

NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



NC Council of Chapters Website: www.moaa-nc.org

Serving Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, NOAA

Volume 2025 Issue 6-7 SUMMER EDITION

COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

- President - CW4 Jay E Garbus, USA (Ret)
- 1st VP - CDR Kenneth Klassen, USN (Ret)
- 2nd VP - COL Dana Tucker, ARNG
- 3rd VP - LTC Tricia Vinson, USA (Ret)
- Immediate Past President - COL Jim Brumit, USA (Ret)
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- Secretary - Mrs. Sue Harris, (SOM)
- Council Web Manager - 1st LT Tracy Young, USA (FMR)
- Health and Welfare – MAJ Leon Rooks, USA (Ret)
- Chaplain - COL Malcolm Roberts III, USA (Ret)
- Lay Chaplain - LTC Ed Grant, USA (Ret)
- Parliamentarian - COL Vern Pike, USA (Ret)
- Education—Capt Donna Culp, USAF (FOM)

IMPORTANT MEETING DATES

July 24: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m.
(Meeting ID: 962 0410 4083)

Aug. 13: Virtual Leader Training Workshop (Experienced Leaders)

Sept. 25: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m.
Eastern: Council and Chapter Mentorship. [Join here](#) at the time of the meeting. (Meeting ID: 922 2737 5813)

Oct. 23: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m.
(Meeting ID: 929 1511 3996)

November 7th & 8th: Annual Meeting is In Person only
Triangle Chapter hosting in Raleigh



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CW4 Jay E, Garbus, USA (Ret)



“No Disrespect in Respectfully Disagreeing with Leaders”

5 STAR COUNCIL

All,
Happy 4th of July in 2025. Safe driving if you travel the highway. The LOE and Harris awards are being mailed this week. The year 2024 is in the mailings. There is no medal in the packet.

The cruise in October is getting closer and we are looking forward to a smooth and fun cruise. This is the last get together for the Council leadership. The new leadership team takes over at the November Annual meeting.

All elected positions are open. Contact COL Jim Brumit if interested.

Published by the North Carolina Council of Chapters of MOAA

OUR MISSION STATEMENT is in concert with the Military Officers Association of America purposes and objectives. The goal is to foster fraternal relations among retired, active, and former officers of the uniformed services and their Reserve and National Guard components. Our aim is to actively promote the protection of the rights and interests of members of the uniformed services, their family members, including survivors, provide useful services for members and their families, and serve the community, the active military forces (past, present, and future) and our nation.

Publisher and Editor – CW4 Jay E. Garbus, USA (Ret) and Sue Harris (SOM)

Editor may be reached at the Council website. **Further information is restricted due to scammers.**

Chapter Website - www.moaa-nc.org

The Newsletter is published monthly for members and friends of North Carolina Council of Chapters, MOAA.

Editorial Policy: The North Carolina Council of Chapters is affiliated with National MOAA. As such, the North Carolina Council of Chapters is nonprofit and politically nonpartisan. Editorial policies are established by the North Carolina Council of Chapters Publisher and Editor and are in consonance with MOAA's.

Advertising and sponsorship are accepted based on MOAA policies and standards.

MOAA "Take Action" <http://www.moaa.org/take Action/>

A current issue of the newsletter can be found on the North Carolina Council of Chapters website, www.moaa-nc.org. Anyone wishing to receive this newsletter by e-mail may do so by contacting us using the "Contact Us" link

Last Call for Six Day Bermuda Cruise October 12-18

There may be some cabins still available for the cruise, but the MOAA discount expired. If you are interested in joining those already booked, please contact the agent below to discuss and reserve. Lorna Tiller, AAA ITA 910-343-1978(O), 910-540-3390(M) 1823 Hawthorne Rd. Wilmington, NC 28403 ltillertravels@gmail.com



Will You Answer the Call for Leadership?

Every member of MOAA is former or retired officer who has demonstrated leadership abilities during their career. How can that experience be utilized to enhance the North Carolina Council? Won't you consider being an officer for the upcoming term?

The Nominating Committee, Chaired by Immediate Past President COL Jim Brumit, USA (Ret) is asking for volunteers to be considered to lead the North Carolina Council of Chapters for the next two years. The current President and First Vice President have served two terms and are not eligible to run for the same office again. Think about what YOU can do to help our vibrant Council continue to grow and improve! You probably have new ideas, some even stemming from your work in the Chapter.

Second Vice President and Third Vice President offices will also be on the Slate that the Nominating Committee will present at the Annual Meeting In November. Consider your own interests and strengths and contact COL Brumit to volunteer.

MONTHLY COLUMN

RDML Craig Quigley, USN (Ret)

THE ART OF ACTIVE LISTENING



You've heard these phrases many times before: "You've been given two ears and one mouth for a reason." "No one ever listens to me." "If that guy would just shut up and listen for a minute, he might learn something." "Listen to what I'm telling you!"

Listening is something we have done all of our lives, but far too often people want to go into "transmit" mode instead of "receive," as they believe what they have to share is more important/relevant/timely/etc. than what they're hearing. So let's talk about the art of active listening and the value it brings to any conversation.

Active listening doesn't mean "don't talk." It means initially giving all of your attention to the person speaking; really focus on what they're saying; don't rush them; don't interrupt. Make direct eye contact; watch your body language. Let their words sink in.

Not only can you learn facts, you can learn the emotions of the speaker, which may provide you with greater insights than the words themselves. OK; they're done; now it's your turn. Don't immediately change the subject; that tells the other person that you either didn't understand what they were trying to convey or, worse, that you don't care. Ask them to go into greater detail on some aspect of the information they were trying to share.

