

Minutes of the AM 9 April 2026 MOAA Council of Chapters Meeting

The monthly meeting of the MOAA NCCoC was held virtually and called to order at 1000 hours on Thursday 9 April by President Donna Culp USAF Capt. (Frm). All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Attendance was taken and a quorum was present, with ten chapters represented. There were 11 voting members present with a total of 17 attending.

***Secretary Report:** Frankie presented the minutes from 5 February and 12 March which had been delayed due to computer issues. The motion was made to accept the minutes, seconded, and passed.

President's Report Capt. Donna Culp, USAF (FMR):

The council learned of the passing of Dave Gould, former Cape Fear Chapter treasurer, on the evening of April 8th. A delegation will attend services in Wilmington once details are confirmed. The council also keeps Jim Brummett and his family in thoughts and prayers during a difficult time with multiple family losses.

***Treasurer Ken Hillman USMC (Ret)** presented a positive financial picture for 2026:

- **Assets:** \$22,043.81 total (\$10,240.56 checking + \$11,803.25 savings)
- **2026 Performance:** Revenue of \$4,718.72 against expenses of \$302.00
- **Budget Status:** \$4,416.72 remaining in 2026 budget
- **Revenue Note:** One chapter's dues are still outstanding: once received, the budget projections will be met.
- **Funds available for the Workshop:** \$2,068 is allocated for council meetings
- The report was received without questions or concerns.

1st Vice President Frankie Groff, SSL: Frankie reported significant progress on Chapter * *Management system proficiency. She was able to successfully clean up her chapters roster, High Country Chapter.

*Coordinate with Victoria for council-wide chapter support.

*Get ready to assist chapters with semester reports and officer updates.

Discussion revealed discrepancies in reported membership numbers, with some chapters showing 1,300-1,400 members despite actual numbers being much lower. Frankie will work with Victoria to investigate and resolve these discrepancies, ensuring accurate membership data across all chapters.

2nd Vice President Col Dana Tucker, USA: Dana provided an update on the upcoming Washington DC advocacy week (April 14-17, 2026):

Team Composition

- Dana Tucker and Mark Sandwigan (NC delegates)
- Vivian Wersel (NC delegate)
- Stephanie Dawson (National MOA representative with NC affiliation)

Schedule Overview

- **Monday:** Travel to Washington DC
- **Tuesday:** Training and preparation sessions
- **Wednesday:** Congressional visits (primary advocacy day)
- **Thursday:** After-action review, additional training, and closeout

Confirmed Meetings (Subject to Change)

Dana's Team:

- Senator Thom Tillis (joint visit)
- Senator Ted Budd (joint visit)
- Representative Don Davis (NC-01)
- Representative Tim Moore (NC -14)
- Representative Pat Harrigan (NC -10) - drop-off visit
- Representative Brad Knott - TBD scheduling

Selection Process Clarification

When asked about Representative Hudson's absence from the list, Dana explained:

The selection process is handled by National MOA and Soapbox based on issue analysis. They examine which representatives are already sponsors of key legislation (like the Richard Starr Act) and where advocacy efforts will have the most impact. This is different from previous years when delegates scheduled all visits independently.

Flexibility: Additional drop-in visits can be arranged for representatives not on the official schedule if chapter leaders request them.

3rd Vice President COL Herb Segal, USA Chapter Legislative Liaisons:

June 2nd is State Legislative Day

- **Sponsor:** North Carolina Veterans Council (NCCOC is chartered member)
- **Annual Dues:** \$140 (confirmed paid by Ken Hillman)
- **Herb's Assignment:** Leading talking points on veterans' treatment courts
- **Participation:** Draft position paper available for review; input welcomed from interested members

State Liaison Activities

Herb attended the March 31st evening meeting of the National MOA State

Liaison Group, featuring a presentation by Blue Star Families Executive Director:

Focus Areas: Military family housing quality and billet conditions

- **Coordination Gaps:** Limited coordination observed with other veteran organizations
- **Advocacy Approach:** Blue Star Families operate independently with legislators

Opportunity: National MOA hosts quarterly Liaison Forum meetings focused on state issues. Members interested in state-level advocacy are encouraged to join. Contact Herb for details.

