

WNC MOAA MOUNTAIN NEWS



WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, Inc. Fall 2010

Another quarter has sped by at light speed. Our last meeting was held at the ABCCM Veteran's Restoration Quarters. We had 75 in attendance

and enjoyed an excellent meal and got to show our members what we are supporting. While our meeting went longer than planned I felt we needed to hear the message. Our programs sometimes provide entertainment, but this meeting was more for enlightenment and inspiration. I believe this venue might be great for an extra meeting in the future but with a limited attendance.

There were some issues with crowding and acoustics in addition to the program length. I accept responsibility for all of that. Our members donated a very large quantity of items for their use and some for the ABCCM thrift shop operation. Our passing of the hat raised \$175 for the VRQ and the House of Flags donated a set of flags to help kick off the honor guard for the American Legion Post (the only one located in a Vet's shelter). Frank Ortiz orchestrated the donation of a big screen TV from the Tryon American Legion Post to the VRQ which is in use in their dining hall.

Many thanks to all involved! The refreshments served brought in \$150 to support the JROTC program. Thanks Kat for snacks! This operation is a true success story and I hope our chapter will continue to help make a difference in the lives of so many that have also served their country.

Seven of our members served the breakfast that the chapter sponsored at the VA Community Living Center on 11 August. It was a very rewarding experience and a chance for us to give back. The \$250 it cost provided many smiles and a chance for these folks to order whatever they wanted for breakfast. I recommend that we do this at least several times a year. We also sponsored their bi-monthly memorial event in August as well. Don Jackman and I attended the Chapter President's Symposium in September. It was a first class operation hosted by National MOAA. It was a fast paced action packed two days where we had many sessions and fantastic meals with opportunities to meet other chapter leaders as well as National leaders and staff. We addressed recruiting issues as well as chapter leadership succession. It was interesting to see that many chapters had similar issues and

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE MAJ BOB SMITH, USA-Ret.

and learned how others had addressed them. If nothing else we felt that a lot of the initiatives your board has initiated or are considering were validated. Don and

I met many great folks from other chapters in the southeast. We have added a few new members and hope our efforts will be even more successful. We need more volunteers to call folks to invite them to join our chapter. The latest campaign from National is the 1+1=??. The premise is that all of our members must know at least one person who can be recruited. It would double the membership. The same concept applies at the local chapter level. The larger we are the better we can take on projects to give back to the community. One of the themes at the Symposium was "just ask", I have talked to folks who said no one ever asked me to join. Please think about those you may know and ask them.

Our chapter manned a booth at the Hendersonville Farm City Day and we passed out patriotic gift items to children and info sheets for potential members. Many sincere thanks to Spence Campbell, Kat Spencer, Hoot Livingston, Dick Swift, John Knapp, Gene Frame, and to Don Jackman for recruiting volunteers. It was a beautiful day and I all had a good time. Hoot shared the booth representing the House of Flags and did dual duty for the chapter. He sold over \$100 in merchandise for their museum project. I feel it is very important to "show the flag" and get the chapter out in the public eye whenever we can. Additionally, the chapter received over \$40 in donations and flag pin sales. Hope to see all at the November 20 meeting. Bob

WNCMOAA WEBSITE
WWW.WNC-MOAA.ORG



President Bob

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & LUNCHEON
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, HENDERSONVILLE COUNTRY CLUB
RESERVATION FORM ON LAST PAGE: RSVP NLT NOVEMBER 16!!**

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
LARRY WILSON, LTC USA-Ret.
Legislative Affairs Officer

The midterm elections are almost upon us and once again WNCMOAA, Inc. has polled the candidates to determine their position on subjects that apply to the retired community. The subjects addressed this year were MEDICARE improvements, SPB-DIC Offset, Concurrent Receipt of military retired pay and VA disability, and COLA's and military retired pay. Along with the survey the candidates were provided copies of the MOAA fact sheets relating to each issue as well as copies of MOAA's legislative goals. Each candidate was given limited space on the survey sheet for comments. All of the candidates replied except Dr. Michael Beitler, the Libertarian candidate. Numerous calls were made to his campaign headquarters and the information packet sent a second time. I was assured that the return document was mailed, however, it has not been received nor has there been a reply to the follow-on correspondence.

