



Minutes of the 14 November NCCOC Annual Business Meeting

Note that these minutes will incorporate references to slide numbers with comments as needed.

- I. The Virtual Quarterly meeting of the North Carolina Council of Chapters was held via Zoom on Saturday, 14 November 2020.
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was recited by all.
- III. The Invocation was given by CAPT Jim Fisher, Chaplain of the High Country Chapter.
- IV. The meeting was called to order by Council President COL Jim Brumit at 0909 hours.
- V. Attendance:

Council Officers

President	COL Brumit, Jim
1 st Vice Pres.	COL Husar, Iggi
2 nd Vice Pres.	Lt. Col. Brown, Ed
Secretary	Harris, Sue
Treasurer	CAPT Covell, Mike
Ass't Treasurer	LTC Pomponio, Mike-Absent
Surviving Spouse Liaison	Adams, Sandi
Council Immed. Past Pres.	CAPT Lee, David
Council Past Pres.	CAPT Ehrhardt, Doug-Excused
Council Past Pres.	COL Graham, Jeri
Council Past Pres.	COL Cansler, Joe-Absent

Chapter Presidents, Satellite Chairs and Chapter Members

NC01	Cape Fear	MAJ Watkins, Ira
NC02	Coastal	CAPT Ramian, Randall
NC03	Eastern	CAPT Lee, David
NC04	Charlotte-Metrolina	CW4 Garbus, Jay
NC06	Sandhills	Excused
NC07	SENCLand	BG Carper, James; Col Schroetel, Al
NC08	Tarheel	CDR Zuhr, Kenneth; CAPT Briscoe, Phil-1 st VP
NC09	Triangle	COL Segal, Herb
NC10	Western	Capt. Culp, Donna
NC11	Catawba Valley	LTC Davenport, Clifford Davey
NC14	Piedmont	Maj Corning, Aimee
NC 17	First in Flight	Absent
NC 20	Central	LTC Applewhite, Gary
NC21	High Country	Capt. May, Douglas; CAPT Fisher, Jim-Chaplain
NC22	New River	LCDR Tucker, Steve

GA 14 Georgia	COL Huthwaite, Douglas
Lake Norman Satellite	Absent
Black Mountain Satellite	Absent
Smoky Mountain Satellite	Capt. Donna Culp
Coast Guard Eliz. City Satellite	CDR Walker, Matt

VI. Approval of 15 August Quarterly Council Minutes: **COL Herb Segal made a motion to approve the minutes.** Capt David May seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved.

VII. Treasurer's Report: CAPT Mike Covell presented the treasurer's report (**slides 08 through 12**) and proposed budget for 2021.

CDR Ken Zuhr made a motion to accept the proposed budget as presented. COL Iggi Husar seconded it. CAPT David Lee noted that we propose spending more than we are taking in, but that we have a balance coming forward. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Capt Doug May made a motion to approve the 2021 dues of \$1.50 per dues-paying chapter member. CAPT David Lee seconded the motion. Question was asked if the penalty still applies and the answer is yes. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

VIII. A discussion relative to the merits of the Council becoming an LLC determined to delay further action until lawyers from chapters could be contacted for advice. The chapter presidents from Charlotte-Metrolina, Cape Fear and Triangle volunteered to contact member attorneys for advice. This will be an action item for the February meeting.

IX. Proposed Bylaw changes:

1. "A reconciliation of the financial records will be conducted when the president and/or treasurer is changed. The Finance committee will appoint the team to conduct the reconciliation." COL Jim Brumit noted that a reconciliation is all that we need. A full audit is not necessary.

2. "The dues for each chapter will be based on the December 31st Committee Module membership calculation. The dues will be submitted No later than January 31st." This amendment will change ARTICLE VI, Section 3, where as the second sentence to the end of the paragraph will be deleted. In Section 2, the last two sentences should be deleted. A discussion followed with concerns about chapter members who do not pay chapter dues, such as members over 90 years of age. COL Jeri Graham said that "actual chapter members" does away with duplicates. Capt. Donna Culp said that it is important to put the end date in module if someone moves. COL Herb Segal suggested that the Second proposed amendment be withdrawn because of concerns that came up in the discussion. COL Jim Brumit noted that more training is needed on the Committee Module and NRT for new presidents and membership chairs, not at a regular council meeting. CAPT David Lee noted that the Committee Module

reflects all chapter members, whether a National MOAA member or not. The Council will send the bill with a statement to remove those who do not pay dues to the Chapter as of January 31st. At the bottom of the form, adjust invoice to note auxiliary members, honorary members, etc. BG Jim Carper said that the language of the bylaw change does not reflect this and suggested the language be changed to “dues paying chapter members”. MAJ Ira Watkins stated that dues should reflect chapter members, not related to the Committee Module. The discussion was closed.

