

Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter MOAA

Chapter Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2025

Call to Order - Chapter President Nelson English called the meeting to order at 3:35 following a period to check in, purchase raffle tickets, and greet friends at the Red Rocks Café in Charlotte, NC. Chiquita English led the group in an invocation, then President English led a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance for all present.

President's Report / Announcements. President English began by welcoming guest Joyce Quick, an Air Force veteran, to the meeting. He then opened the floor for nominations for 2025 officer positions that remain vacant (see "Election of 2025 Officers" below).

-He announced new February, April, and May chapter meeting dates as follows: February 19, March 19, and April 23, which are all Wednesdays. All three meetings will be from 11:45 AM – 1:00 PM at Red Rocks Cafe. These new luncheon meetings will be held on a trial basis as we assess the best day/time to maximize attendance.

-For May, the chapter plans to hold an outdoor cookout on the 17th at Colonel Francis Beatty Park in Charlotte from 1:00-3:00 PM, in lieu of the annual JROTC Scholarship presentation dinner meeting.

-For scholarships this year, chapter members will attend high school senior awards ceremonies and make the presentations there. The purpose is threefold: to raise awareness of these scholarships at the schools, recognize recipients in front of their teachers and peers, and reduce expenses for the chapter.

-Again, President English encouraged members to use their MOAA business cards to recruit new members and raise community awareness of the chapter. He reminded everyone to add personal contact information to the reverse side of the cards.

Secretary's Report – Secretary Eric Kelly sent read-ahead draft November minutes to BOD members. Hard copies of the minutes were made available at the meeting, and he verbally summarized highlights. Members had no questions; after Scott Morris made the motion and Susan Bryant seconded it, members in attendance unanimously approved the minutes.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Susan Bryant reported a Scholarship Fund balance of \$25,371.43 and a General Fund balance of \$6,234.53. She reminded members that Challenge Coins are available for \$10, and that dues can be paid at chapter meetings with a credit card.

Programs – February guest speaker is TBD. New First VP for Programs Ed Grant did not attend the meeting.

Membership Report – None. The Second VP for Membership position remains vacant.

Legislative Affairs – Third VP Tony Castle did not attend the meeting. President English stated that the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefit Improvement Act was recently passed and enacted into law.

Surviving Spouse Liaison – Emily McClain mentioned that she sent an email today to organize a chapter Surviving Spouses meeting in February.

Directors – Director Jay Garbus presented MOAA Surviving Spouse pins to four chapter Surviving Spouses.

Program – Guest speaker was Marine veteran Glenn Proctor, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and consultant, who spoke about his careers. He recommended writing down accounts of personal careers for a legacy with family and friends, and possibly for publication.

Election of 2025 Officers - Since the November 2024 election, two additional members came forward to volunteer for vacant positions: Ed Grant for First VP for Programs, and Ken Glover for Board of Directors. President English presided over their election at this meeting by unanimous voice vote.

Installation for 2025 Officer Positions – Council of Chapters President Jay Garbus officiated in the installation of the following officers and administered the oath of office for those present:

- President – Nelson English
- First Vice President for Programs – Ed Grant (absent)
- Second Vice President for Membership – None
- Third Vice President for Legislative Affairs – Tony Castle (absent)
- Secretary – Eric Kelly
- Treasurer – Susan Bryant
- Board of Directors (3 positions) – Jay Garbus, Margaret Draganac, and Ken Glover

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Eric Kelly – Secretary

Meeting Attendees (18): Gary Aljets, Emily McClain, Margaret Draganac, Nelson and Chiquita English, Scott Morris, Carolyn Hogue, Natalie Terry, Jay Morgado, Susan Bryant, Joyce Quick, Ken Glover, Erica Deshaies, Jay and Robin Garbus, Eric and Madeline Kelly, and Glenn Proctor