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2015,18



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CHAPTER BOARD

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John Samb 704-572-0460
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Newsletter

Jay E. Garbus Same as above

NEXT MEETING

December 13th

On Zoom

At 3:00 PM

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

COVID-19 has struck again with restrictions from the governor for the mandatory wearing of masks. We will have to continue with a Zoom chapter meeting December 13th at 3 p.m. and also again on January. 24th. I will be sending out the link to the meeting when it gets close. This is the new normal and we have to keep our members safe until a vaccine is widely available.

My term as president will end in January. I have enjoyed my service these last several years and wish to thank the board of directors and the membership at large for their support. God willing, we will be able to get together sometime in 2021. Joe Anderson will become the new Chapter President. He has been a great 1st Vice President and will do a fantastic job as the president. We all shall give him all of our support in his term.

If anyone has something, they would like to share with the chapter please email me so I can put it in the newsletter. It could be weddings, birth announcement, the trip you took (or will take) or something else that you are proud to share.

The Board will keep you informed of any updates that may affect us due to the COVID-19 pandemic and meeting restrictions.

Jay E. Garbus, CW4, USA (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.

Publisher and Editor – Jay E. Garbus

The **Newsletter** is published monthly for members and friends of Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter, MOAA.

Editorial Policy: The Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter is affiliated with national MOAA. As such, the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter is nonprofit, politically nonpartisan. Editorial policies are established by the Chapter's Publisher and Editor and are in consonance with MOAA's. Advertising and sponsorship are accepted based on MOAA policies and standards.

Editor may be reached at (704) 400-0160

Chapter Website <https://www.charlottesmoaa.org/> / **MOAA Website** <http://www.moaa.org/>

MOAA "Take Action" <http://www.moaa.org/takeAction/>

Membership Open to active duty, former, retired, and National Guard and Reserve commissioned and warrant officers of the uniformed services or their surviving spouses.

2021 DUES

2021 Charlotte-Metrolina MOAA **DUES - DUES - DUES- DUES - DUES- DUES- DUES**. Chapter dues of \$30.00 for regular members and \$10.00 for surviving spouses for 2021 are due on January 1st, 2021. They may be paid by check or through MOAA National via credit card or debit card. Please make checks out to: Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter MOAA and put 2021 Dues in the For Line.

PROGRAMS

December 13th, 2020 / Zoom Meeting at 3 p.m./Monthly Business meeting and Christmas celebration. After the business meeting and time permitting, we hope to share some Christmas memories from when we were on active duty. We intend to keep the zoom meeting to no more than one hour.

January 24th, 2021 / 3:00 p.m. / Zoom Meeting Officer Installation. - Monthly Business meeting , North Carolina Council of Chapters President Jim Brumit will install the Officers for 2021 and will talk about NCCOC MOAA objectives.

February 21, 2021; 3:00 p.m. Most likely another Zoom meeting

March 21, 2021; 3:00 p.m. Hopefully at Red Rocks Café, 4223 Providence Road 8, Charlotte, NC 28211/Dinner meeting.

2021 CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD – Congratulations to the new and reelected officers.

PRESIDENT - Joe Anderson

1st VICE PRESIDENT/PROGRAMS - Chuck Martin

2nd VICE PRESIDENT/MEMBERSHIP - Ron Morgan

3rd VICE PRESIDENT/LEGISLATIVE - Charles "Tony" Castle

SECRETARY/TREASURER - Ron Wilsbach

DIRECTORS

1. Mary Cuthbertson – Surviving Spouse

2. Larry Stawicki

3. Chris Coke

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT And BOARD MEMBER

Jay Garbus

CHAPLAIN

John Samb

STILL SERVING AMERICA."

JROTC COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS - The Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is proud to announce that multiple JROTC college scholarships of \$2000 each for some of the outstanding cadets from the JROTC units that we support in the greater Charlotte area will be awarded in the Spring of 2021. .

Applications have been emailed to the JROTC Senior Instructor for each of the 39 units we support. Each high school unit can select one cadet from their program to compete for a scholarship. The certified mail return deadline to our chapter for the completed application must be postmarked no than February 12, 2021. We intend to announce scholarship awardees in April and formally award the scholarships at our May 2021 meeting. For the past several years, the chapter committee has selected 4 or 5 awardees.

TOYS FOR TOTS for 2020 – The chapter will once again support this year's Toys for Tots campaign and toy collection, but with new guidelines because of the pandemic. It will require your donations to be personally dropped off at one of the collection sites. See the web site and instructions below. We will send another Toys for Tots info message later this month.

