



NEWSLETTER MARCH 2020



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Newsletter

Jay E. Garbus Same as above

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, MAR 15th, 2020

Red Rocks Cafe
4223 Providence Rd

Social Time **1500**
Meeting with Meal **1530**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For the upcoming March 15th meeting, we have a great speaker. David Laws of the American Red Cross is a MOAA Chapter member. This is the second speaker in a row that is a Chapter member. We can use our own internal talent for great and informative programs.

In January we lost one of our members, Larry Rogers, M.D. He was a speaker for our chapter a couple of years ago. He wrote a book "Sword and Scalpel" about his time as an Army combat surgeon in Viet Nam. It was one of the best books I ever read and other chapter members said the same. Please keep Larry's family in your thoughts and prayers.

The North Carolina Council of Chapters had their meeting in Raleigh this past month. They discussed recruiting new member and legislative actions. Jeri Graham is longer an active officer with the 4th Branch. As a Council, we will remain with the 4th Branch but will look at other avenues to push actions on passing legislation for military support issues.

Last of all, if you were in the Viet Nam theatre and on a Navy ship that was in the "Blue water" you may want to file with the VA for any type of illness or disease.

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.charlottemoaa.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.

PROGRAMS

March 15th - David Laws, Director, Services to the Armed Forces, American Red Cross, David, a chapter member, will talk about Red Cross support for the military services, service members and families

April 19th – Our Chapter will have COL Terri Coles, USA (Ret), Senior Director, Council & Chapter Affairs, MOAA

National visit us and provide a presentation on their work in influencing our national legislature for the benefit of all veterans and military families.

Col. Terri Coles, USA (Ret) served over 20 years in the U.S. Army as a Signal Corps officer, serving in a wide range of command and staff assignments including postings in Korea and Germany and command at both the battalion and brigade level. She also served on the Department of the Army staff as an Inspector General and culminated her military career serving as a division chief in the Command, Control, Communications and Computer-J6 Directorate, on the Joint Staff, Pentagon.

Coles joined MOAA in 2012 and served as Deputy Director in the Career Transition Center before assuming her role as Senior Director in Council and Chapter Affairs.



May 31st – JROTC Scholarship award presentations. This is a later May date due to Red Rocks Café scheduling and holiday conflicts.

LEGISLATION – Tony Castle – see MOAA report farther down in the newsletter.

MOAA/VETERANS BRIDGE HOME (VBH) MENTORSHIP PROGRAM – A second Information’s System (IS)

Workshop was held on February 27th with 12 attendees. Instructor was Todd Criswell, senior web developer with Wells Fargo and a mentor in our program. He will conduct a third training session for web site development and programming at a date to be determined in March. If interested in learning more, contact at rbmorgan943@aol.com.

MOAA FOUNDATION MILITARY FAMILY INITIATIVE GRANT – The 2020 grant request for our continuing MOAA/VBH mentoring partnership has been submitted and received by the MOAA Foundation. We want to expand and enhance the veteran mentorship program with technical skills workshops and, as applicable, provide for financial assistance support for transitioning veterans and their families.

JROTC SCHOLARSHIP - Bill McKenna with Larry Stawicki and Robin Garbus are currently reviewing the thirteen scholarship applications were received by the due date of February 8, 2020. Their recommendations for selection will be reported for board approval during March.

NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS -

March 31 - Last date to reconcile the Committee Module for the LOE (reference moaa.org > Chapters > Council and Chapters >

April 1 - NCCOC dues are due.(reference NCCOC by-laws)

May 1 - Levels of Excellence submission (moaa.org > Chapters > Council and Chapters Awards > Best Practice)

June 1 - Surviving Spouse Liaison Award (reference moaa.org > Chapters > Council and Chapters Awards)

June 1 - Col Steve Strobridge Legislative Award (reference - moaa.org >Chapters > Council and Chapters Awards)

June 1 - Last date to reconcile the CM to 100% in order to receive \$\$\$\$ which is a ***One time bonus***. (reference - moaa.org > Chapters > Council and Chapters > Chapter Recruiting > page 14)
July - NCCOC "Chapter Reports" due for the first six months of the year.

The four NCCOC meeting for 2020 will be on Saturday

May 16th - TBA, August 15th - TBA

November 14th - A two-day weekend, Friday and Saturday, but that will be determined later.

