

Military Officers Association of America

North Carolina Council of Chapters

13 August 2016

The Third Quarter Meeting of the NC COC hosted by the High Country Chapter in August 2016 was called to order by President CAPT Doug Ehrhardt at 0830.

The invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was given by MAJ Robert Gibbard, president of the High Country Chapter.

The roll was called by Secretary CDR Carol Aljets and all but three chapters were represented by their presidents or other chapter members. The three chapters not represented were Eastern Carolina (NC 03), Durham-Orange (NC 12) and First Flight (NC 17). The minutes from the last quarterly meeting were reviewed and approved after CAPT David Lee moved for approval and a second from COL Jeri Graham.

Major Robert Gibbard introduced the guest speaker from National MOAA COL Cheri Zadlo, USAF (Retired), Director, MOAA Products and Services. Her entire presentation is on the MOAA-NC website which comes under Documents, Meetings (Archive), NC COC 3rd Quarterly Meeting Download. Some of the highlights of her presentation are given below:

- 2016 Chapter recruiting tools include on line training webinars and videos to aid with chapter membership.
- MOAA is always striving for continuous improvement. The key to success is our leadership and support.
- Council and Chapter community presence is 'priceless' and the face of MOAA to the public.
- The JROTC/ROTC Program Support (Medals/Certificates) are good branding and service programs but in the future the support will be through the MOAA store for JROTC/ROTC medals/certificates.
- As would be expected this item brought up much discussion since this means that individual chapters will be bearing the expenses in the future and National MOAA will not be providing these items free. This presents a real problem to chapters that have a large number of JROTC programs under their responsibility. Also at this time no prices were given and COL Zadlo will be going back to National for further information about costs and what can be done. Charlotte-Metrolina gives over 35 medals to JROTC schools every year and this would place a great stress on their administration costs each year and there are other chapters in North Carolina that have similar problems So this

probably will exist in other states as well. The Gold Bar Program has not been as effect as was hoped and some of the problems are that differences in the types of bars or insignias used by different services and the lack of chapters sending in the names of new recruits along with a valid email address.

- Another issue that came up from discussion was that the MOAA store is not working well as told by those members who have recently tried to use it. This is more information she will be taking back to National MOAA to determine what is happening.
- Chapter Incentives for supporting recruiting efforts and retaining chapter members will be maintained as is. Chapters must still push for membership in National MOAA as well.
- Affiliate visits will be retained at an annual visit to councils but chapter visits will change from three to four year chapter visit cycle.

There was a council resolution made that the issue concerning JROTC medals/certificates be put on hold at the chapter level until more is found about costs and other new issues coming from National MOAA. The resolution was made by COL Ron Morgan and seconded by COL Joe Cansler. This was agreed upon especially since this information is needed to make better informed decisions after years of National MOAA supplying these items as needed. Still looking into gold bar issues but this may not be as big an issue.

According to the agenda COL Jeri Graham was to introduce Justin Delancey of Justin Delancey Greer Beaty and Associates who will be working with the 4th Branch and Engage but he was not yet in attendance so his report is given later in these minutes when he arrives.

COL Harley Ellinger gave his North Carolina Council Legislative Report on both national and state issues. According to COL Ellinger the Federal Government is now twenty trillion dollars in debt. He also discussed the idea that today's generation is more concerned about feelings than our generation which was brought up on believing mainly in facts. This is one divide that each generation needs to learn about in order to communicate better. Our parents and most of us grew up under a draft system.

The modern draft came about in April 1, 1940, and remained in effect even during peace time eras until repealed on June 30, 1973. That created our current volunteer military.

Harley also told us that the Secretary of Defense objects to the four major power point issues that have been delivered to both Senators and Representatives by Storming The Hill and locally by chapter legislative representatives. The titles of the four major point papers are:

- Troops Deserve Full Pay Raise and Force Increases
- Reduce Military 'Widow's Tax', Don't Just Maintain it
- Oppose Disproportionate Tricare Fee Hikes

- Reject Military Housing Allowance Cuts

The fact that Tricare for Life expenses have decreased 40% for the last five years does not appear to be a fact that is being recognized.

