

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

Mountain MOAA News

SPRING 2009

Message from the President

LTC Larry Wilson, USA (Ret.)

Welcome to Spring, I think. The last few days I thought that my mind had advanced to April; but, my body was still in February. Waking up to snow on the ground after you have put your winter clothes away is not happiness! Happiness is our Spring General Membership Meeting on 23 May, 2009! We have obtained guest speakers from the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). We are pleased to have Group Supervisor, Mr. Michael Machak, and Special Agent Efen Buenrostro. Group Supervisor Machak is a 1991 graduate of Radford University and began his law enforcement career with the Fairfax Virginia Police Department. He joined the DEA in 1987 and has served in Washington, DC, Philadelphia, PA., and Wilmington, DE. He is currently the supervisor of the DEA office in Asheville, NC. Mr. Machak resides in Hendersonville, NC with his wife and daughter. Mr. Buenrostro is a 1996 graduate of Vladosta State University where he participated in AFROTC. He was commissioned as a 2d Lieutenant, USAF serving as a Security Force Officer. His assignments include F. E. Warren AFB, Cheyenne, Wyoming and Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia. After completing his military service he joined the DEA in 2002. His DEA assign-

ments include Denver, CO., Imperial County, CA., Fajardo Office, and Puerto Rico. He is currently assigned to the DEA office in Asheville, NC. He resides in Asheville, NC. With his wife and three children.

The location of the General Membership Meeting is the Hendersonville Country Club with the Social Hour beginning at 11:00 AM and the Luncheon at 12:00 PM. The menu is:

Trout

Roast Beef with Mushroom Jus

Chief Choice Salads

Green Beans Almandine
Peach Cobbler

Sweet Potato Soufflé
Ice cream with Baked Cookies

The cost remains at \$18.50 per person. Many thanks to the Hendersonville Country Club for their wonderful offerings and for maintaining our cost!

Please mail reservations to arrive not later than 20 May, 2009.

WNCMOAA, INC

P.O. BOX 1984

Hendersonville, NC 28793

Uncertainty still prevails with our economy and with our benefits. Secretary of Defense Gates

stated that he would "fully fund TRICARE" but, will ask Congress for an increase in user fees even though Congress has consistently turned down requests of this nature in the past.

MOAA continues to lobby to insure that increases in fees do not occur and that "promises given are promises kept". The problem of our health care goes beyond the funding of TRICARE. The reduction in MEDICARE payments, which TRICARE is tied to, to hospitals and physicians, is causing economic hardship resulting in doctors closing their offices. Recently, in Henderson County, a county with a large number of older citizens, three doctors were forced to close their private practice and affiliate with local hospitals. Many other doctors, nationwide, are opting out of MEDICARE as the payments are too low and the paperwork a nightmare. If one goes to a doctor who has opted out one can not submit a MEDICARE claim and is solely responsible for all payments for the services rendered. So we must not only look at what Washington is trying to change in our TRICARE benefits; but, with MEDICARE as well.

MAY 23 2009 WNC MOAA MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

HENDERSONVILLE COUNTRY CLUB

SOCIAL HOUR AT 1100 LUNCH 1200

GUEST SPEAKERS ARE FROM THE DEA

ALL THIS FOR \$18.50 PER PERSON. SEE RESERVATION FORM ON LAST PAGE.

Removal of SSNs from DoD ID Cards

SSNs will no longer be printed on cards and should not be relied on as a unique ID number.

These changes are being made by the Department to protect the identity information of cardholders.

Changes to ID cards will occur when the cardholders' expired cards are renewed.

The removal of SSNs will occur in three phases, all of which will occur upon ID card renewal.

Removal will Occur in Three Phases

Changes to cards will be made upon ID card renewal.

Phase One: Remove Dependent SSNs
To begin by end of calendar year 2008

Phase Two: Remove printed SSNs from all cards*
To begin by end of calendar year 2009

Phase Three: Remove SSNs embedded in barcodes
To begin during calendar year 2012



* Geneva Conventions ID cards will retain the last four digits of the SSN.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who Does This Affect?
All DoD ID cardholders.

Should I Go Now?
No, go when you need to renew your card.

If you are a retiree with an indefinite expiration date and wish to replace your card with one without an SSN, the earliest you may do so is January 2010.

