

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

# MOUNTAIN MOAA NEWS

WINTER 2008

## WNC MOAA CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

By LTC Larry Wilson, USA-Ret.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, welcome all to 2008! It is our sincere hope that each of you had a very Happy Holiday Season and wish all of you the best during this year.

I would like to thank all of you for allowing me and the other members of the Board of Directors the opportunity to serve you. As President, it is my hope and desire to be able to assist in providing activities that all will enjoy. The Western North Carolina Chapter of the Military Officers Association Board of Directors has one function and that is to serve the General Membership. However, to best serve you we need your help. We need input from you as to what activities you would most enjoy. Each of us has different likes and desires and yours can only be accommodated if we know what they are. It is my intention to bring all suggestions before the General Membership and not to make decisions in a void. (continued on page 5)



**FEBRUARY 16 WNC MOAA MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON  
HENDERSONVILLE COUNTRY CLUB  
SOCIAL HOUR BEGINS AT 1100 HOURS WITH LUNCH AT NOON  
GUEST SPEAKER IS STEVE SIMPSON, U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, EASTERN  
DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA, SPEAKING ON  
"COUNTERING TERRORISM THROUGH INFORMATION SHARING."  
ALL THIS FOR ONLY \$18 PER PERSON. SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS.**

## CHAPTER DUES FOR 2008

**LOOK AT YOUR LABEL ON THIS NEWSLETTER. IF THE YEAR IS LESS  
THAN 2008 YOU OWE DUES FOR 2008. PLEASE PAY ASAP AND BEFORE THE  
FEBRUARY 16 LUNCHEON. SEND IN YOUR CHECK TODAY!!! USE THE  
FORM ON PAGE 4. \$20 FOR MEMBERS AND \$5 FOR AUX MEMBERS.**

**WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA  
CHAPTER OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT**

LTC Larry Wilson, USA-Ret.  
659-6106

**1st VICE PRESIDENT**

MAJ Robert Smith, USA-Ret.  
668-7070

**2nd VICE PRESIDENT**

MAJ Ronald A. Botsford, USA-Ret.  
664-9484

**SECRETARY**

LTC Howard G. Lightfoot, USAF-Ret.  
692-5352

**TREASURER**

LTC Milton Thompson, USMC-Ret.  
749-1192

**PAST PRESIDENT**

CDR Clinton Smoke, USCG-Ret.  
687-8800

**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.  
452-2746

**NAVY REP**

Vacant

**AIR FORCE REP**

COL Kenneth Hadeen, USAF-Ret.  
645-4902

**MARINE REP**

MAJ Walter D. Cunningham, USMC-Ret.  
863-4298

**AT LARGE**

Vacant

**SENIOR ADVISOR**

RADM Paul Sutherland, USN-Ret.  
894-2514

**VA HOSPITAL**

Vacant

298-3670

**WEB MASTER**

LTC Leonard Baker, USA-Ret.  
669-1030

**BLACK MOUNTAIN REP**

COL William H. Creed, USA-Ret.  
669-2299

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

As of January 14, 2008

**LT.COL. Milton Thompson, USMC-Ret.**

Checking Account.....\$7,808

Scholarship Fund.....\$1,889

**Hendersonville Country Club November 17, 2007**

Income.....\$1,444

Expenses....Meals, Services and Entertainment...\$1,213

Profit / (Loss).....\$231

**Dues Status**

**Total Members on Our Roster 257 As of January 14, 2008**

Members with Dues Paid Through 2008: 107 (42%)

**NOTICE.....NOTICE.....NOTICE**

**If the year on your address label is less than 2008, please pay your dues prior to the February 16 membership meeting. Form on page 4.**

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:**

**CAPT Rick Martinez, USN.**

**COL Kathleen Spencer, USAF-Ret.**

**COL Spence Campbell, USA-Ret.**

**THANK YOU FOR THESE DONATIONS:**

**Glyndon B. Shaver to the Chapter Operating fund.**

**Kenneth and Barbara Hadeen to the JROTC Scholarship Fund.**

**Bill Stanley, in honor of Vince Colan, to the JROTC Scholarship Fund.**

**Rev. and Margaret Ude to the JROTC Scholarship Fund.**

**VISIT OUR CHAPTER'S NEW WEB SITE AT [WWW.WNC-MOAA.ORG](http://WWW.WNC-MOAA.ORG)**

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

By LTC Howard G. Lightfoot, USAF-Ret.

### E-MAIL TEST

Many of you are probably wondering what the recent e-mail test was for. We are exploring the possibility of sending future newsletters as an attachment to an e-mail. We realize some of you don't have e-mail capability. You will continue to receive the newsletter via snail mail.

Approximately 75 of our member have e-mail addresses that are not current. If you have e-mail address and did not receive the test message it means that we either do not have your e-mail address or the address we have is an incorrect e-mail address for you. Please send us your correct e-mail address to: hglftt@bellsouth.net. This is still in the exploratory phase and the Board of Directors must approve the plan before it can be implemented.

