

Charlotte-Metrolina MOAA 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), Fisher House, Charleston, SC.

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 April 29th for a May 2nd 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, Secretary/Treasurer