



## Minutes of the 20 February NCCOC Quarterly 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, 20 February 2021.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was recited by all.

III. The Invocation was given by COL Will Barnes, Chaplain of the Coastal Carolina Chapter.

IV. The meeting was called to order by Council President COL Jim Brumit at 0900 hours.

V. Attendance:

### Council Officers

President	COL Brumit, Jim
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.	COL Husar, Iggi
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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
Council Past Pres.	COL Graham, Jeri
Council Past Pres.	COL Cansler, Joe

### Chapter Presidents, Satellite Chairs and Chapter Members

NC01	Cape Fear	COL Underwood, Rich
NC02	Coastal	CAPT Ramian, Randall
NC04	Charlotte-Metrolina	LTC Anderson, Joe
NC06	Sandhills	Lt. Col. Croucher, Drew
NC07	SENCLand	BG Carper, Jim
NC08	Tarheel	CDR Zuhr, Ken
NC09	Triangle	COL Segal, Herb
NC10	Western	Capt. Culp, Donna
NC11	Catawba Valley	LTC Davenport, Davy
NC14	Piedmont	Maj Corning, Aimee
NC 17	First in Flight	LCDR DelGarbino, Al
NC 20	Central	LTC Applewhite, Gary
NC21	High Country	Capt. May, Doug
NC22	New River	LCDR Tucker, Steve

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

**VI.** New chapter presidents Joe Anderson and Drew Croucher were introduced.

**VII.** Approval of 14 November 2020 Quarterly Council Minutes: **CAPT David Lee made a motion to approve the minutes.** LTC Davy Davenport seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a show of hands.

**VIII.** Treasurer's Report: CAPT Mike Covell presented the treasurer's report (**slides 09 through 14**). Dues are based on the Committee Module and invoices for \$1.50 per member have been sent to chapters. The council approved \$10 incentive for each new member in your chapter in 2021. An additional incentive of \$5 per new member is offered only if a chapter recruits more than 25% of its members. These specifics will be posted on the moaa-nc.org website. There is potential for seven new satellites which is difficult to accomplish because of the current pandemic. National is considering using North Carolina as a test of the effectiveness of post cards in place of emails to recruit new members.

**IX.** COL Brumit introduced our speaker, COL Hershell E. (Hew) Wolfe, retired Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health. He gave an inspirational and motivational insight into his career.

**X.** Following a 15 minute break, new chapter president Rich Underwood was introduced. CDR Matt Walker was recognized as Coast Guard Engineer of the Year and Capt. Donna Culp was recognized for the article she wrote for the National MOAA magazine.

**XI.** A discussion led by COL Brumit concerning the Council becoming an LLC began with reports from three attorneys who feel that an LLC would add extra protection for the Council. The cost is \$203 per year which covers everything except the initial cost which is not known. Examples of non-LLC groups are an MOAA council in Louisiana with ongoing lawsuits from an incident in a parade and a non-MOAA non-profit which was sued and had to fold. National MOAA encourages both councils and chapters to form LLCs but it is a financial problem for smaller chapters. COL Brumit looked into a Council umbrella LLC to include chapters but that will not work if the Council is sued. CAPT Mike Covell wants us to be aware that there is a change proposed to the MOAA insurance that would only cover the driver of a rental car. COL Herb Segal stated that according to the IRS documents, chapters cannot simultaneously be an LLC and 501(3)(c) and an LLC cannot accept donations. COL Brumit said that there are some chapters already an LLC and they collect donations. LTC Joe Anderson asked about that disadvantage to us. Dana Tucker stated that we have to file an annual tax statement with North Carolina. **COL Iggi Husar made a motion that the NC MOAA Council of Chapters become an LLC.** Capt. Doug May seconded it. A roll call vote was taken with unanimous support and one abstention. The motion passed.

**XII.** COL Jeri Graham referred to **(slide 19)** Advocacy in Action preview and encouraged all to support these issues and volunteer for the vaccination program. Get involved if you can.

**XIII.** COL Jim Brumit stated that North Carolina is currently coded yellow (does not meet standards) in military friendliness **(slide 17)** and our goal is to turn our state green. The first task is to pass all four DSLO (Defense-State Liaison Office) laws. We need to support the topics covered in Advocacy in Action (formerly known as Storming the Hill) and get our priorities before the NCVC (North Carolina Veterans Council). Only four chapters do not have 100% of their members as National members. Our membership goals are stated on the slide.