3. ARTICLE IV, Section 1 needs to be updated to “eight” uniformed services. This will reflect the addition of the Space Force branch.

A vote was taken on each proposed amendment individually. **#1 passed unanimously.** The corrected wording of the dues bylaw was read before the vote. “Dues shall be paid to the Council. The total assessment (dues) will be based on the December 31st Committee Module and on dues-paying chapter members. The dues will be submitted no later than January 31st. **#2 passed with three Nays after a reading of the new wording.** **#3 passed unanimously.** The slides will reflect the addition of the Space Force branch.

X. First Vice President COL Iggi Husar reported on Legislative and Veterans Affairs goals for 2021. (**slide 14**) Goal is to support the annual DSLO issues. COL Jeri Graham stated that the House and Senate bills are to be sure that veterans get fair treatment. North Carolina is in good shape but we need to focus on bills that help spouses and licensure as they move from state to state. We still need Occupational Therapists, EMTs and many other careers added. The question “Have you ever served in the military?” should be asked at intake. All of these bills will have very little cost for the state.

XI. COL Iggi Husar emphasized that cooperation in Council Team Activities (**slides 15 and 16**) is important. We must advocate for military friendly legislation. We must advocate for what is doable. CAPT David Lee reported the pro bono lobbyist George Teague recommends that we continue to support the Veterans Council and we not back off of asking for military only legislation. Those who are the most vocal will be first in line for any money that becomes available.

XII. Chapter Team Activities (**slides 17-19**) COL Iggi referred to the slides (which were prepared by Barry Coyle, Legislative Chair for SENCLand Chapter, asking Chapters to keep up the regular reports of what you are doing. We want to encourage chapter participation in holidays and other activities such as Veterans’ Day. Invite legislators to your meeting, being mindful of conflict of interest with guidance from National. COL Jim Brumit noted that the Strategic Plan was accepted by a unanimous vote in August. Chapters have a responsibility to implement the plan now. Most state financial support will be toward Covid-19 related costs.

XIII. Membership and Recruitment (**slides 20-24**) Second Vice President Lt. Col. Ed Brown elaborated on Membership and Recruitment efforts. We have made tremendous strides in National MOAA memberships. We are purging our files and bringing new members on board. We have an actual increase of 118 members. Our goal is to increase our Council membership by 120 per year; 40 in a

quarter will qualify us for incentive money. SENCLand added 34 and Western Chapter added 26 and two other chapters added double digits of new members. Contact Ed for help in recruiting and he or a member of his team will assist your chapter. COL Jim Brumit stated that satellites are the way to grow. To establish a satellite using zip codes for a 40-45 mile radius of a chapter, then zero in on an area of 15-20 miles. Jim can send you the names in that area. National will send out a letter or post card for a "meet and greet" using zip codes within that 15-20 mile radius. A satellite only has a chair and vice-chair, sets their own agenda and dues go directly to the chapter. We have six potential satellites. Contact COL Jim Brumit if you are interested in forming a satellite. CW4 Jay Garbus commented that Charlotte-Metrolina has a satellite and the chair actively participates in board meetings and the relationship is working very well.

XIV: PRIDE activities. (slides 25-30) President COL Jim Brumit asked what has your chapter done that you are excited about? He called the roll of chapters.

