

Mountain MOAA News

SUMMER 2009

Message from President Larry Wilson, LTC USA (Ret)

Once again we are facing the never ending battle of producing a Federal Budget and the internet is full of doom and gloom for budget cuts affecting military retirees. The messages cry that cuts in TRICARE are on the offing as they have been proposed by OCMB. It is true that OCMB has recommended cuts in TRICARE and increased co-payments from military retirees; this is not new. OCMB has been making these recommendations for a number of years and they have never been acted upon by Congress. The budget recommendations from the President and the Secretary of Defense do not include any changes in TRICARE! At the present time there is no move in Congress to cut our health care. This does not mean that we are out of the woods, especially those of us over sixty-five years of age. The mandatory cuts in MEDICARE expenditures will take place unless Congress votes to stop them. The impact on the retired military community will be that it will become increasing difficult to find doctors that will accept new patients who rely on TRICARE and MEDICARE. Any reduction in MEDICARE payments will be reflected in TRICARE. There is no doubt that the attacks on our benefits will continue; therefore we must remain eternally vigilant to nip it in the bud.

MOAA has been actively engaged in an attempt to obtain a Federal Charter. This does nothing more than recognize MOAA as a "Chartered Organization". However, if the "Charter" is passed it will allow MOAA access to all of the states Veterans Advisory Councils. At the present some states, including

North Carolina, will not seat members to the Veterans Advisory Council unless they are "Chartered". MOAA has deemed it easier to get a Federal Charter than to campaign in each of the states requiring a Charter. The MOAA Federal Charter bill is HR 20-17 and has been sponsored by Representative Chris Van Hollen (D-MA) and Representative Walter Jones (R-NC). Please contact our Representative to show support for the bill so that we may have a voice on the North Carolina Veterans Council. WNCMOAA has sent a letter to Representative Heath Shuler asking for his support in this endeavor.

It appears that the SBP-DIC offset will not be eliminated this year. MOAA's efforts to right this wrong will be among the top issues for the next Congress. It is unacceptable that survivors are penalized. As we know the family, especially the spouses, of military personnel have contributed greatly to our respective services and have suffered our long hours, family separation, many many relocations and worry that is not associated with the civilians sector. It is past time that their contributions are recognized by doing away with this injustice!

In our last newsletter we printed a list of locations where military ID cards can be obtained. Unfortunately we did not include the Asheville National Guard Armory. ID cards are given by appointment only. The telephone number is 828-271-5011. The Armory is located on Brevard Road, Asheville, North Carolina.

Dues! We are at about 50% for our dues for 2009. If we are to keep up our news letter, scholarship, savings bonds to the JROTC MOAA Medal winner and our contributions to charitable organizations we must stay financially solvent. This can only be accomplished through our dues and contributions to WNCMOAA. Please help!

Our next General Membership Meeting will be on 15 August, 2009 at the Hendersonville Country Club. The Social Hour will begin at 11:00 AM and the Luncheon at 12:00 PM. Many thanks to the Hendersonville Country Club for holding the cost of our function to the same price which is \$18.50 per person. Our Guest Speaker is Congressman Heath Shuler, who has supported all our issues and is giving us an opportunity to raise questions that concern us. The change in meeting date was necessary to accommodate Mr. Shuler. The menu is:

Beef Burgundy with egg noodles
Shrimp Creole style
Wild Rice and Almond Pilaf
Medley of Fresh Vegetables
Chief Choice Salads
Double Chocolate Torte with White Chocolate sauce
Ice Cream and Cookies

