

## North Carolina Council of Chapters

### 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Meeting

**15 February 2020**

The Council meeting on 15 February 2020 was called to order by President Jim Brumit at 1000 at the VFW Headquarters in Raleigh. Jim led us with a prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

Acting secretary CDR Carol Aljets asked each attendee to sign-in on a paper that was circulated to all those in attendance; President Brumit determined that there was a quorum present to conduct business.

Immediate past President David Lee installed the 2020 officers: COL Jim Brumit (USA (Ret.) – President; COL Iggy Husar (USA (Ret.) – 1<sup>st</sup> VP; Lt. Col. Ed Brown (USAF (Ret.) – 2<sup>nd</sup> VP; and CAPT Mike Covell (USN (Ret.) – Treasurer.

**Minutes** for 15-17 November 2019 meeting were discussed. A motion was made to approve the minutes which was seconded and the motion carried.

#### **Web Training:**

With so many new members to the council, CAPT Doug Ehrhardt, Council webmaster, walked through the aspects of the website and gave training on how to access information it contained. He recommended all members access it frequently as it is a document that changes with updates almost daily. He offered to assist any who felt they needed further training. Training included the importance of the Chapter Reports and Officer Rosters.

CAPT Covell gave the **Treasurer's Report**. A motion was made to approve the reported as presented, it was seconded and the motion carried.

- Reminder that dues are due to the Council treasurer no later than 1 April 2020.
- Over the past couple of years, the Council has been able to build a favorable balance. Mike was concerned that we perhaps use an investment tool, i.e. a money market fund, to help it maintain its value and stay ahead of inflation. He presented three options and after a short discussion, it was decided that the Finance Committee consisting of President Jim Brumit,

Immediate past President David Lee and the Treasurer, Mike Covell, would study the issue and get back to the Council with their decision.

### **Storming the Hill:**

Jim advised that the members of COC that will serve as our delegation for Storming the Hill will be: Jim Brumit, Iggy Husar, Jeri Graham and from National MOAA, Nancy Carr. They will be storming on 25 March 2020.

- 2019 results included the defeat of the 'Widow's Tax', healthcare and getting a pay raise for the military of 3.1% which was more than the 2.6% originally proposed. Members of Congress or their representatives asked about terrible housing conditions on bases.
- 2020 will be concentrating on two issues: healthcare co-pays and prescription costs.
- Jim asked that if the COC had any ideas or questions, they should get back with him.

### **Community Grants:**

- Community grant money is available from MOAA for chapters actually helping veterans and not just serving as a pass through. It is mandatory that there be chapter member involvement. Several COC chapters have received grants and all are encouraged to apply often and for as many as you need.
- Past grants totals have been: \$75,000 in 2018; \$7540 in 2019 (22 grants were awarded out of 43 applicants); and \$100,000 will be available in 2020.
- Deadline for applying for a grant is 28 February 2020.
- Any questions can be addressed by emailing [chapters@moaa.org](mailto:chapters@moaa.org).

### **Website inclusion/exclusion of personal data:**

An extensive discussion took place regarding the pros and cons of removing the names and addresses on the Council's website. Discussion included that there are so many other sources of this info, not opening attachments from those you do not know, hover the mouse to see actual originator of the email, taking the names, addresses, phone numbers and email from the front page of the website and setting up of aliases.

- A motion was made to keep the information on the website as it is currently. The motion was seconded and a tie vote resulted. In a tie situation, the Council president is allowed to vote. Upon his vote the motion was defeated.
- A motion was made to allow each chapter decide how they want the information displayed, it was seconded and approved unanimously. Any chapter wanting to change the display of their information is to let Doug Ehrhardt, webmaster, know.

### **Legislative & Military Affairs:**

Iggy Husar introduced his team and they will work on collaboration and the sharing of information. Members of Iggy's Legislative Team include: Jeri Graham, David Lee, Barry Coyle, Vern Pike, George Angle, Jim Brumit and Mike Flynn. They will also be conducting a trainings session for the chapter legislative liaisons and strive to identify specific issues they want to address with the legislature. In the past they have taken on too many issues so for this Storming of Raleigh/Jones Street, they want to concentrate of a handful of specific issues to narrow their focus and hope for better success.

There is a mix of emotions on how the deal with 4<sup>th</sup> Branch. There is a strong feeling that they have done little for the past several years. One issue that has been important to MOAA, the Bailey Settlement, has little interest from the legislature or 4<sup>th</sup> Branch. Jeri Graham has resigned as Legislative Chair of the 4<sup>th</sup> Branch but Joe Cansler is still involved with them.

### **Membership & Retention:**

Ed Brown introduced his team: Al Schroetel, Ed Baisden, Donna Culp and Aimee Corning.

- Donna gave a training session on the NRT list from National MOAA and its importance as a new tool for recruiting.
- Aimee conducted a training exercise on the Committee Module.
- To obtain retention money from national, 95% membership must be attained by 28 February 2020.
- Everyone should be on at least Basic Membership. It is free and there is no time constraint for how long a member can stay on Basic membership. An

upgrade to Premium membership can be done at any time for only \$4.00 per month.

- Prior NRT lists can be obtained from National MOAA by emailing [chapters@moaa.org](mailto:chapters@moaa.org).

### **Surviving Spouse Liaison (SSL):**

Sandi Adams is the new SSL for the COC. If you need any assistance, including end-of-life planning, feel free to contact her. Her contact info is: [earlsandi@gmail.com](mailto:earlsandi@gmail.com) or call 910-443-0470.

### **By-Laws:**

A discussion centered on the changes to the By-Laws. The By-Laws can be found under 'documents.' Any recommended changes are to be forwarded to Jim Brumit. A motion was made to accept the By-Law version II, seconded and approved unanimously.

### **Final Comments:**

- 1 May 2020 – LOE applications are due. Must have 95% national membership.
- 1 June 2020 – applications due for the COL Steve Strobridge Legislative Chair/Liaison Award.
- 1 June 2020 – applications are due for the Surviving Spouse Liaison Award.
- Applicants for the grants must have liability insurance. Mercer Insurance has been serving this need for the past several years.
- Discussion of 501 (c) (3) and/or 501(c) (19) by MOAA's attorney is available on the MOAA National website.
- Discussed pros and cons of having the quarterly meeting on one day and location(s). Further discussion to come.

The meeting was adjourned at 1500.

Submitted by:

Jim Brumit, President

Carol Aljets (Acting) Secretary