

# WNC MOAA

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

## Membership Meetings

August 17 Annual Membership Meeting

### Entrees

Parmesan Chicken

Catfish and Hushpuppies

### Next Meeting

November 23

## Speaker for August 17

HON. MARK R. MEADOWS  
N.C. CONG DISTRICT 11

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### 2019 CASH FLOW

BOY \$14,644.50

INCOME \$ 6,995.30

EXPENSES \$5,728.79

EOQ \$16,027.86

## President's Remarks

by Mike Covell

We began this quarter with sponsoring the Council of Governors for their quarterly meeting. We have the opportunity to show the Governors our western hospitality once every three years. We had a superb Friday night banquet at the Hendersonville Country Club with a stimulating talk by our own Colonel Richard "Duke" Woodhull regarding a career in the U-2 branch of the USAF.

At the business meeting the following morning the Chapter received recognition for our membership growth. We also learned about the struggles to get the North Carolina

legislature to move forward with a bill to bring all military members into the benefit of not taxing their retirement pay in North Carolina. We also learned of a new national initiative to form virtual chapters for surviving spouses and medical military personnel. It provides national networking for the small number of MOAA members in those two categories.

Our members continue to provide services in a wide variety of veteran related efforts. A wider description of those initiatives later in this newsletter. To support them the Board agreed to support each with a \$1,000 donation.

We are honored to have Representative Mark Meadows provide us an update on a wide variety of issues at our August meeting. This is our Annual Membership Meeting when every old numbered year we elect our Officer Board for the following two years. Only members attending the meeting may vote for these candidates. Their names are list elsewhere in the newsletter. I have included the member survey in the newsletter. If you haven't done so, please complete the survey and return it with your meeting reservations or separately. This will help our new Board learn what is important to you and get them off to a fast start.

Let's continue our growth and service as we wind down the year.

Mike

## Legislative Update

Our Legislative Affairs Officer has recovered from his recent illness and has provided the following update regarding legislative activities:

There is perhaps a light at the end of the tunnel that will alleviate the "WIDOWS TAX" At the present survivors of diseased military members must forfeit part or all of their Survivor Benefit Plan (SPB) if they receive VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). The Senate sent the Defense Bill to the House of Representatives without addressing the issue. However, the House of Representatives includes correcting the issue in their version of the Defense Bill. Of course, the bill must return to the Senate for their approval. Both of North Carolina Senators support the MOAA position. We won't know the outcome until September at least; but, there is hope.

We, as members of MOAA, must continue to send the MOAA sponsored E-mails and post cards to let our elected Representatives and Senators know that their constituents support MOAA's position on military related issues; issues that affect both the retired and active duty military communities. Numbers count! Sending personal communications have an impact greater than mass mailings.

If we do not fight for our hard won benefits who will?

Harvey L. Wilson

Take advantage of our visit from Representative Meadows at our August meeting to express your concerns about Congressional support for veterans and their spouses.

Mike

## **Candidates for Officer Positions on our Board**

Although our Board has many positions, a designated positions listed in our By-Laws must be elected biannually by the general membership in odd numbered years. The candidates for service in the years 2020 and 2021 are

President: Donna Culp (1)  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Ron Urrutia  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Ty Keplinger  
Secretary: Bob Rebscher  
Treasurer: Mike Covell  
Air Force Rep: Jeff Snyder  
Army Rep: Larry Wilson  
Marine Rep: Bob Rebscher  
Navy Rep: Herb Mensch  
At-Large Rep: Spence Campbell  
Smoky Mountain: David McCracken

### Notes:

1. The President cannot serve successive terms.
2. All candidates are members of National MOAA

## **What's Happening Out West?**

1) With regard to any donations to support VET SMILES ~ 100% is directed to actual dental care:  
Send donations to:

**Smoky Mountains Outreach Foundation, PO Box 676, Lake Junaluska, NC 28745  
~ or ~ use "DONATE" button located within the [smoutreach.org](http://smoutreach.org) website**

2) Next MOAA SMS will be Tuesday, 30 July 19, starting at 1130 at Canton Sagebrush (just off I-40 at exit 31); guest speaker still TBD (both Congressman Meadows and Doctor Bill Forstchen are invited at present)

3) New participants added to the We Honor Veterans program as each individual is scheduled for the required training.