- Cape Fear-Held a Drive Through Shower for Operation Homefront for expectant mothers. We made a donation to the Red Cross and the Fisher House at Fort Bragg. Also we are doing health and welfare checks on surviving spouse members.
- Coastal-Five scholarships were presented.
- Charlotte-Metrolina- Zoom meeting worked well and we will have another with a speaker. We updated our roster via phone contacts.
- SENCLand-Scholarships were awarded and covered in the local press, including \$11,000 to 19 veteran students; eight JROTC scholarships for a total of \$6,000; 25 Covid-19 grants totaling a little over \$10,000 and \$1800 to assist local veterans.
- Triangle-Presented three \$1,000 scholarships to JROTC seniors. We continue support of the USO and Vets to Vets. We applied for national grants but neither was approved. We would appreciate if anyone can help with grant application. We are planning a Virtual Holiday Party next month.
- Western-We have a partnership with Four Seasons Hospice. We had a hybrid satellite meeting using an outside fire department with outside receivers so people could stay in their vehicles. Planning a Christmas Drive Through at the Henderson Country Club where we'll have members come through and receive a little gift and name tags.
- Sandhills-Received \$5,000 grant to use to train workers and provide services to homeless or foster children in schools. This is also supported by book sales. We awarded nine JROTC scholarships of \$2,000 each, totaling \$18,000.
- Piedmont-JROTC scholarships were awarded in a parking lot. Stand Down is on hold. We packaged socks, shampoo and soaps and distributed to homeless Veterans.
- Central-Our outreach program here is Christmas gift cards to needy families through the VA hospital. We have 10 cards now with possibility of more.
- High Country-For the past 15 years we have done large (450 people) ceremonies for Memorial Day and for Veterans' Day. This year we did a smaller ceremony for Memorial Day at the Veterans' Memorial in Boone and taped it and posted the taping. We also held a Veterans' Day ceremony that was virtual. Next week we will hold a virtual holiday

dinner via Zoom and are asking for a donation of what you would have spent on the dinner. One member has pledged to match all other donations.

- New River-We support two Fisher Houses, at Camp LeJeune and Fort Bragg. Through personal member donations and the chapter matching, we were able to make donations to both of them. One personal craft show netted \$3000 for the Fisher Houses. Our MOAA Covid grant was given to them. We were able to hold outdoor picnic meetings which helped.

What are some of the innovations that you are doing to keep your chapter together during the pandemic?

- Charlotte-Metrolina is using a phone tree to call everyone on the roster to see how they are doing and if they need any assistance, and holding virtual board meetings. The Red Cross did a special presentation at a meeting on how to reduce stress during Covid-19.
- Western is conducting their first Zoom chapter meeting on November 21st with a speaker, Dr. Mark Jaben, Haywood County HHS, who has provided weekly information about Covid-19 with a question and answer time.
- SENCLand has had excellent speakers and will share speaker information with other chapters. They will invite other chapters to virtual meetings and tell others who the speakers were.

XV: COL Jim Brumit mentioned emailed newsletters, stating that unless he hears from chapters specifically, he will assume that he has permission to forward them to other chapters because many have good ideas and good articles. As an example, he read the Capt. Donna Culp's president's comments from a recent newsletter. Jim writes a column that you can put in your newsletter. The last one focused on Advocacy and the next one will be Camaraderie.

Take Aways from today:

- We will work as a team in order to do legislative duties for what is best for military families, and everybody needs to work.
- We need to put together some position papers
- We need to do the work to establish satellites to build membership.
- We have accomplished a lot in the past year, but we have farther to go to achieve more.

XVI. Dates and Events for Your Calendar (slides 31-33)

- Grant deadline dates are here. Reports and Awards due dates are listed.
- Nineteen Marvin J. Harris Communication Awards were won. We had 11 LOE awards and ten chapters with awards for 100% national membership. Jim will mail all awards to each chapter but is waiting for the streamers. Let him know if you want a virtual presentation.
- We had 1550 members at the beginning of the year, then had fewer than 1335 and now membership is climbing to 1350 members.
- Community grants went to SENCLand and Sandhills plus a Covid-19 grant to SENCLand, Western, and Sandhills.

- 1st Quarter NCCOC Meeting is 19-20 February, 2021 (hopefully in person)

XVII: Announcements:

- COL Jeri Graham mentioned the leadership workshop. An invite will go out to specific officers.
- COL Herb Segal announced that Vern Pike, who had chapter leadership positions as well as being Past Council President, has moved to Florida and should be recognized for his contributions.
- With all the emphasis on Covid, we can't lose sight of the fact that this is flu season.
- This is the last meeting for this group before the new chapter officers take office in January.
- COL Jim Brumit thanked everyone for the hard work they are doing keeping the chapters going and keep camaraderie a focus for the group.
- COL Iggi Husar wished everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving and a happy holiday season.

The meeting adjourned at 1153 hours.

Sue Harris, Secretary