

The Western North Carolina Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, Inc.

MOUNTAIN MOAA NEWS

SPRING 2007



EARLY EVENING DINNER MEETING

MAY 19, 2007

HENDERSONVILLE COUNTRY CLUB

Social Hour begins at **4:30 pm** with an outstanding buffet dinner at **5:30 pm** (Seafood Newberg, Herb Roast Chicken, Wild Rice and Almond Pilaf, and all the fixin's)

Cost is \$18 per person.

Guest speakers NC Senator Joe Sam Queen and Ms. Whitney Cooper from the

FOLKMOOT FESTIVAL of WAYNESVILLE

This outstanding Western North Carolina event runs from July 16 to July 29, 2007, at various locations in WNC. Come and hear all about this internationally-recognized festival.

SEE THE EVENT SIGN-UP FORM ON PAGE 4

DIRECTIONS TO HENDERSONVILLE COUNTRY CLUB

From downtown Hendersonville take West Fifth Ave west about a mile to Pine Drive, just past the railroad crossing. Turn left on Pine Drive and go about one-half mile. Club is on the right.

FROM THE BRIDGE: NOW HEAR THIS

By CDR Clint Smoke, USCG-Ret

If you have recently attended one of our meetings, you have heard me speak (some would say preach) about the need to get your personal affairs in order. I offer this advice to assist you and your family.

As a chapter officer, as a member of the local Veterans Council Honor Guard, and as an officer in a Masonic Lodge, I go to too many funerals. I find that in many cases the family did not have good information about the member's desires, nor could they locate important documents that would have helped greatly during their time of need. Unfortunately, during their time of grief, important decisions must be made. (And due to their grief, some of these decisions may not be the best.) You can help them by making known your wishes in advance. (continued on page 5)

**WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
CHAPTER OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT

CDR Clinton S. Smoke, USCG-Ret.
687-8800

1st VICE PRESIDENT

LTC Larry Wilson, USA-Ret.
659-6106

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

MAJ Robert Smith, USA-Ret.
668-7070

SECRETARY

COL Bryan Aleksich, USAFR-Ret.
891-1697

TREASURER

LTC Milton Thompson, USMC-Ret.
749-1192

PAST PRESIDENT

COL Otis W. Livingston, Jr., USA-Ret.
894-0637

PERSONAL AFFAIRS

MAJ Richard S. Swift, USAF-Ret.
692-1763

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

CDR Marion Hamel, USN-Ret.
926-8974

LEGAL AFFAIRS

Vacant

CHAPLAIN

COL Robert E. Lair, USA-Ret.
894-8744

ARMY REP

LTC Charles M. Luce, USA-Ret.
648-7369

NAVY REP

CDR J. Edward Craig, USN-Ret.
859-9205

AIR FORCE REP

COL Kenneth Hadeen, USAF-Ret.
645-4902

MARINE REP

MAJ Walter Cunningham, USMC-Ret.
863-4298

AT LARGE

Vacant

SENIOR ADVISOR

RADM Paul Sutherland, USN-Ret.
894-2514

VA HOSPITAL

CDR Michael L. Dickenson, USN-Ret.
298-3670

WEB MASTER

LTC Leonard Baker, USA-Ret.
669-1030

BLACK MOUNTAIN REP

COL William H. Creed, USA-Ret

TAPS

LTC William Green, USA-Ret, died January 21, 2007. He was a member and served on the Board of Directors in the 1990's.

Mrs. Patricia Merry, wife of the late LTC Kenneth Merry, USAF-Ret, died on February 24, 2007. Her remains were returned to her home country of England for burial with her husband.

**COMMENTS FROM THE CHAPTER'S SECOND
VICE PRESIDENT**

By MAJ Robert Smith, USA-Ret

Things are moving along with the JROTC program, information has been sent to the 17 programs in our region and the committee is prepared to evaluate the applications later this month. Next year things will hopefully run a little more smoothly and we will get a little (lot) more organized. My deep appreciation goes out to those who have put in so much effort. Hoot, Larry, Mike, and Clint have done a lot of work! We have already received several applications and I expect there are many more in the box or on the way. This program is very important and we can use your help to make it the success it deserves to be.

We are still in need of presenters for the medal and Savings Bond for many schools. The following schools do not have anyone signed up to serve as liaison yet: Asheville (MC), E. Henderson (AF), Enka (AF), Erwin (AR), Madison (AR), N. Buncombe (Navy), N. Henderson (AR), Owen (AR), Pisgah (Navy), Roberson (AF), Rutherfordton (MC), Tuscola (AF), W. Henderson (AR), Swain County (AF). Thanks to Clint, Chuck, and Larry for their help! It would be nice to have someone of the same branch of service but a desire to serve trumps that. Most of the ceremonies are in late April and early May. Please give me a call or e-mail if interested in helping with this rewarding effort.

We still need to get working on a membership recruiting effort and I am open to suggestions and would welcome any assistance.

MEMBER CHECKLIST FOR TODAY

PAY MY DUES THROUGH 2007

**CONTACT MY NC LEGISLATORS ABOUT HOUSE BILL 233
(See discussion in special Winter/Spring Newsletter)**

SIGN UP FOR THE MAY 19 DINNER MEETING.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

By COL Bryan Aleksich, USAFR-Ret
Things you should know

Everything but everything that concerns our chapter is funneled through our mailbox (well almost). PO Box 1028 is the Chapter's continuous connection with its members and all other MOAA activity. Nearly all mail is from members and nearly every envelope contains money in the form of a check. Problems arise when the contents of the envelope do not make it clear how the money is to be applied.

The most common error is the misunderstanding of the annual dues amount, and just how a member of the Auxiliary is defined. Let's see if I can clear this up. Dues are annual and the date marked on your Newsletter is the paid-through year (e.g. 2007 means that you are paid through 31 December 2007).

Dues are \$20 and they pay for the WNC Chapter membership for one calendar year. National MOAA dues are \$24 annually and paid directly to MOAA in the nation's capital. Phone: (703) 549 2311.

Members' \$20 dues give their spouses all the rights and privileges members have except the right to vote. Members' spouses do not belong to the Chapter Auxiliary.

So members should not add \$5 to their annual fee for their wives. The total annual sum for Chapter membership is \$20. Auxiliary status is

accorded the spouse of a deceased member. Chapter Auxiliary membership is \$5 per year.

Too many of you write a check for \$20 and simply note "Dues" on the check without designating the year, thinking that it is up to me to figure it out. Okay, I do figure it out and shall continue to, but it might be a good idea if you kept track of where you are as well. I make mistakes. Currently we have 337 members, and money comes in for other things besides dues; thus annually thousands of dollars are funneled through PO Box 1028. And our illustrious Treasurer Milton Thompson and I (less than illustrious) attempt to keep things as accurate as we can. Since I have the only key to the mail box and accordingly handle the money first and record its disposition, mistakes are invariably mine alone. However, I have a rule that any member who expresses forceful displeasure with my performance gets to assume my mundane title-Chapter Secretary-next January 1st. So tread lightly.

Welcome to new member former Army Captain **Gorden Threlfell** and his wife **Julie**, sponsored by Robert Lair. **Morgan Boyd** made a contribution of \$25 to the JROTC fund. We might take his lead and the lead of others who have contributed and consider a modest contribution to this worthy work that we do that keeps American's military presence in our high schools.

REMEMBER FOLKMOOT
JULY 16—JULY 29, 2007

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING UPCOMING

Our next Board of Directors meeting will begin at 12 noon on Wednesday, May 2, at the Hendersonville Country Club. We will use the buffet for our meal. All are welcome to attend.

PAY YOUR DUES NOW. SEE PAGE 4.

FINANCIAL REPORT

As of April 5, 2007

LTC Milton Thompson ,USMC-Ret.

Checking Account.....\$7,429

Scholarship Fund\$2,108

Note: Includes \$500 returned by UNC Greensboro. Recipient of the scholarship did not enroll for second quarter.

Hendersonville Country Club

February 17, 2007

Income..... \$1,478

Expenses.....Meals, Services and Entertainment..... \$1,181

Profit.....\$ 297

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE TO OUR DUES STATUS!!!

Total Members on Our Roster 337

As of April 5, 2007

Members with Dues Paid Through 2007: 213 / 64%

Members with Dues Paid Through 2006: 86 / 26%

Members with Dues Paid Through 2005: 38 / 11%

SPECIAL NOTICE 2007 SPECIAL NOTICE

We have 124 former members who have NOT paid dues for this year, 2007.

If the year on your newsletter label is 2006 or earlier, this indicates that your dues are not paid for 2007. If the year on your newsletter label is 2007 or later your dues are paid through that year. **If you wish to continue your membership and receive our newsletter please promptly pay your dues for 2007 by 1 June 2007.**

Clip this form and mail today!!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / EVENT SIGNUP

WNC MOAA, P.O. Box 1028 Hendersonville, NC 28793

Name _____

Renewal Dues: year(s) and amount (\$20, AUX \$5 per year) _____

Event: May 19, 2007, Buffet Dinner, \$18 per person _____

Changes (e-mail address, etc.) and Comments: _____

Please respond ASAP but no later than May 15! Thanks!!

FROM THE CHAPLAIN
By COL Robert E. Lair, Jr., USA-Ret

Theodore Roosevelt was one of our more colorful and controversial Presidents. He has always been one of my favorites.

Modern psychiatrists have diagnosed him (after the fact) as a manic-depressive or bipolar personality. His energy and moodiness are well documented. He sometimes invited "prize fighters" to the White House to "go a few rounds. "

He was the youngest man ever to become president at the age of 42. His lifestyle was regarded as strenuous, although as a youth, he was regarded as sickly.

He was a man born to privilege, but he chose to live a rugged life as a cowboy rancher and big game hunter.

He was a man of contrasts and paradox. He was a politician, the leader of a volunteer cavalry regiment, a reformer and trust buster of monopolies, a friend of labor, a conservationist, a man who enforced a "big stick" foreign policy, and a recipient of the Nobel prize for peace.

He was a civil service commissioner, police commissioner, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, a "Rough Rider," Governor of New York, Vice-President and President of the United States.

Teddy Roosevelt was a religious man who exemplified that line from the New Testament Book of James, "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only...."

I wish I could have heard some of his energetic speeches, "Bully!"

Somewhere I read about him once remarking, "When I die and go to heaven, I want to join the choir. There will be thousands of sopranos, thousands of altos and thousands of tenors." Someone asked him, "Mr. President, what about bass?" And, Roosevelt replied, "I'll sing bass!" You've got to love such a guy!

Teddy Roosevelt once wisely said, "Nine-tenths of wisdom is being wise in time." Twenty-twenty hindsight is really worthless! We need to be wise at the right time.

(FROM THE BRIDGE: continued from page 1)

In response to a perceived need, we gave away 10 copies of the MOAA publication *Help Your Survivors Now* at our February membership meeting. A part of that publication is an insert called *Personal Affairs Workbook*. We encourage all members and their spouses to get and complete this important document. It is available from MOAA at the website mentioned below.

MOAA recently announced that this document is now available on line in the form of an interactive, computer-based document that can be completed and saved in your computer. The forms are easy to download and complete. You should print a copy to retain with your records and you should also share these documents with your family.

Here is how to get the new product:

1. Log on to the MOAA website at www.moaa.org.
2. Select *Books and Guides* from the publications drop-down menu.
3. Choose *Help Your Survivors Now: A Guide for Planning Ahead* from the selections on the right side of the page.
4. Select the links on that page to download the forms you are interested in.

This is a new product. MOAA welcomes your suggestions and comments on how to refine this offering.

ASHEVILLE, VA MEDICAL CENTER BRIEFING

By CDR Michael Dickenson, USN-Ret

- **MEDICAL CENTER.** The Medical Center fared very well in the performance evaluation inspection that was conducted by the VA inspection team recently. They achieved the category of "Stellar Performance" and an overall grade of Excellent. The evaluation concluded that in most areas they meet the target and in those where they didn't they showed improvement over previous evaluations. Patient satisfaction had highest scores. Employee satisfaction was also high.
- **PATIENT SERVICES.** The number of patients the Medical Center treats continues to grow. They are seeing more outpatients than ever before while their inpatient numbers remain fairly steady.
- **PROPOSED NURSING HOME.** This project is moving forward slowly. Many steps have to be completed at the state level before it is forwarded to the federal level for action. The location choice, Black Mountain or Oteen, is unable to be decided until later in the project.
- **FRANKLIN CLINIC.** After some legal delays a contract between the property owner and the VA appears to be about ready for signature. The VA optimistically hopes to open this clinic by the end of the calendar year. A patient base of about 3400 for general health care services is anticipated.
- **HICKORY CLINIC.** The VA is looking to establish a medical clinic in the Hickory area. This project is presently just in the discussion stage. The opening date can only be described as eventually. They expect to serve approximately 2000 patients at the clinic.
- **WHEELCHAIR ONLY PARKING PROBLEMS.** A word of warning regarding parking on the Medical Center grounds is in order. There has been a continuing problem of unauthorized people parking in spaces posted for wheelchair patients only. These are not normal handicap spaces and a regular handicap tag does not entitle one to use these spaces. Several different methods have been utilized in trying to ensure that only authorized wheelchair-bound patients use these spaces with little or no positive results. Rather than resorting to towing vehicles, at considerable expense to the unauthorized user, to combat this problem the VA Medical Center security force has been authorized to start using the "TEXAS BOOT" system to enforce the proper use of these spaces. While no ticket points or fine is anticipated, a significant time delay could be encountered by drivers while they attempt to find the proper security member with the key to the boot. Just a word to the wise.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEEDED FOR AUGUST ELECTION

By CDR Clint Smoke, USCG-Ret

I am looking for a "few good men and women" to serve on the Nominating Committee to develop a list of candidates for the Chapter officer positions for the August election. The committee consists of five regular members (one each from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, plus one at-large) not currently holding elected office. If you would like to serve on this critical committee contact either **Larry Wilson at 659-6106 or me at 687-8800**. Many thanks for your cooperation!! P.S. If you would like to volunteer to be a Chapter Officer please give me a call.

At our February Membership meeting we were favored with a presentation on the House of Flags Museum. As a follow up to that event, we propose to present to the membership at our May meeting a resolution supporting that project. The proposed resolution is set forth below. Your support is solicited.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE HOUSE OF FLAGS MUSEUM

WHEREAS, The Stars and Stripes represent so much to those of us that have served our country for many years in uniform, and

WHEREAS, The flag that we all have served willingly and with pride instills pride, service, honor, patriotism and sacrifice, and

WHEREAS, The current House of Flags Museum initiated by VFW Post 9116 in Polk County, North Carolina serves as a repository for the 27 stages leading to our current flag and houses more than 300 flags including those of our states, armed forces and others, and

WHEREAS, The House of Flags has provided educational programs for over 3000 school children and for over 2000 adult visitors since 2001 even though the current location is both remote and inadequate, and

WHEREAS, There are plans to construct a new self-sustaining building for the House of Flags Museum in the town of Columbus, North Carolina that will be operated as a non-profit educational enterprise and be a more fitting repository for the honored collection of flags, and

WHEREAS, VFW Post 9116 and the House of Flags Museum, Inc. Board of Directors and a community based Museum Advisory Committee have undertaken a Fund Raising Campaign to build a new museum,

Now **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Western North Carolina Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, Inc., does hereby support and encourage the Campaign to construct a new House of Flags Museum in Columbus, North Carolina.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION

I (We) _____ would like to make a donation to the WNC Chapter of MOAA funds:

Operating Fund \$ _____

JROTC Scholarship Fund \$ _____

() Please record my (our) name in the next issue of "Mountain MOAA News."

() Please accept this donation in memory of _____

() I (We) prefer to remain anonymous.

() Check enclosed payable to "WNC MOAA."

Total Amount \$ _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Please clip and mail to:

Secretary, WNC MOAA, P.O. Box 1028, Hendersonville, NC 28793

This donation may be tax deductible. Check with your tax advisor.

**THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
CHAPTER of the
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
of AMERICA, INC.
P.O. Box 1028
Hendersonville, NC 28793
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Hendersonville, NC
Permit 351

MOUNTAIN MOAA NEWS

*is the official publication of the
WNC Chapter of MOAA.
Published Six Times Annually
Editor:*

*LTC Charles M. Luce, USA-Ret
662 Phillipsville Loop
Canton, NC 28716
828-648-7369
Luce54@aol.com*



**Black Mountain Satellite
Chapter News**

Next meeting will be at the Monte Vista Hotel in Black Mountain at 11:30 am, May 16, 2007. All are invited to come and enjoy a great buffet and excellent fellowship.

CORRECTION

In the Winter/Spring 2007 newsletter, on page 3, the name of State Senator Queen is incorrect. His correct name is Senator Joe Sam Queen. Please note this change for Haywood, Madison, McDowell and Yancey counties as well as in the alphabetical listing at the bottom of the page. We regret this error.

**CONTACTING YOUR ELECTED
OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON**

Senator Elizabeth Dole

Washington Office: 555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-3301
Phone: (202) 224-6342 Fax: (202) 224-1100
Web Site: dole.senate.gov E-mail: Contact Via 'Web Form.'

Senator Richard Burr

Washington Office: 217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-3306
Phone: (202) 224-3154 Fax: (202) 228-2981
Web Site: burr.senate.gov E-mail: Contact Via 'Web Form.'

Representative Heath Shuler

Washington Office: 512 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3311
Phone: (202) 225-6401 Fax: (202) 226-6422
Web Site: shuler.house.gov E-mail: Contact Via 'Web Form.'