

Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter MOAA

Chapter Meeting Minutes

April 16, 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. Other remarks:

-He thanked the Scholarship Committee for their work this month; scholarship recipients and their schools are listed in the monthly newsletter. The following members will make presentations at senior awards ceremonies: Natalie Terry at Nations Ford HS on May 16, Eric Kelly at Cuthbertson HS on May 21, Ed Grant at Weddington HS on May 21, and Nelson English at Rocky River HS on May 21. We still need a volunteer for Indian Land HS on May 22.

-He also thanked MOAA golfers Ron Morgan, Eric Kelly, Dennis Harris, and Rich Livingston for their plans to represent the chapter and participate in member Nate Huggins' Blessed Assurance tournament on April 17 at Olde Sycamore Golf Club.

-He remarked that members should expect to see a survey soon regarding the chapter's future meeting day/time, beginning in September.

-He will attend the UNC Charlotte AFROTC awards ceremony on April 17 to present a \$2000 scholarship and MOAA ROTC medal.

Secretary's Report – Secretary Eric Kelly summarized the March 19 chapter meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved as written. Margaret Draganac made the motion and Susan Bryant seconded it.

Treasurer's Report – Susan Bryant reported a Scholarship Fund balance of \$25,808.34 and a General Fund balance of \$6,241.53. She encouraged members to sign up for the May 17 chapter cookout at Colonel Francis Beatty Park. Finally, Tony Castle won \$15 in the 50/50 raffle.

Programs – First VP for Programs Ed Grant will attend the UNC Charlotte Army ROTC awards ceremony on April 17 and present a \$2000 scholarship and MOAA ROTC medal to deserving cadets. He also plans to attend the unit's May 16 commissioning ceremony. The guest speakers for September are John and Donna Culp, who will discuss EOD support to Ukraine.

Membership Report – None. The Second VP for Membership position remains vacant. Eric Kelly serves as the new Membership Chair and gained access to National MOAA's revised online Committee Module / Near Real Time (CM/NRT) application. He mentioned that he has updated the CM to reflect current chapter membership and officer/board positions.

Legislative Affairs – Third VP Tony Castle listed National MOAA's five top priorities with the new Congress, as follows:

1. Suitable Unaccompanied Housing, mainly for junior enlisted members.
2. Addressing long waits for PACT Act benefit recipients.
3. The Military Spouse Hiring Act.
4. Enhancing stability of the military healthcare system.
5. Improving caregiver support for families.

He also participated in a state legislative exchange forum on April 15, which served as a debriefing on National MOAA's Advocacy in Action campaign last week. Issues discussed: there are now bill numbers associated with two of the top priorities; also, they covered technical issues on how to meet legislators.

Surviving Spouse Liaison – Emily McClain was absent; her group is planning the chapter cookout on May 17.

Program – First VP Ed Grant introduced the April guest speaker, Reverend Luke Mabry of Matthews Presbyterian Church, who also serves as chaplain for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department's Independence Division. Reverend Mabry served as a U.S. Army officer from 1998 to 2002. He spoke about his military service and how it prepared him for future positions in this community. At the end, President English presented him with a chapter challenge coin.

Scholarship Golf Tournament – Ron Morgan distributed new flyers for the 2025 tournament, which is scheduled for October 3 at Olde Sycamore. He urged members to cultivate new sponsors, which are desperately needed (only one new sponsor in 2024), through personal contact soon. An important talking point: as a result of sponsorships, \$98K was awarded via 48 scholarships in the last 10 years. The overall goal is to earn at least \$10K in net profit. Finally, we also need a donor for breakfast sandwiches.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Eric Kelly – Secretary

Meeting Attendees (13): Nelson English, Ed Grant, Ron Morgan, Susan Bryant, Erica Deshaie, Eric and Madeline Kelly, Tony Castle, Chuck Martin, Gary Aljets, Margaret Draganac, Ken Glover, and Rob Walker.