

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 8

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)
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- Parliamentarian - COL Vern Pike, USA (Ret)
- Education—Capt Donna Culp, USAF (FOM)

IMPORTANT MEETING DATES

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)

COUNCIL MEETING

September 11 10 am

October 9th

November 7th & 8th Annual Meeting In Person only Triangle Chapter hosting



5 STAR COUNCIL

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

“No Disrespect in Respectfully Disagreeing with Leaders”

All,
The cruise in October is getting closer. This is the last get together for the Council leadership. The new leadership team takes over at the November Annual meeting.

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

The annual meeting will be in Raleigh in November. We hope to have Governor Stein and LTG Kelly attend.

Please let me know asap if your chapter has elected a new president.



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/takeAction/>

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

WHAT HAS OUR COUNCIL HAS DONE

This is some of the work that we in the Council have accomplished.

In the strategic plan Engagement and Resources we have accomplished the following:

1. Used zoom to engage the Chapters and members the ability of the Council officers to make the chapters stronger. The use of Council zoom is available for chapter use.
2. Having monthly meetings to help with problems and help making the Chapters run better.
3. Making the Council into a semi virtual Council. This is the first in the MOAA organization.
4. Having a newsletter that communicates events and accomplishments of the Chapters and National training.
5. Starting an Education Committee to help understand the Committee Modular.
6. Inviting other Councils and Chapters to the Council zoom meetings.
7. North Carolina Council is recognized by other Councils, Chapters and National as a leader in Engagement and Resources.
8. Family engagement by having Council cruises to include family and friends who are not members of MOAA.
9. Redesign of the website with information about all of the Chapters and Council.

MONTHLY COLUMN

RDML Craig Quigley, USN (Ret)

Communicating in a Crisis August 2025

Nobody wants to be involved in a crisis. It's stressful, the outcome is uncertain, the reputation of people and organizations can hang in the balance, and the LAST thing most folks want to do is step up and be the spokesperson during such a time. But if something goes south in your Chapter or Council and you're in charge, the world will look to you for answers. Will you be ready to become the crisis communicator?



There are a variety of compelling reasons to communicate quickly, clearly and often during a crisis. Quickly because it's important to be the "first to the chalkboard" with as much information as possible. News organizations, community leaders and your Chapter/Council members will listen to whomever speaks up first, and it's important to control the narrative – or others will do it for you. Clearly because you're speaking to multiple audiences, so make sure you use plain English and not acronyms and jargon that no one will understand. Often because things change during a crisis and it's important to release the latest information upon which others can rely.

When I was the Pentagon Press Briefer I had five guidelines that I established for myself. While every press briefing was not a crisis, we had our share, and the same rules would apply.

- 1) Never guess. You might get it right, but if you don't, you'll never be able to correct the record in time in today's fast-moving news world. Best case scenario, people will think you don't have the facts and will look elsewhere. Worst case scenario, they'll think you're a liar and your credibility is shot.
- 2) Never lose your temper. Particularly important in a crisis. People want to hear from someone that is calm during times of stress. Blowing your cool might make you feel good for about five minutes, but you'll hate seeing the video of you later.
- 3) You know more about what's going on than anyone else in the room. So stay calm, breathe deeply and act professional.
- 4) Always explain why you can't answer something fully. You may be asked a perfectly fair question, but the answer just doesn't exist yet. Say that; explain that it's too early to come to a clear response and describe how and when that information might become available.
- 5) If you promise to get back to someone with an answer to a question, do it. Many times, I was asked a question that I simply was not prepared to answer. So, I would promise the reporter – or community leader, or DoD employee – that I would get back to them with the answer as soon as I could get it. When you do what you said you would, your credibility soars; when you don't, it crumbles.

Chances are good that you will never be faced with a crisis in your Chapter or Council for which you are expected to be the voice of authority and explanation. But if that day comes, will you be ready?

Minutes of the 10 July 2025 MOAA NC Council of Chapters Meeting

Minutes of the 10 July 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, 10 July by President CW4Jay Garbus, USA (Ret). We stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, and COL Greg Williamson, USA (Ret) offered a prayer.

Attendance was taken and aquorum was present, with eight chapters represented and a total of 21 people. Col Walt Havenstein, USMC (Ret) moved to accept the minutes of the June meeting. LTC Tricia Vinson, USA (Ret) seconded the motion, and it passed.

Treasurer Col Ken Hillman, USMC (Ret) reported that \$3,250 was received from National MOAA for the Community Outreach Grant. The Council paid liability insurance and the stipend from the Council to Chapters that were awarded grants. We have a balance for the year in the budget.

2nd Vice President COL Dana Tucker, ARNG (Ret) reported that two of the representatives that were visited during AiA signed on as co-sponsors of a veterans' bill. There has been no feedback from MOAA about the new Mega Bill and how it affects veterans and active duty. The VA is slated to lay off 30,000 employees.

3rd Vice President LTC Tricia Vinson, USA (Ret) reported that a NC bill that was signed yesterday (2025-72) includes some changes for military families with a variety of benefits for veterans and active-duty personnel. She sent an email to Jay to send to Chapters. NC 2025-20 recognizes Space Force as a branch of the military.

The bills that Governor Stein has vetoed didnot affect veterans or military. The State Exchange Forum is primarily for active-duty, but thereare currently more retired military than active-duty in North Carolina. MOAA still has NC as a red state for military.

Jay reminded people of the dates for future meetings.

Elections will be held in November for the next two-year term for Council Officers. Nominating Committee Chairman COL Jim Brumit, USA (Ret) will send an email to all Chapter presidents in September and ask that they send it to their members. This email will explain the four offices that will be voted on, and seek volunteers to run for those offices.

Col Walt Havenstein, USMC (Ret) moved to adjourn the meeting. COL Greg Williamson, USA (Ret) seconded the motion, and it passed. The meeting adjourned at 1024 hours.

We need to order pins for the presidents whose term has ended and new presidents taking over. Please let the Council President know ASAP so these pins can be ordered.



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.

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA OUTREACH GRANT \$3250.00 —SEE PICTURE President COL Steve Wakins (Ret)



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.

ROUNDTABLE

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 6751)

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)

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



Picture Donna Culp and Stefanie Gerber

It was great seeing you today and happy to handoff the gift cards to include signing the official hand receipt. Looking at the selfie we took today turns out the one that captured most of the MOAA logo on my shirt and the Pisgah Legal sign is attached. It is our sincerest hope that

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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at every stage.**

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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

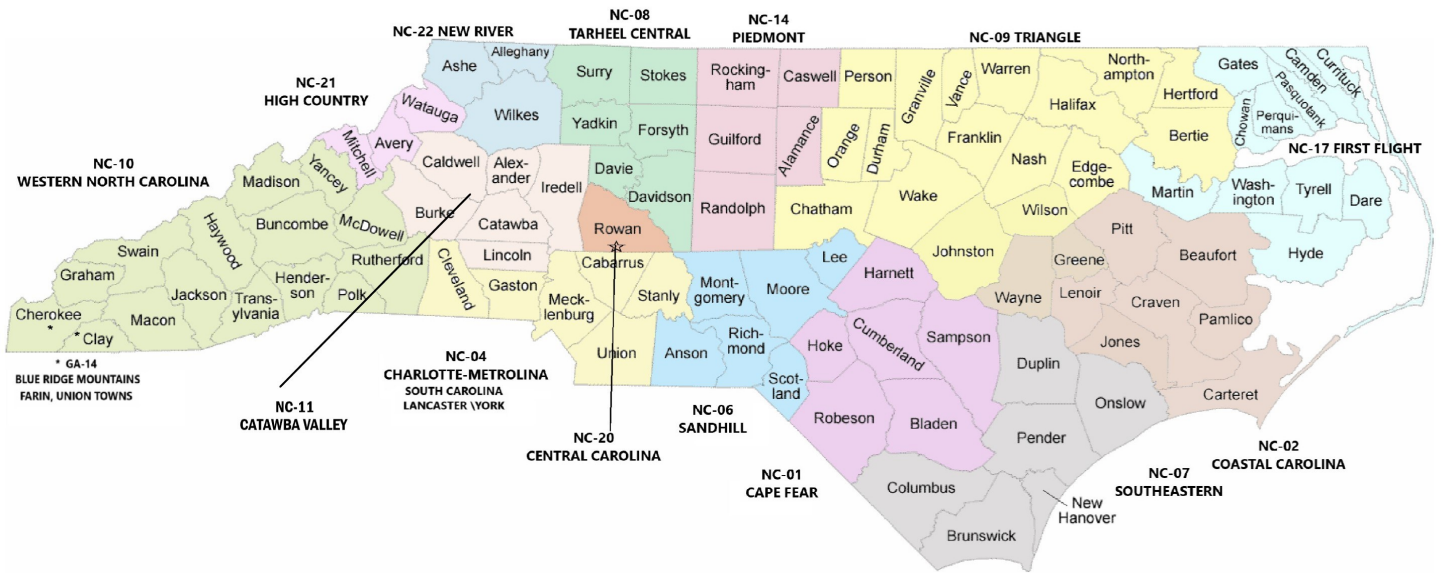
704-332-8802

www.veteransbridgehome.org



NCServes in collaboration with NCCARE360

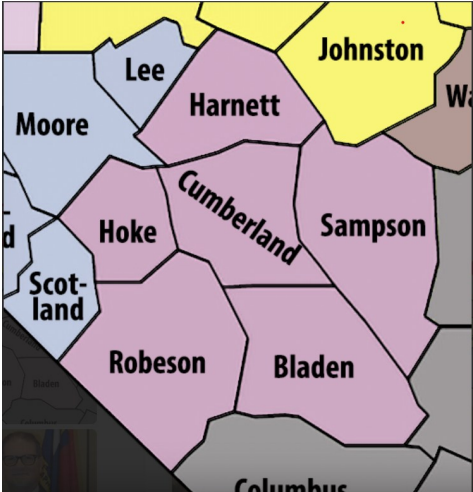
CHAPTER NEWS



THE CAPE FEAR CHAPTER

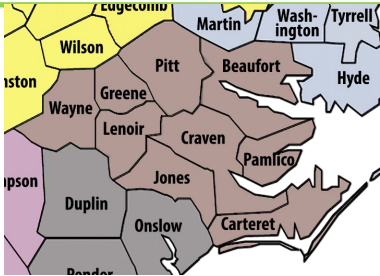


CAPE FEAR CHAPTER NC-01





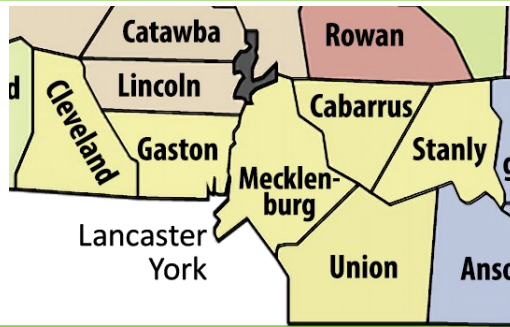
COASTAL CAROLINA CHAPTER NC-02





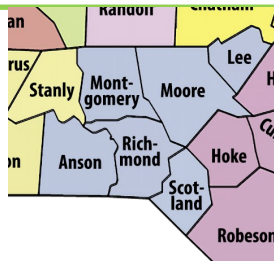
**CHARLOTTE
METROLINA
CHAPTER**

CHARLOTTE-METROLINA CHAPTER NC-04

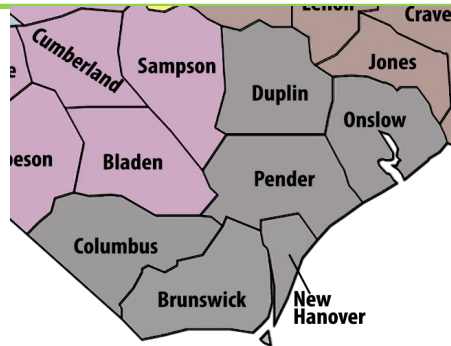


MOAA
Military Officers Association of America
SANDHILLS

SANDHILLS CHAPTER,



SOUTHEASTERN NC CHAPTER NC-07

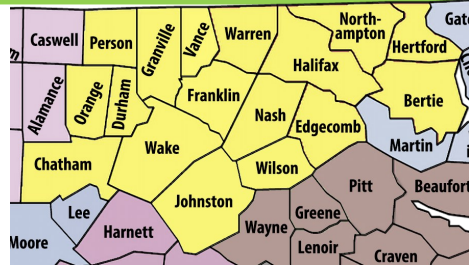


**Tarheel
Central
Chapter**

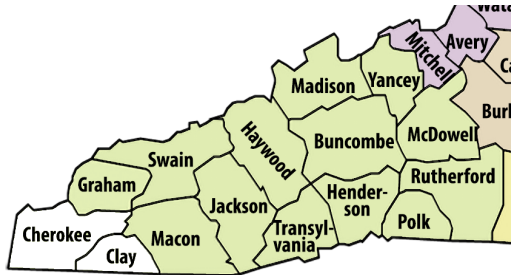
THE TARHEEL CENTRAL CHAPTER NC-08



THE TRIANGLE CHAPTER NC-09

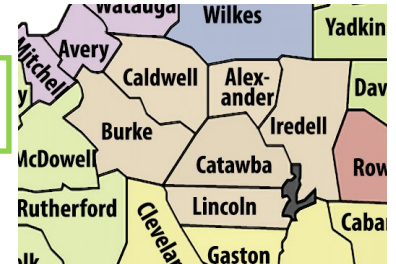


WESTERN CAROLINA CHAPTER NC-10

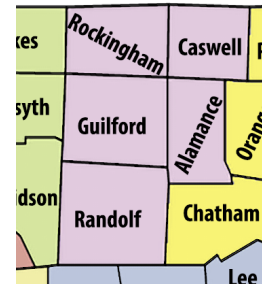


Fannin Union Towns

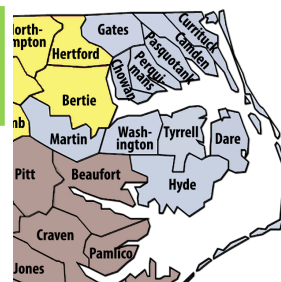
CATAWBA VALLEY CHAPTER NC-11



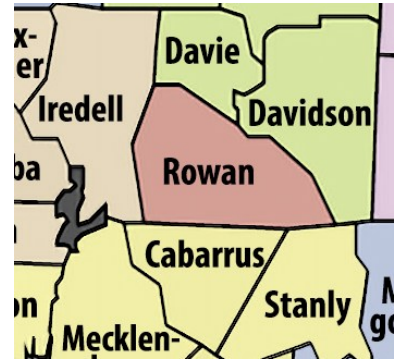
PIEDMONT CHAPTER NC-14



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

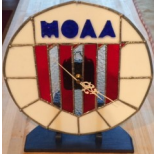
MOAA's Core Mission

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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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 susrebby@yahoo.com