### NAMETAGS

See me at the check-in table at the February 16 luncheon to order nametags. Cost is \$7 each.

### TAPS

**LTC Edward E. Dougherty, USA-Ret.**, died October 10, 2007. He is survived by his wife Margaret (Maggie).

**MAJ Kenneth E. Hair, USAF-Ret.**, died recently in the VA Hospital. He is survived by his wife Pat of Asheville.

**CDR Russell M. Jonson, USN-Ret.**, died August 30, 2007. He is survived by his wife Dorothy.

**Mrs. Anne Worrell**, widow of COL Rowland Worrell and an auxiliary member of our chapter, died December 27, 2007. A Memorial Service was held at the St. James Episcopal Church on January 11, 2008.

## SECOND VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By MAJ Ronald A. Botsford, USA-Ret.

### PRESENTERS NEEDED!

I'm looking for volunteers! We need your help. Here's a chance for some of you to do a little more than just pay your dues and come to quarterly luncheons. I'm looking for 16 volunteers, each one to attend a JROTC awards ceremony near where you live. That's only ONE visit per volunteer unless you would like to do more. You would be the official WNC MOAA presenter of our MOAA medal and certificate to the unit's outstanding 11th grade student.

The event is usually held near the end of the school year. Our 16 schools with JROTC units are: Asheville, Cherokee, East Henderson, Enka, Erwin, Madison, McDowell, North Buncombe, North Henderson, Owen, Pisgah, Reynolds, Roberson, Rutherfordton, Tuscola and West Henderson. If you live near any of these high schools and are willing to be a presenter, please let me know. My home phone is 828 664 9484 and my address is 106 Rainbow Ln., Black Mountain 28711. You will be briefed on what to do. Thanks for reaching out on behalf of our Western North Carolina Chapter.



## **FEBRUARY 16 MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

One of the keys in the War on Terrorism is the gathering of information about terrorists and their backers. But gathering is only the beginning. The gathered information must then be shared with all of the agencies involved so that our national and international actions against the terrorists are coordinated. Our guest speaker, Steve Simpson, works daily at this critical task of gathering and sharing.

As always the Hendersonville Country Club presents the best buffet in WNC.

**Two entrees:**

Roast Breast of Turkey with cornbread stuffing and Baked Ham with pineapple sauce.

**Three vegetables:**

Buttered Broccoli, Cauliflower au Gratin and Sweet Potato Soufflé.

**Three salads:**

Garden Salad Bowl and Dressing, Greek Pasta Salad and Spinach and Mushroom Salad.

**Two delicious desserts:**

Apple Fruit Crisp with hard sauce and Chocolate Mousse Pie with chocolate sauce.

**PLEASE USE THE FORM BELOW TO PAY YOUR DUES AND  
MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS FOR FEB 16 MEETING.**

**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: February 16, 2008, Buffet Luncheon, \$18 per person \_\_\_\_\_

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

**NOTE: YOUR RESPONSE MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 13, 2008!!**

**FILL OUT THIS FORM NOW AND MAIL IT IN!!**

(President's remarks continued from page 1)

In addition to your input for activities, we need volunteers to fill several positions on the Board of Directors. Of greatest priority is a newsletter editor. We owe a great debt of gratitude to LTC Charles M. Luce, USA-Ret., our present editor, for his more than outstanding contribution to our Chapter. However he has recently moved and can no longer continue as editor. Thankfully he has agreed to continue through this newsletter. There is no doubt that he will be a "tough act to follow," and his service greatly missed; but I hope that there is someone who will accept this challenge.

We also need a representative to the Volunteer Services Committee at the Veterans Administration Hospital (VAVSC) in Asheville. CDR Michael L. Dickenson, USN-Ret., has held this position for a number of years, and has done an outstanding service not only for the VA Hospital but also for our Chapter as well. We will miss his contribution. The committee meets four times a year at the VA Hospital. The only other requirement is a short verbal report at our General Membership Meeting. VAVSC is certainly a worthwhile organization and merits our support.

We, unfortunately, must find a new Navy Representative for the Board of Directors. CMD J. Edward Craig, USN-Ret., who has made many valuable contributions to WNC MOAA, must give the position to another. He has consented to serve until a replacement can be found. Thank you Ed!

We also have the following two Board positions vacant that must be filled. One is our Legal Affairs Representative and the other is the Director-At-Large Position.

Our ability to serve you can only be realized with your representation on the Board of Directors. Please consider the positions available and volunteer. The Board of Directors only meets four times a year at noon.

Our Chapter will not be hosting the North Carolina Council of Chapters meeting in May 2008. This meeting, on 3 May 2008, has been moved to Wilmington, N.C. and will coincide with the commissioning of the USS North Carolina. As a result, our May General Membership Meeting will now be held on 17 May 2008 at the Hendersonville Country Club. I apologize for the confusion and the change of date. Hopefully this will not happen again.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our February General Membership Meeting. I thank you for your support, as without you our Chapter would not exist.

**DON'T PUT OFF PAYING YOUR DUES. PAY TODAY AND WE  
WILL STOP "HOUNDING" YOU.**

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATES FOR 2008

**FEBRUARY 16**

**MAY 17**

*(Note: Our Chapter will not host the North Carolina Council of Chapters meeting on May 10, as previously reported, due to a location change)*

**AUGUST 16**

**NOVEMBER 15**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 15, 2008

1. Approved expenditure of \$1000 for the 2008 CYRUS E. ANDERSON JUNIOR ROTC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD.
2. Authorized the Chapter President to spend up to \$100 without prior approval of the Board.
3. Authorized the Chapter Secretary to order member and spouse nametags as needed. Nametags to be paid for by the members.
4. Received the report of the establishment of the Chapter's new web site, [www.wnc-moaa.org](http://www.wnc-moaa.org).
5. Approved a WNC MOAA CHAPTER PROCLAMATION supporting the establishment of a JROTC unit in Polk County.
6. Next Board meeting at Shoney's at junction of I-26 and Long Shoals Road on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, beginning at 1200 hours. All are welcome to attend the meeting

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS

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.)



**MEMORIAL CEREMONY FOR USS ASHEVILLE PG-21  
and  
RENAMING OF THE EXHIBIT OF THE FOUR USS ASHEVILLES**

As the old gunboat went under in the Indian Ocean, holed by dozens of armor-piercing shells, the U.S. Asiatic Fleet came to its tragic end. The date was March 3, 1942, and the Imperial Japanese Navy was supreme in Asian waters. The USS ASHEVILLE PG-21 was sailing alone south from Java to rendezvous with several other US and British ships and then to proceed to Exmouth Gulf in Northwest Australia. At 9 o'clock on the morning of March 3, the ASHEVILLE was spotted by a Japanese force of a heavy cruiser and two destroyers. The ASHEVILLE's three 4-inch guns were no match for the six 5-inch guns on each of the two modern destroyers. Even with this mismatch, it took the Japanese destroyers 32 minutes and 376 rounds to sink a relatively helpless "China gunboat." Many of the ASHEVILLE's crew of 160 were killed in the engagement while others were still in the water after the sinking. Only one survivor was pulled from the water by the Japanese, presumably to identify the ship. The others were left to perish. The lone survivor was 19-year-old Fireman Second Class Fred Lewis Brown of Fort Wayne, Indiana, who would die in 1945 in a Japanese POW camp. Several small American naval units would continue to fight in the defense of Corregidor until sunk in May, 1942, but the "gunboat," USS ASHEVILLE PG-21, was the last warship of the Asiatic Fleet lost in open seas.

**MEMORIAL CEREMONY ON MARCH 8, 2008**

On March 8, 2008, the City of Asheville will be holding a memorial ceremony in the City Hall lobby in recognition of the officers and crew of the PG-21 killed in action. Additionally, there will be a dedication and renaming of the exhibit of the four USS ASHEVILLES. The exhibit which is the City Hall lobby will be named after Walter F. Ashe, Lieutenant, Supply Corps, USN-Ret. who died this past year.

During his 24 years in Asheville, Walter Ashe set a dedicated and energetic course of bringing to the city and citizens of Asheville a keen awareness of the city's naval heritage. As a crew member on the PG-21 from 1936 to 1939, he organized reunions in Asheville for former USS ASHEVILLE PG-21 and Asiatic Fleet sailors. In memory and honor to his shipmates who died in the loss of the PG-21, he initiated the biennial memorial ceremony. Walter was at the forefront in having a fourth U S Navy man-of-war named after the city with the commissioning of the nuclear powered submarine ASHEVILLE SSN-758 in 1991. He succeeded in pulling together several organizations and individuals in creating an appropriate, museum-quality exhibit honoring the ASHEVILLES.

Although this exhibit features the USS ASHEVILLE PG-21, its China Station exploits and sinking on March 3, 1942, all four ASHEVILLES are represented. In the exhibit there are large scale models of all four ships together with photographs, maps showing the battle engagement of the PG-21, and numerous ships' memorabilia.

**All WNC MOAA Chapter members, their spouses, other family members and their friends, are invited to attend the ceremony at the Asheville City Hall Lobby on Saturday, March 8, 2008 at 11:00 AM. For questions call CAPT Ken Vasilik USN-Ret., at 251-2997.**

*(Editor's note: Our chapter Chaplain, Bob Lair, is out of town and unable to provide his most interesting and informative article for this newsletter. Look for his article in the next edition. )*

**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.  
303 Assembly Street  
Waynesville, NC 28786  
828-452-2746  
Luce54@aol.com*



**A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION FOR YOU**

**LOOK AT YOUR LABEL ABOVE. IF THE YEAR ON THE LABEL IS  
LESS THAN 2008 YOU OWE DUES FOR 2008. PLEASE PAY ASAP  
AND BEFORE THE FEBRUARY 16 LUNCHEON. YOU MAY PAY FOR  
ADDITIONAL YEARS IF YOU WISH. USE THE FORM ON PAGE 4.  
DO IT NOW!!!!!!**