



Officers Serving the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service & NOAA

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NEWSLETTER MARCH 2024



President's message



Greetings Leaders,

Thank you for your continued service and contributions with our Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter of MOAA.

It is the goal of our Board of Directors to issue chapter recruitment cards to every member. I offer this challenge for you to invite at least 3 new members to join our chapter. Please do not forget to visit the MOAA Legislative Action Center web page and provide your support for those key issues.

Our annual JROTC Golf Tournament is set for October 4, 2024, at the Olde Sycamore Golf Course. Please contact our tournament leaders, Ron Morgan and Walter Harrison, for more information on how you can assist with corporate sponsorship and team registration. All proceeds support our JROTC cadet scholarship program.

The Blue Star Mothers' Military & Veterans Kid Ball is set for April 20, 2024. This is an outstanding event that provides continued support of deployed personnel. The cost is \$58 per person for this formal attire event.

I hope to see you at our next chapter meeting, 3 pm Sunday, March 17, 2024, at the Red Rocks Café, 4223 Providence Rd, Charlotte. Our guest speaker will be Ed Marohn discussing the effects of PTSD and the available assistance for our veterans.

NEVER STOP SERVING

Nelson W. English, Lt Col, USAF (Retired)
President, MOAA-CMC.

Lt Col Nelson English, USAF, Retired
President, Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter, MOAA
NWEnglish@aol.com
980-622-3895 cell



MOAA Chapter coin \$10.00
available at the meeting
Contact Susan Bryant



Our mission statement is in concert with the Military Officers Association of America purposes and objectives. The goal is to foster fraternal relations among retired, active, and former officers of the uniformed services and their Reserve and National Guard components. Our aim is to actively promote the protection of the rights and interests of members of the uniformed 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 – CW4 Jay E. Garbus, USA

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/>

NEW CHAPTER MAILING ADDRESS:

Members, please note that the Charlotte Metrolina Chapter's mailing address has changed to: **P.O. Box 79276, Charlotte NC 28271**, effective immediately. You may use this new address for offline payment of membership dues or other correspondence

CHAPTER MEETING DATES

Q Mar 17 – MOAA-CMC membership meeting
 ? Apr 9 – MOAA-CMC BOD meeting
 Q Apr 21 – MOAA-CMC membership meeting
 ? May 14 – MOAA-CMC BOD meeting
 Q May 19 – MOAA-CMC membership meeting
 ? Jun 11 - MOAA-CMC BOD meeting
 ? Jul 9 - MOAA-CMC BOD meeting
 ? Aug 13 - MOAA-CMC BOD meeting

? Sep 10 - MOAA-CMC BOD meeting
 Q Sep 15 - MOAA-CMC membership meeting
 ? Oct 8 - MOAA-CMC BOD meeting
 Q Oct 20 - MOAA-CMC membership meeting
 ? Nov 12 - MOAA-CMC BOD meeting
 Q Nov 17 - MOAA-CMC membership meeting
 ? Dec 10 - MOAA-CMC BOD meeting

JROTC GOLF - JROTC Golf Tournament is set for October 4, 2024

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS spring advocacy campaign- 1. Protect DoD/VA Medical Care: The uniformed services community must not be left out of the national health care conversation, and the president should make clear the nation's commitment to preserving both DoD and VA health resources. MOAA has worked to ensure changes to the TRICARE pharmacy plan, for example, will not have adverse effects on rural veterans or others with limited options for their prescriptions. We've also supported legislation to improve staffing at military treatment facilities and to expand elderly care and caregiver support programs within the VA.

2. Pass a Budget. As the fiscal year nears its halfway point, the damage done by continuing resolutions to DoD budgets alone likely will run into billions of dollars

3. Make Quality of Life a Priority. MOAA has worked closely with the new House Armed Services Committee Quality of Life Panel – a bipartisan group of lawmakers whose upcoming proposals may make a big difference for servicemembers and families if they are included in the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

From barracks and housing improvements to mental health concerns to spouse employment, the panel's formation shows servicemember quality of life matters to congressional leaders – the president should make it clear it matters to the nation, both as a duty to those who serve and as a way to strengthen recruitment and retention. The panel has signaled its support for the BAH Restoration Act, a centerpiece of MOAA's [spring advocacy campaign](#) which would restore the Basic Allowance for Housing to 100% of costs.