Ask a question. Ask another one. When they feel that they have shared everything they wanted to, they'll stop. But they'll stop knowing that you truly heard and understood everything that they were trying to convey, and they will feel valued.

Active listening is a learned skill; you won't be good at it on the first try.

Our tendency to want to speak easily overpowers our desire to listen. But your friends and family will truly appreciate your new skill. And who knows; you might learn something!

Minutes of the 12 June 2025 MOAA NC Council of Chapters Meeting

The monthly meeting of the MOAA NCCOC was held virtually and called to order at 1000 hours on Thursday, 12 June 2025 by President CW4 Jay Garbus, USA (Ret). Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain COL Malcolm Roberts III, USA (Ret) led us in prayer. Attendance was taken and a quorum was present, with nine Chapters represented and a total of 27 people.

CAPT Frank Michael, USA (Ret) presented news from National MOAA.

The CM and NRT are FIXED. The do-not-contact list is updated, and all are now searchable by LAST name.

The Chapter President and Membership Chairman are supposed to be able to make small changes on the CM, but now, the member must do it by phone, even if only changing apartment number.

The eight Southern Tier states are scheduled to meet with National next year. National is considering dividing the Tier. Tank asked about preferences to join the Florida meeting. He prefers keeping the Southern Tier states together.

Feedback from CAPT Allan Turner, USNR (Ret) concerning Cheddar Up is that it is working well with no issues.

There are only five people in the Allied Council and Chapters Department now.

Congratulations were announced for the Council and Chapters that received Community Grants. Cape Fear received two grants, Coastal Carolina, Southeastern and Western each received one grant. COL Greg Williamson, USA (Ret) said that Cape Fear received the money quickly. Capt. Donna Culp, USAF (FMR) reported on progress with the Council grant.

The Council voted to award \$2,000 to those Chapters and Council that were awarded grants. Greg Williamson moved to divide the money among grant recipients at \$333.33 per grant. Therefore, Cape Fear Chapter would receive \$666.66. COL Herb Segal, USA (Ret) seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Col Ken Hillman, USMC (Ret) will send checks.

Herb Segal moved to accept the previous month's minutes as distributed. The motion was seconded by COL Greg Williamson, USA (Ret) and the motion passed.

Treasurer Col Ken Hillman, USMC (Ret) presented the report that we have \$3977.43 balance in the budget. AAA returned the deposit of \$2400 that was to hold cabins for the cruise. Cheddar Up will be used next year for chapter dues.

1st Vice President CDR Ken Klassen, USN (Ret) stated that

Parking for the cruise will be up to the individual. Options include hotel parking and parking at the pier. Contact information will be shared with cruisers if anyone is interested in carpooling.

Thank you for making updates to the CM. He has not heard any complaints about it. Please make your information available to Jay, LT Tracy Young, USA (FMR) and Ken.

Continued on the next page

Chapter Reports to Council are due in pdf format by the end of June and the end of December. June reports should be submitted no later than the end of July. If everything is correct, please send again with a note that there are NO CHANGES.

COL Dana Tucker, ARNG (Ret), 2nd Vice President reported that there are no calls to action from National now. Congress is working on budget details.

LTC Tricia Vinson, USA (Ret), 3rd Vice President said

There has been no statewide legislation of significance to Veterans that has been passed.

Governor Josh Stein has signed a proclamation of Recognition of Female Veterans on June 12. That is the date that women were considered full members of the military. Also, May 23 (of this year only) is set aside in recognition of Combat Female Veterans.

Send your input on the ten statewide priorities to Tricia.

COL Jim Brumit, USA (Ret), Immediate Council Past President reported

Congratulations to the US Army on their birthday.

Recognized the Day of Remembrance for D Day.

(follow up on Tricia's comment) No Defense Liaison has asked for feedback before. We now have an opportunity for influencing veteran and active-duty improvements.

We will be voting for new Council Officers in November. Suggest people in your Chapter who would be good Council Board candidates. i.e. President, First, Second and Third Vice Presidents. Send names and contact information to Jim.

Dr. Vivianne Wersel, Surviving Spouse Liaison noted that

The June newsletter has been sent out. Jay will forward it after this meeting. Chapter Presidents please forward to your chapter members

Indefinite ID cards are available for spouses. Encourage spouses to get theirs.

CDR Linc Smith updated the Public Affairs Officers Virtual Chapter status.

It was noted that the July Council meeting will be on 10 July.

COL Walt Havenstein, USMC (Ret) moved to adjourn the meeting Herb Segal seconded it and the meeting adjourned at 1104 hours.