4) Smoky Mountains Outreach Foundation ~ as a certifying organization within the Points of Light Foundation parameters (focused on selfless community service) provide the framed certificates and individual lapel pins the following organizations:

a) Haywood County Honor Guard, GOLD level award for 13 personnel who performed more than 1,500 volunteer hours during 2018. Two framed awards presented: one to the NC American Legion Post 47 in Waynesville; the second to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5202 in Waynesville. The 13 individual veteran participants are members of either (or some both) organizations.

b) Haywood County Sheriff's Office Citizens Patrol. BRONZE level award for three personnel who performed more than 100 volunteer hours during 2018.

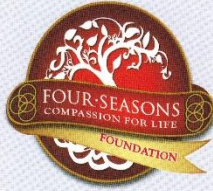
Each individual recipient was a veteran.

WNC MOAA Board donated \$1,000.00 to SMOF to provide momentum for their efforts.

## GET INVOLVED


There are many opportunities for you to serve the Western North Carolina community through WNC-MOAA. Below is a list of some of those projects:

1. Prepare and serve lunch to homeless veterans once a quarter at the Veterans Restoration Quarters (near the Asheville VA Hospital) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 0930 to 1230. Contact Col Jeff Snyder, [jsnyder243@aol.com](mailto:jsnyder243@aol.com), 828-684-2359
2. Participate in “We Honor Veterans” pinning ceremonies as partners with Four Seasons Hospice. These events are unscheduled, performed on your availability. For more information contact CAPT John Knapp, [j.knapp4@att.net](mailto:j.knapp4@att.net), 828-702-3317
3. Present MOAA award to JROTC cadet at annual award ceremony. Dates and location as determined by the high school. You can select the school(s) of your choice. For more information contact Col Jeff Snyder, [jsnyder243@aol.com](mailto:jsnyder243@aol.com), 828-684-2359
4. Provide support for family members of veterans using the Asheville VA Hospital. The duties vary depending on your time of availability. For more information contact Marleen Varner, [marnvarner@gmail.com](mailto:marnvarner@gmail.com), 828-274-4267.
5. Join the Smoky Mountain Outreach Foundation which meets seven times a year at various locations in the western most counties of North Carolina. Their outreach efforts are described in this newsletter. For more information contact COL David McCracken, [dem32415@aol.com](mailto:dem32415@aol.com), 828-550-5980.



Four Seasons Foundation  
211 N. Main Street  
Hendersonville, NC 28792  
(828) 513-2440

## WE HONOR VETERANS LUNCHEON




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Presented by  
**Beverly-Hanks**  
REALTORS®

to benefit the  
**General Frank Blazey  
Veterans Fund**

September 12 • 11:30 - 1p.m.  
Hendersonville Country Club

Keynote: Major General Joseph J. Taluto, USA (Ret.)  
Retired commander of some 2,000 soldiers, airmen,  
sailors, and marines during the state of New York response  
to the events of September 11, 2001.



WE HONOR VETERANS LUNCHEON

You may remember that BGen Frank Blazey was dedicated member of WNC MOAA and an active supporter of Four Seasons Hospice. An endowment has been established in his name for his contribution. The endowment earnings are dedicated to any veteran desiring hospice care who cannot afford the cost. We Honor Veterans but we are also committed to providing them support in actual need. The Board has supported this endowment with a \$1,000 donation

WNC MOAA and Four Seasons Compassionate Care are sponsoring a luncheon to recognize Gen Blazey. As a member of WNC MOAA you are invited to attend at no cost. If you would like to attend, e-mail Mike Covell, [mjcovell0409@gmail.com](mailto:mjcovell0409@gmail.com). Space is limited; first come, first served.

**MOAA Member Survey**

Your Chapter's leadership is very interested in knowing what you like about the Chapter and its activities and what you would like to see improved. To that end, we have developed a short survey that should take about 10 minutes to complete. Participation is entirely voluntary, but we do want the input from as many as possible.

**First some basic information:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years you have been a WNC MOAA Chapter member \_\_\_\_\_

On average, how many Chapter events (luncheons, picnic, special events etc.) do you attend in a year \_\_\_\_\_

**Question #1:** Please put the following in rank order of its importance to you and your Chapter participation. Rank from 1 to 5 **with 1 being the most important.**

Fellowship of Military / Uniformed Service officers	
Programs that inform and stimulate	
Good meals	
Scholarships & Outreach activities	
Special events (for example; local theater or sports events)	

**Question # 2:** We try to have luncheon programs that are interesting and informative. Rank the following choices in order from 1 to 5 with **1 being the most interesting to you.**

Presentations that:

Pertain to the military or military topics	
Pertain to Local or national history	
Topics of current interest	
Presentation by local and State elected officials, government executives or business leaders	
Other (Please describe)	

Please list program types that are of little or no interest to you:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please list programs that you would like to have presented (with speaker's name if possible):

