

Military Officers Association of America

North Carolina Council of Chapters

Minutes of the 4th Quarter 2014 Meeting

8 November 2014, Raleigh, NC

President Jeri Graham called the meeting to order at 0830. Joe Cansler gave the opening prayer for the meeting to begin.

The roll call was done by Secretary Carol Aljets and all chapters had representation except for First Flight and First in Freedom. There were five chapters sending representatives or new presidents. These included Ron Morgan from Charlotte-Metrolina, Ken Horvath from Lloyd Osborne Piedmont, Bob Gibbard from High Country, Steve Mannell from Sandhills and Art Rodriguez from Cape Fear. Those in attendance from the Executive Board were Jeri Graham, Doug Ehrhardt, David Lee and Carol Aljets.

New presidents were given a guide created for new presidents. It is also available on the state website.

The minutes were reviewed and approved by all. Earlier in the year an action log was started but it needs to be updated. All items that have been completed will be moved to the back of the log but will remain for historical information.

The Treasurer's report was posted and it was reviewed and approved by all.

Ed Baisden has been working on updating the Zip Code Project for all chapters to be sent to National MOAA. He is almost finished and he, Jeri and Harley have been working with the SC COC President concerning the South Carolina zip codes that are in the Charlotte-Metrolina chapter as designated by National. Jeri has also been in touch with the Greenville, SC, Chapter. Everything is going smoothly and an individual from the Charlotte-Metrolina group residing in South Carolina will have a legislative chairman in contact with the congressperson from that area. This project should be finished soon and Ed will send out an updated version to all presidents, parties needing information and National MOAA. Great work Ed and all who helped on this project.

Jeri gave information on the State Convention to be held at the High Hampton Inn in Cashiers. There is an excellent golf course available and tee times have been arranged. It is also a relatively easy golf course for one in the mountains. The dates for the State Convention are 11-14 June 2015. Jeri is working with singles who want to share a room with another single. This will reduce the cost for each individual. The reservation deadline has been extended to 25 January 2015 and the word needs to be gotten out that this event is for all MOAA members and family members. There will be additional fees for additional family members. Cashiers is not just a resort but a community with many families of flag officers including General Mundy and General Westmoreland and there has been an extension to invite those in the area to our functions. There is more information on the NCCOC website.

The Inn is rustic and there are no elevators. If there are special needs please let them know when reservations are made and these will be taken into consideration when rooms are assigned. There is a main house and for more information check out the state website and the High Hampton Inn site. There are no private dining rooms and there will not be any dinner speakers. Thursday dinner will be coats but ties are not required. Coats and ties are required Friday and Saturday night. There will be assigned seating during the meals. The cost includes all meals and one hour of an open bar. Jeri stated that the buffet food is good.

There will be a speaker on Friday and Saturday from 0915 to 1045. Individuals from MOAA National have been invited including VADM Ryan and COL Wright. Others may attend as has been true on the last two State Conventions at Sea. Other invitees may include state politicians and their staff such as Governor McCrory and Major General Wilson.

In order to pay for a National Guard family's cost to attend the State Conference, Jeri is offering her beach home for either the week of 15-22 August or 22-29 August. It is a two minute walk to the beach and it is pet friendly, sleeps six and there is no-smoking. Each chapter president was given 12 tickets to sell for a raffle. The cost is \$10 per ticket. The drawing will be held on 15 March. As previously stated the proceeds from sales will allow an Air or Army National Guard individual and family to attend the North Carolina State Convention. This is a way to reach out to both Guards and could be used as a method to get the word out about MOAA and where we are and what we do for all military groups. The National Guard Association will also be selling tickets.

NCCOC and National MOAA are involved with the Vietnam Commemoration Partner project. Both have applied and were accepted in this endeavor which will be on going. For general information on the project look at the website www.vietnamwar50th.com/. Joe Cansler and the Catawba Valley Chapter have put together an excellent exhibit that includes memorabilia and maps of the Vietnam action. These are to be circulated among all chapters wishing to use this exhibit at one of their meetings. Chapters are encouraged to add relevant material to the exhibit. Interested chapters are to contact Jeri so that they may be added to the list and a date can be given when the exhibit is available.

The next topic covered was the JROTC Instructor of the Year which is for both officer and enlisted instructors. Detailed information is available on the state website. The Triangle Chapter has started by distributing information to all their JROTC units. They also applied for the \$300 grant from USAA to pay for the reward to be given to their winners and it has already been approved. Jeri is going to be sending letters to all schools in the state that have JROTC units sponsored by MOAA Chapters. She will be needing the names of the schools from each chapter.

Jeri asked chapters about their activities for Veteran's Day. Most chapters did at least have members who were active in some ceremony ranging from parades to wreath dedications. Due to the day of the state meeting some presidents were missing the activities of their chapter but that was not really a problem.

Jeri Graham updated everyone on the process of the 4th Branch and Federal Retiree Task Force with the CQ Roll Call Project. This project is to enhance communications with the NC Legislature and member

organization. The 4th Branch and the Federal Retiree Task Force (FRTF) have each committed funds to support contacting a communications company which has similar capabilities as CQ Roll Call which National MOAA has used for years. Jeri made the initial contacts with ENGAGE/CQ Roll Call and established 2 webinars for the Communication Committee of the 4th Branch. She also presented this proposal to the FRTF with great support from the NCCOC members who have had experience with the results of this type of technology. The immediate goal is to have a product agreed upon and all of the operational plans established so that a program could be in place by the time the new legislative session starts. The major challenge now will be for all organization members to “opt in” to the system and provide their contact information for members so that messages can be forwarded.

The technology such as this program must exist on a website and Jeri offered the NCCOC website. It will mirror the same format as used by National MOAA. The heaviest concentration of legislative communication will be concerning Bailey-Patton. A large number of teachers and other state employees retiring now will no longer be eligible for the Bailey-Patton state tax exemption which should create a large influx of input on legislators. There will be more information to follow as this program will be presented and the two organizations work together.

Jeri Graham gave Harley Ellinger’s legislative presentation due to his absence. It was an excellent presentation and she commented on how well it was received at the Symposium in Jacksonville, FL. Also all the Legislative Chairs in North Carolina were able to contact Senators within the allotted time frame. National issues are important to all military individuals and right now one of the greatest is health issues.

David Lee gave the Membership Report and for the past three quarters most North Carolina chapters have been doing well. He asked if there were any other ways that the NCCOC could help with chapter recruiting. If any chapter needs help David is willing and wants to help. He is still looking for items so that the state can use the \$500 from National for local recruiting.

Doug gave his report on Communications and Public Affairs. He did remind us that there was a password used to get into the website section. Also Doug has included an area for a Council Blog which he hopes members will use to get discussions going, ask questions and give different ideas.

The next NCCOC meeting will be on 16-17 January 2015 in New Bern. All the information is on the website. We will be staying at the Double Tree by Hilton at a special room rate of \$90/night plus a tax of 12.75%. To reserve your room, please call (252)-638-3585 or 1-855-610-Tree. Make your reservation no later than December 16th to obtain the special rate. The block of rooms will be released after this date. Please send the information needed for the meal Friday night to Marie Senzig, 104 Knights Court, New Bern, NC 28562 no later than 10 January.

Since the second quarter meeting will be held in June there will be at least two teleconferences held by the NCCOC. These will be scheduled later and as needed.

Jeri Graham, President

Carol Aljets, Secretary