2024 MOAA Levels of Excellence Award Winners Five-Star Affiliates

- North Carolina State Council of Chapters
- Cape Fear Chapter - MOAA
- Coastal Carolina MOAA
- Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter
- Southeastern NC Chapter of MOAA
- Tarheel Central Chapter of MOAA, Inc.
- Triangle Chapter MOAA
- Western North Carolina Chapter, MOAA
- Catawba Valley Chapter
- High Country Chapter

MOAA 2024 Col Marvin J Harris Communication Award Winners

- North Carolina State Council of Chapters: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter; 5-Star Website
- Cape Fear Chapter – MOAA: 5-Star Website
- Coastal Carolina MOAA: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter; 5-Star Website
- Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter; 5-Star Website
- Southeastern NC Chapter of MOAA: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter; 5-Star Website
- Tarheel Central Chapter of MOAA, Inc.: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter; 5-Star Website
- Triangle Chapter MOAA: 5-Star Website
- Western North Carolina Chapter, MOAA: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter; 5-Star Website
- Catawba Valley Chapter: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter; 5-Star Website
- High Country Chapter: 5-Star Print/E-Newsletter; 5-Star Website

IMPORTANT DATES ROUNDTABLE AND TRAINING WORKSHOP

• **July 24:** Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: Recruiting and Retention. [Join here](#) at the time of the meeting. (Meeting ID: 962 0410 4083)

Aug. 13: Virtual Leader Training Workshop (Experienced Leaders)

Aug. 28: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: MOAA Virtual Chapters. [Join here](#) at the time of the meeting. (Meeting ID: 937 6468 7886)

Sept. 25: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: Council and Chapter Mentorship. [Join here](#) at the time of the meeting. (Meeting ID: 922 2737 5813)

Oct. 23: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: MOAA Foundation. [Join here](#) at the time of the meeting. (Meeting ID: 914 4733 5409)
Nov. 14-15: Leader Training: East Workshop (Hershey, Pa.)

Nov. 20: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: MOAA Annual Awards. [Join here](#) at the time of the meeting. (Meeting ID: 995 5369 6)

Dec. 18: Monthly chapter leader virtual roundtable, 7 p.m. Eastern: Year in Review/2026 Outlook. [Join here](#) at the time of the meeting. (Meeting ID: 929 1511 3996)

RESOURCES

New leader and affiliate checklist ([Download](#))

Policies and Procedures Guide ([Download](#))

How-to video: [Using MOAA's Online Chapter Dues Program](#)

Access an archive of [Council and Chapter Roundtables](#)

List of [training events and other dates to know](#) Questions? Email chapters@moaa.org or call (800) 234-6622 and ask to speak with a Chapter Affairs Specialist.

A VIRTUAL CHAPTER

Virtual Chapters should be bound together by a shared affinity (e.g., warfare specialty) and/or mission (e.g., health care advocacy). While the possibilities are endless, some interest groups that may lend themselves to virtual chapters include, but are not limited to: Currently serving officers, Guard and reserve officers, Member spouses, Networking/mentoring specialists, State advocacy champions, Army and Navy Club members, Other military association members, Overseas military/expatriate, Dentists, and Financial professionals.

Are you interested in starting one of these virtual chapters, or in championing another group? Contact Capt. Pat L. Williams, USN (Ret), MOAA's program director for engagement, at patw@moaa.org.

North Carolina Council of Chapters (NCCOC)

Our purpose is to further the legislative and other objectives of MOAA.

- Foster fraternal relationships among retired, active, and former officers of the uniformed services and their National Guard or reserve components.
- Protect the interest of retired, active, reserve, and National Guard personnel of the uniformed services and their dependents and survivors
- Provide useful services for members and their dependents and survivors.
- Serve the community and the nation.
- Protect the interests of service retirees and active duty military members in matters of North Carolina state legislation.
- Organize and coordinate the collective action of the Member Chapters in the State of North Carolina.
- Provide the assistance necessary to Member Chapters to enable them to effectively serve their members, their communities, and the nation.

Book Review: A Thousand Chances: Life and Death in the Air Cavalry During the Vietnam War's Pivotal Year by Brigadier General Dan Hickman

Brigadier General Dan Hickman's A Thousand Chances is an extraordinary, unflinching memoir and operational chronicle of one of the most consequential periods of the Vietnam War. More than a personal account, this book serves as a historically accurate, deeply reflective lens into 1968-69, the war's pivotal year. Written with the clarity and the insight of a seasoned commander, Hickman offers an essential narrative of the Air Cavalry's daily life-and-death struggle during a time when the outcome of the war and America's will to fight it were rapidly shifting.

Hickman's title stems from a sobering battlefield truth: "No soldier survives a thousand chances." For Air Cav. pilots, whose missions brought them into contact with the enemy almost daily, survival was not a question of strength or skill alone, but also of staggering luck. His recounting of life in the cockpit, dodging ground fire, extracting wounded comrades, and inserting troops into hot landing zones. The book is written with such visceral tension that readers will often find themselves holding their breath. It is, simply put, a "can't put it down";

kind of read. "Life in the cavalry was often dangerous but seldom dull because we flew so many new and different missions", you get the feeling that you are in the other seat.

What elevates A Thousand Chances beyond a personal war memoir is its honest, masterfully written account of strategic decisions and political realities.

Hickman carefully outlines how HoChi Minh and the North Vietnamese leadership strategically timed their 1969 winter offensive to follow the U.S. presidential election, exploiting American political transitions and public fatigue

with the war. His insights into the psychological impact of that offensive, both on American forces and on the public back home, are some of the most compelling passages in the book. Hickman does not shy away from critique. He argues persuasively that the U.S. withdrawal beginning in 1969 was premature. In his view, South Vietnamese forces were not prepared, militarily or politically to withstand what was coming, and the withdrawal signaled to both allies

and enemies that American resolve was weakening. His critique is not partisan but rooted in his frontline perspective, making it all the more credible. For students of military history, veterans, and general readers alike, A Thousand Chances is a riveting and essential addition to Vietnam War literature. Brigadier General Hickman has delivered more than a memoir. He has written a gripping, clear-eyed, and historically grounded testimony to a year of relentless combat, unbreakable brotherhood, and enduring questions.

