

Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter MOAA

Board of Directors Minutes

October 8, 2024

The monthly meeting of the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter (CMC) Board of Directors began via Zoom at 4:04 PM on October 8, 2024. President Nelson English and the following officers were online: Ron Morgan, Tony Castle, Eric Kelly, Susan Bryant, Emily McClain, and Ed Grant.

A. Chapter Officer Reports

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

-A post-tournament "hot wash" Zoom meeting will be held soon to determine any lessons learned. In the meantime, BOD members were asked to jot down notes while the event is still fresh in everyone's memory.

-The next chapter meeting will be on October 20, with an Oktoberfest theme for food and the program. About 30 members have made advance reservations with Carol Morgan for meals; the suspense for reservations is October 17. Members may pay at the meeting if necessary.

-Guest speaker for the October meeting will be past president Harley Ellinger, who will discuss the Oktoberfest tradition.

-The annual Toys for Tots drop-off is planned for the November meeting. All members are asked to bring multiple new, unwrapped toys. VP Ron Morgan will determine the delivery point for the Marine Corps Reserve, which sponsors Toys for Tots. President English will seek assistance from Ardrey Kell HS MCJROTC for delivering the toys.

-President English made contacts for the Nominations Committee, in preparation for new nominations and elections.

-He urged BOD members to push attendance at the October and November chapter meetings.

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

2. Secretary's Report – Eric Kelly. Final draft minutes for the September BOD meeting were unanimously approved. Ron Morgan made the motion and Nelson English seconded it.

3. Treasurer's Report – Susan Bryant.

-Treasurer Bryant stated that the General Fund has a balance of \$6,927.59, and the Scholarship Fund has a balance of \$21,457.40. For the JROTC Scholarship Golf Tournament initial report, income was \$20,631.54 and expenses were \$7910.46. Its net

income was \$12,721.08.

-She informed the BOD that liability insurer AIG no longer offers the type of policy needed by the chapter. The current policy remains in effect through November 11 and must be replaced very soon. She will contact USAA for options and present them to the BOD.

-She inquired about flowers for the funeral of past president Carol Aljets on October 26. The chapter will provide a wreath for the service.

4. Programs – Joe Anderson was absent for health reasons and due to recent surgery.

5. Membership and Retention – VP Ron Morgan.

-VP Morgan has Certificates of Appreciation for Rocky River HS JROTC Color Guard and major (\$250+) sponsors of the recent golf tournament, but lacks mailing addresses for them all. He will present distribution options for President English's consideration.

-He requested that chapter roster updates be emailed to all BOD members.

-Remaining raffle prizes from the golf tournament will be offered for Silent Auction at the next meeting. Participating members must bid at least the minimum for each item.

6. Legislative Affairs - VP Tony Castle

-He mentioned that the National Defense Authorization Act has not passed, and to expect "lame duck" passage after the upcoming general election. One of the key elements is an increase in enlisted pay. The Major Richard Star Act for concurrent receipt, while popular, is not likely to pass due to its cost.

-The Army met its recruiting goal for the first time in two years.

-Only one in five members of Congress has served in the military; consider this when voting.

-More emphasis is being placed on suicide awareness and prevention in other veteran service organizations (e.g., American Legion). -

-The U.S. Navy and Marine Corps will celebrate their 250th anniversaries in November.

7. Surviving Spouse Liaison – Emily McClain traveled to Washington DC on September 23 for Gold Star Advocacy Week. She said the time on Capitol Hill was productive in gaining momentum on key legislation for surviving spouses. She met former U.S. Senator Elizabeth Dole, an important sponsor, and current U.S. Senator Mark Kelly, a former U.S. Navy aviator and astronaut. Finally, she will report on more specifics at the next chapter meeting.

8. Director – Ed Grant inquired whether the chapter would meet in December; President English replied it would not.

9. Newsletter – Jay Garbus was absent due to travel.

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.
 - 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 5:10 PM.