Where Should I Go?
Visit the RAPIDS Site Locator
www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsi/owa/home
to find a location near you. Updated CAC cards and Teslin cards will be issued at over 1,500 RAPIDS ID card centers worldwide.

What Should I Bring?
Two forms of ID from the OMB I-9 document list. One must be a federal or state issued photo ID. Visit www.formi9.com for more information.

For more information regarding the SSN Reduction Plan, visit www.dmdc.osd.mil/smartcard

Removal of SSNs from DoD ID Cards



www.dmdc.osd.mil/smartcard

Disney Resorts Retiree Specials

Friends,
COL Fred Black USA (Ret.), our State Council 1st VP forwarded this link along for inclusion in the Council Comments newsletter. Thought I'd pass it along for inclusion in your Chapter newsletters as well.
Disney resorts in Florida and California is offering free multi-day admission to its theme parks and discounts at Disney owned hotels for active and retired military members. The link below provides details.
www.prnewswire.com/mnr/disney/36573

Best regards to all,
Bill Culler
Coastal Carolina Clarion and Council Comments Editor
New Bern



BRAVO ZULU!!
United States Navy, For a job well done!
MAERSK Alabama



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Western North Carolina

2009 CHAPTER OFFICER ROSTER

President: Harvey (Larry) Wilson, LTC USA-Ret, MOAA #;

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2nd Vice President: Don Jackman, LTC USA-Ret, MOAA #;

134 Olds Lane, Hendersonville, NC 28739; Tel: 828 697-5235; donjackman@mchsi.com

Secretary: vacant

Treasurer: Milton S. Thompson, Lt. Col. USMC-Ret; MOAA#;

489 Heatherly Heights Rd, Saluda, N.C. 28773; Tel: 828 749-1192; jhtnst@tds.net

Immediate Past President: Clinton S. Smoke, CDR USCG-Ret; MOAA #1445557

8 Hickory Creek, Arden, NC 28704; Tel: 828 687-8800; chsmoke@bellsouth.net

Chaplin: Robert Lair, COL USA-Ret; 101 Possum Trot Lane, Columbus, NC 28722; Tel: 828 894-8744; rlair@alltel.net

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Air Force Rep: Ken Hadeen, Col. USAF-Ret; 226 Wildflower Rd., Asheville, NC 28804; Tel: 828 645-4902; khade@msn.com

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Member At Large: Otis (Hoot) Livingston, COL USA-Ret; PO Box 453, Columbus, NC 28722; Tel: 828 894-0637; hootl3@windstream.net

Newsletter Editor: Spence Campbell, COL., USA-Ret; MOAA#; PO Box 370 Hendersonville, NC 28793; Tel: 828 243-9067; spen150@bellsouth.net

Legal Affairs Chair: Vacant

Legislative Chair: vacant

Membership Chair: 2nd VP

TOPS: Vacant

OPS: Vacant

Chapter Participates in ROTC & JROTC: Yes, JROTC in 17 schools in WNC

ROTC POC: 2d VP

Personal Affairs: Richard S. Swift, Maj., USAF-Ret, 121 Brandon Rd. Hendersonville, NC 28739, PH# 828-692-1763, rsswift@bellsouth.net

E-mail Chapter POC: Bob Smith, roberts-mith656@msn.com

VA Rep & Webmaster: Len Barker, LTC USA-Ret, 10 High Rock Rd Black Mtn, NC 28711, 828-669-1030, lbaker@buncombe.main.nc.us





We're on the Web!!

<http://www.wnc-moaa.org>

2008/9 MOAA SCHOLARSHIP FUND:



**NEED AN
INTEREST FREE
COLLEGE
LOAN?**

IT'S EASY TO APPLY

Students (under age 24), who are children of former, active or retired officers or active or retired enlisted personnel from the seven uniformed services are eligible to apply. Students are selected on the basis of their scholastic ability, activities and financial need.

Contact us at edassist@moaa.org or 800.234.6622

The Scholarship Fund
"Touching the Future"
www.moaa.org/education

The MOAA Scholarship Fund is providing more than \$9.2 million in undergraduate educational assistance to 1,650 children from military families for the 2008-2009 academic year. This year, 1,620 students received a \$5,500 interest-free loan with 793 of the top performing students receiving a \$5000 interest free loan and a \$500 grant. The top 15 seniors who previously received an interest-free loan from the MOAA Scholarship Fund were selected to receive a \$5000 to \$6000 grant. Since Sept. 11, 2001, the MOAA Scholarship Fund-American Patriot Grant has supported 96 children whose military parent died while in active service. This year, 60 children will receive a \$5000 American Patriot Grant.