BG (Ret) Dan Hickman began his army career as a private, served as an Army warrant officer helicopter pilot in Vietnam and received a direct commission based on his combat experience. As a brigadier general, he commanded the 30 th Armored Brigade Combat Team in Iraq. BG Hickman is a Life member of MOAA

COL (Ret) James G. Brumit, AUS

**If you are a Veteran in crisis, call 988 and press 1 OR
text 838255 OR chat online at [Veterans Crisis Line](#)**



REFERENCE INFORMATION SECTION

MOAA GUIDANCE ON PARTISAN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

PARTISAN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

As organizations exempt from federal taxation under Sec. 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code, MOAA and its affiliates must take care to avoid engaging in partisan political activities. Under IRS rules, we are prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.

CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

A candidate for public office is an individual who offers himself or herself, or is proposed by others, as a contestant for an elective public office, whether such office is national, state, or local, and includes incumbent candidates. The prohibition also extends beyond declared candidates and may apply to efforts to recruit an individual to run for office or advance exploratory activities. The prohibition also applies to advocating for the platform of one political party over another.

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

Activities which constitute participation or intervention in a political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to a candidate include, but are not limited to, the publication or distribution of written or printed statements or the making of oral statements on behalf of or in opposition to such a candidate.

It is clear that the prohibition on partisan political activity prohibits such outright actions such as posting a “Vote for Biden” or “Vote for Trump” on the organization’s website, or “Support Republican Candidates” or “Vote Democratic.”

In addition to these obvious examples, the prohibition goes well beyond direct expressions of support. In determining whether an organization is engaged in unlawful partisan political activities, the IRS applies a “facts and circumstances” test. The IRS looks not only to the expressed language, but to external factors, such as the communication’s timing, its targeted audience, and how the message relates to public policy positions that distinguish a candidate in a campaign.

CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS

The consequences to an organization that violates the prohibition on partisan political activity can be severe including the loss of its tax exempt status and the imposition of certain excise taxes. For public charities, like The MOAA Foundation and the MOAA Scholarship Fund, the IRS can disallow tax deductions for charitable contributions. In addition, for an organization whose mission involves advocacy on key military community issues, MOAA must seek support from elected representatives from both parties.

Engaging in partisan political activities on behalf of one party or candidate would seriously undermine MOAA’s ability to achieve the bipartisan consensus on key issues essential to achieving its legislative objectives.

MOAA GUIDANCE ON PARTISAN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, CONTINUED

PERSONAL OPINIONS

As individuals, members and leaders of MOAA and MOAA's affiliates are not prohibited from engaging in partisan political activities so long as they do so in way that makes it clear they are acting for themselves and do not appear to be speaking on behalf of MOAA or its affiliates. For example, it is permissible for an individual to express his or her personal preference in support of or in opposition to a candidate or political party. And they may do so publicly.

However, when expressing their personal opinions or preferences, they may not make reference to their MOAA position, use MOAA communications channels, use MOAA letterhead or newsletters, identify themselves as MOAA leaders, or imply that MOAA or its members share their beliefs.

LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

Those in leadership positions have a special responsibility to separate their personal political opinions from statements that are or can be attributed to MOAA or its affiliates. For example, it is improper for a chapter leader to use the chapter's newsletter to advance the leader's personal political beliefs.

This goes beyond statements expressly advocating for a specific candidate or party by name. Statements that incorporate campaign messaging, campaign slogans, and political positions identified with a particular candidate or party are also prohibited. No MOAA leader is authorized to use MOAA's or an affiliate's resources to communicate their personal political beliefs. This is an outright violation of the leader's fiduciary duty to the organization and a serious leadership and ethical failure.

DIVISIVE SOCIAL ISSUES

We are all aware of the divisive nature of the debate over today's leading social issues – protesting during the national anthem at sporting events, racial justice, public protests, and the conduct of law enforcement officers. These are issues over which many Americans have deeply held, but differing, personal beliefs. This is also true within the military community among the ranks of active duty and retired officers and within MOAA itself.

MOAA leaders have an obligation to keep this in mind when communicating on behalf of MOAA or its affiliates. Suggesting that MOAA only supports one side of a deeply divisive issue sends a message to those with a different belief that MOAA is not for them.

Officers today have grown up in a military culture that is very different than the past. Many are accepting of attitudes and views that were not mainstream when many of us were in uniform. If MOAA is going to connect with the newest generation of uniformed officers, it needs to be clear that those with strong views on racial and social justice imperatives are just as welcome as those who adhere to more traditional expressions of patriotism and officership.



LIABILITY INSURANCE

- This plan provides coverage for lawsuits resulting from bodily injury and property damage at Chapter-sponsored activities. If your Chapter typically rents space when it needs to gather for a meeting or special event, you may have discovered the owner of the property requires "special event" insurance. This coverage is typically very expensive to buy or doesn't fully protect you. That's why this plan was developed exclusively for MOAA Chapters!

Note for chapters with a current MOAA insurance policy: MOAA's Chapter Liability Insurance Plan is available through the current carrier until Dec. 31, 2023. Should your chapter bind a new or renewal policy prior to that date, the policy will be in-force for one year from the effective date. AMBA has evaluated several carriers and selected a new carrier, Philadelphia Insurance Companies, to continue to provide this valuable coverage with minimal disruptions. You will receive application instructions from AMBA via email, or mail if no email address is on file, approximately 75 days prior to your current policy's expiration date. If you have any questions or would like to apply for a new policy, please feel free to contact AMBA at (800) 503-9227, Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central time, or by email at plsdsteam.service@amba.info.