MOAA NEWS

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.

WHY AM I BEING KICKED OUT OF MY MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY? By: Karen Ruedisueli, FEBRUARY 26, 2020

Last week, the Department of Defense released the Section 703 report outlining [proposed rightsizing and restructuring for 50 military treatment facilities](#). In a call preceding the release of the report, senior defense officials assured MOAA and other advocacy organizations there would be no immediate changes to MTF services — yet we've heard from numerous MOAA members who have recently been notified they can no longer be seen at their MTFs.

How is this possible? After reviewing details from our member correspondence and consulting with the Defense Health Agency (DHA), it seems there are a few possible explanations:

Transition to TRICARE for Life

When a beneficiary turns 65 or otherwise becomes eligible for Medicare (due to disability or certain diseases), they must sign up for Medicare Parts A & B to retain TRICARE. Once enrolled in Medicare, they automatically receive TRICARE benefits under TRICARE for Life (TFL).

As a TFL beneficiary, they are no longer eligible for TRICARE Prime and are disenrolled from their MTF. Some MTFs offer TRICARE Plus to TFL beneficiaries. If available, you can enroll in TRICARE Plus at your MTF and it gives you access to MTF primary care on a space available basis with no copays.

If your MTF does not offer TRICARE Plus, you must get your care from civilian providers as a TFL beneficiary. Some of the members who have contacted us about losing access to their MTFs are experiencing this transition to TFL.

Existing Limits to MTF Capacity

Many MTFs already lack capacity to serve all Prime beneficiaries eligible for MTF care in their area. Priority for access goes to active-duty service members followed by active-duty family members enrolled in Prime. Since retirees and their families have lower priority access for MTF care, many are already receiving care in the TRICARE network and, as MTF capacity fluctuates, retirees are the beneficiaries most likely to be transitioned to civilian care.

Across a direct care system serving about 3.4 million servicemembers, retirees and their families, at any given time there are likely a fair number of beneficiaries moving from direct to purchased care or vice versa based on changes to MTF capacity.

Previous MTF Downsizing/Closure Decisions

In some cases, DHA or the services had already made plans to close or downsize particular MTFs for reasons unrelated to Military Health System Reform and the Section 703 report on restructuring the direct care system.

Some of these changes have already occurred or are currently underway. Some beneficiaries being moved to civilian care related to these decisions.

Tell Us About It

MOAA is committed to ensuring beneficiaries have access to high quality care. Have you experienced problems accessing medical care after being transitioned from your MTF to the TRICARE civilian network? If so, please contact us at legis@moaa.org to share your story.

Please share your location, your former MTF name, the type of providers you can't find (for example, primary care, cardiology, dermatology, etc.) and specifics about the problems you've faced (e.g., inaccurate provider directory, providers not taking new patients, providers not accepting TRICARE, long wait times for new patient appointments, etc.)

Due to the volume of correspondence we are receiving on this issue, we may not be able to respond to you directly, but please be assured the feedback you provide is essential to MOAA's advocacy work and it is much appreciated. Thank you in advance for your assistance!

APPROXIMATELY 84,000 ACTIVE DUTY FAMILY MEMBERS AND 110,000 MILITARY RETIREE

Beneficiaries will be impacted by military treatment facility (MTF) downsizing proposed in a [DoD report to Congress](#) released Feb. 19.

In a phone call the morning of the release, senior DoD officials assured MOAA and other advocacy groups they are committed to maintaining access to care for all beneficiaries via a deliberate process and robust analysis of civilian TRICARE network capacity. However, MOAA remains concerned about the potential impacts on military families, retirees and their families, and survivors.

The Section 703 report is part of [comprehensive military health system \(MHS\) reform legislation](#) that was passed with the FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Congress, concerned that the MHS has prioritized the delivery of peacetime health care to the detriment of its combat casualty care capability, mandated several changes to the system aimed at maintaining uniformed medical providers' critical wartime medical readiness skills.

While MOAA supports the objective of enhanced medical readiness, we fear some beneficiaries may encounter access challenges when seeking civilian care – despite DoD's best efforts to ensure adequate medical capacity in communities surrounding downsized MTFs. Retirees and their families transitioned to civilian care will also face higher out-of-pocket costs via [copays](#) ranging from \$20 for primary care visits to \$31 for specialty care visits and \$62 for emergency room services.

