



Minutes of the 18 September 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, 18 September 2021. President COL Jim Brumit welcomed everyone. CAPT Doug Ehrhardt instructed attendees on accessing the slides while keeping the Zoom active.
- II. The meeting was called to order by Council President COL Jim Brumit at 1000 hours. He announced that we do not have a Chaplain at this meeting.
- III. The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was recited by all.
- IV. Attendance:

Council Officers

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

Chapter Presidents

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

Coast Guard Eliz. City Satellite LCDR Sardone, Amanda

V. Approval of 15 May 2021 Quarterly Council Minutes: **CAPT David Lee made a motion to approve the minutes.** COL Herb Segal seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

VI. Treasurer's Report: Assistant Treasurer LTC Mike Pomponio presented the treasurer's report (**slides 07 through 10**).

VII. CAPT David Lee, Chairman of the Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers for 2022-2023. (**slide 11**) He thanked other members of the committee who met several times over the summer : BG Jim Carper, COL Jeri Graham, COL Iggi Husar and Capt. Donna Culp. The Slate of Officers is:

- President CW4 Jay Garbus, Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter
- 1st Vice President CDR Ken Klassen, SENCLand Chapter
- 2nd Vice President LCDR Mark Sandivigen, Coastal Carolina Chapter

COL Jim Brumit asked for nominations from the floor for President. **Receiving none, COL Herb Segal moved the nominations be closed.** ???? (not identified) seconded the motion and it passed. CW4 Garbus is elected Council President unanimously.

COL Brumit asked for nominations from the floor for 1st Vice President. **BG Jim Carper moved that the nominations be closed.** Lt. Col Ed Brown seconded it and it passed. CDR Klassen is elected Council 1st Vice President unanimously.

COL Brumit asked for nominations from the floor for 2nd Vice President. **LTC Joe Anderson moved to close the nominations.** BG Jim Carper seconded it and it passed. LCDR Sandivigen is elected Council 2nd Vice President unanimously.

COL Brumit congratulated the newly elected officers and thanked them for stepping up. He thanked the nominating committee for their hard work.

VIII. CAPT David Lee mentioned that Jay Garbus was interviewed by WSOC TV and gave a professional and emotional interview about his experience with the aftermath of the plane hitting the Pentagon on 9/11. LTC Joe Anderson added that there was also a newspaper article about Jay's experience and some excerpts are included in the most recent Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter newsletter. Both can be accessed via the internet.

IX. Status of the Council Goals and Objectives for 2021: COL Jim Brumit introduced COL Iggi Husar who thanked Council officers as well as Chapter legislative chairs for their cooperation in achieving legislative goals. (**slides 13-18**) Accomplishments include the appointment of Lt. Gen Walter Gaskin as the Secretary of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The Occupational Therapist interstate licensure agreement and DMV deployed armed forces exemptions bill were signed. These work toward making North Carolina a military friendly state and **slide 15** shows the status of other bills. We are still hopeful of passing the income tax for all retirees and appropriations bills since there is no end date for our General Assembly. Our Top Three National MOAA Legislative Goals are on **slide 16**. We have worked

on them and contacted legislators. We are optimistic that the Toxic Exposure bill and Tricare for Young Adults will become law. DSLO Issues are outlined on **slide 17**. CAPT Barry Coyle recommended that HB 53, Educational Changes for Military Connected Students be added to accomplishments. It provides in-state tuition continuity for military dependents whose parents move to another state and was signed in April. COL Jeri Graham noted that we have had a Department of Military and Veterans Affairs but it has been underfunded. COL Herb Segal noted that we need to focus on the 83% of legislators who have NO military experience and especially newly elected legislators without military experience are prime targets. COL Husar pointed out the link on **slide 18** to learn more about DSLO and COL Jeri Graham said that a webinar has been arranged explaining DSLO and will be on the national website. Our overall goal is for North Carolina to become a military friendly state. Dr. Vivianne Wersel commented that Lt. Gen. Gaskin is an excellent choice to lead the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. He is an incredible leader and is very well respected. Capt. Donna Culp said that the chapter's speaker, Senator Chuck Edwards was amazed at how much the local chapter is involved in the veterans' community and had not ever heard the MOAA motto "Never Stop Serving" but is impressed with it.

X. COL Jim Brumit introduced Lt. Col Ed Brown, 2nd Vice President and Chair of the Membership/Retention Committee. He thanked the members of the committee, COL Al Schroetel, Capt. Donna Culp and Maj. Aimee Corning as well as chapter chairmen for all their hard work to get us to the point where we are. He refers to **(slides 19-24)**. **Slide 20** outlines goals for 2021. The first goal of 11 national Membership Chapters is only two short, but we have three chapters that are just a couple people away from that. The goal to decrease non-National Members, we have reclaimed 66 of the 86 this year, and our current number of 20 is considerable below the 232 of 18 months ago. The third goal of adding 200 new members, we maintained membership AND added 104, even through Covid. Our membership numbers are higher now than when we started with Covid. The goal of establishing five satellites was hindered by Covid, but we have one new satellite established and several others are ongoing. The Incentive Program for new members **(slide 21)** was successful for ten chapters who recruited less than 25% of their total membership and two of those chapters, Coastal Carolina Chapter and First in Flight Chapter, both exceeded recruiting more than 25% of their membership. **Slides 22 and 23** remind you of bonuses/incentives available to you from National MOAA. Five Star LOE awardees NC Council and eight chapters are listed on **slide 24**. Congratulations to all. We currently have 1336 members statewide. COL Brumit stated that we have made a lot of progress in the membership arena. This is not a good time to hold "Meet and Greets" due to Covid. This is the primary reason we only have one satellite established, and that is in Goldsboro. Meet and Greets that had been scheduled had to be postponed.