Step 1. Visit website at charlotte-nc.toysfortots.org

Step 2. Hover over Ways to Donate tab and click the Donate a Toy

Step 3: A list of public drop sites will appear in the Charlotte / Mecklenburg county area

LEGISLATION –

Federal - S 2216

A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to formally recognize caregivers of veterans, notify veterans and caregivers of clinical determinations relating to eligibility for caregiver programs, and temporarily extend benefits for veterans who are determined ineligible for the family caregiver program, and for other purposes.

Federal - S 2981

A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

Federal - HR 2406

A bill to amend the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 to make certain changes to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's commissioned officer corps, and for other purposes.

NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

President COL Jim Brumit, USA-Ret. 1st Vice President COL Iggi Husar, USAR-Ret.

2nd Vice President Lt. Col. Ed Brown, USAF-Ret. Secretary Mrs. Sue Harris

Treasurer CAPT Mike Covell, USN-Ret. Surviving Spouse Liaison Ms. Sandi Adams

Immediate Past President CAPT David Lee, USNR-Ret.

EVENTS –

- NCCOC meeting - February 19-20, 2021.
- Community Grant Application submissions are due February 28, 2021.
- National MOAA Scholarship Application submissions are due March 1, 2021.
- Storming the Hill and Council Presidents Seminars, April 19-20, 2021.
- Level of Excellence submissions are due May 1, 2021 to chapters@moaa.org.
- NCCOC meeting - May 15, 2021.
- COL Steve Strobridge Legislative/Liaison Award submissions are due June 1, 2021.
- Surviving Spouse Liaison award submissions are due June 1, 2021.
- A Leaders Workshop will be held in Raleigh, NC on a date TBD September 2021. Additionally, a NCCOC quarterly meeting will be combined with the Leaders Workshop in Raleigh.
- Annual National Meeting of Membership on a date TBD October 2021.
- NCCOC meeting - November 13, 2021.

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER: THERE'S A FACEBOOK GROUP FOR THAT! - By: Nancy Mullen **NOVEMBER 23, 2020**



Are you wondering where to go to get information about issues affecting surviving spouses and families? Are you looking for a supportive, nonjudgmental group to assist you in learning and keeping up to date on benefits and legislation impacting our surviving families? Need a pick-me-up or to connect with others who share similar interests as you? Join the [MOAA Surviving Spouses and Friends Facebook page](#)!

Who can join? We have recently expanded our membership to include not only surviving spouses but also our families, military spouses, council and chapter surviving spouse liaisons, advocates, and others with an interest in issues that impact the survivor community, regardless of MOAA membership. Particularly in these times of COVID-19 restrictions, we all need a way to connect with others whom which we have common interests.

Is this a public or private group? This is a private group, and there are no fees or dues. You are required to answer a couple of brief questions and be approved by the administrators of the group to join. These questions are designed to ensure we provide a safe place to share information and connect with other like-minded people as well as protect the group from those who do not have a legitimate interest in our issues.

The group's rules are simple, and members may be removed at the discretion of the administrators. Here are a few of the do's and don'ts to remember:

- Do be kind and courteous; remember the Golden Rule and treat everyone with respect.
- Don't attack someone else just because you disagree with them. We can disagree with one another but keep it respectful. Hate speech and bullying will not be tolerated and such comments will be removed.
- Do respect the privacy of the group. Comments made within this group are not to be shared outside of the group. Some of the discussions can be sensitive and private in nature, and it is important that we can trust each other. Files may also not be shared without the approval of the administrators. Posts within the page cannot be seen by the Facebook "friends" of others in the group, unless they are members of the group themselves.
- Don't post sensitive information, such as your phone number, address, social security number, or bank account information. If you need advice that requires you to share this type of information, please privately contact the administrators for assistance.
- Do remember that "tone" is sometimes difficult to determine online. Stop and think before reacting negatively as you may have misinterpreted a comment or response. Remember that many of us are grieving, so please give a little grace.
- Don't post about politics or political events. This page is apolitical and will not be used to promote any candidate or political party.
- Do feel free to contribute material to the site, provided it does not violate group rules. If you are unsure, please reach out to one of the Facebook group administrators.
- Don't sell products or advertise your business. This is also not a dating site.