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER: By [Pat Green](#), *MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisory Council member*

Many states have made legislative decisions that show appreciation for the sacrifices of servicemembers and veterans and their survivors. Benefits differ in each state, though. To know what the benefits are in your state, you need to do homework. Your research could result in monetary savings and opportunities.

Below are some resources and places to start.

- **Veterans Service Office:** There might be printed materials that enumerate county and state benefits for surviving spouses.
 - **MOAA Council and Chapter Legislative Chairs:** Ask about benefits they are aware of that apply to surviving spouses.
 - **County Property Appraiser:** Ask about a homestead exemption, a widow (widower) exemption, or an over age 65 exemption on your property tax or school tax. If income caps apply, what are your state's limits and guidelines? In Florida, for example, there is a homestead, widow, and age exemption and property taxes on homesteaded homes. In addition, the property tax for homesteaded homes of disabled veterans is reduced by the same percentage of the disabilities affecting the veteran as certified by the VA. In Florida, that benefit passes to the unremarried surviving spouse and is transportable to a downsized home.
- State Legislator.** If you have income tax in your state, some or all of your military retirement pay, or Surviving Benefit Plan may be deducted from your reported income. Ask about any other benefits from the state.

MOAA PARAPHERNALIA There's no better way to show your pride of MOAA and the Charlotte-

Metrolina Chapter than wearing official merchandise, found at the [MOAA Store](#) online. There's a good selection of quality men's and women's apparel; it costs no more than you'd pay at the mall; and they deliver it to your front door. Wear it at official functions and in the community, where it can be a great conversation starter and generate more interest in our chapter from local veterans. Please check it out! Eric Kelly (USAF-Ret), Chapter Secretary."



MOAA NATIONAL 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 mssc@moaa.org.

MOAA HAS SIX VIRTUAL CHAPTERS

They are: Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter, the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter, the Public Health Service Virtual Chapter, Chaplains Virtual Chapter, Judge Advocate Virtual Chapter and the MOAA Advocacy for Servicewomen & Military Family Virtual Chapter. Inquiries can be sent via email to Moajavc@gmail.com. Interested in participating in one of these virtual chapters, or in championing another group? Contact CAPT Pat L. Williams, USN (Ret), MOAA's Program Director for Engagement, at patw@moaa.org.

MOAA'S NEVER STOP SERVING PODCAST - MOAA President and CEO Discusses Organizational,

A spring advocacy

Listen to Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), on the "Frontlines of Freedom" program.

Listen to a recent appearance by Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), on "Veterans Corner Radio."

FINAL CALL FOR EDUCATION ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS - The deadline for renewals, new applications, and Senior Grants is March 1. Share with your network today, so students don't miss out on this opportunity. Visit charities.moaa.org/scholarship-fund/loan-programs/.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS & WEBSITES:

THE SURVIVORS OUTREACH SERVICES OFFICE (SOS): Find your nearest SOS coordinator at <https://dcsg9.army.mil/safr/sos/sos-find.html> Use the dropdown lists to find survivor coordinators by state/county or country/region. If a coordinator is not listed, please call 855-707-2769 for survivor assistance.

TO REPORT THE DEATH OF A MILITARY RETIREE: Call DFAS at 1-800-321-1080, or use the form at <https://corpweb1.dfas.mil/askDFAS/ticketInput.action?subCategoryID=18004>

VA: 1-800-827-1000 <http://www.va.gov>

Social Security: 1-800-772-1213 <http://www.ssa.gov>

Update ID cards: 1-800-538-9552; www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsi

VA BURIALS & MEMORIALS PAGE: VA burial benefits can help service members, military retirees, veterans, and their family members plan and pay for a burial or memorial service, whether in a local cemetery or in a VA national cemetery. Family members can also order memorial items to honor the service of a Veteran. The VA Burial and Memorial Products Quick Start Guide (QSG) provides clear and concise information on VA burial benefits for Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors; read the guide at <https://www.va.gov/burials-and-memorials-guide.pdf> Go to <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/#get> to find out how to apply for burial benefits and how to plan for a burial in advance or at time of need.

NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS NEWS



The north carolina council website is hosted by the North Carolina council of chapters, an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).

