Morgan notified members that the Chapter will be submitting names of two individuals (Officer and SNCO) to NCCOC for JROTC Instructor of the Year in April.
e. Ron announced that USAA has contributed $300 for Chapter functions. The money will be used to defray meal costs of JROTC scholarship recipients and their families at the awards meeting in May.

f. Future meeting dates are as follows: March 20th; April 17th; May 22nd; Sept 18th; Oct. 16th; Nov. 20th; Dec 11th.

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Announcement of Charlotte Area Military Events

a. Chapter Board Meeting – March 2nd.
b. Golf Tournament Fund Raising Meeting – March 3rd at Olde Sycamore.

Program – Richard Berman spoke about the political events that precipitated the War Between the States and the implementation of slavery that fueled the conflict.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by Ron Wilsbach, Secretary

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

March 9th – VA Clinic Open House (2-5 PM)
March 20th – Chapter meeting, 3:00 pm, Red Rocks Cafe
March 23rd – Golf Tournament and Fund Raising Committee meeting (tentative – announcement of time and place coming soon)
April 1-2 -- MOAA NCCOC meeting in Kitty Hawk, NC
April 5th -- MOAA Board meeting
April 9th – Welcome Home Viet Nam Vets Event – Museum of the Waxhaws
April 11th – Charlotte VA Health Clinic Grand Opening
April 14th -- CMS JROTC Parade and Awards Ceremony at Bojangles Arena
April 17th -- Chapter meeting, 3:00 pm, Red Rocks Café
April 21st -- Blessed Assurance Charity Golf Tournament
May 22nd -- Chapter Meeting, 3:00 pm, Red Rocks Café
September 18 – Chapter Meeting
October 14 – MOAA Chapter Scholarship Golf Tournament – Olde Sycamore GC
October 16 – Chapter Meeting

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.