

## North Carolina Council of Chapters

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Council Meeting

18 May 2019

The Council meeting on 18 May 2019 was called to order by President David Lee at 0830 at the Mountain Lodge and Conference Center in Flat Rock, NC. The Western Carolina Chapter hosting. After roll call, he determined that there was sufficient attendance for a quorum.

**Treasurer's Report:** Gary Marlar has moved out of the area and a brief report was given by Ed Baisden with more to follow at the Saturday meeting. Thank you Ed for stepping up again to take on this responsibility. Dues have been coming in and we have a bank balance of \$13,696.19. Outflow included the donation of \$500 to the Coast Guard, \$100 to the Council on Aging, \$40 to update our ad in the NC Serve Magazine that will be coming out soon. There was also a pass through where \$580 coming from National MOAA for Council President travel was given to David Lee for his travel expenses. An anticipate expense for the upcoming month will include a donation to the USO of NC. Marie Senzig moved the treasurer's report be approved, the motion was seconded by Al DelGarbino and approved.

**Minutes** from the prior meeting were reviewed. Jay Garbus moved the minutes be accepted as written, Doug May seconded the motion and it was approved.

#### **Old Business/New Business:**

- David had the chapters divided up by region giving Chapter Presidents the opportunity to share successes including speakers that may be willing to travel to other chapters. Several ideas surfaced and David will share these resources on the website.
- Chris Froeschner, USO of NC Vice President of Operations, addressed the group about USO issues. He is also a member of the Triangle Chapter. He said that they have 20 employees and over 1000 volunteers and that 93% of their donations go to the service of military members and their families. He also advised that the USO at Raleigh Durham served about 2500 personnel per month and Charlotte Douglas about 14,000.
- Six chapters, (Tar Heel, Triangle, Western Carolina, Lloyd Osborne, High Country and New River) were recognized with streamers for increases in membership. First Flight was recognized for an increase in 2018.
- Al DelGarbino announced that they have a strong satellite chapter going on the Coast Guard Station in Elizabeth City under the leadership of CDR Matt Walker. They currently have 24 members.
- 2018 Harris Communications Awards were given to:
  - NC COC – Doug Ehrhardt (Website) and Mark Beymer (Newsletter)
  - Cape Fear – Juan Chavez (Website and Newsletter)

- Charlotte Metrolina – Dale Hogue (Website)
  - Sencland – Ken Klassen (Website) and Harry Deas (Newsletter)
  - Tar Heel – Greg Chase (Newsletter) and Thomas Denegre (Website)
  - Catawba – John Liburdi (Newsletter and Website)
- Ken Klassen talked about the results of the survey his chapter conducted. Big takeaways included: the importance of fellowship, speakers/programs, meals, location and occasional special events. He also picked up that members like being asked to do things and were positive about the chapter.
  - Jeri Graham and Ed Baisden are leading two virtual chapters, one for nurses and the other for surviving spouses. See [mssvc02@gmail.com](mailto:mssvc02@gmail.com) for surviving spouse information. To join these chapter(s) give Jeri and/or Ed email addresses of potential members.

**NC COC State Convention/Beach Vacation:** will be at the Atlantic Beach Hilton Double Tree on 18, 19, 20 October.

- At this point the plans are for: a welcome and Luau Dinner on Friday evening; a short business meeting in the morning with a guest speaker from National MOAA for the Saturday evening banquet, with the remainder of the day being free time; and a unique event Sunday morning before dismissal and returning home.
- David will develop flyer/brochure for the convention within the next 10 days so it can be presented to the chapters as many do not meet during the summer months.
- Costs for the hotel are \$139 per night and \$175 per person for 3 breakfasts, lunch, banquet and two drink tickets for the banquet and luau. Total costs for two nights for couples are expected to be about \$800 and \$625 for singles.

#### **Council Succession Plans:**

A number of issues were discussed including the idea of vice presidents moving up a position every two years, past presidents serving on the nominating committee and service on the board for life. This has been a difficult concept to sell and get volunteers to buy into. Discussion included ideas of reducing the number of vice presidents to two, legislative and membership, two year terms for past presidents on the board, etc. David agreed to review the By-laws and reviews duties of the various positions on the Council of Chapters. Jim also thought it was important to include a 'conflict of interest' statement in any By-law changes. David is working on the idea of a universal/chapter-wide nominating committee for Council of Chapters (COC) leadership and volunteers who may have an interest in servicing on the COC.

**Legislative:** Jeri had some handouts and discussed several upcoming legislative issues.

- National MOAA – Storming the Hill on April 10 by 170 MOAA members. Issues addressed included supporting the 3.1% pay raise for the troops, repeal of the ‘widow’s tax’ and stabilizing TRICARE.
  - The North Carolina Team consisted of: Jim Brumit, Jeri Graham, Rollie Sampson (Sandhills Chapter and serving on the Spouses Council) and Leanne Murray (MOAA Membership & Marketing). They visited all NC Congressional offices and felt the meetings were positive.
  - The Widow’s Tax has its best chance of being done away with during this session.
  - There are concerns about the privatization of military housing and the condition of same.
  - The Defense Authorization Bill changes in military health system sees potential significant impact on family care, medical education pipeline, loss of 18,000 billets.
- North Carolina Level:
  - NC MOAA was well represented by Barry Coyle, Ken Klassen, Iggi Husar, Diana DiStefano, Herb Segal, Mike Flynn, David Lee, Ed Baisden, Jeri Graham, Joann Harrington, Darryl Mills and Joan Long.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Branch set up an excellent Lobby Day with attendance of about 45 people.
  - A list of several bills of interest to the military/veterans was handed out by Jeri and a list will be sent via email to chapter presidents.
  - Send Doug Ehrhardt a list of all presidents and legislative representative from the chapter.
  - There is another BRAC issue that will probably surface in 2020. We need to work to improve NC’s rank as a military friendly state.

**Options to Restructure Council Meetings:** Our 17 August meeting will be an experiment in trying a new option for Council meetings. We will be meeting at Searstone in Cary for a Saturday only meeting. The meeting will be from 1000 to 1500 with a lunch break. There will be no Friday social and it will be strictly a one day business meeting.

**Leadership Changes:**

- Marie Senzig is the Chapter President for Coastal Carolina Chapter.
- Loretta ‘Sunshine’ Hollowell has stepped up and will be the new Surviving Spouse Representative for the Council of Chapters.
- Ron Wilsbach has resigned as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Council of Chapters.

**Action Items:**

- Chapter Presidents are to complete their surveys and be prepared to present their findings at the August meeting.
- Send your recommended speaker contact information to David Lee (*New email address:* DLee28144@gmail.com) and he will have it attach in Best Practices on the website.
- David will review the By-laws for the guidelines to follow and how to make changes.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- 17 August - 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter – Saturday only at Searstone Clubhouse in Cary, NC. See the website for details.
- 18-20 October - 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter – Convention. Atlantic Beach, NC. Watch the website for further information as this event firms up.

David dismissed the meeting at 1230.

Respectfully submitted:

David Lee

President

Gary Aljets for Carol Aljets

Secretary