



# CHARLOTTE-METROLINA CHAPTER NEWS

**February 2012**

**The Military Officers Association of America**

**MOAA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Happy Valentine's Day! Hope all of you have a favorite restaurant reservations made and the candy picked out for your loved one! Also don't forget President's day and all the good bargains at the stores. In the last newsletter was the list of businesses (in the announcements) provided us by Greg and Marilyn Ainslie that gave discounts to military personnel?

Our speaker at our January meeting, LTC, USA (RET) John Falkenbury, reminded us about all the good things the USO does for the military personnel. Please also note the Vietnam Veterans Homecoming Celebration 2012 on March 31, 2012, 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. at the Charlotte Motor Speedway. This is sponsored by the USO. Our MOAA chapter will have a booth at the event and we will need help that day to pass out literature and answer questions about MOAA. You may obtain free tickets for the event at [www.CharlotteMotorSpeedway.com/WelcomeHome.com](http://www.CharlotteMotorSpeedway.com/WelcomeHome.com).

The meeting of the North Carolina Council of Chapters meeting on January 13/14, 2012 was sponsored by The Cape Fear Chapter at Fort Bragg. The speaker at the Friday evening dinner was MG Mark Graham, ACS G-3 FORSCOM, which is now located at Ft. Bragg. At the business meeting on Saturday

morning, COL, USA (RET) Fred Black passed the gavel and the Presidency of our council to LTC, USA (RET) Robert Garman. This is a two year term, and the emphasis is on membership, membership, and membership!

Our next meeting is on Sunday, February 19, 2012, and all of us need to call at least one other person and invite them to be at the meeting to hear Jonathan Frank when he addresses the topic of estate planning. SEE YOU THERE!

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USA (RET)

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**NEXT MEETING**  
**Sunday, February 19, 2012**

At  
**Red Rocks Cafe**  
**4223 Providence Rd**

**Social Time 1500**  
**Meeting with Meal 1530**  
*Guest Speaker: Jonathan S. Frank, Attorney, a recognized expert in Estate Planning, Probate Law, Elder Law, and is very well-versed in VA benefits.*  
**RON MORGAN**

**RSVP NLT Friday, FEB. 17, 2012**

*Martha Ellinger 704-544-7084*  
*Gary Aljets 704-849-2886*

**MARCH MEETING**

**Sunday, March 18, 2012**

At  
**Red Rocks Cafe**  
**4223 Providence Rd**

**Social Time. 1500**  
**Meeting with Meal 1530**

**To be announced, but it will be good!!!!**

**RON MORGAN**  
**RSVP NLT Friday, March 16, 2012**  
*Martha Ellinger 704-544-7084*  
*Gary Aljets 704-849-2886*

**VP MEMBERSHIP, From LARRY STAWICKI**  
**MOAA ROTC/JROTC Awards Program**

***Should the MOAA Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter start a TOPS program???***

TOPS (The Officer Placement Service) program was started to help members network their way to a new job or a second career. Many local MOAA chapters are working to attract younger members by starting TOPS groups, which provide resources and job-networking to second-career service members and their spouses. Starting a TOPS group isn't always easy, especially if most chapter members are fully retired and no longer in the business community. However, a good TOPS program is one of the surest methods available to increase membership. If you have any comments or suggestions about starting a TOPS program or any other ideas on how we can increase membership please don't hesitate in contacting me, [stawickilp@aol.com](mailto:stawickilp@aol.com) or 704-560-9125 **Larry Stawicki**

**URGENT!!!!**

**LEGISLATIVE INPUT: from RON WILSBACH**

A recent MOAA News Update contained a release dated January 13, 2012 that highlighted Important Dates for 2012 pertaining to legislative matters that directly affect our interests. It is reproduced below:

**Important Dates for 2012**

Here is an estimated timeline of when important actions will occur in the second session of the 112th Congress:

**Mid February:** The President will submit his annual budget proposals to Congress. On or before this date we'll find out exactly what the Pentagon and Administration will propose in order to cut \$450 billion in defense spending over the next decade. Pay freezes, manpower cuts, TRICARE fee increases, retirement changes, and more could be included in the proposal.