Click for [a plan overview](#).

GENERATING INCOME

Not sure how to create non-dues income? Here are [some ideas and guidance](#).

MOAA Insurance/Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA)(UPDATED May 13, 2024): Would you like to earn \$100 for your chapter by including an advertisement in your newsletter for [MOAA Insurance Plans](#)? Enroll Jan. 1 through May 31 by emailing dave.shidler@getamba.com following the instructions found [at this link](#).

MOAA Vacations: Brennco is pleased to announce the NEW MOAA Vacations Chapter Advertising Program. Councils and chapters can receive a one-time \$100 annual payment for placing digital ads in their newsletter or on their websites. [Click here for more information and/or to enroll](#). Also, did you know that your chapter always earns a 1% royalty when chapter members book travel through MOAA Vacations, and that you can even plan an exclusive event, such as a cruise, for your council or chapter? For additional information, email jon@MOAAvac.com or call (800) 211-5107.

[Florida Senate Committee Approves Stolen Valor Bill for Public Officials](#)

by [The Center Square](#) | Mar 5, 2025

(SUMMATION) Senate Bill 348 passed the Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security by a 6-0 vote. The bill would add to the state's code of ethics a prohibition on candidates and public officials from making false claims related to their military service for material gain. Penalties could include censure, a fine of \$25,000 and recommendation of removal from office. The bill would also expand the attorney general's authority to seek wage garnishment for unpaid fines. A similar measure is in the House Rules & Ethics Committee. Congress passed the Stolen Valor Act in 2013 that narrowed the crime to one of using false representations about military service to earn money or other benefits.

2025 Leader Training Workshops

2025 Leader Training Workshops



Leadership Seminar
Orlando, FL
January 16-18
FL, Other C&C by
invitation

Virtual Workshop
New Leaders
March 5
Focused on New
Chapter Leaders

Central Workshop
Oklahoma City, OK
May 2-3
AR, CO, IA, KS, LA,
MN, MO, ND, NE,
NM, OK, SD, TX

Virtual Workshop
Experienced Leaders
August 13
Focused on Experienced
Leaders

East Workshop
Hershey, PA
November 14-15
CT, DE, IL, IN, MA, MD,
ME, MI, NH, NJ, NY, OH,
PA, RI, VT, WI, WV



JUNE Message from the President of Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter (SSVC)

Fellow members, this is a busy month for the military and our group. May 9 is Military Spouse Appreciation Day. I want to congratulate all of you on a job well done. I know your spouses and families appreciate your sacrifices and hard work. Enjoy your Day and Mother's Day, and be sure to educate all your young ones about the significance of Memorial Day at the end of the month.

I want to report that all of your Board members attended Advocacy in Action in April. They shared their experiences and discussions with Representatives and Senators in DC at our last meeting. It was a wonderful sharing and exchanging of their Congressional and Senatorial Office activities.

At the MOAA event in April, Barbara Smith and Renee Brunelle Mathews were recognized. They have finished their term of office as Surviving Spouse Advisory Council members. Barb served 6 years, including 2 years as the President of our Virtual Chapter. Renee served 4 years. They have spoken at various National and Regional MOAA meetings and contributed their knowledge and talents to our Chapter. Our MOAA Sponsor, Jennifer Goodale, presented them with a Scarf as a Farewell gift. Fortunately, both have assured me that they will continue their Chapter membership.

At the closing MOAA Event, our SSVC Newsletter received the Colonel Marvin J. Harris Communication Award. MOAA President Lt Gen B.K. Kelly presented our talented editor, Vivianne Wersel, with the certificate. Congratulations to our Chapter and Vivianne for this honor. By the way, Vivianne is looking for an assistant. If you want to learn from the best, contact her at drviviannewersel@gmail.com

Your Board is currently working on updating the SSVC Bylaws. We will notify you when we have finished a copy. Other news... Micki Costello is creating a website for our Chapter. In the summer, there will be a demonstration and more information on that.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 1 pm Eastern time. The speaker is one of our members, Harriet Jo Joslyn. She has written a book about her experience in dealing with the Veterans Administration concerning her spouse's earned benefits. You will enjoy and relate to her story and applaud her success. Don't miss this meeting,

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS



- (NC01) - Cape Fear—COL Gregory K Williamson, USA (Ret)
- (NC02) - Coastal Carolina—CAPT Randall Ramian, USN, (Ret)
- (NC04) - Charlotte-Metrolina—Lt Col Nelson English, USAF (Ret)
- (NC06) - Sandhills—Col. Walter Havenstein, USMC (Ret)
- (NC07) - Southeastern—CAPT Allan Turner, USNR (Ret)
- (NC08) - Tarheel Central—CAPT Phil Briscoe, USN (Ret)
- (NC09) - Triangle—COL Herb Segal, USA, (Ret)
- (NC10) - Western Carolina—COL Steve Watkins, USA (Ret)
- (NC11) - Catawba Valley—LTC Clifford (Davey) Davenport, USA, (Ret)
- (NC14) - Piedmont—Maj Aimee S Corning, USAF (Ret)
- (NC17) - First in Flight— LCDR Al DelGarbino, USCG, (Ret)
- (NC20) - Central Carolina—LTC Gary Applewhite, USA, (Ret)
- (NC21) - High Country—Frankie Groff (SSL)
- (NC22) - New River—LCDR Steve Tucker, USN, (Ret)



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COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Executive Committee