Beneficiaries who see their medical facility on the list of impacted MTFs are probably wondering what happens next. In some instances, these facilities have already reduced the scope of their services, and the report's analysis simply supports previous decisions. For the others, there will be no immediate changes; MOAA will provide updated information on next steps as soon as we learn more.

We are also following up with DHA to better understand the relationship between [proposed medical billet cuts](#) and MTF restructuring. According to senior DoD officials, these are distinct and separate proposals, initiated on separate tracks but clearly interrelated. MOAA was told that the detailed analysis, metrics, and mitigation plans mandated by the [FY 2020 NDAA, Section 719](#), will be completed before any MTF restructuring is implemented.

MOAA is committed to ensuring military families, retirees, and survivors maintain access to high quality care without facing barriers related to costs. We are reviewing the report and preparing MOAA's response, but we need your help! Please share your concerns about how these changes will impact your family by emailing us at legis@moaa.org.

Here's a breakdown of the facility changes outlined in the report. Many MTFs will transition to active duty-only and occupational health clinics (AD/OHs). However, these facilities are projected to maintain their existing pharmacy workload, including filling prescriptions for non-active duty beneficiaries.

Active Duty Only

Facilities scheduled to limit patients to active duty servicemembers:

North Carolina: Joel Health Clinic outpatient facility and Robinson Health Clinic, both at Fort Bragg
More Changes

Other facilities facing changes:

North Carolina: The report supports Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune's plan to become a Level II trauma center, to include 24-hour immediate coverage by general surgeons and a range of other capabilities.

South Carolina: Naval Hospital Beaufort to become an ambulatory surgery center and outpatient clinic with medical holding bed capability.

SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON - Information or to join MOAA's Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter, email mssvc02@gmail.com. An [online application](#) also is available.



From Sandy Adams – NCCOC Surviving Spouse Member

Hi All,

Thank you for serving as your MOAA chapter's surviving spouse liaison. I wanted to be sure you 1.) all had my contact info, and 2.) had access to this great link that answers all questions about how the SBP-DIC offset elimination will roll out.

1. If there is anything, I can do to support you as a SSL, please contact me. I live in Wilmington, NC if you are ever visiting the beach.

2. <https://media.defense.gov/2020/Feb/24/2002253692/-1/-1/1/FACT-SHEET-ON-SURVIVOR-BENEFIT-PLAN.PDF?source=GovDelivery&fbclid=IwAR3PX41ckXIUeFQj4wRYKJWJUp2y53tpTY4GzNGUKcU2RgOoE6fasMljAE>

[C](#)

Sandi Adams

earlsandi@gmail.com

910-443-0470

This should answer anything someone may ask you about the phase out.

All the best,

Sandi

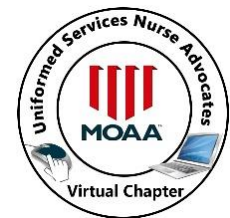
NC MOAA Council SSL

MOAA UNIFORMED SERVICES NURSE ADVOCATES VIRTUAL CHAPTER

September 2020, the **Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter** and the **Surviving Spouses Virtual Chapter** will host a 6-day, 5-night cruise to Bermuda.

On this trip, explore pink sand beaches, pastel-painted estates, military strongholds and enjoy underwater adventures, fine dining and brilliant golf courses.

Both cruises are possible through a partnership with MOAA Vacations. As an added benefit, a portion of the sales go directly to benefit the MOAA chapter or council hosting the trip.



Col. Jeri Graham, USA (Ret), founding member and president of the virtual nurse's chapter, decided to organize the Bermuda cruise as a way for the online groups to meet face-to-face.

But neither trip is limited exclusively to chapter or council members. All are invited for the cruise.

There are 159 cabins available for the Bermuda trip exclusively to MOAA members, family and friends.

Reservations start at \$429 per person for an inside cabin, with options available for ocean view balconies and suites. [Click here for more details](#). All room prices are based on double occupancy.