MOAA and it's affiliated councils and chapters are independent, nonprofit and politically nonpartisan organizations per the mission statement shown here.

* The ***North Carolina Council of Chapters (NCCOC)*** provides programmatic guidance and oversight for the 14 state chapters that serve 1350 members in 100 counties. As one of 35 state councils that support the *Military Officers Association of America*, we are serving the needs of military members in our state.

* Whether you are already participating in MOAA, becoming part of one of our North Carolina Chapters will guarantee your access to the many valuable resources of the NCCOC.

* The role of the **North Carolina Council of Chapters (NCCOC)** is to:

- Further the legislative and other objectives of MOAA.
- Foster fraternal relationships among retired, active, and former officers of the uniformed services and their National Guard or reserve components.
- Protect the interest of retired, active, reserve, and National Guard personnel of the uniformed services and their dependents and survivors
- Provide useful services for members and their dependents and survivors.
- Serve the community and the nation.
- Protect the interests of service retirees and active duty military members in matters of North Carolina state legislation.
- Organize and coordinate the collective action of the Member Chapters in the State of North Carolina.
- Provide the assistance necessary to Member Chapters to enable them to effectively serve their members, their communities, and the nation.

Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter MOAA, Board of Directors Minutes
February 13, 2024

The monthly meeting of the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter (CMC) Board of Directors began via Zoom at 4:00 PM on February 13, 2024. President Nelson English, Immediate Past President Joe Anderson, and the following officers were online: Ron Morgan, Jay Garbus, Eric Kelly, and Susan Bryant.

A. Chapter Officer Reports

1. President's Report – Nelson English. At President English's request, Chaplain Grant opened the meeting with a prayer. Following that, the president had Secretary Kelly discuss proposed changes to the Chapter Bylaws (details in Secretary's Report below). Next, website manager Tracy Young covered a recommended upgrade to the CMC website which would make it more mobile- and user-friendly at a cost of \$500. VP Morgan updated the BOD on the JROTC Golf Tournament which is scheduled for October 4, 2024. It is time to begin contacting sponsors, he said. Also, he agreed to co-chair the event with Col (Ret) Walter Harrison this year. Lastly, President English discussed the Chapter Self-evaluation Checklist, which he and Secretary Kelly will complete soon to help the BOD assess the health of the chapter and set priorities.

2. Secretary's Report – Eric Kelly. Final draft minutes for the January BOD meeting were unanimously approved as amended. Also, discussion continued on proposed changes to the Chapter Bylaws, with agreement on deleting all references to the former Lake Norman Satellite. Accordingly, the draft Addendum #4 on ROTC/JROTC Scholarships will move up to Addendum #1. Plans are to release the latest draft to members soon, then hold a vote for approval at the March chapter meeting. Secretary Kelly mentioned that he will be absent from the BOD and chapter meetings in March due to international travel. He will still publish the minutes for both meetings after reviewing the recording from Jay Garbus (BOD on March 12) and handwritten notes from Treasurer Bryant (chapter on March 17).

3. Treasurer's Report – Susan Bryant. Today the General Fund has a balance of \$7,992.13 and the Scholarship Fund has a balance of \$28,204.72.

4. Programs – Joe Anderson. Guest speakers for the next three meetings will be President English in February on Black History Month, chapter member Ed Marohn in March on PTSD, and Surviving Spouse Liaison Emily McClain in April on key issues affecting surviving spouses and her advocacy visit to the U.S. Capitol last fall. In keeping with tradition, JROTC scholarship recipients will attend and be recognized at the May chapter meeting. Parents and JROTC instructors will accompany them.

5. Membership and Retention - Ron Morgan. VP Morgan departed the meeting early and made no remarks about membership.

6. Legislative Affairs - Tony Castle. Absent.

7. Surviving Spouse Liaison – Emily McClain. Absent.

8. Director – Ed Grant. No additional comments.

9. Newsletter – Jay Garbus. Editor Garbus stated that he will release this month's newsletter by the end of the week of February 12. Also, in the future he plans to release the newsletter two weeks before chapter meetings.