COL Graham introduced Justin DeLancey who will be working with the 4th Branch and Engage about strategy for helping to get state legislation passed for the military and also the Bailey Patton Bill. The state has over 300,000 retired military and government retirees that could be affected. Justin said he is willing to come to individual chapters to speak. His power point is posted on the website. Jeri is now the new Chairperson of the 4th Branch.

Doug spoke about Storming The Hill and also the fact that National MOAA has ceased funding MOAA Connect as of June 2016 with a good monetary savings for them.

Doug also spoke about the 2016 Levels of Excellence Awards that were received by the Council and several chapters. Doug believes that every chapter should be able to achieve one of the Levels of Excellence with help from the Council if necessary.

LTC Gary Marlar presented the options that he had researched for our 2017 State Convention Planning/Decision and information given at the Executive Committee Agenda. The River Cruises are very expensive and were basically ruled out. The two recommended sites by the Executive Committee suggested that be considered were 3 nights and 4 days at Williamsburg which would cost \$1,770 per couple. The other proposal, for a cruise to Bermuda from Baltimore, MD, and the cost would be about \$1,295 per couple depending cabin choice. After discussion among those members present, the trip to Williamsburg sometime in late August or early September was the choice.

David Lee, 1st Vice President and Membership Chair, gave a report on how to grow a chapter and get people involved. One of this main points was getting someone in the chapter personally involved with each new member. It takes more than one person to do this. His power point is also on the MOAA website sited in an early paragraph. He is also working on a membership streamer to be added to chapter flags if certain goals are met by the chapter. He gave a copy of this membership reporting to all presidents present and copies are on the website.

The 2016 NC COC Treasurer's Report was given by LTC George Brudzinski. As of March 2016, the Council has a balance of \$2,671.83.

Carol Ivey, the new Surviving Spouse member on the Council, detailed some of the responsibilities of this position as given by National MOAA. She is available to help chapter Surviving Spouse chapter representatives. Since she has taken on this responsibility there have

been two deaths of MOAA husbands in the state but the Ft Bragg CACO officer met with the families and took care of their needs. Carol's email address is cgivey191@aol.com and her phone number is 910-868-2313. She also suggested getting a Help Your Survivor's Non-Survivor's Planning Guide from National MOAA.

LTC Gary Marlar has a proposed revision of the NC COC Quarterly Meeting Hosting Go BY to help chapters. A copy is on the website.

COL Ed Baisden gave an update of the Vietnam 50th Commemorative Program. Access to the website at www.vietnamwar50th.com/partners/login. The log in ID is that used to get into the Council information for presidents and council members. COL Ed Baisden will provide assistance if needed. He can be contacted at 910-352-8601 (Cell) or 919-499-4228 (Home).

The program runs from 2015 – 2017 with two events 'required' per year. Catawba Valley Chapter actually gathered the initial supply of display and conducted the first 'event' in November 2014, before the formal program kicked off.

There were three events in 2015 and at this time five events have taken place in 2016.

It can be a simple event and there is still time to utilize this great program for interaction with other military organizations, publicity and membership. Just remember dignity and a suitable explanation concerning what the program is about.

The 4th Quarter 2016 Meeting hosted by the Catawba Valley Chapter on November 11th and 12th. The information on this is on the website. The deadline date is October 30th and the meeting will be at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Hickory.

There was a request for us to encourage vets to get out and vote but remember we should never suggest who anyone should vote for as a member of MOAA. Our job is to support veterans and not politicians.

If anyone is having any questions then check NC COC Bylaws on line. And most chapters need to keep working on Chapter Revitalization. An idea is using local military tours whether historical or current. Use these to add life to programs and invite as many as possible. Most of us seem to be interested in history and current events.

There were two members of MOAA NC who came to show photos for a tour that they had of South Korea. Anyone who has been stationed in South Korea and not just during the war can take these tours. The individuals who went had a great time and the Korean government does help subsidize the veterans and family members. Widows and/or descendants are also eligible and demand has been great. Call Military Historical Tours of Woodbridge, Virginia at 800-722-9501 or 703-590-1295 and check www.miltours.com.

Meeting adjourned at 1230.

Respectfully submitted:

Doug Ehrhardt

President

Carol Aljets

Secretary