Fixing the MEDICARE problem is of the greatest concern! If the projected cuts occur MEDICARE benefits will be reduced 23.5% in December 2010 and another 6.1% in January 2011. It is highly doubtful that our elected officials in Washington will allow that to happen. However, the fix will probably be a series of delaying actions as opposed to a permanent solution. This will leave the health care professionals in limbo as to the future, and result in more doctors refusing to take new patients that rely on MEDICARE for their insurance. Our promised benefits will still be there, but, they will be like an automobile that doesn't run, they won't take us very far. In our area we are seeing this at the present and are also seeing health care professionals closing joint practices, which reduces our access to the medical care promised. Related to the MEDICARE issue is the capped MEDICARE payments for physical, speech, or occupational therapy at amounts far lower than the actual cost. This occurred in 1997. Congress has delayed implementation of the lower caps, however, this delay also expires in December, 2010. MOAA strongly supports reform of the payment formula to reflect doctors' actual cost.

SBP-DIC Offset for Survivors is an issue that must be addressed by Congress. The law requiring the reduction of SBP annuities by the amount the surviving spouse may receive from VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation is patently unfair! Each of the entitlements is for different reasons. SPB is in reality "term life insurance" which bears no relationship to DIC which is a special indemnity compensation paid for service connected death. MOAA strongly supports the repeal of the DIC offset to SPB, as each compensation is for a different reason.

Concurrent Receipt of Military Retired Pay and VA Disability has been improved over the years as MOAA has lobbied to repeal the 19th century law. However broadened the eligibility has become, there are many who are not receiving both. By 2014 this provision will be incrementally relieved for those with 50% or higher non-combat related disabilities. This will still leave well over 600,000 still funding their disability compensation from their retired pay. The MOAA position is that retired pay is compensation is for service alone and should not be offset by compensation received for disabilities occurring from military duties.

The last issue addressed in the survey was COLAs and Military retired pay. Retired pay increases for military retirees has been in place since 1871. However, today many equate retired military pay increases with "being on the dole" and continuously cry that military retired pay is overly generous. Those critics fail to understand the rigors of military service, the family separation, continuous moves, far longer hours without compensation, and deployment into "harm's way." The MOAA position is that COLA's should continue and that any attempts to single out uniformed services retirees for special COLA penalties must be resisted.

I am happy to report that all of our candidates that replied to the survey supported the MOAA positions on all of the issues addressed. I am sure that there are still questions as to where the funding will come from as Congress continues to wrestle with the huge deficit. It is incumbent on all of us to continue to ensure that our elected officials in Congress know our positions on issues related to military retirees. It is often said that "the squeaky wheel gets the grease". This especially applies to politicians seeking election or desiring to remain in office. **(Cont'd Next Page)**

MOAA Monogrammed Items

We have arranged for a local business to monogram items with the MOAA crest and North Carolina above it and Western North Carolina Chapter below. The cost is \$8.00 with no tax added. "A Stitch in Time" at 1259 Sweeten Creek Rd., Asheville (828-275-5193). Show the colors of our organization and help in our recruiting effort. (From WNCMOAA Chapter President Bob Smith, MAJ USA, Ret.)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (CONT'D)

The results of the survey are as follows and the names of the candidate are listed in alphabetical order.

<u>CANDIDATE</u>	<u>MEDICARE</u>	<u>SPB-DIC Offset</u>	<u>Concurrent Receipt</u>	<u>COLAs and Military Retired Pay</u>
Burr	Supports	Supports	Supports	Supports
Marshall	Supports	Supports	Supports	Supports
Miller	Supports	Supports	Supports	Supports
Shuler	Supports	Supports	Supports	Supports

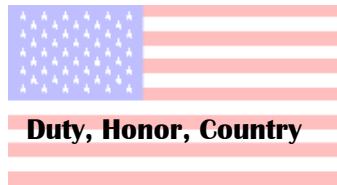
The following comments were offered by the respective candidates:

Senator Richard Burr: "In April I was honored to receive the Col. Arthur T. Marix Congressional Leadership Award from MOAA. This award was in recognition of my work on behalf of military spouses, specifically the passage of my bill, the Military Spouses Residency Relief Act, which was signed into law. This new law grants military spouses the same residency rights as service members. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and Ranking Member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, I will continue to be a strong supporter of our Nation's military personnel and veterans. I am proud to be able to serve them."

