MOAA™
Military Officers Association of America
Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter

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NEXT MEETING
Sunday, May 22, 2016

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

NEWSLETTER MAY 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our May 22nd Chapter meeting will be very different and rewarding as we present JROTC Scholarship certificates to our four (4) outstanding high school cadet awardees. They have been invited, along with their parents and JROTC Instructor, to join us for dinner and recognition. Come and meet these truly outstanding students. You will have a renewed and very positive outlook for this young generation of community citizen leaders.

At this same meeting, we will also recognize and award our Chapter's JROTC Instructors of the Year. For 2016, our selected Instructor awardees are both from Garinger High School. Captain Elmore Brown, USA (Ret) and Command Sergeant Major Jacqueline Thomas, USA (Ret) are both responsible for developing the Garinger HS JROTC program into one of the best in the area/state. Their student mentoring efforts have produced cadets of high character within their community.

May 22nd will be our last full chapter meeting until September 18th. Even though we are taking the summer off, we have the continuing urgent need to identify company and organization prospects as JROTC Scholarship Golf Tournament sponsors, as well as, getting commitments from golfers for our October 14th tournament at Olde Sycamore. We need assistance and input from all chapter members in helping to raise major sponsorship funds, hole sponsorships and the securing of donations of items/services for raffle and door prizes. I urge each of you to help in this effort to build our JROTC Scholarship coffers for more scholarships and more cadet awardees in 2017.

All my best,

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.

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.

No regular chapter meetings are held during the summer. We will reconvene on September 18, 2016, same time, same place.

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. 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). 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. Members with unpaid dues for 2016 will be dropped from the roster this fall.

LEGISLATIVE – GLORIA SCIENSKI – 3rd Vice President

For Your Information: MOAA believes there should be no enrollment fee for TRICARE Standard or TFL, as neither plan guarantees access to a network of providers, as TRICARE Prime does.

MOAA particularly disagrees with the proposal to means-test the TFL enrollment fee by making it a percentage of retired pay. No other federal or civilian employer means-tests its retirees' service-earned health coverage, since it would penalize longer and more successful service.

MOAA urges against any enrollment fee for TFL for three additional reasons: First, older retirees already pay more for their health care than any other military beneficiaries. Second, DoD only pays 20 percent of their health costs, because Medicare is first payer. Finally, DoD costs for TFL have dropped 40 percent over the last several years."

March 18 Tricare fees increase.

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 April 17, 2016

President Ron Morgan called the meeting to order at 3:29 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 $37.00 was won by Chuck Martin. The minutes for the March 20, 2016 meeting were approved without changes. Ron Wilsbach, Treasurer, reported that the General Fund has $2,563.08 and the Scholarship Fund has $10,298.83.

Officer Reports:

1st VP/Programs – Jay Garbus reported that the May meeting will be devoted to awarding four (4) JROTC $1,000 Scholarships to area graduating seniors. The September speaker will be Larry Dandridge, Vietnam Veteran and author. Larry will bring his books to the meeting for sale to members. All proceeds from the sale of his books go to support the Veteran's Administration (VA).

2nd VP/Recruiting and Retention - Tim Dremann called for members to be on the lookout for any new potential members.

3rd VP/Legislative Affairs – Gloria Scienski reported that on April 13th a delegation of North Carolina MOAA state members traveled to Washington, D.C. to "Storm the Hill". Major items addressed were (1) reduced level of recent pay raises and (2) shifting of TRICARE costs onto the backs of military members. Gloria once again reminded members to answer the call from MOAA National Legislative Affairs email system and pre-printed letters enclosed in the monthly "Officers Magazine" for input to our legislators. Harley Ellinger, NC MOAA Council 3rd VP for Legislative Affairs relayed information from the NC Quarterly Council Meeting in Kill Devil Hill April 1-2. The guest speaker was MOAA's Deputy Director of Governmental Affairs, CDR Rene Campos (Ret). She addressed proposed changes in TRICARE and the status of VA improvements efforts. One item that got Harley's attention was that from 2006 to 2015 TRICARE Costs have been reduced by 40%. This reduction has been created by beneficiaries getting their maintenance prescriptions via the mail order system, Express Scripts. He also reported that state MOAA representatives will "Storm the Hill" in Raleigh on May 11th.

