

Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter MOAA Board of Directors Minutes May 14, 2024

The monthly meeting of the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter (CMC) Board of Directors began via Zoom at 4:10 PM on May 14, 2024. President Nelson English and the following officers were online: Ron Morgan, Tony Castle, Jay Garbus, Ed Grant, Eric Kelly, and Susan Bryant.

A. Chapter Officer Reports

1. President's Report – Nelson English.

-He thanked members for their participation in the Carry the Load nonprofit organization's relay/walk through Charlotte on May 10, which is part of a national Memorial May March to honor veterans. Of our six CMC members and three family participants, all completed the three-mile course in the University City area.

-Leftover business cards from the April chapter meeting will be mailed to members with adhesive address labels derived from the roster.

-He requested the order of presentation for JROTC scholarships from Ron Morgan. The ceremony is scheduled for this Sunday, May 19.

2. Secretary's Report – Eric Kelly. Final draft minutes for the April 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 \$7,412.15, which reflects the \$575 payment for website upgrades; and the Scholarship Fund has a balance of \$28,585.58.

-At the start of the meeting the BOD decided there would be no 50/50 raffle at the May 19 chapter meeting, in the interest of time and to avoid pressuring our guests to contribute. She expects to pay for 24+ guest dinners from the Scholarship Fund at the meeting.

-Also, a "test run" for online payments via the CMC website was successful, and she pronounced the system "good to go" for JROTC Scholarship Golf Tournament receipts this year.

4. Programs – Joe Anderson was absent due to injury. As noted in previous minutes, JROTC scholarship recipients will attend and be recognized at the May chapter meeting. Parents and JROTC instructors are invited to join them.

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5. Membership and Retention - Ron Morgan.

-He will present certificates and challenge coins to JROTC cadet awardees at the scholarship ceremony on May 19.

-He stated that cadets will be asked to introduce their parents and/or instructors and to share their college plans with the chapter. Also, he encouraged members to spread out among the specially configured tables and engage our guests in conversation at the meeting.

-Regarding membership, he stated that we are down to 20 non-renewals for 2024, most of whom are not regular meeting attendees.

-In preparation for the next JROTC Scholarship Golf Tournament, he said the golf committee (himself, Nelson English, and Walter Johnson minimum) would need to meet in late May or early June. He also requested a letter from President English urging members to actively seek sponsorships and golfers for the event.

6. Legislative Affairs - Tony Castle. He mentioned that this year's Advocacy in Action (AIA) effort occurred on April 15-18 in Washington DC, with focus on 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. Also, he plans to participate in a MOAA state legislative forum next week via Zoom.

7. Surviving Spouse Liaison – Emily McClain was absent.

8. Director – Ed Grant. He attended the Davidson commissioning ceremony for two new Army second lieutenants on May 11 and plans to attend the UNC Charlotte Army ROTC ceremony on May 17 for 12 second lieutenants. Chuck Martin attended the Air Force ROTC commissioning on May 11 at the UNCC Uptown campus and said it went well.

9. Newsletter – Jay Garbus. He attended the Army ROTC commissioning ceremony at Gardner-Webb on May 3 and noted this would be their last at that location, with a consolidation of programs planned for next year. Also, the May newsletter was released on May 10. Finally, he stated the he is ready for national MOAA's Leadership Training Southeast Workshop in Greenville SC on May 17-18, which Ron Morgan, Tony Castle, and Emily McClain will also attend.

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

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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. 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. Also, in the May 2024 BOD meeting Jay Garbus discussed what other NC chapters do; no other chapters meet on a weekend. (OPEN)

C. New Business – None.

D. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.