If you are a member of the group, you might have noticed more activity recently and even posts that are not benefit or surviving family specific. We intend this page to be not only an efficient way to disseminate information on benefits, proposed legislation, advocacy efforts, etcetera, but also a way for all of us to connect and uplift one another. Feel free to share an encouraging or funny meme and pictures of your loved ones and pets and post comments supporting each other.

Our group is expanding, and we would be happy to welcome more members. We would love to get to know each of you, and look forward to your comments on our page.



MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. We are a powerful force speaking for a strong national defense and representing the interests of military officers and their families at every stage of their careers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization. To reach our Member Service Center, please call 1-800-234-6622 or email us at msc@moaa.org.

MOAA HAS THREE VIRTUAL CHAPTERS:

The Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter, the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter, and the Public Health Service Virtual Chapter. MOAA's virtual chapters are growing, successfully executing their respective missions, and complementing the efforts and membership growth of geographic chapters. We would like to continue to establish new virtual chapters to promote camaraderie amongst affinity groups and reach even more potential members.

TAKE ACTION

These important issues require your immediate attention. Send your elected officials a MOAA-suggested message today.

- **Pass a Budget to Avoid Damage Caused By Continuing Resolutions**
Continuing resolutions stall plans to modernize DoD and improve the lives of servicemembers, military families, retirees, and veterans. New programs receive no funds while outdated ones limp forward. Looming shutdowns put some servicemembers' pay at risk. Ask your lawmakers to pass a budget before the current continuing resolution expires on Dec. 11, 2020.
- **Ask Your Lawmaker to Help Expand Benefits for Vietnam Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange**
The Senate version of the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) would expand the VA benefits available to Vietnam veterans exposed to herbicides such as Agent Orange, adding medical conditions scientifically linked to such exposure.
- **Ask Your Lawmaker to Help Expand Benefits for Vietnam Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange**
The Senate version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) would expand the VA benefits available to Vietnam veterans exposed to herbicides such as Agent Orange, adding conditions scientifically linked to such exposure.
- **Urge Your Lawmakers to Support FY21 NDAA Provisions to Stop Cuts to Military Medicine**
Act now to urge your elected officials to support FY21 NDAA legislation that will halt cuts to military medicine and increase congressional oversight of these efforts.

AMAZON SMILE CHAPTER DONATIONS - Ronald Wilsbach, Thank you for registering Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter of the MOAA at org.amazon.com and welcome to AmazonSmile, where Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible smile.amazon.com purchases to the charities selected by customers. Spread the word to your supporters so they can generate donations for your organization when they shop. When customers sign up for AmazonSmile, they're asked to select one of over a million charities to support. When customers click on your unique link, they skip this charity selection process. Instead, they're taken to smile.amazon.com and are automatically asked if they want to support Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter of the MOAA.

Your unique charity link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-3779812>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you need help or know of military members and veterans that do, please reach out to the Veterans National Crisis Line 800-273-8255 press 1 or text 838255 or dial 988.

December 2020 Events for Area Veterans

Dec 7 PAT National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
Dec 7, 14, 21, 28 VOL Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Charlotte
Dec 9 JOB Transitioning Army and Spouse Global Virtual Career Fair
Dec 13 PAT National Guard Birthday
Dec 14-22 VOL FUND ONS NCCARES Christmas Box Project
Dec 15 JOB Eastern Region Virtual Career Fair for Veterans
Dec 19 PAT National Wreaths Across America

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) RESOURCES AND UPDATES

If you believe you may be suffering from the virus and you are:

- A *TRICARE beneficiary*: Call the Military Health System Nurse Advice Line at 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273), option 1, to receive guidance. You can also connect with a nurse via web or video chat at www.mhsnurseadvice.com.
- A *VA beneficiary*: Contact [your local VA facility](#) prior to visiting. You can also [send a secure message via the MyHealtheVet portal](#) to receive guidance. Learn more about virtual care options [here](#). UPDATE: As of March 19, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Regional Offices no longer will offer in-person services, including scheduled appointments.
- *Outside the VA and TRICARE networks*: Call your health provider.

Coronavirus Resources

- [Coronavirus.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus Website](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)
- [CDC Advice for Higher-Risk Individuals](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)
- [VA Coronavirus Website](https://www.va.gov/coronavirus)

- [TRICARE Coronavirus Information](#)
- [DoD Coronavirus Response Website](#)
- [Health.mil Coronavirus Information](#)
- [National Institutes of Health Coronavirus Information](#)
- [Latest Coronavirus News from Military.com](#)
- [Latest Coronavirus News from Military Times](#)

MILITARY'S CORONAVIRUS VACCINE ROLLOUT

This article by Meghann Myers originally appeared on [Military Times](#), the nation's largest independent newsroom dedicated to covering the military and veteran community.