**Late March:** Six weeks after the President delivers his budget to Congress, congressional committees are required to submit their "views and estimates" of spending and revenues within their respective jurisdictions to the House and Senate Budget Committees

**April:** House and Senate Budget Committees draft and mark up concurrent resolution of the budget, which sets spending limits for the year. April 15 is the deadline for completion of action on the budget resolution (though partisan and fiscal differences have precluded approval of a formal budget resolution in recent years, and that may prove true again in 2012.)

**May:** The House and Senate Armed Services Committees will likely begin work of the FY 2013 Defense Authorization Bill, including any changes that may be imposed by budget resolution spending limits.

**May - July:** Full House and Senate pass their respective versions of the defense bill.

**July - October:** House and Senate negotiators resolve differences between their respective versions October - December: Final Defense Authorization Bill passed by House and Senate and becomes law.

**November 6:** Presidential and Congressional elections

**December 31:** Deadline to pass an alternative debt reduction plan in order to avoid the sequestration process that will cut another \$600 billion from defense spending over the next decade

**So there it is!** All along the way we will be expected to let those we have elected know how we feel about the issues. MOAA has made it exceedingly easy to send your Congressional delegates your desires. Simply go to [MOAA.org](http://MOAA.org) and click on the **Take Action tab**, top left of the home page. If you click on **Contact Congress** you will be asked to insert your zip code and **all of your national representatives will appear**. Click on e-mail to send each a prepared message. Be sure to click on save my information before sending so that your info is ready and waiting on your next message.

**Don't use the internet? Not to worry. Just dial toll free 1-800-234-6622 and let the folks at MOAA Headquarters help you through the telephone process**

**Remember what Shakespeare said - "the squeaky wheel gets the grease!" Or was that Ben Franklin who said that? RON WILSBACH**

**Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter Board Meeting Executive Summary Minutes January 11, 2012**

Col Harley Ellinger called the meeting to order at 4:05PM. The minutes of the November meeting were reviewed and approved. Chapter fundraising was discussed with a number of ideas presented; responsibility for particular events were talked about and assigned to members of the board. Every board member was asked to participate in all the events. Col Ellinger presented a draft of the chapter bylaws. Extensive review of the draft proceeded with revisions that Harley would incorporate before the bylaws are presented to the chapter for acceptance. The meeting adjourned at 5:15PM

Respectfully submitted,

**Gregory L. Ainslie, Secretary**

## ***Minutes for Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter, NC-04, MOAA Meeting on January 15, 2012***

President Harley Ellinger called the meeting to order at 3:02PM. Gary Aljets gave the invocation followed by Col Ellinger leading the chapter in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes for the December 11, 2011 meeting were presented and approved

### **. Officer Reports:**

Ron Morgan, First Vice President was absent but the speaker for the February 19 meeting will be Jonathan S. Frank, Attorney, a recognized expert in Estate Planning, Probate Law, Elder Law, and is very well versed in VA benefits

Larry Stawicki, Second Vice President mentioned that he is preparing to begin the ROTC/JROTC awards process asking that we be ready to help.

Ron Wilsbach, Third Vice President presented three issues. First we should each look at the MOAA goals for 2012 as outlined in *The Officer* to be aware of them since MOAA is al leader of the Military Coalition in Washington, DC that fosters these goals. He also encouraged everyone who is not signed up the MOAA weekly Legislative Update email to sign up for it. Secondly, Ron, reminded us that Secretary of Defense, Leon Panetta has presented a \$450 billion cut outline that will quite likely impact our medical benefits, there will be more specifics in February. Thirdly he requested help to set up a Legislative Committee to track state and local issues asking that you email him with your willingness to help. In a like issue Gene Stewart presented copies of a letter he wrote to Congresswoman Myrick about the Navy's Reduction in Force program.

Greg Ainslie, Secretary, reminded everyone that 2012 dues were expected January 1 and that there would be a reminder sent to all. Gary Aljets, Treasurer, said the 2011-year end balance was \$1495.60.

