

# Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter MOAA

## March 21, 2021 Chapter Meeting Minutes.

The meeting was called to order at 1515 by President Joe Anderson. Due to Covid-19 restrictions the meeting was conducted via Zoom. Chaplain John Samb gave the invocation 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 Rep. Mary Cuthbertson; Director Larry Stawicki; Secretary/Treasurer Ron Wilsbach; Chaplain John Samb; Scholarship Chair, Bill Mckenna; NCCOC 2nd VP/Member Ed Brown; Members: Gary Eifried, David Myers, Ed Grant, Past President Greg Ainslie, Natalie Terry, Bob Cameron, Martha Short, Jon Newmann, Gene Stewart, Walker Williams, Rachael Rankin, Paul Larkin.

**New Members Welcomed** - President Anderson introduced new members: Bob Cameron, Retired Navy Captain; Walker Williams, Retired Air Force Colonel; Rachael Rankin, Surviving Spouse of Army Colonel (Ret) Thomas Rankin, JAG.

### **Secretary's Report** - Ron Wilsbach

February 21, 2021 Minutes approved without corrections.

### **Treasurer's Report** - Ron Wilsbach

The General Fund balance is \$3,148.92. The Scholarship fund's balance is \$22,585.03.

**Chapter Program Theme**- President Anderson began the discussion of the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter 2021 Operating Plan stressing three specific areas: 1. Promoting the MOAA Brand Identity; 2. Stressing MOAA National's 2021 Theme "Year of the Chapter"; 3. Development of the Committee Structure within the Chapter.

**Programs** - Chuck Martin, Programs VP, stated that speakers will be sought out who can provide relevant and interesting topics to inform and entertain chapter members at regular meetings. Publicity for these programs will be sought by local publications and organizations. A request was made to the membership for volunteers to assist the Programs Chair in the pursuit of meaningful and vibrant speakers. Contact Chuck at: [chuckmartin63@msn.com](mailto:chuckmartin63@msn.com) to join the Programs Committee.

**Next Chapter Meeting** - April 18th, 2021 will be Gail Joyce, MOAA Board member and a member of the MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisory Council.

**Membership and Retention** - Ron Morgan announced that 2021 has been a fruitful year for membership gains with the addition of ten (10) new members since the start of the year. The "Strategic Plan initiated in late 2020 is obviously working and efforts will be continued as the Covid-19 restrictions are eased. Ron made an appeal for members wanting to get involved with the local veteran's community may do so through Veterans Bridge Home (VBH) of Charlotte. Members should recall that during 2018 - 2020 we did significant work at VBH through the Military Family Initiative with two (2) \$5,000 grants from MOAA National. Ron is also looking for Chapter members to assist with his membership efforts. Contact Ron at: [rbmorgan943@aol.com](mailto:rbmorgan943@aol.com) to join the Membership Committee.

**Legislative Affairs** - Tony Castle reviewed the NC State legislative administrative process advising that at this time legislators are formulating bills in their prospective houses. Those bills that survive the hearing process and are deemed worthy of further consideration are sent to the other house on the 'Crossover Date" of May 17th for their perspective. Bills being developed affecting the veteran/military population have to do with limiting state taxing of retired pay of public servants. Of note is that NC is projected to have an estimated surplus of about \$ 151 million at the end of 2021tax year.

Tony also addressed the National Advocacy efforts by our MOAA Lobbyists who are working to minimize erosion of health and prescription benefits. For a full listing and explanation of the advocacy efforts of MOAA go to [moaa.org](http://moaa.org) and click on the "Advocacy" button. Anyone wanting to help Tony with advocacy please contact him at [ccastle645@gmail.com](mailto:ccastle645@gmail.com).

**Surviving Spouse Representative** - Mary Cuthbertson stated that her goals for the Surviving Spouse Chapter efforts will be to: 1. Provide relevant and timely articles for the Chapter Newsletter. 2. Establish meaningful and helpful contacts among Chapter spouses. 3. Encourage spouses to join MOAA Nationals Virtual Spouses organization. Chapter members wanting to assist Mary please email her at [marycut3@aol.com](mailto:marycut3@aol.com).

### **JROTC & ROTC Matters**

**JROTC Benefit Scholarship Golf Tournament** - Scheduled for October 8th, 2021 at Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation in Mint Hill, NC. Sponsors and golfers are being sought to provide funds to continue with the Chapter Scholarship Program. To help with this effort contact Ron Morgan at [rbmorgan943@aol.com](mailto:rbmorgan943@aol.com) or Ron Wilsbach at [rwilsbach@carolina.rr.com](mailto:rwilsbach@carolina.rr.com).

**JROTC Scholarship Program** - Scholarship Chairman Bill McKenna reported that scholarship notifications and applications distribution was conducted from October 2020 and applications were due back NLT February 12th. Nine application were received and have been evaluated and ranked by the Scholarship Committee and recommendations will be made to the Chapter Board of Directors at their April meeting. Three or four cadets will be awarded scholarships.

**JROTC Leadership Awards** - Larry Stawicki reported that nine (9) Charlotte area JROTC Programs have requested awards and seven (7) have been delivered. Due to Covid-19 there will be no personal presentations. Larry advised that MOAA has terminated the MOAA Store and are searching for another vendor to handle MOAA materials, including all Leadership Awards. Fortunately, we have medals and certificates on hand to make requested awards.

**Newsletter** - Inputs should be sent to Jay Garbus at [jgarbus@carolina.rr.com](mailto:jgarbus@carolina.rr.com) NLT the last day of the month for inclusion in the coming month.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1630.

Ron Wilsbach  
Secretary

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