Ms. Elaine Marshall: No Comments

Mr. Jeff Miller: "I started the program Honor Air and launched the first flights aboard US Airways jets from Asheville Regional Airport in September 2006. Since then, the Honor Flight Network has expanded across America and has flown nearly 50,000 veterans to the National World War II Memorial, all for free. I have spent the last four years of my life honoring the veterans of the Greatest Generation. They have taught me so much about honor and service to one's country. Everything good in our lives we have because of the sacrifices of our nation's veterans, and we must never forget that! I will be a tireless advocate for our veterans and all those who serve our country."

Representative Heath Shuler: "Regarding SPB-DIC offset - Congressman Shuler did not vote for the FY2011 Defense Authorization for other reasons, not because of the offset provision. He is a cosponsor of HR 775, The Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act."



WNCMOAA CHAPTER RECRUITING UPDATE Don Jackman, LTC USA-Ret

This past July we aggressively went after new Chapter members, by mailing letters to MOAA members residing in our chapter area with no Chapter affiliation. The net result of this effort was not as productive as we had wished. We managed to increase our chapter membership by 23 new members that we can attribute to this effort. Our next step is to follow up on this recruiting letter by calling those MOAA Members on the list we did not hear from. This is a daunting task and your Board members have agreed to assist me in making calls. I could always use more help, so if you have some time and would be willing to make calls please give me a call at 828-697-5235.

TAPS

September 25, 2010: Col (Dr.) Glyndon B. Shaver, USA-Ret.; Age 75; survived by his wife Faye and extended family; Weaverville NC

THE SECRETARY'S PAGE

WNCMOAA NEW MEMBERS (As of October 21)

WELCOME!!

- CAPT Richard Johannes, USN-Ret., and his wife Sue; Flat Rock
- CAPT Brenton Ramsey, USN-Ret., and his wife Susan; Horse Shoe
 - COL William Breyfogle, USA-Ret., and his wife Cindy; Asheville
 - Col Rob Ewart, USAF-Ret., and his wife Della; Black Mountain
 - Col Tom Hayes, USAF-Ret., and his wife Dorothee; Horse Shoe
 - Col Jeff Snyder, USAF-Ret., and his wife Paula; Fletcher
- CAPT James Greene, USCG-Ret., and his wife Alison Jackson; Fairview
 - LTC Holland Coulter, USA-Ret., and his wife Gail; Hendersonville
 - LTC Jeremiah Mattysee, USA-Ret., and his wife Lauren; Asheville
 - LTC Karen McKay, USA-Ret.; Leicester
 - CDR James S. Wooten, USN-Ret., and his wife Lynn; Leicester
- Lt Col Kenneth O'Brien, USAF-Ret; and his wife Valerie; Hendersonville
 - CW4 Robert A. Pope, USN-Ret., and his wife Carolyn; Waynesville
 - Capt Dustin Degman, USAF-Fmr., and his wife Jennifer; Arden
 - Capt Gene Frame, USAF-Fmr., and his wife Jennifer; Hendersonville
 - Mrs Gail Garrett, AUX member; Brevard
 - Mrs Marleen A. Varner, AUX member; Asheville

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **November 10, 2010:** Happy Birthday United States Marine Corps – since 1775
- **November 11, 2010:** Veterans Day
- **November 20, 2010:** General Membership Meeting
- **November 25, 2010:** Thanksgiving Day
- **December 25, 2010:** Christmas Day

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

- **January 01, 2011:** New Years Day
- **January 17, 2011:** MLK Day (Federal Holiday)
- **January 19, 2011:** Black Mountain Satellite Chapter Meeting; Black Mountain NC – Speaker TBD
- **February 19, 2011:** WNC Chapter General Membership Meeting, Location/Time/Speaker TBD
- **February 21, 2011:** Presidents Day (Federal Holiday)

WNCMOAA CHAPTER DUES UPDATE

Reminder: 2011 dues are around the corner. Check the back of your Newsletter in the upper left corner of the address box. **IF it says 2010**—then your dues are payable by January 1st. To some members who have paid in advance—there may be a later year reflected and membership will not expire until December 31st of that particular year. Dues are payable to WNCMOAA and should be mailed to the Secretary, 610 Turtle Creek Drive, Asheville, NC 28803