B. Old Business

1 Develop strategies to continue our focus on goals from the 50 th Anniversary Dinner

a. Market the MOAA brand as we celebrate the CMC legacy and accomplishments. Eric Kelly encouraged members to order MOAA merchandise at the September 2023 Chapter Meeting and composed a short article on the subject for the October 2023 newsletter.

b. Recruit new chapter members.

c. Develop/strengthen veteran group partnerships in Charlotte area.

2. BOD will discuss ways to expand on the Golf Tournament Leadership Group.

3. Board members discussed the possibility of moving the CMC general meeting date/time from Sunday afternoon to a weeknight in an effort to attract younger members. One concern is some existing members' reluctance to drive at night. Members agreed to continue this discussion with the new CMC administration.

C. New Business – None.

D. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter MOAA
Chapter Meeting Minutes (Draft)

February 18, 2024

Call to Order – Chapter President Nelson English called the meeting to order at 3:28 following a period to check in, purchase raffle tickets, greet friends, and introduce new members and guests at the Red Rocks Café, SouthPark, Charlotte NC. President English led a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance for all present, then Chaplain Ed Grant led the group in an invocation. VP for Membership Ron Morgan introduced new member Larry Orr (LTC, USA – Ret) and stated that Erica Deshaies' deceased husband would be interred at Arlington National Cemetery on March 15.

President's Report / Announcements – President English announced his intention for the newsletter to be published two weeks prior to chapter meetings each month.

Secretary's Report – Secretary Eric Kelly provided copies of minutes from the January 2023 Chapter meeting. He summarized highlights and there were no questions. Members approved these and the November 2023 minutes as written (the latter were never voted on in January).

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Susan Bryant reported a Scholarship Fund balance of \$28,204.72 and General Fund balance of \$7992.13.

Programs – Past President Joe Anderson will serve as interim VP for Programs until the position is filled, with a target date of September 2024. He remarked that the months of February, March, and April are covered as follows: President English will speak in February on Black History Month as it relates to the military services, member Ed Marohn will speak in March on PTSD, and Surviving Spouse Liaison Emily McClain will speak in April on Surviving Spouse issues. The May meeting program will be the presentation of scholarships to JROTC cadets.

Membership Report – VP Morgan stated that over 20 members are delinquent in their renewals for 2024; he will begin an email campaign this month to reach them. He also urged members to continue recruiting locally.

Legislative Affairs – VP Tony Castle encouraged members to visit the Legislative Action Center at moaa.org, create an account, log in for the correct congressional district based on one's home address, and send letters of support to members of Congress. (National MOAA checks participation in this at the chapter level and may

use it in awards decisions.) He also mentioned the three main National MOAA legislative priorities (“Advocacy in Action”)

The Major Richard Star Act, which would award retirement pay to combat-injured veterans who served less than 20 years. Under the concurrent receipt model they would receive disability pay plus a reduced retirement pay package. The bill was not included in the National Defense Authorization Act and remains stalled; National MOAA plans to stay focused and build its momentum in the next budget cycle.

- Preservation of Tricare for Life benefits for retirees.
- Increasing Basic Allowance for Housing to 100%, which would greatly benefit junior enlisted members that reside in high cost areas.

Surviving Spouse Liaison – Emily McClain stressed the importance of providing personal stories to members of Congress and their staffs. These tend to receive the most attention and quickest action.

Director – For the purpose of purchasing second lieutenant bars, Ed Grant mentioned that he is close to identifying the actual number of new officers to be commissioned through UNC Charlotte ROTC programs in May.

Scholarship Committee – Robin Garbus reported that they had received thirteen applications and would consider twelve (one was incomplete). They plan to begin scoring applications in the next three to four weeks.

Website – Tracy Young provided an update on improvements to website functionality. Industry partner HGB will make it “more dynamic and user friendly” and better for Apple iPads and iPhones. The chapter must consider a fee for transitioning to the new website.

Program – In recognition of Black History Month, President English shared a presentation on contributions of Black military units and service members throughout our nation’s history. Examples are the Buffalo Soldiers and Tuskegee Airmen, including Charlotte native and WWII pilot/MIA Lt Fred Brewer, whose remains were recently identified and interred locally.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Eric Kelly

Secretary

Meeting Attendees: Joe Anderson, Ron Morgan, Ed Grant, Tony Castle, Eric Kelly, Natalie Terry, Walter Harrison, Margaret Draganac, Nelson and Chiquita English, Richard Hoffman, Larry Orr, Ed Marohn, Harley Ellinger, Robin Garbus, Scott Morris, Erica Deshaies, Emily McClain, Larry Stawicki, Chuck Martin, Tracy Young, and Susan Bryant

JROTC Scholarship Fund **BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT**



SPONSORED BY



All tournament proceeds go to support higher education scholarships for outstanding JROTC cadets in Charlotte-Metrolina area high schools.

