

# NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



**NC Council of Chapters Website: [www.moaa-nc.org](http://www.moaa-nc.org)**

**Serving Navy, Marines, Army, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, NOAA**

**Volume 2022-2023**

**Issue I**

**December 2021**

## COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

- President - CW4 Jay E Garbus, USA (Ret)
- 1st VP - CDR Kenneth Klassen, USN (Ret)
- 2nd VP - LCDR Mark Sandvigen, USN (Ret)
- Immediate Past President - COL Jim Brumit, USA (Ret)
- Surviving Spouse Liaison - Dr. Vivianne Wersel, (SSL)
- Treasurer - CAPT Mike Covell, USN (Ret)
- Secretary - Mrs. Sue Harris, (SOM)
- Council Web Manager - CAPT Doug Ehrhardt, USN (Ret)
- Personal Affairs Officer - CAPT David Lee, USNR (Ret)
- Health and Welfare – MAJ Leon Rooks, USAR (FMR)
- Lay Chaplain – LTC Ed Grant, USA (Ret)

## COUNCIL MEETING DATES

**Quarterly meetings Hybrid/Zoom**

**All dates subject to Change**

January 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>—1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly

May 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>—2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly

September 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>—3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly

November 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>—Annual Meeting/4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly

**NEVER STOP SERVING<sup>®</sup>**



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**CW4 Jay E. Garbus, USA (Ret)**

**5 Star Council**



It is with great pride that I serve this Council. I am following past presidents who made North Carolina one of the best Councils in MOAA National.

I am looking at the future of having hybrid meetings with Zoom and in person. Some of the chapter presidents must travel for 6 to 10 hours to arrive at the meeting. Other presidents like seeing everyone in person having a great time. Zoom gives us this choice. I like the social event as you get to know everyone.

The Chapters have members who do wonderful projects with their chapter. I see JROTC as a big one. I would like to recognize an individual or group at each quarterly meeting. The president of the chapter will submit the name as the selection is up to the Chapter President. Going forward, more things will be implemented. Past Presidents have a lot to offer, and I plan to use some of their ideas that worked for us. My business card is in the newsletter if you need to contact me. If you have anything for future newsletters, please send them to me.

## CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

- (NC01) - Cape Fear—COL Richard A. Underwood, USA, (Ret)
- (NC02) - Coastal Carolina—CAPT Randall Ramian, USN, (Ret)
- (NC04) - Charlotte-Metrolina—LTC Joe Anderson, USA, (Ret)
- (NC06) - Sandhills—COL Walter Haverstein, USMC, (Ret)
- (NC07) - Southeastern—Col. Joseph (Joe) Irrera, USMC, (Ret)
- (NC08) - Tarheel Central—Lt. Col. Greg Chase, USAF (Ret)
- (NC09) - Triangle—COL Herb Segal, USA, (Ret)
- (NC10) - Western Carolina—Capt. Donna Culp, USAF, (FMR)
- (NC11) - Catawba Valley—LTC Clifford (Davey) Davenport, USA, (Ret)
- (NC14) - Piedmont—Maj. Aimee S. Corning, USAF, (Ret)
- (NC17) - First in Flight—LCDR Al Del Garbino, USCG, (Ret)
- (NC20) - Central Carolina—LTC Gary Applewhite, USA, (Ret)
- (NC21) - High Country—Capt. Douglas May, USMC (FMR)
- (NC22) - New River—LCDR Steve Tucker, USN, (Ret)

## Meet the New Council Leaders



Left to right: President CW4 Jay Garbus, USA (Ret) , 1<sup>st</sup> VP CDR Kenneth Klassen, USN (Ret) & 2nd VP LCDR Mark Sandvigen, USN (Ret)

### Executive Committee

1. CW4 Jay Garbus, USA (Ret)
2. CDR Kenneth Klassen, USN (Ret)
3. LCDR Mark Sandvigen, USN (Ret)
4. COL Jim Brumit, USA (Ret)
5. Mrs. Sue Harris (SOM)— nonvoting