Fayetteville Veterans Home Update

Status: Limited progress; frustration growing

- Three unsuccessful contact attempts with legislative liaison in Secretary Millett's office

No response to emails or phone calls

- Gregory Williamson expressed disappointment given Secretary Molette's public commitment in November to personally champion the project

Next Steps: Herb considering direct outreach to Secretary for courtesy call, potentially with 3- person delegation

Health Updates:

Ed Baisden has experienced a series of mini strokes. He is under the care of daughter Julie. **Jeri Graham** is dealing with significant dementia and is also under the care of Julie.

June Workshop Planning

Venue Research: David Lee evaluated four potential venues for consideration. Grayland (Wake Forest), Iron Mike (Fort Bragg), Hawthorne Inn, and Maple Chase Country Club.

Date & Venue Decision Discussion

The group discussed scheduling conflicts and venue advantages:

Scheduling Conflicts Identified

- *June 12-13 Weekend:*
 - Frankie: Graduation commitment on 13th
 - Triangle Chapter: Summerfest Patriotic Pops concert (NC Symphony) on 12th
 - Herb: Chapter event conflict

- *June 5-6 Weekend:*
 - Randall: Conflict but will send replacement
 - Michael: Cape Fear Chapter picnic on 5th (evening)
 - Steve: Brit Floyd concert in Colorado

Walt Havenstein: Walt feels the specific weekend matters less than ensuring the agenda is detailed, meaningful, and explicit about learning objectives. Participants should come prepared to actively engage, not just observe.

Motion: Jay Garbus moved to hold the workshop at Hawthorne Inn on June 5-6, 2026

Second: Dana Tucker

Result: Approved unanimously

Workshop Content & Format

Primary Goal

Increase council and chapter effectiveness through exchanging ideas, information, and mutual support among members. Bring together new chapter leaders with experienced leaders to share institutional knowledge and best practices.

Core Topics for Deep Dive Sessions

1. **Succession Planning** - Ensuring leadership continuity and knowledge transfer
2. **MOA Brand & Chapter Recognition** - Elevating visibility and reputation in communities
3. **Recruiting & Retention** - Growing and maintaining membership (overlaps with succession planning)
4. **Surviving Spouses** - Supporting and engaging surviving spouse members (Vivian Wersel to lead)
5. **Advocacy** - Core MOA mission at federal, state, and local levels
6. **Community Outreach & Welfare** - Connecting with community needs and serving members

Participant Preparation Requirements

Planning committee will provide detailed instructions, but initial requests include:

- Bring laptops for hands-on work
- Prepare best practice examples from your chapter

- Document success stories to share
- Come ready for active participation, not passive observation

Additional Planning Notes

- National MOAA will be invited to participate and provide resources
- Planning committee (Donna, David, Walt, others) will finalize detailed agenda
- Demographics and chapter composition will be addressed as part of workshop
- Success of June workshop may eliminate need for July and August monthly meetings, giving everyone summer break

Welfare & Wellness Committee Focus

Leon raised important question: Does every chapter have an outreach/wellness committee?

This question will be addressed in future meetings and potentially at the June workshop, as welfare and wellness activities are foundational to chapter operations and member support.

Communications & Administrative Updates

Newsletter Redesign

Jay Garbus is working on updated newsletter boilerplate to give council communications a "condensed look and fresh face." Donna reviewing progress. Jay reportedly worked on design between 2-4 AM (dedication noted and appreciated).

Dual Meeting Initiative: Donna will begin holding an evening meeting for the presidents who work and are unable to attend the regular meetings. The first meeting will be this evening at 1800 hours.

Meeting Technology

- AI Companion scribe activated for meeting documentation
- Will be used for evening meeting if Frankie is unable to attend
- Helps ensure accurate record-keeping for both AM and PM sessions

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1106 hours.

Next meeting to be held 7 May 2026 at 1000hours

Respectfully submitted,

Frankie Pennington Groff