MOAA™
Military Officers Association of America
Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter

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NEXT MEETING
Sunday, DEC. 11, 2016

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

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we close calendar year 2016, we can look back at some of our successes over the last 12 months. This includes: 1) good chapter growth, maintaining our chapter membership strength even though we dropped 15 from our roles for non-payment of dues for several years back, 2) awarding four $ 1,000 scholarships to very deserving JROTC cadets in our first scholarship program year, 3) continuing our support to 34 high school JROTC programs and 2 ROTC programs with leadership awards, 4) having a very successful scholarship fund golf tournament that added over $ 11,400 to the fund plus receiving another $ 5,000 contribution from AAA and 5) receiving the 5 Star Levels of Excellence Award and Communication Award from National MOAA for the third consecutive year.

Looking forward into 2017, these past successes have set the stage and given us a foundation for a successful new year in meeting the continuing challenges we have always faced. Membership growth - We need an active recruiting program that involves the participation of all chapter members in telling the MOAA story and the value of national and chapter membership. Increasing active member participation/involvement and attendance at chapter meetings and community activities - We need to promote chapter meeting attendance by having outstanding programs that are relevant, meaningful and fun. And, offer opportunities for involvement in community/veteran activities where the military spirit and camaraderie can have a positive impact on our greater Charlotte – Metrolina area. Fund raising for JROTC Scholarships and Chapter Community Support Programs – We need to maximize participation from all chapter members in raising funds and identifying potential sponsors to continue support for our current and future programs. AND, as stated above, have fun doing it!

Happy Holidays,

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

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 11 – Chapter Christmas Party and Dinner – There will be a special holiday menu along with the regular Red Rocks Café offerings, quality recorded holiday music during dinner followed a live vocal entertainment program featuring Ed Dement, vocalist. We are certain your expectations will be exceeded. Also for fun, there will be a special seasonal Trivia Contest with, not so valuable but fun, prizes. Celebrate the festive season with your MOAA friends. **Bring your Toys for Tots gifts. Last Chance!**
Added Entertainment: Wear your "*Ugly*" Christmas Sweater.

JANUARY 15 – Robert L. Evans will present an eye-opening presentation on PTSD, its treatment options and provide some insight into military veteran suicides, a serious issue that we, as military professionals, might have faced in some way during our careers. Bob, a certified and highly recognized mental health professional, whose career spans close to 50 years, has served on the Charlotte, NC National Association of Mental Illness (NAMI) Board for the past eight years, the last three as President. He continues to mentor individuals and families living with mental health issues and currently volunteers at Novant Behavior Health along with other community involvement in these same mental health areas.
Installation of Chapter Officers and Board – Doug Ehrhardt, Captain, USN (Ret), President of the MOAA NC Council of Chapters, has accepted our invitation to be with us at our January meeting and install the 2017 chapter officers and the board.

FEBRUARY 19 – Steve Phillips with North Carolina AAA will provide a program on the issues and dangers of distracted driving due to the use of cell phones and texting while operating a motor vehicle. Steve was instrumental in providing the AAA $ 5,000 donation to the chapter. In return, for our JROTC Scholarship application process, we have included the requirement for a short essay on how to prevent these types of traffic accidents, specifically for young high school age drivers.

JROTC Scholarship Fund Raising – You should have already received a letter requesting a donation to our JROTC Scholarship Fund. This is a separate fund drive from our golf tournament. We are asking chapter members, to not only personally donate, but also help by identifying and contacting any other potential donors. These names can also be sent to Ron Morgan at: rbmorgan943@aol.com. All donations given in 2016 are tax-deductible as the chapter and fund is a 501(c) 3 entity.

LEGISLATIVE –

It is critical that members follow MOAA's updates and continue to contact your representatives. The best way to be heard is to call the congressional switchboard at 202-224-3121. 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.

CHAPTER SECRETARY – RON WILSBACH

Charlotte-Metrolina MOAA Chapter Minutes for November 20, 2016

President Ron Morgan called the meeting to order at 3:25 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 Donna Hoffman-Williams, the Chapter's only honorary member whose father was Chapter treasurer for 35 years. Donna is an American Airlines flight attendant who participates in AA honor flights. The 50/50 raffle of $26 was won by Kathleen Wilsbach. Ron Morgan also auctioned off a PP&G $100 gift certificate for paint remaining from the golf tournament and two PPG camouflage baseball hats.

Ron Morgan requested a motion to accept the Chapter minutes from the October 16, 2016 meeting which were published in the last Chapter Newsletter. The minutes were approved as written. Ron Wilsbach, Treasurer, reported that the General Fund has a balance of $2,075.55 and the JROTC Scholarship Fund has a balance of $21,131.46. Ron also reported that the JROTC Golf Tournament on October 14th net profit was $11,430.00.

Ron Morgan advised that upcoming Chapter programs were in the Chapter Newsletter. On December 11th the Chapter Christmas Party will be celebrated with entertainment by Ed DeMint, the collection of Toys for Tots and a special MOAA and Christmas Trivia Contest. The January Chapter meeting will be on the 15th and our guest speaker will be Bob Evans who will talk about PTSD and suicide issues affecting veterans. The February 19th Chapter program will feature Steve Phillips of AAA of the Carolinas who donated $5,000 to our Scholarship Program Fund in September. Steve will speak about AAA programs and about distracted driving.