1. President CW4 Jay E. Garbus, USA (Ret)
2. 1st Vice President CDR Kenneth Klassen, USN (Ret)
3. 2nd Vice President COL Dana Tucker, ARNG
4. 3rd Vice President LTC Tricia Vinson, USA (Ret)
5. Immediate Past President COL Jim Brumit, USA (Ret)
6. Secretary Mrs. Sue Harris (SOM)— nonvoting
7. Treasurer Col Ken Hillman, USMC (Ret)
8. Surviving Spouse Liaison Dr. Vivianne Wersel (SSL)

Nominating Committee

1. Immediate Past President - COL Jim Brumit, USA (Ret)
2. Immediate Past President - Capt Donna Culp, USAF (FMR)
3. COL Jeri Graham, USA (Ret)
4. CAPT David Lee, USNR (Ret)

Finance Committee

1. President - CW4 Jay Garbus, USA (Ret)
2. Treasurer - Col Ken Hillman, USMC (Ret)
3. Immediate Past President - COL Jim Brumit, USA (Ret)

Education Committee

1. COL Jim Brumit, USA (Ret)
2. Capt Donna Culp, USAF (FMR)



AMBA

ASSOCIATION MEMBER BENEFITS ADVISORS

TOGETHER WITH TRUIST

TRUIST



Veterans Bridge Home

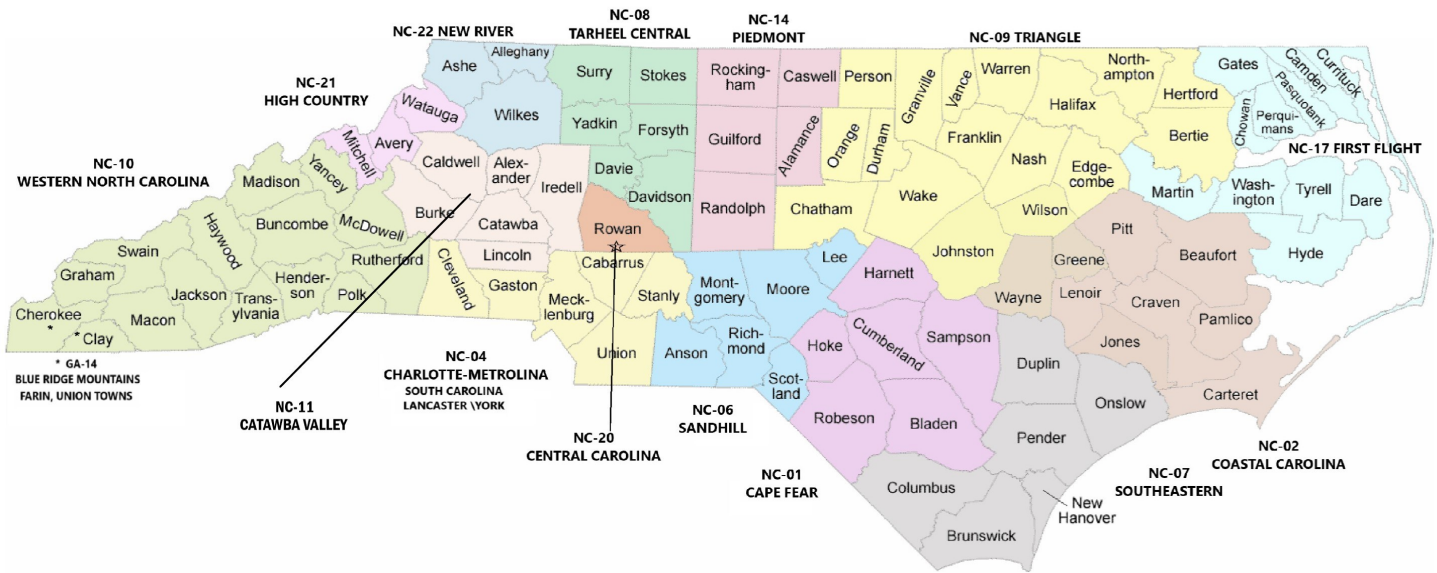
704-332-8802

www.veteransbridgehome.org



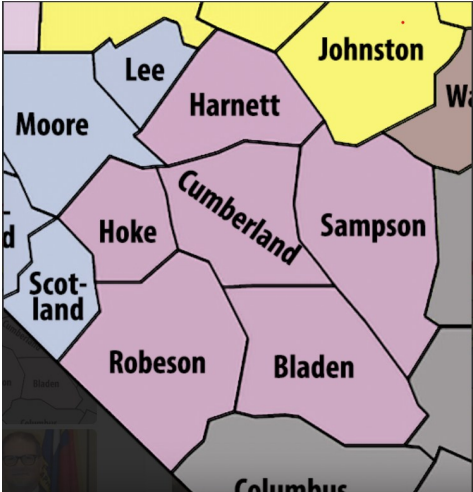
NCServes in collaboration with NCCARE360

