

Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter MOAA

Chapter Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2025

Call to Order – Chapter President Nelson English called the meeting to order at 3:42 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. Other remarks:

-He thanked members for their Toys for Tots donations, which would be delivered today to the Marine Corps Reserve.

-NC Council of Chapters Annual Meeting notes:

--Lt Gen Kelly (Ret) spoke on the importance of MOAA. He discussed how MOAA started as The Retiree Officer Association (TROA) in Los Angeles by a group of U.S. Marine Corps officers. It transitioned to MOAA in 2002. TROA's initial act was lobbying Congress to allow retired military members to also receive Social Security. Also, he highlighted that MOAA takes care of officers *and* enlisted. An interesting fact is that MOAA supported the pay raise for junior enlisted, which the NCO Association opposed. Gen Kelly highlighted more action from the chapters to request and receive funds for community outreach grants.

--The Total Force Plus forum was a success. Its overall goal was to better advertise military benefits. The next Total Force Plus forum is scheduled for February 2027.

--During the government shutdown, the National Guard, Reserves, and some members of the U.S. Coast Guard were not paid.

--Former U.S. Air Force Captain Donna Culp was elected as the new NCCOC president.

-No chapter meeting is scheduled for December.

Secretary's Report – Secretary Eric Kelly summarized the October 19 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. As ad hoc Membership Chair, he also encouraged membership renewals and cautioned attendees about the unusually low renewal rate (52%) for 2025. Using a current roster, he offered to confirm membership status for anyone present.

Treasurer's Report – Susan Bryant reported a Scholarship Fund balance of \$32,236.54 and a General Fund balance of \$5,317.70. Ten thousand dollars of the Scholarship Fund balance is a Truist grant of \$5000 to be disbursed in Spring 2026, and another \$5000 to be disbursed in Spring 2027. She mentioned that challenge coins are available for \$10 each. Finally, Richard Hoffman won \$30 in the 50/50 raffle.

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

Membership Report – The Second VP for Membership position remains vacant.

Legislative Affairs – Third Vice President Tony Castle provided the following update:

-Federal: He stated there was no movement on MOAA national legislative priorities during the recently-ended federal government shutdown and House recess.

--One lesson learned from the shutdown is to avoid non-payment of some military constituencies in the next shutdown. Also, why were military personnel paid from different income sources?

--Other continuing priorities are the Major Richard Star Act (concurrent receipt of benefits for combat-injured veterans), spousal employment, Tricare coverage, and caregiver coverage.

-State: As part of her presentation at the NCCOC Annual Meeting, Legislative Liaison Tricia Benson listed the following priorities for the 2026 General Assembly session, which is scheduled to begin in April 2026:

--Maintain current funding and decision authority for state scholarships to wartime veterans, which face a potential 25% reduction and movement of that authority from the Department of Veterans Affairs to state education leadership.

--Improved property tax relief for veterans.

--Continued operation of state veterans homes, some of which have recently closed (Fayetteville) or been severely damaged (Western NC, after Hurricane Helene).

-President English added that in 2026 MOAA will review chapter participation in the online Legislative Action Center. He encouraged all members to use it to contact members of Congress about MOAA priorities. However, in discussions of other political matters they should not identify themselves as MOAA members. This helps avoid any misperception that they are speaking for the national organization.

Surviving Spouse Liaison – No comments.

Directors – No comments.

Program – Past President Harley Ellinger spoke about Henry Kissinger's Leadership: Six Studies in World Strategy, which was published in 2022, a year before the statesman's death.

Nominations – Past President Jay Garbus presided over the election 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 4:30 PM.

Eric Kelly – Secretary

Meeting Attendees (24): Nelson English, Ed Grant, Ron Morgan, Susan Bryant, Erica Deshaies, Eric and Madeline Kelly, Walter Harrison, Tony Castle, Gary Aljets, Ken Glover, Rob Walker, Carolyn Hogue, Jay and Robin Garbus, Gene and Leeda Stewart, Chuck Martin, Emily McClain, Harley Ellinger, Larry Stawicki, Richard Hoffman, Angie Anderson, and Natalie Terry.