

# Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter MOAA

## Board of Directors Minutes

### November 12, 2024

The monthly meeting of the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter (CMC) Board of Directors began via Zoom at 4:06 PM on November 12, 2024. President Nelson English and the following officers were online: Ron Morgan, Tony Castle, Jay Garbus, Eric Kelly, Susan Bryant, and Ed Grant.

#### A. Chapter Officer Reports

1. President's Report – Nelson English. At President English's request, Director Ed Grant opened the meeting with a prayer.

-He presented slides on the "Senator Elizabeth Dole 21<sup>st</sup> Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act," which addresses the following issues: Enhanced Community Care Access, Support for Home and Community Based Services, Authority to Award Grants for mental Health Support to Family Caregivers, Recognition and Assistance Programs, Veteran-Directed Care to VA Medical Centers, Gerald's Law (allows veterans in hospice care to spend their final days at home), VET-TEC Educational Assistance Program, and Surviving Spouse Support (e.g., retaining GI Bill benefits upon remarriage). He requested that we contact members of Congress to support the bill, which will be introduced on the floor of the House, but is not currently part of the National Defense Authorization Act.

-The next chapter meeting will be on November 17, with no guest speaker scheduled. The annual Toys for Tots drop-off is planned for this meeting, and President English will discuss that program. All members are asked to bring multiple new, unwrapped toys for boys and girls of all ages, including teens, who are often overlooked and could use headphones, backpacks, and sweatshirts or sweatsuits. VP Ron Morgan will deliver the toys to the Marine Corps Reserve, which sponsors the program.

-Chapter elections are also scheduled for the November 17 meeting

-He asked members to send any newsletter inputs to Jay Garbus.

2. Secretary's Report – Eric Kelly. Final draft minutes for the October BOD meeting were unanimously approved. Ed Grant made the motion and Susan Bryant seconded it.

3. Treasurer's Report – Susan Bryant.

-Treasurer Bryant stated that the General Fund has a balance of \$6,533.42, and the Scholarship Fund has a balance of \$20,078.17. For the JROTC Scholarship Golf Tournament financial report, income was \$19,146.74 and expenses were \$8410.46.

The total to the Scholarship Fund was \$10,736.28. She also noted that the chapter has not yet received the \$5000 pledged by Truist Bank.

-She informed the BOD that she replaced the expiring AIG liability policy (no longer offered) with a comparable policy from Erie Insurance, which has a live agent in Charlotte.

-She mentioned that member Margaret Draganac was recently honored as the Matthews Veteran of the Year. Margaret serves on the Matthews Veterans Advisory Council and the Matthews Women's Council. She is also active in her American Legion post there.

4. Programs – Joe Anderson was absent for health reasons.

5. Membership and Retention – VP Ron Morgan.

-VP Morgan noted the addition of one member, Katherine French, who is a Surviving Spouse.

-Twenty-seven members attended the funeral for Past President Carol Aljets on October 26. Her husband Greg sent a thank you note to the chapter for its participation and gift of flowers.

-By late November VP Morgan will send a letter to area JROTC senior instructors and ROTC Aerospace/Military Science instructors about 2025 scholarships and to request any updates to our contact list.

6. Legislative Affairs - VP Tony Castle

-He mentioned that the National Defense Authorization Act has not passed, and otherwise had nothing specific to add. Changes are unlikely at this point, and there is little happening at the state level.

7. Surviving Spouse Liaison – Emily McClain was not present but provided the previously mentioned Senator Dole Act slides to President English.

8. Director – Ed Grant plans to attend the December 19 Army ROTC commissioning ceremony at UNC Charlotte and present gold bars to five new 2LTs. Air Force ROTC will not hold a December ceremony this year.

9. Newsletter – Jay Garbus stated that the November newsletter was out. He will send a reminder soon about the November 17 chapter meeting.

## 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.
    - In the September 2024 BOD meeting President English said he will establish a standing committee of 3-4 members this month to explore an alternate monthly meeting location, as well as day/time. Their goal will be to report findings and propose a recommended solution at the November CMC meeting. On this subject, Ron Morgan stated that (1) Red Rocks Café owner John Love is open to a change in the meeting day/time; and (2) Trio's Restaurant on Pineville-Matthews Road will try to accommodate us.
    - In the October 2024 BOD meeting, President English said that he plans to conduct a survey asking, "What must we do for members to attend the monthly meeting?" He recently sent emails to 4-5 members of a potential Meeting Subcommittee (to consider an alternate day/time/location); one declined and responses from the others have not been received. On that subject, VP Ron Morgan again mentioned that Red Rocks Café owner John Love (who made a \$600 donation to the chapter) will consider allowing the

chapter to use the same space for a luncheon or dinner during the week.  
(OPEN)

C. New Business – None.

D. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM.