

Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter MOAA

Chapter Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2025

Call to Order – Chapter President Nelson English called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM over Zoom. Ed Grant led the group in an invocation.

President's Report / Announcements. President English began by welcoming everyone in attendance. Agenda:

-National MOAA 2024 Awards: The chapter recently received the Level of Excellence and Colonel Harris Communication Awards.

-Scholarship Presentations 2025: UNC Charlotte ROTC cadets Madison Drumheller (Air Force) and Betty Nguy (Army) received \$2000 scholarships in May. Five JROTC cadets received \$2000 scholarships; most of the scholarships were presented at the schools' Senior Awards Day ceremonies, where chapter presenters had an opportunity to speak.

-Reallocation of Scholarship Funds:

--President English proposed a bylaws change to permit annual, recurring \$2000 scholarships to UNC Charlotte ROTC cadets – one for each of the two programs.

--He also suggested voluntary \$100 donations from chapter members for this purpose, so the fund is not solely reliant on the golf tournament.

--Finally, he proposed waiving the 50 percent limitation for the total amount awarded each year. Former president Harley Ellinger explained that the limitation exists in case the golf tournament could not be played in a given year.

--Harley Ellinger also recommended that the chapter list names in the newsletter of members who contribute to the scholarship fund, if they consent.

--Ed Grant will chair a subcommittee to potentially change the bylaws regarding scholarships.

-Meeting Location: The group discussed possibilities for alternate locations, such as Raintree Country Club and Trio. The consensus was to remain at Red Rocks Café, largely because of their past support for meetings (including Oktoberfest) and the golf tournament.

-Meeting Day and Time: The three-month experiment (Feb-Apr) with luncheon meetings on Wednesday – in an effort to increase attendance - was deemed unsuccessful. Also, Red Rocks Café owner John Love has requested a move from Wednesday back to Sunday afternoon if the chapter remains at Red Rocks.

-Legislative Action Center: Third VP Tony Castle listed National MOAA's three top priorities with Congress, as follows:

--Addressing long waits for PACT Act benefit recipients.

--Suitable unaccompanied housing, mainly for junior enlisted members.

--The Military Spouse Hiring Act.

-Surviving Spouse Committee: Surviving Spouse Liaison Emily McClain plans for her group to meet socially this summer. She and her daughter will attend Advocacy Week in DC in September to push for an increase in dependent indemnity compensation, eliminating remarriage penalties, and raising the Tricare Young Adult maximum age to 26.

-Newsletter and Website: Jay Garbus would like information on members' important family events for publication.

-Golf Tournament: Ron Morgan urged members to cultivate new sponsors, which are desperately needed (only one new sponsor in 2024), through personal contact soon. Also, Scott Clark Toyota is a new sponsor for 2025.

-Future Meeting Information: The next chapter meeting will be in September, with date and location TBD soon. The next BOD Zoom meeting is scheduled for Jul 8.

-Additional Information:

--President English seeks to increase membership of local ROTC officers and junior/senior cadets, at least at the National MOAA level.

--He still needs county Veterans Support Officer contact information for the website and newsletter.

--Finally, he recommended the 5 Calls and Vet Tix mobile apps for members. 5 Calls is for contacting members of Congress, while Vet Tix offers entertainment discounts.

-Ed Grand closed the meeting with a prayer. Adjournment was at 8:16 PM.

Eric Kelly – Secretary

Meeting Attendees (13): Nelson and Chiquita English, Ed Grant, Susan Bryant, Eric Kelly, Tony Castle, Emily McClain, Jay and Robin Garbus, Chuck Martin, Ron Morgan, John Clare, and Drew Rucks.