What has the NC Council done for me lately?

By Clinton Smoke, CDR USCG Ret. (Secretary, NC Council of Chapters)

MOAA tells us that less than 25 percent of their members belong to chapters. I suspect that a similar percentage know the role of the state councils. Given this void, let me try to provide some information on this vital part of MOAA's organizational structure.

According to MOAAs' *Policy and Procedures Guide for Councils and Chapters*, a **council of chapters** is the creation of its member chapters within one state. The council may lead, but not direct its member chapters. Member chapters, as part of the council's voting body, are obligated to support the council and its collective decisions. A council of chapter serves many purposes beyond promoting MOAA. To this end a council:

- Represents the consensus of the member chapter's belief and serves as a spokesperson for that consensus
- Leads and coordinates efforts in-state legislative matters to protect and enhance the interests of the uniformed service community
- Provides support for the advancement of the objectives of MOAA
- Aids in the formation of new chapters
- Assists existing chapters to become more effective
- Provides a forum for the exchange of ideas among members
- Promulgates publicity that creates a favorable image of service members - active, Guard, Reserve and retired, the chapters, and the Association
- Aids in the revitalization of ailing chapters.

FINANCIAL REPORT

As of March 31, 2009

LtCol Milton Thompson USMC Ret.

Checking Account.....	\$9,325
Scholarship Fund	\$1,421

Hendersonville Country CLUB

February 21, 2009, 2008

Income.....	\$1,368
Expenses.....Meals, Services and Entertainment.....	\$1,205
Profit / (Loss).....	\$163

Dues Status**Total Members on Our Roster 259**

As of March 31, 2009

Members with Dues Paid Through 2009: 87 (34%)

Members who have Not Paid Dues for 2009: 172 (66%)

Notice

If the year on your address label above your name is less than 2009.

Please pay your dues prior to April 30, 2009, or your name will be removed from the MOUNTAIN MOAA NEWS roster

What Has the Council Done for Me Lately? (Cont'd)

About half of the states have councils. From my own observations, and from speaking to MOAA leaders over the years, I get the impression that the NC Council is one of MOAA's most active and strongest councils. It certainly strives to accomplish the above list of activities.

Like our chapter, the NC Council bylaws provide for elections every two years, and normally officers "fleet up" to the next senior position. The secretary and treasurer are appointed. The officers serve without pay, and for the most part, travel at their own expense. Dues are collected from the chapters as a per capita fee on membership at the current rate of \$1.00 per year. These funds cover the modest administrative costs that allow the council to accomplish its stated goals.

The NC Council meets quarterly, with meetings hosted by one of the chapters. The WNC Chapter has a tradition of active participation. Two past council presidents are members of our chapter. I find these meetings to be interesting and informative. They always have a great program. I also enjoy meeting and talking with other retired officers and chapter leaders from across the state.

So, what has the council done lately? In April, Council president COL Vernon Pike will be in Washington for MOAA's annual Storming of the Hill, in which state and national MOAA leaders call upon our representatives in Congress. He has appointments to see most of them. First VP, COL Fred Black heads up our legislative efforts in Raleigh, focusing on the Patton-Bailey Settlement to those who have retired since 2004, offering fair and equitable treatment of all North Carolina retirees. When enacted into law, it might induce retirees to remain in North Carolina rather than retire elsewhere. In May, the Council is sponsoring a state conference/cruise.

To learn more, visit the Council's informative website at <http://www.moaa-nc.org>.

Commander Smoke, member of our chapter, is the secretary of the NC Council of Chapters.

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MOAA

Military Officers Association of America

EVENT RESERVATION FORM

Clip and mail to:

(Deadline NLT May 18, 2009)

WNC Chapter MOAA (Make Checks payable to WNC MOAA)

P. O. Box 101

Hendersonville, NC 28793-0101

_____, I, _____ we plan to attend the Luncheon on May 23, 2009

Enclosed is my check for _____ meals at \$18.50 per person

My guest(s) will be: _____

☐ This is my first attendance at a WNC MOAA event.

Print Name: _____ Phone Number: _____