

Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter MOAA

Chapter Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2025

Call to Order – Chapter President Nelson English called the meeting to order at 3:26 PM 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, including guests Clayton Howze and Robin Deans, and longtime member Bob Cameron, formerly of the Lake Norman satellite group and now a Charlotte resident. He also welcomed honorary member Donna Williams. Other remarks:

-He thanked Past President Ron Morgan for his leadership of the recent JROTC/ROTC Scholarship Golf Tournament, which was held on October 3.

-With Jay Garbus, he announced the NC Council of Chapters annual meeting at the Raleigh West Holiday Inn Express on Nov 7-8. Guest speaker will be Governor Josh Stein, and MOAA National CEO Lt Gen Brian Kelly (Ret) is expected to attend. He and Jay Garbus, the current Council of Chapters president, will represent our chapter at the meeting.

-The November 16 meeting will be for the annual Toys for Tots collection and 2026 officer elections.

-No meeting is scheduled for December.

Secretary's Report – Secretary Eric Kelly summarized the September 21 chapter meeting draft minutes, which were emailed in advance to officers and distributed in hard copy at the start of the meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Treasurer's Report – Susan Bryant reported a Scholarship Fund balance of \$22,052.28 and a General Fund balance of \$5,587.70. Net profit from the golf tournament was \$10,059.96, which does not include an anticipated \$5000 donation from Truist. Finally, Chiquita English won the 50/50 raffle.

Programs – First VP for Programs Ed Grant had no comments.

Membership Report – The Second VP for Membership position remains vacant. Eric Kelly serves as the ad hoc Membership Chair and announced that only 52% of members have paid their chapter dues for 2025. More work is needed to contact them, remind them of the chapter's achievements and value, and determine why they have not renewed.

Legislative Affairs – Third VP Tony Castle stated there is no movement on MOAA national priorities due to the government shutdown. Military members received pay on October 15 after movement of R&D funds, which are now exhausted. Consequently, military pay will be affected on November 1 if there is no solution by then. Also, he noted that the top state

priority for the 2026 General Assembly short session is scholarships for children of veterans. Finally, he cautioned chapter members about linking MOAA to their personal opinions on the federal budget when communicating with members of Congress. MOAA is officially a non-partisan organization.

Surviving Spouse Liaison – Emily McClain remarked that the national MOAA Surviving Spouse chapter holds monthly book club virtual meetings which may interest chapter members.

Directors – Ken Glover proposed bylaws changes to the membership, which were approved as written.

Program – Past President Harley Ellinger educated members on the origins of Oktoberfest as they enjoyed a special German dinner prepared by Huberta Barrett.

Scholarship Golf Tournament – Ron Morgan thanked all participants, especially members who sponsored the event or found sponsors. Erica Deshaies and Carolyn Hogue were recognized for their major contributions.

Nominations – Gary Aljets presided over nominations for 2026 officer positions, as follows:

President – Nelson English

First Vice President for Programs – Ed Grant

Second Vice President for Membership – Rob Walker

Third Vice President for Legislative Affairs – Tony Castle

Treasurer – Susan Bryant

Secretary – Eric Kelly

Surviving Spouse Liaison – Emily McClain

All were unopposed.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 PM.

Eric Kelly – Secretary

Meeting Attendees (36): Nelson and Chiquita English, Ed Grant, Ron and Carol Morgan, Susan Bryant, Erica Deshaies, Eric and Madeline Kelly, Bill and Maureen McKenna, Bob Cameron, Walter Harrison, Donna Williams, Huberta Barrett, Tony Castle, Gary Aljets, Ken Glover, Rob and Detera Walker, Carolyn Hogue, Jay Morgado, Ron and Kathleen Wilsbach, Jay and Robin Garbus, Gene and Leeda Stewart, Chuck and Carol Martin, Drew Rucks, Emily McClain, Harley and Martha Ellinger, and Bill and Pat Geisler.