

Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter MOAA

April 18, 2021 Chapter Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 1404 by President Joe Anderson. Due to Covid-19 restrictions the meeting was conducted via Zoom. The invocation was given by President Anderson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members in attendance: President Joe Anderson, 1st VP Chuck Martin, 2nd VP Ron Morgan, 3rd VP Tony Castle, Surviving Spouse Representative Mary Cuthbertson, Director Larry Stawicki, Past President Jay Garbus, Chaplain John Samb, Robin Garbus, Past President Greg Ainslie, Past President Bill McKenna, NCCOC 3rd VP Ed Brown, Robert Osterhoudt, Walker Williams, David Myers, John Clare, Bob Cameron, Carol Ritter, Omar Foreman, Keith Rudd, Paul Larkin, Gene Stewart, Steve Sheehan, Francis Geisler, Secretary/Treasurer Ron Wilsbach.

New Members Welcomed - President Anderson introduced new members: Bob Osterhoudt, David Myers, Bob Cameron, John Clare, Keith Rudd and Steve Sheehan.

Secretary's Report - March 21, 2021 Minutes were approved without corrections.

Treasurer's Report - The General Fund Balance is \$3,174.07. The Scholarship Fund Balance is \$23,585.03.

Programs - Chuck Martin, Program VP reported that the Chapter has completed an agreement with Red Rocks Cafe to continue meeting there beginning in September, providing Covid-19 restrictions permit. Meetings will be held usually on the third Sunday at 3 p.m. Chuck, once again, requested volunteers to serve on the Program Committee to help bring interesting speakers to Chapter meetings. President Anderson also expressed a request for members to serve on all of the Chapters committees.

Membership and Retention - Ron Morgan advised members to expect an information sheet discussing reasons to the Charlotte MOAA chapter. Studies have shown that the best way to recruit new members is through personal contact. The information sheet will help each member to create their own "pitch" to a prospective member by picking out those points to emphasize during the encounter.

Legislative Affairs - Tony Castle reported that Governor Cooper has approved HB 53 which provides continued high school tuition for students of military sponsors who are ordered out of North Carolina. Other bills of interest to veterans include HB 138, affecting wounded warriors; HB 584 addressing PTSD issues; HB 83 addressing elimination of state income tax on military retired pay for those veterans not covered by previous legislative actions.

At the national level MOAA National personnel will address the following issues during the annual "Advocacy In Action" effort: (1) **Toxic exposure** from burn pits and other issues (2) Addressing **TRICARE issues** affecting sponsor's dependent young adults who lose insurance coverage between 21 - 23 year of age. (3) **Basic Needs Allowance** in which some junior enlisted personnel (around 10,000 individuals) qualify for food stamps due to low pay rates.

Surviving Spouse Representative - Mary Cuthbertson reported that the national Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter meets the third Tuesday of each month and all are welcome to join. Log onto the MOAA Website at moaa.org for accessing the Virtual Chapter.

JROTC Announcements - President Joe Anderson announced the winners of the annual **Chapter Scholarship** Competition. The three high school JROTC Cadets receiving the 2021 Award of \$2,000 each are:

Cadet Major Sriya Pokala - Ardrey Kell High School

Cadet 2nd Lieutenant Maria Figueroa - Fort Mill High School

Cadet Major Gabriel E. Alvarado - Rocky River High School

Leadership Awards - all ten high schools requesting leadership awards have received there 2021 awards.

JROTC Golf Tournament - Scheduled for October 8th, 2021 at Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation. Sponsors and golfers are being solicited and Chapter members are encouraged to participate. Major sponsors are especially needed at the \$2,000, \$1,500 and \$1,000 level.

Guest Speaker - Blake Bourne, Executive Director of the Veterans Bridge Home of Charlotte gave an outstanding presentation of their accomplishments over the last ten (10) years. Significant strides providing services to prior service military members and their families have been made with the many area providers and volunteers that have provide time, money and materials to VBH efforts. VBH efforts have been so successful over the last ten years that they have been the leader of services being extended to the 668,000 veterans in the entire state of North Carolina. Volunteer opportunities for Chapter members are available at the new VBH Headquarter facility near the Charlotte-Douglas Airport.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1637.

Ron Wilsbach
Secretary

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