CHAPTER NEWS

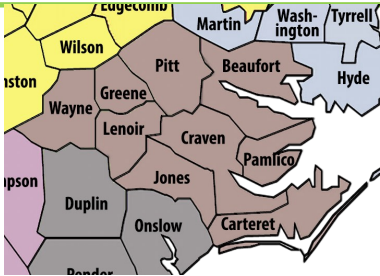


THE CAPE FEAR CHAPTER

CAPE FEAR CHAPTER NC-01



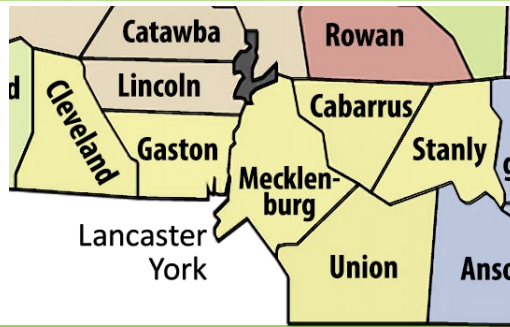
COASTAL CAROLINA CHAPTER NC-02





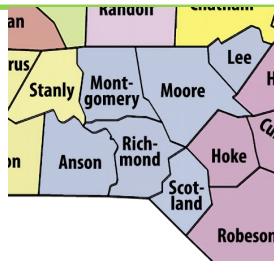
**CHARLOTTE
METROLINA
CHAPTER**

CHARLOTTE-METROLINA CHAPTER NC-04

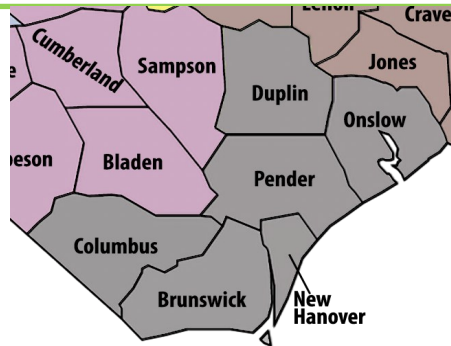


MOAA
Military Officers Association of America
SANDHILLS

SANDHILLS CHAPTER,



SOUTHEASTERN NC CHAPTER NC-07

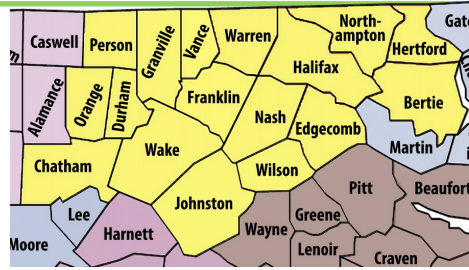


**Tarheel
Central
Chapter**

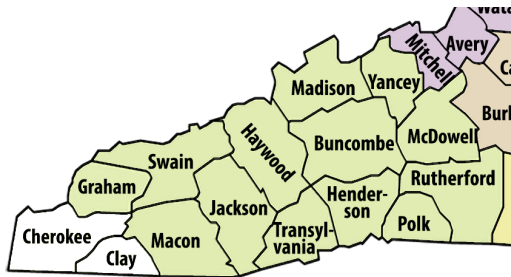
THE TARHEEL CENTRAL CHAPTER NC-08



THE TRIANGLE CHAPTER NC-09

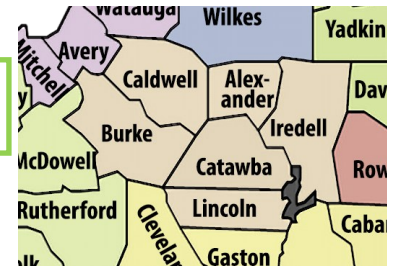


WESTERN CAROLINA CHAPTER NC-10

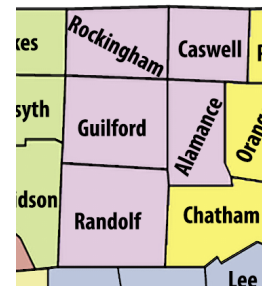


Fannin Union Towns

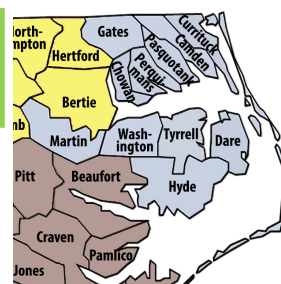
CATAWBA VALLEY CHAPTER NC-11



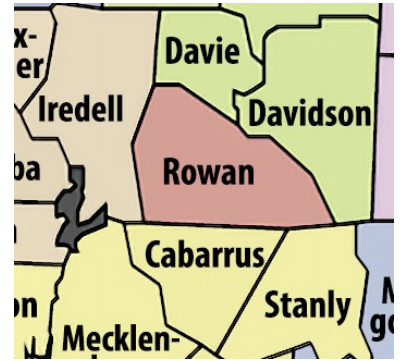
PIEDMONT CHAPTER NC-14



FIRST FLIGHT CHAPTER NC-17



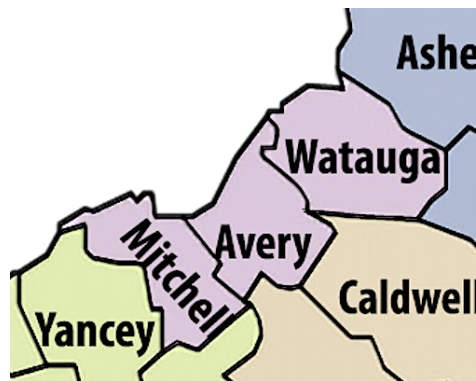
CENTRAL CAROLINA CHAPTER NC-20



High Country Chapter NC 21



HIGH COUNTRY CHAPTER NC-21



NEW RIVER CHAPTER NC-22



NOTICE PLEASE READ

§ 143B-1222. Veterans' Affairs Commission Advisory Committee (VACAC) – members; compensation.