There are scant details yet available on when a [COVID-19 vaccine](#) will be distributed to [service members](#) and whether it will be mandatory, the Pentagon's top spokesman told reporters Tuesday.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Food and Drug Administration](#) and others are coordinating to draw up plans and prioritize groups, Jonathan Hoffman said, but the military's place in that pecking order has not yet been established.

"I don't have information for you to share on that right now," Hoffman said. "I'm going to defer answering that question to when we give the vaccination update in the coming weeks. And we'll have a fuller conversation about what will and will not be required."

Broadly, he said, the federal government is looking at first vaccinating health care workers, other essential personnel, adults with high-risk preexisting conditions and residents of long-term health care facilities.

VA Plans for Vaccine Distribution Unclear as Coronavirus Cases Continue to Climb

"You'll see from that list that the department may not have a huge number of individuals that fall into those initial categories," he said. "Most of our personnel, particularly uniformed personnel, are much younger."

In general, service members are not considered a particularly high-risk population, due to the overwhelmingly young average age of troops and their relative health and fitness, thanks to physical requirements and regular health screenings.

Though the infection rate among troops is on par with the general U.S. population, at about 3 percent, hospitalizations and deaths are exponentially lower.

The military does have a good deal of frontline medical personnel, however, who have been tasked with carrying out testing and initial care of Defense Department personnel, and in some cases, have deployed to the hardest-hit areas to augment civilian medical personnel.

Hoffman could not clarify whether military medical personnel will be considered, as with their civilian counterparts, high priority. That will be part of the decision making in the next month, with CDC coordination.

"As soon as we are at a place where we're prepared, with the approval of CDC and FDA, to release that information, we'll be doing so," he said.

Meanwhile, some installations are tightening up their access in response to the record-high numbers of new cases developing all around the country. This includes the Pentagon, which will be reducing its work force down from 50-percent telework back to 80-percent telework and increasing temperature screenings at entrances, upgrading to Health Protection Condition B+.

"We have seen DoD facilities across the country adjusting their health condition levels in the last few weeks, depending on local conditions," he said, specifically calling out Naval Station Norfolk, Va., which upgraded to HPCON C last week. "And we expect to see other increases in the coming weeks."

The Pentagon and other installations spent most of the pandemic so far at HPCON C, relaxing to B in late summer. Per policy, it will still be up to individual installation commanders to adjust their protection levels.

During the summer, as some restrictions relaxed amid infection spikes in states like Florida, Texas, Arizona and California, commanders did not always turn around and lock things down again. This surge is expected to be different.

“Once again, that’s going to be a decision based on local communities and the operational needs of the services and the bases,” Hoffman said. “So yes, I believe we’ll see those closures go up.”

PATRIOT MILITARY FAMILY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP - David Laws

This scholarship is for eligible graduating high school North Carolina current and veteran Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard members and their family members. Its purpose is to support them to attend one of the 16 NC State supported public Universities or Colleges.

Contact david.laws4@gmail.com to receive an application or visit

<https://patriotmilitaryfamilyfoundation.org/military-and-veterans-dependent-andspouse-scholarships-and-resources/>.

View eligible NC State Public Universities and Colleges:

http://northcarolina.edu/sites/default/files/nc_saa_approved_programs_list.pdf





Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter

ENROLLMENT/RENEWAL FORM

New Member_____ Renewal_____ Date_____

First Name_____ Initial_____ Last Name _____

_____ Rank_Branch_____ DOB_____

_____ Spouse's Name. _____ Street Address :_____

_____ Email_____ City_____

_____ State_____ Zip_____

National Membership Number_____ Ph: _____

Annual Dues - \$30.00

Surviving Spouse Dues remain at \$10.00 annually.

Please remit check and completed renewal form to: Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter MOAA
PO Box 31394
Charlotte, NC 28231-1394

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. Spouse members are encouraged but not required to hold both memberships. (Surviving spouses of deceased MOAA Life Members retain their spouses membership.)

Not a MOAA national member yet? A basic membership is free. A Premium membership is available for \$48.00 per year. Get all the details at msc@moaa.org or call 800-234-6622.