Jeri has even established a "hugely successful" Cabin Mate Finder program to help members traveling by themselves to find a roommate for the cruise. To participate, [just fill out this compatibility form](#) on the MOAA Vacations website, and she will pair you with another MOAA member who has similar interests.

The Cabin Mate Finder program can "help people meet other people and help split expenses" for the cruise, Graham said.

On at-sea days, Graham plans to hold chapter and advocacy meetings with breakout sessions to discuss MOAA's key legislative issues. She is also hoping to have a few high-profile speakers as well.

“We’ve invited the three surgeons general,” Graham said.

ON GOING EVENTS

1. Mecklenburg Veterans Council – 1st Tuesday every month at 11:30 am. Valerie C. Woodard Center, 3205 Freedom Drive, Ste. 2000 (Community Support Services), Bldg. D, Charlotte, NC. The meeting room is the Queen City Conference Room, 2029
2. Veteran Network breakfasts on the first Thursday of every month, starting at 0730 at Another Broken Egg in Ballantyne. Total cost is \$ 13.
3. **Veteran Network Uptown Lunches** on the second Wednesday of every month starting at 11:45 at the Covenant Presbyterian Church Community Room. Total cost is \$ 10.00. Pre-register at Veterans Bridge Home website and lunch is only \$ 5.00. This lunch has great speakers.

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>

JROTC - Charlotte, NC – December 11, 2019, GHS JROTC Cadets Marlette Dakiwas, Jessica Gonzalez, Adriana Martinez, Sintya Martinez, Victoria Molina, and America Moreno won the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools Book Study Competition. They gave a presentation on “Social Equity” based on the principles in the book “*The Work*” by Wes Moore. This is the second consecutive year Garinger High School has won this tough competition.

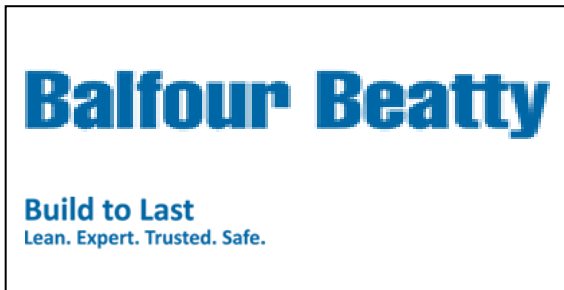


JROTC - Charlotte, NC – Garinger High School (Title I School) JROTC participated in the Army wide JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl. On November 19, 2019, Garinger took the Level I exams. Garinger was one of three schools in Charlotte – Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) that advanced to the second round in the Leadership and Academic categories. On February 14, 2020, Garinger took Level II exams which are the qualifying exams for the all service finals in Washington, DC in June 2020. Garinger has scored 16 points higher than their Level I score. On 24 February, it was announced Garinger High School has qualified for the finals in Leadership. Garinger is the only Army JROTC in CMS to advance to final.



Left to Right: C/PV2 Jaheva Lewis, C/PFC Marian Dakiwas, C/SSG Marlette Dakiwas, C/1LT Sarai Monge, C/CPT Victoria Molina: Photo credit: C/COL Jessica Gonzalez

MOAA PRIME SPONSORS/SUPPORTERS FOR CHAPTER'S JROTC SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT



Women Who Serve Forum

Saturday, April 25, 2020 | 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Goodwill Opportunity Campus | 5301 Wilkinson Blvd.
2nd floor | Charlotte, NC 28208



What: A can't miss day of exceptional speakers and workshops to inspire women who share a bond from serving in the military. Join us for a women-led, women-focused day of empowerment and personal development. The day will be filled with authentic, no filter discussions on how to amplify your life after the military.

Why: The military to civilian transition is often-times more challenging for women. Successfully transitioned women share their path (and detours) as a guide to find your true strength, illuminate options for your next chapter and actively build a support system to help you thrive. Come ready to learn, share and create your action plan for success.

For Whom: Any woman who has served or is currently serving in the military... any branch, any rank, at any time.

Tickets \$25 | Breakfast, lunch and parking included.

Limited number of scholarships may be available on first request, first served basis.

To register, please visit www.redcross.org/womenwhoserve



American Red Cross
Greater Carolinas Region



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 - \$25.00 - After March 1st, 2020 Dues increase to \$30.00 Annually
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 mssc@moaa.org or call 800-234-6622.