

Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter MOAA

Board of Directors Minutes

March 12, 2024

The monthly meeting of the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter (CMC) Board of Directors began via Zoom at 4:00 PM on March 12, 2024. President Nelson English and the following officers were online: Ron Morgan, Tony Castle, Jay Garbus, Ed Grant, 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. He remembered Immediate Past President Joe Anderson, who broke his hip in a fall on March 11 and faces more medical treatment and a recovery period.

-The president proposed dates for future events, which Newsletter Editor Jay Garbus will email to members and Webmaster Tracy Young will post to the CMC website. President English mentioned that BOD meetings would not necessarily be closed, in case members wish to speak on a topic of interest to them. Also, he intends for members to receive 1-2 weeks' notice for upcoming monthly meetings.

-The BOD agreed on final design of member business cards and a purchase of 1000 cards from VistaPrint for approximately \$70, including shipping. They will include the CMC's current meeting day/time, which can be updated later if necessary. The goal is to distribute cards to members who attend the April meeting and mail the rest (with cover letter) to home addresses, with instructions to use them for recruiting new members.

-Next he mentioned a Blue Star Mothers event on April 20 at the uptown Charlotte Fairfield Inn & Suites and asked for CMC support.

-Finally, the BOD reviewed the final draft of the Chapter Bylaws revision and unanimously approved a motion from President English – with seconding by VP Castle - to submit it to CMC membership for consideration at the next meeting on March 18, with a final vote planned for April 21.

2. Secretary's Report – Eric Kelly. Secretary Kelly was absent due to international travel. (Upon return, he transcribed these minutes from a recording provided by Jay Garbus.) Final draft minutes for the February BOD meeting were unanimously approved.

3. Treasurer's Report – Susan Bryant. Today the General Fund has a balance of \$7,928.15 and the Scholarship Fund has a balance of \$28,239.72. Unfortunately, the CMC recently fell victim to a scamming attempt which required Stop Payment on a

check. Following the checking account compromise a new account was established with Fifth Third Bank. Discussion ensued on the best course of action for safeguarding the Scholarship Fund and timing of a funds transfer to a new Truist Bank account – to be continued.

4. Programs – Joe Anderson was absent due to injury. As noted in previous minutes, future speakers will be 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 are invited to join them.

5. Membership and Retention - Ron Morgan. VP Morgan stated that 25 members have not renewed for 2024, despite his best efforts with second and third requests. He is using the Near Real Time (NRT) list in the national MOAA Committee Module. All but two of the 25 are not regular attendees.

6. Legislative Affairs - Tony Castle. VP Castle mentioned that this year's Advocacy in Action cycle is in full swing, especially for national MOAA's three top issues: (1) the Major Richard Star Act for concurrent receipt, which 75% of Congress support but excluded from the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA); (2) a Basic Allowance for Housing increase to 100%; and (3) preservation of Tricare for Life benefits, which (unlike the first two issues) is not currently part of a bill pending before Congress. MOAA's plan is to tie these to current recruiting shortfalls as important "quality of life" areas for active duty and retirees. Finally, he remarked that members are encouraged to meeting directly with congressional staffers if possible – a proven effective strategy.

7. Surviving Spouse Liaison – Emily McClain. Absent due to travel.

8. Director – Ed Grant. He is ordering second lieutenant bars for May commissionings at UNC Charlotte – 15 new officers from Army ROTC and TBD# from Air Force ROTC. The MOAA scholarship recipient from Army ROTC will be Cadet Jacqueline Santuro (name unknown for AFROTC). President English requested commissionee names and Military Operational Specialties when available for both programs.

9. Newsletter – Jay Garbus. Editor and NC Council of Chapters President Garbus will present the 5-Star Level of Excellence Award to the CMC at the next chapter meeting on March 18. He intends to publish and release the newsletter ASAP for March. VP Morgan stated that he would forward the JROTC Scholarship Golf Tournament flyer to Editor Garbus for the newsletter.

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.
2. BOD will discuss ways to expand on 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. Update: 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. (OPEN)

C. New Business – None.

D. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.