Newsletter – Carol Morgan asked that inputs and any bios be sent to arrive by May 9th, for a May 11th publication.

Old/New Business

- **a.** JROTC Scholarships will be awarded at our May 22nd meeting. Cadets and their parents will be our guests for this meeting. Additionally, we will have our two JROTC Instructors of the Year award winners and their spouses as our guests.
- **b.** Ron Morgan reported that on April 14th he, Harley Ellinger and Gloria Scienski attended the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools JROTC Award Ceremony at Bojangles Arena at which three cadets received their Scholarship Certificates.
- **c.** Larry Stawicki reported that the yearly award of Certificates and Medals to all of our JROTC units is progressing nicely. Members have volunteered to handle delivery and presentation of the awards. Larry thanked those who have volunteered and advised that he still has six awards needing to be delivered.
- **d.** Ron Morgan advised members that the JROTC Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament Committee is meeting on April 26th at 4:45 p.m. at Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation. All members are encouraged to help with this very important Chapter effort.

e. Charlotte Metrolina Chapter JROTC Instructor of the Year Selectees award applications have been sent to NC Council for their consideration. We will be honoring these selectees at our May 22nd meeting.

f. Ron Wilsbach reported to the Chapter that the Challenge Coin design was recently approved by the Board and we have received 100 coins that are available for purchase at $10 each. These coins will also be presented to speakers as a memento. Ron Morgan then presented the day's speaker, Tres Jones, with the first challenge coin.

g. Gary Aljets, member of the Mecklenburg Veterans Council reported that Charlotte Bridge Home meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 8 a.m. at the Dilworth Grill. He also informed the Chapter that the new VA Clinic will provide services for blind veterans. If you need a copy of your DD-214 give Gary a call for information to do so electronically.

h. The next chapter meeting will be May 22nd.

i. The fall meeting schedule is Sept. 18th, Oct. 16th, Nov. 20th and Dec. 11th.

j. Ron Morgan introduced Geoff Kemble who, in turn introduced Steve Parker and Dennis Tan who provided a short presentation of the Montagnard immigrant community who have settled in the Charlotte Area after their expulsion from Vietnam following the end of that war. Steve Parker described his efforts to assist the Montagnard community to adapt to life in the United States.

Program – Following dinner, Ron Morgan introduced Tres Jones, our Chapter's youngest member, who provided a very interesting report about his recently completed tour of duty in Kosovo as a member of the international peace keeping force.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ron Wilsbach,Treasurer

Announcements and Dates of Military and Veterans Activities

May 22nd --Chapter Meeting, 3:00 pm, Red Rocks Cafe

September 18 – Chapter Meeting, Speaker Larry Dandridge, Ret. USA, & author.

October 14 - MOAA Chapter Scholarship Golf Tournament - Olde Sycamore GC

October 16 – Chapter Meeting

November 20 – Chapter Meeting

December 11 – Chapter Meeting

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Why Provide Your Support for the MOAA JROTC Scholarship Program for Local High Schools in the Charlotte - Metrolina Area?

- **There are 20 CMS high schools with a JROTC program and also in 14 other schools in the surrounding four county area. Our MOAA Chapter supports all schools with recognition, annual leadership awards and scholarship opportunities.**

- **Graduation rate for JROTC seniors in CMS – 99.4 %. This is an outstanding success story for the JROTC Program. JROTC is not a recruiting tool for the military. The goal of program is to teach cadets how to become better citizens, develop leadership skills, and instill discipline and moral values.**

- **There are currently over 3000 cadets in the CMS system.**

- **The Charlotte MOAA Chapter held its inaugural JROTC Benefit Golf Tournament in 2015. In May 2016, the Chapter will award $1000 continuing education scholarships to four cadets.**

- **Your sponsorship for our October 14, 2016 JROTC Scholarship Golf Tournament at Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation will enable the chapter to do more next year for these worthy student cadets in both the number of scholarships awarded and in higher dollar amounts.**

- **It is a patriotic privilege to serve the youth of today and the leaders of tomorrow.**

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.