

# **Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter MOAA**

## **Chapter Meeting Minutes**

**February 19, 2025**

**Call to Order** – Chapter President Nelson English called the meeting to order at 12:00 following a period to check in, purchase raffle tickets, and greet friends at the Red Rocks Café in Charlotte, NC. Ed Grant 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 everyone in attendance. One new member attended: Rich Livingston (U.S. Army). First time veteran attendees were Rick Nash and Rob Walker. Joe and Stephanie Hardesty attended as guests of Ed Grant; they are active supporters of Blessed Assurance Adult Day Care.

**Secretary's Report** – Secretary Eric Kelly was absent due to travel. Treasurer Susan Bryant filled in and had the January meeting minutes approved.

**Treasurer's Report** – Susan Bryant reported a Scholarship Fund balance of \$26,146.78 and a General Fund balance of \$6,896.34. She received \$31 in raffle proceeds.

**Programs** – First VP for Programs Ed Grant announced the following guest speakers: March - Isaac White from the Charlotte USO; April - Tasha Rivera Patrick from Habitat for Humanity; and September – Donna and John Culp, who performed EOD removal while serving in Ukraine.

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

**Legislative Affairs** – Third VP Tony Castle recommended that members visit the Legal Action Center Website for MOAA and read the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter of MOAA Newsletter for legislative updates. Congress was not in session at the time of the meeting; Tony reminded the group that the new Congress is an unknown entity, and predictions of their legislative priorities are difficult at this time.

**Surviving Spouse Liaison** – Speaking for liaison Emily McClain (absent due to work), Treasurer Susan Bryant reported that the Surviving Spouse group met for an informal get together with five members in attendance. The Surviving Spouse group will be the committee for the May 17th chapter cookout and will reach out to others as needed.

**Program** – First VP Ed Grant introduced Nate Huggins, who is CEO of the Blessed Assurance Adult Day Program, an Army veteran, and member of our MOAA chapter. Nate discussed his professional history and what awakened him the need for adult day programs. The need for respite care for caregivers was quite evident in his

presentation. Of special interest to members was information of a VA benefit that subsidizes such programs under certain circumstances, as follows:

"The Veteran's Administration has begun offering Adult Day Program Services as a benefit to qualified Veterans; regardless of their geographical location. Veterans who are physically and mentally challenged, who could benefit from attending a day time program that offers structured programming, socialization, meals, medical monitoring, transportation and rehabilitative services are strongly encouraged to participate. Blessed Assurance adult Day Program at 13001 Idlewild Road, Matthews NC 28105 has secured a five-year contract with the VA and is currently offering Veterans an opportunity to enjoy this newly added benefit. Again, this is a Veterans benefit; consequently, in many cases there is no costs to the Veterans or their caregiver. In many cases the Veteran would be picked up from their homes in the morning, taken to the Day Program, provided a bath/shower, participate in crafts, arts, various group activities, socialize with other Veterans, receive meals and required medicines, participate in educational programs and be taken home in the evening. Consequently, caregivers would receive the benefit of a "break" from full time caregiving and an opportunity to participate in other activities of their own choosing. Interested parties need only contact Nate Huggins, CEO and Veteran, at (704) 576-4754 for details. You can also visit this program on the web at [blessedadultcare.org](http://blessedadultcare.org)."

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 PM.

Eric Kelly – Secretary

Meeting Attendees (20): Ed Grant, Chiquita and Nelson English, Ron Morgan, Ron and Kathleen Wilsbach, Larry Stawicki, Susan Bryant, Rob Walker, Chuck Martin, Carolyn Hogue, Pam Ballato, Erica Deshaie, Margaret Draganac, Rich Livingston, Richard Nash, Ken Glover, Steffani Hardesty, James Dorsey, Bill McKenna