### Nominating Committee

1. Immediate Past President - COL Jim Brumit, USA (Ret)
2. Chapter President - CAPT Donna Culp, USAF (FMR)
3. COL Jeri Graham, USA (Ret)
4. CAPT David Lee, USNR (Ret)

### Finance Committee

1. President - CW4 Jay Garbus, USA (Ret)
2. Treasurer - CAPT Mike Covell, USN (Ret)
3. Immediate Past President - COL Jim Brumit, USA (Ret)

### Planning Committee

1. President—CW4 Jay Garbus, USA (Ret)
2. 1<sup>st</sup> VP—CDR Ken Klassen, USN (Ret)
3. 2<sup>nd</sup> VP—LCDR Mark Sandvigen, USN (Ret)
4. Mrs. Sue Harris (SOM)
5. CAPT Mike Covell, USN (Ret)
6. Dr. Vivianne Wersel, D. Aud. (SSL)
7. COL Jeri Graham, USA (Ret)
8. CAPT Donna Culp, USAF IFMR)
9. CAPT David Lee, USNR (Ret)
10. CAPT Doug Ehrhardt, USN (Ret)
11. COL Iggi Husar, USA (Ret)

## Thank you Jim



At the Annual Meeting on 13 November, 2021 outgoing President Jim Brumit welcomed newly installed President Jay Garbus. President Garbus thanked him for his outstanding service to the Council.

## Never Stop Serving!



## WE HONOR THESE PAST PRESIDENTS FOR SERVING OUR CHAPTER



- \* LTC James T. Vance, USA (Ret) - ('78-'80) Deceased: July 8, 2013
  - \* Lt Col Rex K. Stoner, USAF (Ret) - ('80-'82) Deceased
  - \* Col Robert P. Fuqua, USAF (Ret) - ('82-'84) Deceased: May 14, 2006
  - \* LTC Norman F. Essick, USA (Ret) - ('84-'86) Deceased: March 30, 2007
  - \* COL William S. Hinton, USA (Ret) - ('86-'88) Deceased: April 9, 1999
  - \* CAPT James C. Wilson, USN (Ret) - ('88-'90) Deceased
  - \* Maj E. T. Townsend, USAF (Ret) - ('90-'92) Deceased: September 30, 2017
  - \* Col Vance Corbett, USMC (Ret) - ('92-'94) Deceased: February 16, 2014
  - \* LTC Clifton Hal Moore, USA (Ret) - ('94-'96) Deceased: March 20, 2009
  - \* Lt Col Joseph H. Long, USAF (Ret) - ('96-'98) Deceased: November 10, 2018
  - \* COL Pauline W. Hester, USAR (Ret) - ('98-'00) Deceased: August 14, 2004  
CDR William Overman, USN (Ret) - wjack.overman@gmail.com ('00-'02)
  - \* Maj Richard S. Swift, USAF (Ret) - ('02-'04) Deceased: March 26, 2018
  - \* Donald Wood, USMC (Ret) - ('04-'06) Deceased: November 17, 2012  
COL Joe Cansler, USA (Ret) - Cansler@roadrunner.com. ('06-'08)  
COL Verner Pike, USA (Ret) - vernpike@comcast.net ('08-'10)  
COL Frederick H. Black, USA (Ret) - ('10-'12)  
LTC Robert Garman, USA (Ret) - rtgarman@earthlink.net ('12-'14)  
COL Jeri Graham, USA (Ret) - jgrahamusa@gmail.com ('14-'16)  
CAPT Douglas Ehrhardt, USN (Ret) - dehrhardt@skybest.com ('16-'18)  
CAPT David Lee, USN (Ret) - dlee28144@gmail.com ('18-'20)  
COL James Brumit, USA (Ret) - jimbrumit@aol.com ('20-'22)
- \* indicates Deceased

## **Published by the North Carolina Council of Chapters of MOAA**

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT** is in concert with the Military Officers Association of America purposes and objectives. The goal is to foster fraternal relations among retired, active, and former officers of the uniformed services and their Reserve and National Guard components. Our aim is to actively promote the protection of the rights and interests of members of the uniformed services, their family members, including survivors, provide useful services for members and their families, and serve the community, the active military forces (past, present, and future) and our nation.

