

Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter MOAA

Board of Directors Minutes

August 20, 2024

The monthly meeting of the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter (CMC) Board of Directors began via Zoom at 4:00 PM on August 20, 2024. President Nelson English and the following officers were online: Ron Morgan, Eric Kelly, Emily McClain, Susan Bryant, and Jay Garbus.

A. Chapter Officer Reports

1. President's Report – Nelson English. At President English's request, Secretary Kelly opened the meeting with a prayer.

-The president began by noting the success of the chapter cookout at Colonel Francis Beatty Park on August 3. He thanked Secretary Susan Bryant for her hard work in organizing and executing the event, which about 25 members attended. We gained two new members there, Belinda Dublin and Surviving Spouse Pam Ballato.

-Speakers for Fall 2024 meetings were another topic of discussion. We expect to have a speaker from Truist (name TBD) in September.

-National MOAA is currently emphasizing life memberships and its Summer Advocacy Program, which runs from August 5 to September 6. Members are encouraged to visit the Legislative Action Center and send letters to Congress on the top three priorities: fair compensation for junior enlisted, an increase in Basic Housing Allowance to 100%, and support for combat-injured veterans.

-Ron Morgan noted that national MOAA's Committee Module remains non-functional, which hampers reporting efforts and awareness of chapter membership status. Jay Garbus said the fix is long overdue and may not be complete until the end of the year.

-The BOD discussed the chapter's policy on flowers to bereaved members/spouses and will use funds from the monthly 50/50 raffle to fund that effort.

-A new MOAA Council and Chapter Leaders Resource Manual is available; he would like to post it on the chapter website, pending national MOAA approval

-He would also like to post the NC Council of Chapters newsletter on the chapter newsletter and will contact webmaster Tracy Young about it.

2. Secretary's Report – Eric Kelly. Final draft minutes for July BOD meeting were unanimously approved as amended. Ron Morgan made the motion and Nelson English seconded it. Also, Secretary Kelly mentioned that the chapter post office box has physically moved from the South Providence location (now closed) to a new location at Piper Glen on Rea Road. The box number and zip code remain the same.

3. Treasurer's Report – Susan Bryant.

- Today the General Fund has a balance of \$6,647.24, plus \$70 in checks to be deposited on August 21. The Scholarship Fund has a balance of \$16,316.65, plus \$450 in checks to be deposited on August 21.
- Total cost of the cookout on August 3 was \$522.23, which includes the cost of the pavilion.
- After several attempts by herself, Ron Morgan, and others, we still do not have a Student ID number and school address for scholarship awardee Alex Jackson, a Hopewell HS graduate. Ron Morgan suggested that we contact Major Wheeler at Hopewell HS JROTC for the information. (Note: this was resolved a few days later.)
- All accounts at Fifth Third Bank have now been closed, with funds transferred to Truist.
- President English noted that national MOAA has funds for future cookout-like events if the purpose is recruiting and retention.

4. Programs – Joe Anderson was absent due to injury.

5. Membership and Retention - Ron Morgan.

- VP Morgan urged members to aggressively seek sponsorships (new and renewals) for the next JROTC Scholarship Golf Tournament. He has successfully contacted most of last year's teams, who plan to return. Status is "OK" for golfers, but we need more tournament sponsors and raffle donors.
- He sent emails to recent potential members, with little or no response. Anybody who has not paid 2024 dues or has given a negative response in November will be dropped from the roster at that time.

6. Legislative Affairs - Tony Castle. Absent.

7. Surviving Spouse Liaison – Emily McClain will travel to Washington DC on September 23 for Gold Star Advocacy Week. Before that, she plans to reach out to chapter surviving spouses and hold a small event for them.

8. Director – Ed Grant. Absent.

9. Newsletter – Jay Garbus.

- Inputs for the newsletter are needed now.
- All 14 state chapters received the CMC JROTC Scholarship Golf Tournament flyer.
- Members are encouraged to participate in a Suicide Prevention Webinar on October 23 at 10:00 AM – more details to follow.

B. Old Business

1. Develop strategies to continue our focus on goals from the 50th Anniversary Dinner. (OPEN)
 - 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. Examples are attendance at the Veterans Bridge Home (VBH) monthly luncheon in Charlotte, and participating in VBH community service projects such as the Cedar Grover Cemetery cleanup.
- 2. BOD will discuss ways to expand the Golf Tournament Leadership Group. (OPEN)
 - 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. Subsequent updates:
 - In the March 2024 BOD meeting President English said he would consider this and mentioned a possible phased approach with 2-3 weeknight meetings per year initially.
 - In the May 2024 BOD meeting Jay Garbus discussed what other NC chapters do; no other chapters meet on a weekend.
 - In the July 2024 BOD meeting President English said he would distribute a survey at the August 3 cookout regarding future meeting days/times. VP Castle recommended a working group to consider options. VP Morgan stated that we're committed for September and October at Red Rocks Cafe, but that November would be a good time for a change to Trio's on Pineville-Matthews Road, for example. President English mentioned the possibility of using an American Legion or VFW building, at least temporarily. (OPEN)

C. New Business – None.

D. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.