Bonnie Donovan, Newsletter Editor, said the suspense for the February newsletter was January 26, 2012.

**Old Business:** Col Ellinger said the chapter bylaws are in revision and would be presented to the chapter for approval at a future meeting. He also added the Richard Simmons our new Board Member at Large, was contacting members who have not recently attended a meeting to see is there was any service the chapter might be to them.

**New Business:** Col Ellinger encouraged everyone to be involved in the Welcome Home Event sponsored by the Freedom Foundation and the USO of North Carolina March 31, 2012 at Charlotte Motor Speedway to welcome home Vietnam Veterans. The chapter will staff a booth at the event and volunteers are needed for that, he hoped we would have good attendance at it. Harley mentioned the board's discussion of fundraising events and solicited everyone's help with them as they progress. He concluded his remarks by saying this is an excellent time to donate to the USO Center at Charlotte/Douglas International Airport because the Levine Foundation will match gift up to \$50,000.

**Announcements:** Col Ellinger announced that the North Carolina Council of Chapters is emphasizing legislative action and membership recruitment this year as stated at the council meeting earlier that weekend in Fort Bragg. He then asked for more help for the Armed Forces Museum and Archives of the Carolinas in Mint Hill. Finally he stated the next meeting would be February 19, 2012 with Jonathan Frank, Attorney, speaking about estate planning.

As usual, Red Rocks Café served excellent meal

**. Program:** In Ron Morgan's absence Col Ellinger introduced the guest speaker John Falkenbury, President of North Carolina USO. John, who is a member of our chapter, made an outstanding talk about the North Carolina USOs statewide activities. He said they are seeking to build an endowment to sustain their actions for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. John then discussed the program to help kids through reading and study skills for parents of students in Kindergarten – Middle School that is supported by corporate giving. He said the USO is reaching out to veterans in college, particularly those veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder by exploring the creation of satellite centers on campus. The University of North Carolina, Charlotte will be the test site for these self-sustaining centers. John then discussed the USO role in the Welcome Home event of March 31 at Charlotte Motor Speedway where the USO is spearheading the organization and operations for it. He and another chapter member Bob Weeks are the USO points of contact. Finally, John talked about the Levine Foundations matching grant of up to \$50,000 to the USO Center at Charlotte/Douglas International Airport and encouraged everyone to donate. (The chapter members present chose to donate \$100.00 from the treasury.)

Respectfully submitted,  
Gregory Ainslie, Secretary

## CALENDAR 2012

February 19, 2012 -- Sunday 3:00 P.M.

March 18, 2012 -- Sunday 3:00 P.M.

April 15, 2012 -- Sunday 3:00 P.M.

May 20, 2012 -- Sunday 3:00 P.M.

Summer Meeting?

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Armed Forces Museum and Archives of the Carolinas in Mint Hill needs your help – Consider volunteering by calling Carol Aljets at 704 849 2886

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USO center at Charlotte/Douglas International Airport:

Leon and Sandra Levine and Howard Levine will match dollar for dollar up to \$50,000 until - June 30, 2012 in our airport

HOW TO GIVE: Call 704 359 5581 or mail a check to: USO/Charlotte Center-5501 Josh Birmingham Parkway, P.O. Box 21, Charlotte, NC 28208

## **!!!Vietnam Veterans Homecoming Celebration 2012!!!**

**When?**

**March 31, 2012**

**Where?**

**Charlotte Motor Speedway**

**WHAT'S FREE???**

**TICKETS -AT: [www.CharlotteMotorSpeedway.com/WelcomeHome](http://www.CharlotteMotorSpeedway.com/WelcomeHome)**

# WELCOME HOME

## WHAT

A Welcome Home to  
Vietnam Veterans  
that many never received

## WHEN

9:00AM - 4:30PM Saturday, March 31, 2012

## WHERE

Charlotte Motor Speedway



NORTH CAROLINA



[CharlotteMotorSpeedway.com/WelcomeHome](http://CharlotteMotorSpeedway.com/WelcomeHome)