**Publisher and Editor** – CW4 Jay E. Garbus, USA (Ret) and Sue Harris (SOM)

**Editor** may be reached at (704) 400-0160

**The Newsletter** is published for members and friends of North Carolina Council of Chapters, MOAA.

**Editorial Policy:** The North Carolina Council of Chapters is affiliated with national MOAA. As such, the North Carolina Council of Chapters is nonprofit, politically nonpartisan. Editorial policies are established by the North Carolina Council of Chapters Publisher and Editor and are in consonance with MOAA's.

Advertising and sponsorship are accepted based on MOAA policies and standards.

**Chapter Website** - [www.moaa-nc.org](http://www.moaa-nc.org)

**MOAA "Take Action"** <http://www.moaa.org/takeAction/>

A current issue of the newsletter can be found on the North Carolina Council of Chapters website, [www.moaa-nc.org](http://www.moaa-nc.org). Anyone wishing to receive this newsletter by e-mail may do so by contacting us using the "Contact Us" link on the website, [www.moaa-nc.org/contact.php](http://www.moaa-nc.org/contact.php).

## WHY JOIN MOAA

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military servicemembers and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers. MOAA members proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country: Never Stop Serving.

Website [MOAA - Why Join MOAA](#)

**JOIN US** - Join a North Carolina Chapter our website [www.moaa-nc.org](http://www.moaa-nc.org) and click **JOIN NOW** menu.



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS, DEADLINES, EVENTS COUNCIL AND CHAPTER DATES TO KNOW

**January 2022 - Jan. 7-8:** Florida Council Leadership Seminar

**April 2022 - April 30-May 1:** Northwest Leadership Training Workshop (Tacoma, Wash.)

**August 2022 - Aug. 12-13:** Mid-Atlantic Leadership Training Workshop (Raleigh, N.C.)

**September 2022 - Sept. 23-24:** Middle U.S. Leadership Training Workshop (Omaha, Neb.)

**November 2022 - Nov. 18-19:** Texas Leadership Training Workshop (location TBD)



## TAKE ACTION

These important issues require your immediate attention. Send your elected officials a MOAA-suggested message today.

### [Urge Your Elected Officials to Support Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform Legislation](#)

Comprehensive toxic exposure reform is needed to ensure we avoid the problems faced by Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange.

### [Urge Your Elected Officials to Fix the TRICARE Young Adult Coverage Gap](#)

MOAA continues efforts to build support for The Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act of 2021, H.R. 475 in the House, and S. 1972 in the Senate. These bipartisan and bicameral pieces of legislation would expand TRICARE eligibility to young adult dependents up to age 26, bringing TRICARE in line with commercial plan requirements.

### [Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Military Hunger Prevention Act](#)

Food insecurity among junior servicemembers is not a new concern, but like many ongoing problems, it's been made worse by the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Military Hunger Prevention Act would establish a Basic Needs Allowance (BNA) for these servicemembers, helping them overcome financial difficulties and allowing them to concentrate on their duties.

## COUNCIL AND CHAPTER AWARDS

**MOAA Levels of Excellence Award** - Each year, councils and chapters may request to be recognized for one of two [Levels of Excellence awards](#).

**Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Awards** - MOAA's annual contest identifying those councils and chapters that do an outstanding job communicating with their members.

**Colonel Steve Strobridge Legislative Chair/Liaison Award** - This annual award recognizes an affiliate Legislative Chair or Liaison who has demonstrated superior service to their council/chapter and national MOAA in support of national and/or state legislation which affects servicemembers, veterans, retirees, and their families.

**2021 Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award** - Surviving Spouse Liaisons work at the Council and Chapter level to ensure fellow survivors remain connected to the military family and participate in local and national programs and advocacy efforts.

## NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS PLANNING MEETING 03 NOV 2021



### TOPICS

Discuss virtual turn-over meetings between new slate of officers and outgoing officers sometime during October.

David Lee details known to date about the annual NCCOC meeting Nov. 12-13.

Status on Council Committee members willing to serve during the next term.