WNCMOAA WEBSITE: WWW.WNC-MOAA.ORG

WNC MOAA Board of Directors
As of: November 2010

President

MAJ Robert A. Smith, USA-Ret.
828-668-7070
robertsmith656@msn.com

1st Vice President

LTC Donald L. Jackman, USA-Ret.
828-697-5235
donjackman@morrisbb.net

2nd Vice President

CAPT Michael L. Covell, USN-Ret.
828-694-1358
mjcovell@bellsouth.net

Secretary

Col Kat Spencer, USAF-Ret.
828-505-1400
kms74@hotmail.com

Treasurer

COL Cecil E. Palmer, USA-Ret.
828-697-0706
zbpalmer@yahoo.com

Immediate Past President

LTC Larry Wilson, USA-Ret.
828-606-4952 (cell #)

USA Representative

LTC Charles M. Luce, USA-Ret.
828-452-2746

USMC Representative

CWO3 Eric Magrath, USMC-Ret.
828-894-2482

USN Representative

CDR J. Edward Craig, USN-Ret.
828-859-9205

USAF Representative

Col Kenneth D. Hadeen, USAF-Ret.
828-645-4902

At Large Representative

COL Otis W. Livingston, Jr., USA-Ret.
828-894-0637
hootL3@windstream.net

Black Mountain Satellite Chapter

Col Kat Spencer, USAF-Ret.
Same above

Appointed Positions

Senior Advisor

RADM Paul E. Sutherland, USN-Ret.
828-894-2514

Chaplain

COL Robert E. Lair, USA-Ret.
828-894-8744

Editor, "Mountain News" Newsletter

COL Spence Campbell, USA-Ret.
828-697-5970

Legal Affairs - VACANT

Legislative Affairs

LTC Larry Wilson, USA-Ret.
Same above

Personal Affairs

Col Kenneth D. Hadeen, USAF-Ret.
Same above

Programs

LTC Douglas W. Haldane, USA-Ret.
828-253-9085
janddhaldane@bellsouth.net

VA Medical Center Liaison

LTC Leonard M. Baker, USA-Ret.
828-669-1030

lbaker@buncombe.main.nc.us

Chapter Web Master

LTC Leonard M. Baker, USA-Ret.
Same above

**WNCMOAA
CHAPTER HAPPENINGS**

**BLACK MOUNTAIN SATELLITE CHAPTER
UPDATE**

Twenty-one people enjoyed a most patriotic presentation by Reverend (Dr.) Gene Carnell and his wife Bobbie. They portray Uncle Sam and Aunt Samantha and with some beautiful songs, encourage audience participation along with a great deal of patriotic items from over the years they have collected. A most wonderful event especially with Veteran's Day approaching.

**FARM CITY DAY
HENDERSONVILLE, OCT 2d**

This year, Hendersonville Farm City Day was the 2nd year the WNC Chapter had folks at a booth to "help get the word out" regarding MOAA. We shared the booth with the NC House of Flags Museum and it was a beautiful fall day. Several volunteers helped pass out stickers to children along with MOAA brochures to passing folks. Chapter President Bob Smith led the effort and several MOAA members from Hendersonville were there to help out to include Dick Swift, Tom Knapp, and Gene Frame, along with chapter secretary, Kat Spencer. Hoot Livingston was there for the House of Flags Museum. Also our appreciation for the West High JROTC cadets who pitched in to help.



Chapter Happenings Continue on Next Page

WNCMOAA CHAPTER HAPPENINGS (Continued)

Breakfast at the VA Medical Center: On August 11th, seven volunteers from the WNC Chapter helped in serving breakfast at the Community Living Center adjacent to the VA Medical Center. This is a once a month event and the board sponsored the \$250 needed to do this. We had seven volunteers to cover two eating areas: Chapter President, Bob Smith, 1st Vice President, Don Jackman, 2nd Vice President Mike Covell, the Newsletter editor, Spence Campbell, the secretary, Kat Spencer, USAF Rep Ken Hadeen, and the Chapter VA Rep, Len Baker. This is an event the residents look forward to every month as omelets are made to order and other special food items are made available through this sponsorship and the chapter looks forward to sponsoring another breakfast in 2011.



Left: MOAA members assisting VA Medical Center residents.



Right: The VA's omelet expert at work.

Chapter Meeting at the Veterans' Restoration Quarters (VRQ): The WNC Chapter's Annual Meeting was held on August 21st at the VRQ in Asheville. They created a "Culinary Commando" team (all graduates of AB-Technical College) and are working to start a catering business. They provided a terrific BBQ buffet and it was a terrific informal event. