

Military Officers Association of America

North Carolina Council of Chapters

Minutes of the 3rd Quarter 2014 Meeting

02 August 2014, Salisbury, NC

President Jeri Graham called the meeting to order at 0830. LCDR Flemming B. Otey from Central Carolina Chapter presented honors to God and Country which was a great way to open the meeting.

The roll call was done by the Secretary Aljets and any introductions of guests was done by President Graham. Every chapter was represented except First in Freedom. Jeri introduced the Salisbury Chaplain LCDR Flemming B. Otey, USN-Ret. who led the honors for the meeting.

The minutes from the teleconference of 24 June 2014 were presented. Two changes were made by Secretary Aljets. The date and title on the original minutes were incorrect and changed from Executive Committee to Teleconference and the original date given was 26 June 2014 which was changed to the correct date, 24 June 2014. No other changes were made. A motion was made, seconded and the minutes were accepted as posted and corrected.

Treasurer's Report from Ed Baisden as of 30 June 2014 explained that the dues for being members of the NC Veteran's Council had been raised from \$100 to \$150, which was paid 18 June 2014 which brought the balance on hand to \$7,849.04. The Treasurer's report was accepted as given.

The next item Ed spoke on was the current status of the Zip Code Review. The status as of 31 July 2014 is that three chapters are good and have no changes, four chapters are still working on the review and 10 have sent Ed completed data and he will work with National MOAA and other chapters to reconcile. Good progress is being made for this review. When all information is gathered Ed will go to National MOAA to put into place.

Then Jeri brought up an informational open forum about the Chapter Leaders' Symposium in Jacksonville, FL. All chapters are sending representatives except First in Freedom. Currently there 38 people coming not including spouses. Western has at this time been wait listed for rooms but the hotel is working on this issue.

During the Symposium, National MOAA considers Membership as a very important issue but the primary emphasis is on Legislative Issues. Everyone going, no matter what session as a representative, should be as well prepared as possible. Information is available on the state website and accessing the materials in Council Business/Council Resources.

Currently, after the Friday night dinner, all NC Representatives and spouses will meet for a group picture at a place to be announced later. Also, there is a group meeting planned for Thursday evening after dinner at a place to be determined. This is for everyone including spouses as a type of mixer which was an additional suggestion by Major Corning. If you have any NC MOAA attire, this might be a good time

to wear them or during casual sessions. Also bring bags from May Boot Camp and MOAA business cards.

The JROTC Instructor of the Year has been out for several months and it is approximately 99% complete and fixed. Changes can be made as the form is used by different chapters. Jeri proposed that we name the program for LTC Robert L. Jones who is a member of SECLAND. He is well known in the JROTC world. Gary Marlar made the motion and Harley Ellinger made the second. The proposal was accepted. The state level committee is made up of George Brudzinski, Marie Senzig and Bob Penny. Chapter level and State level awards are in the process of becoming activated but not in place at this time. Jeri is going to send a letter to every principal at every North Carolina school which has a JROTC unit. There are 178 JROTC units supported by NCCOC. Ken Lynn wrote an article on JROTC units which will be attached as a link in the next Council e-newsletter. JROTC issues are citizenship and 100% high school graduation.

Next for discussion was the overview of the State Convention. More information will be available on the website and in newsletters. Currently Jeri has reserved 70 rooms and if we need more we need to have a good grasp of how many are coming so we can request more ASAP. The date for the deposit is 15 October 2014.

There will be several planned activities but also plenty of time to meet members of other chapters and exchange ideas. NCCOC plans to partner with Western Carolina Chapter to make some time available for a quarterly meeting but most of the time is for social and fun activities. Jeri has requested State Adjutant General Lusk to be a guest speaker. The meeting is already on National MOAA's calendar and letters have been sent to VADM Ryan and other invitees.

Jeri suggested having a fundraiser through donations for a raffle in order to present an individual/family to attend the State Convention. The individual will be a member of some military group, i.e. NC National Guard. Major Bob Lunston, a MOAA member and head of the NC Guard has been asked to speak. We want to thank the Guard for all they do.

Western is looking to develop a satellite and the State Convention may be a good opportunity for future satellite members to attend. They had a second organizational meeting and 25 individuals attended. Right now we have 10 cottages with competition for rooms. We all currently have rooms in the main lodge. Information is on the state website.

David Lee commented that he thought the raffle idea was good and that it would give State MOAA good publicity and give it a personnel face. We could use various military newspapers and magazines to get the word out on what State MOAA is doing. The drawing would be for the three nights and the four days of the State Convention, 11-14 June 2015. John Knapp plans to help with the package. Individuals can drive in for dinners even if not staying.

Doug Ehrhardt gave an update on Communications/Public Affairs. Some individuals are having problems with the forms on the website. Doug gave some hints which should help on how to fill in forms. He also gave time tables on when certain forms and business information should be received to be placed on the website. Council Only Business should be received 30 days in advance of a Quarterly

Meeting, i.e. the minutes from the past meeting. The quarterly reports are due no later than the upcoming meeting and the date of the meeting should be used on the form. The information is for activity since the last report that has not previously been reported on. Jeri is capturing past, present and future information from the Quarterly Reports.

David Lee referred us to his Power Point Presentation given at the Boot Camp meeting in May. He recommended that the Membership Chairs should know how reports are sent into National MOAA. The check received from COL Wright, who is in charge of National MOAA Membership, is to aid in chapter recruiting and was given to David by Jeri at the Executive Committee/Board of Directors meeting yesterday. The amount of the check is for \$250 and is to be deposited in the NCCOC account to be used for all NC local chapters. David is looking for ideas from the chapters on how to use it for recruiting.

When the names of new members are sent to National MOAA, the chapter should receive an email confirming that National MOAA has received the name(s). If there are any problems please let David or Jeri know what the problem is with complete information and they will help. Planning on a teleconference meeting for Membership Chairs at a time to be determined.

COL Ellinger gave his report on Legislative Affairs. The goal is to remain a non-political organization and it is essential to our lobbying effort. As of 18 July 2014, National MOAA has 10 lobbyists who are only 70% effective. The three major concerns are an increase of 1.8% raise which was first proposed and now it has been cut as the government only wants to give a 1% raise and they want service members to pay more towards their basic allowance for quarters and increase the amount paid towards Tricare. To find more in depth information go to the website and pull up Harley's Power Point Presentation given during the May quarterly meeting. Harley also suggested that we make copies of the talking points and can use the work of other chapters as long as credit is given. While the house is not in session in August there is a push for Legislative Chairs to get in touch with the representative who was given to them as their chapter's representative by State MOAA. Hope to have this accomplished before going to the symposium in Jacksonville, FL. Different chapters may have differing results based primarily on availability of the Congress person. Influence of state representatives should be similar to National MOAA to level the playing field.

Jeri has been in contact with the Fourth Branch Communication Chair. They will be having a webinar on 6 August 2014. They will repeat at a future date to be determined. John Stewart gave information on how it will work. Let Jeri know who will be attending the webinar. Joe Cansler spoke shortly on the Bailey-Patton Contract concerning taxes on all government retirees' retirement pay. Many of the state employees will soon discover that it is no longer in effect for new retirees. Aimee Corning said the same was true in South Carolina. It is currently stagnant but changing it to cover more may be possible in the future.

Jeri discussed a number of opportunities to participate in State MOAA or state military coordinated activities. There is information on websites for the Carolina Veterans Group, Governor's Working Group, Veterans Services Council for counties and the state and the National Guard.

John Loving of the Triangle Chapter gave a presentation on the Fourth Quarter Meeting in Raleigh during the first of November. All information needed is on the State MOAA website.

Jeri and Ed Baisden gave information on how they worked out a chart for how often chapters had hosted quarterly meetings and the dates. It was used to set up the proposed schedule for 2015.

- 1st Quarter: Meeting will be In February 2015 and hosted by Coastal Carolina. The weather should be better than other parts of the state. They are near a military base and lodging is reasonably prices
- 2nd Quarter: The date of the meeting is June 2015. It will be during the State Convention in the form of various short meetings. Planning to partner with Western Carolina chapter, which would be hosting the business meetings.
- 3rd Quarter: Meeting will be held September 2015. This meeting could be hosted by First in Freedom and First Flight. Plan to invite National MOAA for a rescue to help First Flight. Elizabeth City is the suggested city to meet in since it will soon be a Coast Guard City and there is a Coast Guard Air Station near, which should have potential members. The hotels in the area are not far from the base.
- 4th Quarter: Meeting is planned for December 2015 in Charlotte. The hosting Chapter would be Charlotte Metrolina. Harley Ellinger brought up that may not be a good time because of the holidays but will be discussed later.

There was a review by chapter of what they were doing for Veteran’s Day. Six chapters had nothing planned, five chapters are having or participating in parades and six chapters had various plans from a Military Ball Honoring Vietnam Vets to golf tournaments and several other great ideas.

The 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War is coming up this year and it was asked if State MOAA wants to do something. A motion was made to proceed with this idea and Joe Cansler made the motion to do something for the commemoration of Vietnam and it was seconded by Gary Marlar.

President Jeri Graham adjourned the meeting at 1200.

Jeri Graham

Carol Aljets

President

Secretary