

## North Carolina Council of Chapters

### 2nd Quarterly NC COC Meeting

13 May 2017

The Council of Chapters meeting on 13 May 2017 was called to order by President Doug Ehrhardt at 0830 in Hampton Inn, Bermuda Run, NC. Greg Bean led in the Pledge of Allegiance and Malcolm Roberts offered a prayer. Secretary Carol Aljets called the roll and all chapters were represented. Malcolm Roberts represented Coastal Carolina, David Lee represented Eastern Carolina while they work on getting a new president, Doug represented New River and Carol Aljets represented Charlotte-Metrolina. Sandhills and Western Carolina were not represented.

The minutes were reviewed and the Executive Committee minutes need to be corrected to reflect and actual loss of \$51.43, over budget for 2016. The NC COC minutes need to reflect a balance of \$16,348.50 on the Treasurer's Report. Dean Block moved the minutes be approved as corrected, the motion was seconded by Malcolm Roberts and the motion carried unanimously.

Doug announced the winners of the 2016 Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Awards. Henceforth a medallion will be given for the highest award, which is to be attached to the streamer and afterwards, a year patch will be given for repeat winnings.

- 5 Star Awardees: NC COC (website); Cape Fear (website); Sandhills (website)
- 4 Star Awardees: Cape Fear (newsletter); Sandhills (newsletter); Coastal (website and newsletter); Southeast (website and newsletter); Triangle (website and newsletter); Catawba Valley (website and newsletter); New River (e-newsletter); and NC COC (e-newsletter).

Doug Ehrhardt and crew Stormed the Hill on 6 April 2017. Prospects are good that this Congressional session will be making the needed changes in Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (SBP/DIC) and avoiding sequestration. The NC delegation saw all 15 Representatives and both Senators. The NC delegation included: Jeri Graham, Ed Baisdan, Doug Ehrhardt and General Dana Atkins. Doug was very complimentary of the knowledge of General Atkins in this whole process and the issues. Doug went over the 10 priorities shared by VA Secretary Shulkin. More information on the priorities and others can be found on COC website under News and Events.

Council President's Seminar (6 April 2017): Terri Coles, Chapter and Council Director, advised that the income streams for National MOAA are down which may be causing some of the financial cutbacks for chapters. Levels of Excellence Ceremony will be conducted every other year with the awards being mailed on the off year. Also a medallion will be sent for the highest level attained and it is to be attached to the streamer. In future years, there will be no more medallions nor streamers but a patch identifying the additional years the award was attained will be given to the winning chapter. National MOAA will no longer be paying for Gold Bars/Patches, JROTC Medals and Certificates. It will be up the local chapter as to how they want to handle these programs.

Presidents/Chapter Leadership Seminar will no longer be held on a regional basis every four years. Now they will be having three meetings per year in various areas around the country. Incurred expenses are on the attendee. The first meeting is in Memphis, TN, (15-16 September 2017) and NC is not scheduled for a meeting until 2018 which will probably include other states around the area and not just NC.

A Community Outreach Program has been set up by MOAA. Check their website for additional information. Grants will be available for chapters helping their community. These grants will be available beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>.

The NC State Convention is on schedule for 7-10 September 2017 at Historic Williamsburg, VA. This will be counted as the third quarter meeting for NC COC. So far only twenty-six rooms have been spoken for. Any others wanting to attend need to contact George Brudzinski or Jim Jackson of JETT Travel. He is a member of the Southeastern Carolina Chapter and has worked with the Council on other travel projects. Jamestown and Yorktown are close by and young children are welcome to come and enjoy the sites.

Legislative Day in Raleigh (10 May 2017): HB103 – Bailey Patton has crossed over from the House to the Senate according to Vern Pike. It is unknown as to what the Senate may do. A complete list of veteran/military bills that are under consideration was shown at the meeting and can be seen on the COC Website.

David Lee made his presentation on membership with additional info on the COC website. Only 15% of National members belong to local chapters and as chapters we need to find a way to make more individuals realize how important it is to be a chapter member. Ideas and suggestions are always welcome. The paid dues in NC were up 1.9% (2016 to 2017), which is a good thing but we still need more individuals. David has a streamer that has been developed and will be given to chapters that reflect positive growth and have an assessment program. The assessment form is on the website. He also registered a concern as chapter membership in 2010 was 2,500 and in 2016 it was 1,700. We need to turn this number around. Dean Block made a motion to accept the membership report and it was seconded by Bruce Harris. The motion carried. Membership is the backbone of MOAA Chapters.

Treasurer's Report (George Brudzinski). Dues have been received from all chapters except Eastern Carolina. The current balance is \$27,810.65. Mark Beymer made a motion that we accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, the motion was seconded by Dean Block and approved unanimously by the Council.

CDR Jack Overman has been given the MOAA Chairman's Award Pin.

Council chapter sharing and second thoughts were not offered due to time constraints.

Next Meeting: 17-18 November, Cape Fear Chapter. Information will be forthcoming on the website.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

Submitted by: Doug Ehrhardt  
President

Carol Aljets  
Secretary