

Military Officers Association of America

North Carolina Council of Chapters

Minutes of the 4th Quarter 2014

Executive Committee/Board of Directors Meeting

7 November 2014, Raleigh, NC

The meeting was called to order at 1600 by President Jeri Graham. Those attending for the NC COC Executive Committee were COL Graham, CAPT Ehrhardt and CAPT Lee. Those attending for the Board of Directors were LTC Garman and COL Cansler. Also attending were MAJ Culler and Gary Aljets, acting secretary.

The first order of business was the Zip Code Project. Ed Baisden has this well under control and things are going well. Charlotte Metrolina has a number of members that live in Sun Land, SC and they have no problem attending Charlotte's meetings. There are a number of other zip codes in SC that come under Charlotte Metrolina's umbrella of zip codes and the SC COC President has no problem with that. His only concern is the Congressional and Legislative interaction. He and Harley Ellinger are working this out and there are members in Sun Land that have no problem being the liaison for the Congress person in the area.

The 4th Branch and National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE Federal Retiree Task Force) are trying to develop an improved communication device called 'Engage.' It is an upgrade of the current CQ Roll Call system. NARFE has donated \$5000 to upgrade the system and 4th Branch has matched this sum. There has been a lot discussion between Duane Smith, Project Director, Les Zavodil, Chair of Communications and Stuart Liebowicz, Sales Director. The idea is to set up an effective communications for the State Employee Association of NC (SEANC) and NARFE, so they can reach their membership more quickly and effectively when there is a need to respond to legislative issues. Zavodil wanted to check with other companies but Jeri Graham nixed that and referred them to the gentleman that set up NC COC MOAA website and communication system. Mitch Leonard and Tom Hopgood, Co-Chairs of the project would have to sign the agreement. Jeri's goal is to get this up and running prior to the next legislative session.

NC COC MOAA and National MOAA are members of the Vietnam War Commemoration Project as partners. Joe Cansler and the Catawba Valley Chapter have started a collection of materials that will be circulated to all interested chapters. They are encouraged to add memorabilia as they see fit. Any chapter wanting to use this presentation needs to let Jeri know. The object is to have all chapters use it in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

The State Convention in 2015 at High Hampton Inn is well into the planning stages. Jeri has reserved 66 rooms for attendees. So far 28 couples and one single have signed up. Any singles that want to share a room to split costs can talk to Jeri and she will help work out the logistics. To improve relations with the NC National Guard and the NC Air National Guard, Jeri wants to invite a member of the National Guard to the convention, expenses paid for by NC COC. To raise the money, Jeri has donated her beach home for one week. Raffle tickets are being sold, \$10 for one ticket or 12 tickets for \$100. The question came up about the cost for bringing up children or grandchildren. Jeri is to check to see if there is an additional cost that needs to be paid High Hampton. A number of dignitaries have been invited such as VADM Norb Ryan, COL Barry Wright, the retiring Marine Corp Commandant. It was noted that there are several other retired officers that live in the area that will be invited. John Knapp is working with Jeri on possible speakers. A signup sheet for the convention is on and the program will be on the NC COC's website.

In that it is difficult for some members of the board to travel, Vern Pike wants to meet and discuss issues such as the budget, nominations, bylaws, etc via teleconferences.

The communications strategy for the COC is to get info out to the membership at least 30 days in advance. That would give the members time to read any upcoming issues so a decision can be made at the upcoming meeting. Also, there is a council blog on which a president can express ideas or concerns for discussion.

The state has put out a Veterans Resource Guide and it is available at www.doa.nc.gov/vets/

The next meeting will be 16-17 January 2015 in New Bern. In that the next meeting after that is not until the June State Convention, we can expect a few teleconferences, depending on issues that may or may not surface.

Meeting adjourned at 1645.

Jeri Graham

Gary Aljets

President

Acting Secretary