1. Retention of members update (Ken)
2. Member awards update - (in progress)
3. Major meeting will be in person, place of meeting will be emailed to Council. It will also be on Zoom. This will be on a Saturday. (Power points should be bullets only, not wordy - only used to remind speaker.)
4. We have Lay Chaplain Ed Grant and Health/Welfare Leon Rooks to help
5. Working on newsletter for after annual meeting
9. Doug report on update website
10. CM update

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## WE ARE GETTING CLOSE TO OUR COUNCIL MEETING IN WINSTON SALEM JANUARY 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup>

The purpose of this meeting is to:

Focus on activities that can support the chapters; to help them grow their membership

Share Chapter successes and look for solutions to issues and concerns

Update the group on state and national legislative issues and support for active duty and veterans

The agenda will be sent to all Chapter Presidents in advance so you will know the scope of the meeting.

### **Your preparation for the meeting:**

Make some notes about your chapter's successes, issues and plans for improvement.

Think about training needs for future Council meetings.

What topics would benefit your chapter?

Topics may include membership/recruiting processes, board management, conducting chapter meetings, community involvement opportunities, fund raising projects, etc.

What are you willing to do to make the NC Chapters and Council stronger?

I am looking forward to my first meeting as your Council President. Let me know if you have issues or concerns that need to be addressed before the meeting.

CW4 Jay E. Garbus, USA (Ret)

## OMICRON VARIANT

The [Omicron variant](#) of COVID-19, recently discovered in the Carolinas, is now the predominant strain in the U.S., and will overtake Delta in our area within weeks. **If ever there was time to get your COVID-19 vaccine and booster, it's now.**

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), our current COVID-19 vaccines are expected to protect against severe illness, hospitalizations and deaths due to Omicron. However on Thursday, Dec. 16, 2021, the [CDC announced a clinical preference](#) for the Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines over the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

On Friday, Dec. 10, 2021, the UK Health Security Agency released a comprehensive report in which they compared 56,439 cases of Delta to 581 cases of Omicron from Nov. 27 to Dec. 6, 2021. Vaccine effectiveness against Omicron infection was 30-40% after two shots of Pfizer. After a booster, effectiveness increased to 70-80%. This is a small sampling, so these percentages may change as we learn more.

**What if you got the J&J vaccine?** Don't panic! You are still protected against COVID-19. Be sure to get a booster of either the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine two months after your J&J shot and every six months thereafter.

Source: Tricare



## ADVOCACY

### NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

## YOUR ACCESS TO URGENT CARE UNDER TRICARE MAY BE IN DANGER—BY: KAREN RUEDISUELI

*Editor's Note: This article is part of [MOAA's 2021-22 TRICARE Guide](#), brought to you by [MOAA Insurance Plans](#), administered by Mercer Consumer. A version of the guide appeared in the November 2021 issue of [Military Officer magazine](#).*

Eliminating the requirement for a referral from TRICARE Prime to get urgent care was a major victory for military family access to care, but recent developments raise a concern that access to urgent care may be under threat.

The increasing use of urgent care in the private sector is cited in the FY 2022 DoD budget request as a factor in rising TRICARE costs. MOAA is concerned this budget narrative may indicate a potential threat to referral-free urgent care for TRICARE Prime beneficiaries. Guidelines for TRICARE Urgent Care Visits

Make sure you are getting the best possible care and help the military community keep TRICARE Prime referral-free urgent care by using it as intended — when an acute appointment is not available with your primary care manager within 24 hours (the TRICARE access to care standard for urgent/acute care).

- Your PCM is always your best option for acute care that is not an emergency. Start by contacting your MTF for a same or next day appointment. "Seeing your PCM or PCM team for your urgent care needs is in any patient's best interest," said family physician Col. (Dr.) Thomas Cheatham, USAF. "Medically, it makes sense to be seen where your provider has access to your medical history, labs, X-rays, and can address your acute issues while also taking into consideration your underlying health conditions and preventative care needs."
- Not sure what level of care is most appropriate? The Military Health System Nurse Advice Line (NAL), at 1-800-TRICARE, is a valuable service intended to assess your condition and direct you to the most appropriate care. The global NAL is staffed by registered nurses to assist patients and will help with making an appointment in an MTF with the patient's PCM or team, or if needed, direct patients to care within the network.