TOURNAMENT CO-CHAIRS - WALTER HARRISON & RON MORGAN

Friday, October 4, 2024
Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation - Mint Hill, NC

7:30a - 8:45a Registration, Continental Breakfast, Driving Range Balls, Practice Putting Green
9:00a Tee Off Captain's Choice / Scramble Format & Tournament Play (until 2p)
2:00p - 3:30p Barbecue Buffet Dinner, Awards, Door Prizes & Raffle Winners

PRIZES AWARDED to 1st, 2nd, 3rd place teams, Closest to the Pins, Longest Drive & more!

(SEE PAGE 2 FOR PRICING, SPONSORSHIP LEVELS AND REGISTRATION FORM)

Together with
TRUIST

The Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter of MOAA is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit entity. The JROTC Scholarship Fund falls under that tax-exempt status and all donations are tax-free. Chapter Tax ID/EIN #38-3779812

JROTC Scholarship Fund Benefit Golf Tournament - Oct 4, 2024

LEVELS & REGISTRATION

PRICE INCLUDES: Green fees, Cart, 2 Beverage Tickets on Course, Raffle Ticket, Continental Breakfast, Buffet Dinner, Door Prizes & Gifts.

PARTICIPATION

Individual Golfer \$125 4 Person Team \$500

SPONSORSHIPS

HOLE/TEE SPONSORSHIP

Individual \$100 Company Signage \$250 4 Person Team + Signage \$600

PRIME COMPANY SPONSORSHIP

ALL LEVELS INCLUDE: Acknowledgement at Tournament Dinner, and company name and/or logo on printed material, and press releases. A representative of each Prime Sponsor will be invited to and be recognized at the JROTC scholarship awards dinner/ceremony in May 2024.

Signature Sponsor \$5,000

- (3) Foursomes
- Signature Sponsor Banner
- Opportunity to speak at Awards Dinner
- MOAA Challenge Coin to each golfer
- On MOAA website for 12 months

Platinum Sponsor \$3,000

- (2) Foursomes
- Title Sponsor Banner
- Opportunity to speak at Awards Dinner
- MOAA Challenge Coin to each golfer
- On MOAA website for 12 months

Gold Sponsor \$2,000

- (2) Foursomes
- Title Sponsor Banner
- MOAA Challenge Coin to each golfer

Silver Sponsor \$1,000

- (1) Foursome
- Title Sponsor Banner
- MOAA Challenge Coin to each golfer

Registration Form - JROTC Scholarship Fund BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT 2024

Please Check One or Several: (Mulligan packages available at Registration)

PARTICIPATION: ☐ Individual Player \$125 ☐ 4 Person Team \$500

SPONSORSHIPS: ☐ Individual \$100 ☐ Company Hole/Tee \$250 ☐ 4 Person Team Hole/Tee \$600
 ☐ Prime Company Sponsorship (Level _____)

Team Captain/Player 1. _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Player 2. _____ Player 3. _____

Player 4. _____



Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter

ENROLLMENT/RENEWAL FORM

New Member _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

First Name _____ Initial _____ Last Name _____

Rank _____ Branch _____ DOB _____

Spouse's Name _____ Street Address : _____

City _____ Email _____

State _____ Zip _____ National Membership Number _____

Ph/Cell: _____

Annual Dues - \$30.00

Surviving Spouse Dues remain at \$10.00 annually.

Please remit check and completed renewal form to: Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter MOAA
Note New PO Box/and Zip Code: PO Box 79276
Charlotte, NC 28271

Membership Requirements: Commissioned and Warrant Officers of the eight uniformed services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Space 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. 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 spouse's membership.)

Not a MOAA national member yet? A basic membership is free. A Premium membership is available for \$59.00 per year. Get all the details at msc@moaa.org or call 800-234-6622.