

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