Ron reported that one of the Chapter goals for 2017 is to increase Chapter membership and increased meeting attendance. Ron also advised the membership that in January 2017 David Lee, the 2nd VP of NCCOC will present a workshop for Chapter Board members featuring recruiting and retention techniques designed to increase membership and improve attendance at Chapter meetings. Legislative Affairs VP, Gloria Scienski asked Chapter members to be alert to legislation affecting VA Hospital Administrations. Specifically, we need to insure that the proposed legislation is completely effective in improving veterans services. Look to MOAA lobbying efforts to lead the way on this. Ron Morgan advised the following websites can provide guidance for legislative actions: www.moaa.org; www.moaa-nc.org; http://charlottemoaa.org; www.4thbranchnc.org. Ron also requested that members utilize the Legislative Updates available weekly at MOAA National website above to learn about the latest efforts being discussed by the House and Senate and enables members to let our legislators know of our desires through feedback emails. At the state level members are also available to access their representatives through the 4th Branch website noted above. Chapter members are requested to sign up and get involved.

Old Business: Ron Morgan reviewed efforts of the golf committee that produced the very good results noted above. Ron also advised the Chapter that we have obtained a date for our **2017 JROTC Tournament. On Friday, October 6th, 2017** we will again stage our fund raiser at Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation. The golf committee will begin full operation in January, seeking corporate sponsors to support our efforts. All Chapter Members are requested to take part in this effort.

Ron advised the Chapter that the **JROTC Scholarship Awards Committee**, comprised of Scott Morris, Chairman, Gloria Scienski and Larry Stawicki have initiated the 2017 search for scholarship winners.

Applications will go out to all 37 JROTC Units in the Charlotte Metropolitan Area. This year we include three JROTC Units from the "Upstate area of South Carolina".

Ron advised changes to the MOAA 5 Star Excellence awards that began this year in an effort to reduce costs. The deficiencies of the new awards have been forwarded to Jeri Graham, Past NCCOC President and currently the first member from North Carolina to serve on the MOAA National Board of Directors.

Chapter dues for 2017 are now due. Earlier this the year the Chapter Board approved a new initiative that enables an existing member to get 5 years of membership for $100 – a saving of $25. Also, the Board approved a new initiative that allows a new membership for the first year of $5.00. Thereafter, the one year rate will revert to the normal dues schedule. Membership renewal forms are attached to the Chapter monthly newsletter. If for some reason you cannot find a renewal form, just send the check to PO Box 31394, Charlotte, NC 28231-1394. Your 2016 dues are good until December 31st. Member dues may be paid online through the MOAA website.

Ron Morgan will be sending a fund raising letter to all Chapter members and some businesses to ask for **donations to the JROTC Scholarship Fund** as the end of the tax year approaches.

Carol Morgan announced the **"Combat Portrait Project".** This project was started by Stacy Pearsall, a veteran wounded in Iraq and provides the opportunity for veterans to have their picture taken and their stories to be heard. Carol will be the Chapter's contact point for this effort and will also provide space in the Chapter Newsletter with dates when Stacy will be in Charlotte.

The Chapter Nominating Committee has published the list of Chapter Officers for 2017. The slate is as follows: President, Ron Morgan; 1st VP Jay Garbus; 2nd VP Dale Holgue; 3rd VP Dick Steeves; Secretary/Treasurer, Ron Wilsbach; Board of Directors, Scott Morris, Larry Stawicki, Harley Ellinger (Past President), Gloria Scienski (Surviving Spouse Liaison), Carol Aljets (Director at Large for Veteran Affaires/Veteran Group Liaison). Carol Morgan will continue as Newsletter Editor and John Lamb has been appointed Chapter Chaplain. Ron asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none he requested a motion to accept the slate as published. The motion was made, accepted and approved by members present. The 2017 officers will be installed at the January 15th meeting by NCCOC President Doug Ehrhardt.

"Toys For Tots" donations will continue to be collected through the December 11th meeting.

New Business: The movie "Thank You For Your Service" will be shown at Regal Phillips Place Theatre on December 8th at 7 p.m. Admission is free and is hosted by The Red Cross. **You must RSVP.**

Ron Morgan announced the **2017 NC NCCOC State Convention** to be held on September 7th thru 10th at Colonial Williamsburg. Cost will be $1,570 per couple. More info to follow.

Speaker – John Willis provided a very interesting brief of volunteer organizations in the area (SMAT and CERT) that provide emergency services to local citizens and are trained to deploy to other areas of the state during declared disasters.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ron Wilsbach, Secretary/Treasurer

Announcements and Dates of Military and Veterans Activities.

As notified, we will be sending upcoming area military/veteran events to all on the chapter mailing list in separate emails. During the week before and after Veteran's Day there are many events. However, the deadline for registration has passed at the time of this publication.

December 11 – Chapter Meeting & Christmas Party -- TOYS FOR TOTS Collection
Wear your "Ugly" Christmas Sweater
January 15, 2017 – Chapter Meeting & New Officer Installation
February 19, 2017 – Chapter Meeting
March 19, 2017 – Chapter Meeting
April 23, 2017—Chapter Meeting
May 21, 2017 – Chapter Meeting

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This is the new award banner for our chapter showing our 5 Star Levels of Excellence and the Col. Marvin J Harris Communication Award received for activities in 2015.

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)

First Year New Members $5.00

Annual Renewal $25.00

Surviving Spouses $10.00

Renew for 5 years $100.00

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.