

# Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter MOAA

## Board of Directors Minutes

### July 9, 2024

The monthly meeting of the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter (CMC) Board of Directors began via Zoom at 4:00 PM on July 9, 2024. President Nelson English and the following officers were online: Ron Morgan, Tony Castle, Eric Kelly, Emily McClain, and Susan Bryant.

#### A. Chapter Officer Reports

##### 1. President's Report – Nelson English.

-He noted that RSVPs for the CMC cookout on August 3 (Colonel Francis Beatty Park Shelter #1, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM) have been slow to arrive, with only ten received so far. The deadline is July 24.

-Speakers for Fall 2024 meetings were another topic of discussion. President English stated that Joe Anderson may have a speaker for September (TBD). Ron Morgan agreed to ask Harley Ellinger whether he will speak again at Oktoberfest about that tradition.

-Members will be reminded soon about the CMC's Toys for Tots drive in the fall. Collections will occur at the November meeting.

-He will work on publicity of the CMC's JROTC Scholarship program to national MOAA, for possible publication in Military Officer magazine or the e-newsletter.

2. Secretary's Report – Eric Kelly. Final draft minutes for June BOD meeting were unanimously approved as amended. Ron Morgan made the motion and Susan Bryant seconded it.

##### 3. Treasurer's Report – Susan Bryant.

-Today the General Fund has a balance of \$6,880.38. The Scholarship Fund has a balance of \$27,491.55 (\$9,000.00 in awardee checks outstanding and \$5000 in awards to be sent). Projected awards balance is \$13,481.55. Three scholarship awardees have still not provided their college student numbers which are needed for funds transfers to the institutions. She also requested clarification on the CMC's policy for flowers to families of deceased members, as some of these payments (e.g., for Arlington National Cemetery interments) are quite expensive.

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

##### 5. Membership and Retention - Ron Morgan.

-He urged members to aggressively seek sponsorships – new and renewals - for the

next JROTC Scholarship Golf Tournament. The Belk Valor Group agreed to Silver Sponsorship again. We are waiting to hear from Truist and Balfour Beatty, which were major sponsors previously.

-New member John Michael Calhoun is also a chief pilot for Lowe's corporate headquarters and may be able to help.

-Over 25 "past due" members were invited to the cookout.

#### 6. Legislative Affairs - Tony Castle.

-He stated that July is a relatively quiet time for movement on federal legislation due to the congressional summer recess. In pending legislation, he mentioned that the Basic Allowance for Housing increase to 100% is included in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The Major Richard Star Act for concurrent receipt remains excluded from the NDAA.

-Members are urged to use MOAA's online Legislative Action Center for advocacy.

7. Surviving Spouse Liaison – Emily McClain stated that military spouses are pushing to bring the Elizabeth Dole Act to a vote in Congress. This legislation would allow former military spouses to retain benefits if they remarry. She also plans to be in Washington DC on September 23 for Gold Star Advocacy Week.

8. Director – Ed Grant. Absent due to travel.

9. Newsletter – Jay Garbus. Absent due to travel.

#### B. Old Business

1. Develop strategies to continue our focus on goals from the 50<sup>th</sup> 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 4:58 PM.