**XI.** Concerning North Carolina Legislative Affairs, COL Iggi Husar referred to **(slide 18)** and stated that all chapter Legislative Chairs have received the spreadsheets via email. One outlines bills which we are advocating to make NC 100% military friendly. The other one identifies legislative districts, counties, and legislators. He is ascertaining if current legislators have a military background. He has developed “talking points” and distributed to chapter Legislative Chairs and to NCVC concerning the seven issues that are priorities to become law. There is also a tax guide and the Military State Report Card document on the Council website. We support tax relief (Bailey extension) but it is not a priority. COL Jeri Graham gave a shout out to COL Mike Flynn for his work on comparisons to use with the legislators. COL Husar clarified that each chapter is free to pursue tax relief measures they want. BG Jim Carper stated that his understanding was that in the Third Quarter meeting, we agreed to pursue tax relief as a Council. COL Brumit said that we did vote, but not on tax relief for military retirees. BG Carper requested that someone review the minutes of the third quarter meeting and contact him with the explanation. COL Herb Segal praised the fabulous work done by COL Husar and he also wonders why the Bailey extension was not included. CDR Ken Zuhr stated that tax relief for military is not popular. Many do not think that extension of the Bailey act is good policy. The only solution would be to make all retiree income free from state income tax. COL Husar emphasized copying the legislative aide whenever we communicate with a legislator **(slide 19)**. Be aware of deadline date the third week of March and for crossover to the other House/Senate on 13 May.

**XII.** COL Jeri Graham continued explanation of **(slide 19)** by encouraging everyone to sign up for the MOAA newsletter online. The two basic issues for the national Advocacy in Action are toxic exposure and TRICARE for young adults. As a third point, an objective is establishing a subsistence allowance for active duty families. COL Jim Brumit stated that these three topics will be emphasized virtually all during May to the Congress. **Take Away** is that chapter presidents MUST support their legislative chairs and get them more assistance with emails and other tasks.

**XIII.** Second Vice President Lt. Col. Ed Brown elaborated on Membership and Recruitment efforts **(slides 20-27)**. He emphasized getting 100% national membership in at least two of the four chapters who do not have that level now. We have a large pool of people from which to gain new members to form new satellites and new chapters. We are looking to increase our membership by 7% but stated goal is 5%. We can and should use advertising skills to get new members. Refer to the current Committee Module (CM)

and Near Real Time (NRT) for retention of members. **Take Aways** are to build growth, establish satellites and grow chapter membership even when forming a satellite.

**XIV:** PRIDE activities. President COL Jim Brumit asked what has your chapter done that you are excited about?

- Triangle-COL Herb Segal gave a shout out to Legislative Chair COL Mike Flynn for his work on legislative issues, especially establishing a relationship with Representative Deborah Ross and we now have a real ally in Congress.
- Coastal-CAPT Randall Ramian said that they were successful in integrating Eastern Chapter into the Coastal Chapter. They have arranged for the Traveling Viet Nam Wall to be in New Bern in April.
- High Country-Capt. Doug May described their smaller, recorded ceremonies for Veterans' Day and Memorial Day after 14 years of holding large community ceremonies.
- Central-LTC Gary Applewhite reported that they were able to provide ten \$300 gift cards to patients in the local VA Medical Center for Christmas.
- Tarheel-CDR Ken Zuhr stated that they awarded two scholarships to local high school students. They almost have the CM and local membership rolls in sync!
- Coast Guard Elizabeth City Satellite-CDR Matt Walker said the satellite is up and running (two years) and plans are in place for succession of leadership.
- Piedmont-Maj. Aimee Corning explained their adjustment for the pandemic from the traditional Stand Down for homeless veterans to a donation of \$200 for outreach for them. Chapter members are continuing to collect underwear, toothpaste and other personal items to be donated to the homeless vets.
- Charlotte-Metrolina-LTC Joe Anderson gave a shout out to VP, Membership COL Ron Morgan who has been instrumental in the chapter's 10% growth in membership.
- Sandhills-Lt. Col. Drew Croucher reported that they presented nine \$2000 scholarships to JROTC cadets and received a \$5000 Community Grant.
- SENCLand-BG Jim Carper said they have maintained effective communications during the pandemic and welcome new members to the area.
- New River-LCDR Steve Tucker announced that they gave a total of \$5000 to the 2 Fisher Houses which is an increased amount. This was the \$5000 Community Grant.
- Western-Capt. Donna Culp described their Christmas drive through event for the Veterans Medical Center in Asheville during which they collected between 300 and 400 pounds of items as well as \$1000. They are making this an annual event.
- Catawba Valley-LTC Davy Davenport praised the hard work of Col. John C. Liburd, Editor who was instrumental in this chapter being awarded the Harris Communication Award.
- Cape Fear-COL Rich Underwood stated that the chapter is proud of their relationship with the ROTC and JROTC units and the scholarship program. They are pleased with their improved website.

**XV:** Refer to **(slides 29-30)** for Dates and Events with changes as follows:

- Advocacy in Action will be entirely virtual in May.
- The National MOAA Leaders Workshop in September will also be our State Convention
- New Association Management System will also be an adjustment to the CM

**XVI:** Announcements:

- CAPT Mike Covell uses the online program on the national website for dues and encourages us to do that. All you need is a credit card and your MOAA membership number and it saves time.
- COL Herb Segal asked if Triangle Chapter will have any hosting responsibilities for the National Leaders Training. They could serve as a local contact. COL Brumit will look into this.
- If anyone is interested in being on the Nominating Committee please contact Chairman CAPT David Lee or President COL Jim Brumit. New officers will be elected at the November Annual Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1218 hours.

Sue Harris, Secretary