The department commander or official head of each veterans' organization which has been chartered by an act of the United States Congress and which is legally constituted and operating in this State pursuant to said charter shall constitute an Advisory Committee to the Veterans' Affairs Commission. Members of the VACAC shall receive per diem and necessary travel and subsistence expenses in accordance with the provisions of G.S. 138-5. (1977, c. 637, s. 3; 2015-241, s. 24.1(c); 2015-268, s.7.3(a).)



MOAA

NORTH CAROLINA & FEDERAL LEGISLATION

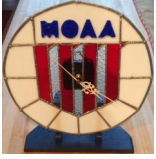
MOAA's Core Mission

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of uniformed servicemembers and their families. MOAA's constituents proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country: Never Stop Serving.

MOAA's greatest mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families, which is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's capital. For more than 90 years, MOAA has supported legislation that benefits the uniformed services community and has remained equally vigilant when fighting to stop legislation that threatens our livelihood. The larger our numbers, the greater our voice.

- Ensuring pay at or above Employment Cost Index, allowances, and programs necessary to recruit and retain a quality force.
- Concurrent Receipt of military retirement pay and VA disability pay.
- Maintaining the hold on medical billet reductions until required reports clarify how any cuts will fully support both readiness and beneficiary access to care.
- Reversing the degradation of the pharmacy benefit, specifically ensure access and achieve limits to copay increases.
- Requiring DoD to establish a transparent and well-publicized problem reporting system for TRICARE beneficiaries experiencing access challenges within the direct care system of military hospitals and clinics, including an annual report to Congress on the number and types of beneficiary access problem reports by MTF and steps taken by DHA to address systemic access problems.
- Monitoring recent major legislation enacted such as the PACT Act in the areas of health care, compensation, and follow-on support for surviving spouses and families and seek statutory or policy changes as required.
- Compelling Congress and VA to accelerate caregiving and whole health care services, and modernization of VHA workforce and facility infrastructure to improve veterans access to high quality care.
- Improving congressional support for uniformed services families: enhancing programs to support spouse employment, ensuring implementation of an effective basic needs allowance, and providing accessible, affordable childcare options.
- Overcoming the lack of effective problem-reporting mechanisms and resolution systems in the Military Health System.
- Repealing the recoupment of last month's paycheck after retiree's passing, and continue to improve SGLI/VGLI updates to match inflation.
- Improving DIC baseline to align with other government entitlements' baseline of 55%.

MOAA NEVER STOPS SERVING TO HONOR THEIR SERVICE AND HELP THEM RETIRE THE WAY THEY ENVISIONED.



MOAA NEWS & INFORMATION

“Never Stop Serving”

Pay Chapter Dues Online: See if your local chapter is participating in the [Chapter Dues Payment System!](#) Only THREE NC Chapters have used the new payment system.

The **Lake and Sumter Counties (Fla.) Chapter** presented \$3,000 to Villagers for Veterans, a nonprofit that ensures “veterans receive assistance in healing, a return to normalcy, and an independent lifestyle.” The funds will help pay for food and other amenities needed for daily living for residents of Ashley’s Cottage in Fruitland Park, a transitional home for women veterans. .

The **Star Fort (S.C.) Chapter** is partnering with the City of Greenwood to recognize local veterans with banners on lamp posts for two weeks preceding and after Veterans Day. The double-sided vinyl banners include a photo of the veteran in uniform and their service branch and war/conflict served in.

The **Whidbey Island (Wash.) Chapter** recently presented awards to two junior officers, one from Sea Command and one from Shore Command. The recipients — Lt. Paige L. Brigham, Avionics Division officer, Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron, and Lt. J.G. Cameron Kinley, tactical watch officer, Theater Undersea Surveillance Command, Pacific — received from the chapter a glass engraved plaque and a challenge coin. In addition, the Oak Harbor Navy JROTC commander and five of his cadets performed the colors and a rifle drill at the event.

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|  | 2025 MOAA Signature Group Burgundy & Provence River Cruise September 14-21, 2025 | LEARN MORE |
| | | Huge Savings and Free Onboard Credit |



Jon E. Brenneman
President

Toll-Free: **1-800-211-5107**

Direct: **913-627-9705**

Cell Phone: **816-679-3181**



NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS QUARTERMASTER MARKET PLACE



THE TARHEEL CENTRAL CHAPTER

Challenge Coin is now available for purchase for \$15.00. On the front, the chapter name runs above the US Flag and the MOAA motto rings the bottom. The NC state symbol is representative of the state flag in color and has a single white star located in Tarheel Central Chapter catchment area – Surry; Stokes; Yadkin; Forsyth; Davie; and Davidson counties. On the Back of the coin is the official MOAA logo. Address purchase inquires to info@tarheelmoaa.org.



SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER

With the help of Past President Joe Irrera, SENCLAND Chapter ordered and recently received our own Challenge Coins. We are selling these at Chapter events for \$5.00 each. Monies received over and above manufacturing costs will go back to the chapter. We started selling these at the 9/3/2024 chapter meeting and will make available at all subsequent meetings going forward.



CHARLOTTE-METROLINA CHAPTER

There's no better way to show your pride of MOAA and the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter than wearing official merchandise, found at the [MOAA Store](https://www.moaa.org/store) online. There's a good selection of quality men's and women's apparel; it costs no more than you'd pay at the mall; and they deliver it to your front door. Wear it at official functions and in the community, where it can be a great conversation starter and generate more interest in our chapter from local veterans. Please check it out! Eric Kelly (USAF-Ret), Chapter Secretary. MOAA Chapter coins are available for \$10.00 at meetings or by contacting Susan Bryant at susrebry@yahoo.com