\_\_\_\_\_

**Question #3.** Are there additional social events that you would enjoy: Check the appropriate box or add a suggested event in the following table

Type of event	Yes	No	Maybe
Evening gathering ?			
A day trip to an area attraction ?			
Happy Hour at a local bar & grill, etc ?			
Events that focus on a specific interest or hobby			
Other type events (please list):			

**Question #4** Please indicate if the current locations of luncheons is:  
Location is                      OK\_\_\_\_\_      Too far to drive\_\_\_\_\_

**Question #5** Please indicate if the current length of luncheon programs (the speakers' presentations & Chapter business announcements) is, on average:  
Good as is . \_\_\_\_\_      Too Long\_\_\_\_\_      Not long enough \_\_\_\_\_

*The next section concerns the Chapter's support to Jr ROTC students and military veterans and their families. About 50% of the Chapter's budget is expended in these programs. We want your opinion on the distribution of these assets.*

**Question # 6: Scholarship Programs:**

the Chapter has donated about \$1500 each year to area Jr ROTC Students.. Is this amount and project?

- About right\_\_\_\_\_
- Too much\_\_\_\_\_
- Too little\_\_\_\_\_

**Question # 7: Outreach Programs:**

The Chapter's Outreach programs continue to donate about \$1500 to various causes. Is this the right amount?

- About right\_\_\_\_\_
- Too much\_\_\_\_\_
- Too little\_\_\_\_\_

Are there other Outreach programs or organizations you would like to suggest?

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**Question # 8.**

If an expansion of the Scholarship or Outreach programs would require additional funding, how would you suggest raising those funds?

- |                    |          |         |
|--------------------|----------|---------|
| Increase Donations | Yes_____ | No_____ |
| Increase Dues      | Yes_____ | No_____ |
| Raffles and sales  | Yes_____ | No_____ |
| Golf Tournament    | Yes_____ | No_____ |
| Silent Auctions    | Yes_____ | No_____ |

Are there other fund raising ideas you would like to suggest?

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**Question # 9:**

How often do you look at the Chapter Website:

- Rarely or once or twice a month: \_\_\_\_\_
- Weekly \_\_\_\_\_
- Never \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you look at the Council Website <https://www.moaa-nc.org>

Monthly: \_\_\_\_\_  
Weekly: \_\_\_\_\_  
Never: \_\_\_\_\_

**Question # 10: Legislative Affairs Program.** Our Legislative Affairs program has two goals:

1. To provide information and news regarding both Federal and State legislation of interest to MOAA members.
2. To provide links and tools that facilitates Chapter member participation in the legislative process.

Do you think the current program adequately accomplishes those Goals?

Please indicate on a scale from 1 to 5, with **1** being "Completely" and **5** being "Not at All".

Please check on of the following:

1\_\_\_\_\_ 2\_\_\_\_\_ 3\_\_\_\_\_ 4\_\_\_\_\_ 5\_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever used the Chapter or Council website Legislative page (to contact an elected representative)?

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any recommendations for changes, additions or improvements to the Legislative Affairs program?

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**Question #11:** Open comment. Any further comments or program suggestions?

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# GENERAL CHAPTER MEETING REGISTRATION AND RENEWAL FORM

## Membership Renewal

The easiest and fastest way to renew your membership is online. You may accomplish this in the few easy steps listed below. You may also complete the form below.

1. Go to [www.MOAA.org](http://www.MOAA.org)
2. Select Chapters & Councils (top of the page)
3. Click "Chapter Dues"
4. Click the blue button titled, "Join or Renew your chapter dues"
5. Complete the form and your dues are paid.

**Annual Dues are Due and Payable Jan 1; past due March 1**

Chapter Membership RENEWAL: \$30 Regular member and spouse; \$10 Surviving Spouse

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ National MOAA#: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation: \_\_\_\_\_ (All donations are to the chapter general fund)

Enclosed are my dues for the year(s) \_\_\_\_\_

### ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION:

**Saturday Aug 17**, Hendersonville Country Club

11 AM Check-in/Social; 12 PM Board Election/ Program

DEADLINE: Payment must be received NLT: Tuesday, **Aug 13, 2019**

Make Checks payable to: WNC MOAA; Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_ meal (s) At \$30 per person.

I/We plan on attending the WNC MOAA Annual Chapter Meeting on Saturday August 17, 2019

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

This is the 1st WNC MOAA event attended: Y/N

Checks payable to WNC MOAA. Mail this form with payment to:

WNC MOAA  
PO Box 1984  
Hendersonville NC 28793