XI. Dr. Vivianne Wersel, Surviving Spouses Liaison for the Council was introduced and welcomed to the Council. She is a member of Western Carolina Chapter and serves on the advisory committee for Surviving Spouses on National MOAA. **(Slides 25-30)**. She is familiar with title 10 and Title 38, has a military background and knows the complex system well. Her goals **(slide 26)** begin from a clean slate and involve every NC Chapter having a real Surviving Spouse Liaison with an email address by January. **Slide 27** outlines Dr. Wersel's goal of communicating with chapters via email and quarterly newsletters and **slide 28** details her goal of increasing Surviving Spouse membership. **(Slide 29)** Surviving Spouse

Liaisons do NOT have to be a survivor and Surviving Spouses are NOT auxiliary members, but REAL members of MOAA. Life memberships transfer to the surviving spouse. **(Slide 30)** Identify and engage surviving spouses, solicit their opinions, empower them, bring other spouses into the design, and present this topic to the chapter outlining what you would like to have known. Be a good leader by bringing other people into the group. Dr. Wersel is available to answer questions and provide guidance to local liaisons and chapters. COL Jim Brumit commented that surviving spouses are valuable members and 11% of NC members are surviving spouses. You can have more than one liaison on the CM. Inform him when you have one or more liaisons identified. LTC Joe Anderson asked if a spouse of a non-member of MOAA is eligible for membership based on the deceased spouse's eligibility to join. Dr. Wersel said that the answer is yes. COL Brumit noted that many benefits are available to surviving spouses and we need to learn about them. LCDR Steve Tucker asked if a surviving spouse can serve in any board office of a chapter and the answer is yes, surviving spouses are real members, not auxiliary members. Remove the section Auxiliary Members from your Committee Module.

XII. Takeaways from yesterday's MOAA's 2021 Council and Chapter Leaders' Virtual Workshop will be included on **Slides 31 and 32**. COL Jim Brumit reported that there were 106 participants from eight states. Thirty-five were from NC. Thank you for participating and asking key questions. (This has been corrected/updated since this meeting to 45 participants from North Carolina.) For your takeaways, think about what was important to you. Consider two questions: How have you focused on the strategic plans of MOAA and the goals of NCCOC? and how have National and Council supported you? What are we (National MOAA and NCCOC) doing well and what can we do better? What should we NOT do? Please include these responses in an email to COL Brumit who will collect and send to CAPT Ehrhardt who will send out the updated slides.

XIII. (Slide 33) COL Jim Brumit went over the dates and events.

- Apply the second time for the \$300 if you are applying for satellite creation or for a Rally/Meet and Greet to increase chapter membership. You MUST say that USAA is sponsoring the event.
- Monthly virtual roundtables have been held for chapter presidents and council presidents. Be sure that you are getting the invites from National. The next one is 30 September on Recruiting and 28 October will be on Retention and Succession Planning.
- You should already have invites for the annual LOE ceremony in October.
- Scholarship applications are due 1 November.
- Our 12-13 November Annual Meeting will be in person to recognize chapters and personnel. We will have one speaker on Friday evening and another on Saturday.
- Be sure to include community outreach events, especially if you received a Community Outreach Grant, on LOE applications for 2021.
- Dues are due to NCCOC 31 January. To reconcile the statement from the treasurer, subtract for members who do not pay dues. For example, you can subtract \$150 if you have 100 people on your CM who do not pay dues.
- Applications for the COL Marvin J. Harris Awards are due 1 February.

- The National MOAA workshop in Raleigh in August 2022 will be in person. COL Iggi Husar added that it will be 12-13 August.

XIV. COL Jim Brumit asked for comments.

- LTC Joe Anderson asked that the Council or each chapter do something around recruiting MOAA members that connects with national advertising of the Army-Navy game.
- Dr. Vivianne Wersel said she is going to the meeting in DC in October and wants people from NC to connect with her to recognize people in person.
- CAPT Doug Ehrhardt said that some of his Zoom invites with the slide deck went to Spam. Please add Doug's name so you can accept emails from him.
- COL Brumit thanked CAPT Ehrhardt for a superb job hosting these meetings and thanked all who are attending here.
- CW4 Jay Garbus thanked everyone for confidence in him in electing him to be the next president and he is looking forward to working with everyone to make our council a better council.
- LTC Joe Anderson invited everyone to join the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter on 8 October for a JROTC Scholarship Benefit Golf Tournament. Contact him or Col. Ron Morgan for more information about this signature event.

The meeting adjourned at 1130 hours.

Sue Harris, Secretary