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: CONGRESSMAN HEATH SHULER

AUGUST 15, 2009 WNC MOAA MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

HENDERSONVILLE COUNTRY CLUB

SOCIAL HOUR AT 1100 LUNCH 1200

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

JROTC CADET COLONEL KAYLA BALLARD: 2009 WNC MOAA ANDERSON SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Cadet Colonel Kayla Ballard from East Henderson High JROTC, is the 2009 winner of the WNCMOAA \$2000 Cyrus E. Anderson JROTC Scholarship. She has completed fifteen honors classes and maintained a 4.31 GPA throughout her high school career. She completed AP Government and Discreet Math Honors. In addition, she is a recent graduate from Air Force JROTC Honors Camp. Kayla is totally involved in community and school activities. She does volunteer work for the VFW and the Salvation Army. She is a member of the high schools national drill team, the Kitty Hawk Society, a Who's Who of High School Students member, National Honor Society and a distinguished graduate from Cadet Officer Leadership School. She was hand-picked as the COLS wing commander where lead 250 other AFJROTC cadets. She is involved with her Christians Actively teaching Everyone (CARE) church program. She is a superb athlete who ran a sub eight minute mile. Lt Col Clark , Senior Military Instructor at East Henderson High School , ranks Kayla in the top 1 percent of all cadets he has taught in the past 13 years. She has selflessly given of herself to her class, JROTC and her community and is deserving of our MOAA JROTC MEDAL.



FINANCIAL REPORT

As of June 17, 2009

LT COL Milton Thompson USMC Ret.

Checking Account.....	\$7,891
Scholarship Fund	\$41
May 23, 2009 (Hendersonville County Club)	
Income.....	\$1,260
Expenses.....Meals, Services and Entertainment.....	\$1,164
Profit / (Loss).....	\$95

Dues Status

Total Members on Our Roster 259

Members with Dues Paid Through 2009: 139 (53%)

Members who have Not Paid Dues for 2009: 121 (47%)

NOTICE

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

**Please pay your dues on receipt of the MOUNTAIN MOAA NEWS and prior to 7 August 2009.
Names whose dues are not received by the Treasurer by the above date will be removed from the
MOUNTAIN MOAA NEWS roster on to 15 August 2009.**

MOAA JROTC MEDAL

Don Jackman, LTC, USA (Ret)

Our Chapter, every year, presents the MOAA Medal, Certificate and \$100 Savings bond to the outstanding 11th grade JROTC student. Students who are awarded the medal must have an excellent academic class standing, demonstrated leadership and have a high commitment of loyalty to the JROTC Unit, School and Community. These young men and women are our future leaders and as such deserve our thanks and gratitude for a "job well done".

This year medals were awarded to students in 17 different High Schools in Western North Carolina. The schools ranged from Cherokee to Marion and from Marshall to Rutherfordton. The first presentation was made on March 7 and the last on May 28.

Our thanks to the Chapter members who volunteered their time to make the medal presentations. Hat's off to Bob Lair, Hoot Livingston, Larry Chapman, Chuck Luce, Don Jackman, Larry Wilson, Dick Swift, Ron Botsford, Howard Keyes and Bob Smith. If the truth be known, the presenters get as big a thrill out of the award ceremony as the honorees.

JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS (JROTC)

Paul Sutherland, RADM, USN-Ret

There are seventeen different JROTC units at the various high schools in Western North Carolina. Our MOAA Chapter has endorsed and supported these units for years. During the most recent years the chapter has awarded a scholarship to a deserving cadet after judging submissions from cadets. In addition each unit has been visited by one of our members at the annual awards ceremony, presented a medal and a savings bond to the outstanding cadet in that unit. The JROTC program is an excellent one that helps train and instill patriotism in the young folks involved. If you ever have a chance to attend one of the award ceremonies you will be most impressed!

We could use your help and appreciate any donation you can make to our operational fund. It will help us continue the Chapter's scholarship program. During the past year several thousands of dollars were expended in supporting the program. We would like to continue and your donation will help us do it. The reservation form for the next luncheon in this newsletter has a blank for you to indicate your support and send your contribution - even if you cannot attend the luncheon. Thanks for any help you can provide.



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COL Spence Campbell, USA-Ret

P. O. Box 370

Hendersonville, NC 28793

828-697-5970

Spence150@Bellsouth.net



MOAA

Military Officers Association of America

EVENT RESERVATION FORM

Clip and mail to: LtCol. Milton S. Thompson, USMC, Ret., 489 Heatherly Rd, Saluda NC 28773

(Deadline NLT AUGUST 12, 2009)

Make Checks payable to WNC MOAA

_____, _____ we plan to attend the Luncheon on August 15, 2009

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

My (guests)) will be: _____

This is my first attendance at a WNC MOAA event.

Print Name: _____ Phone Number: _____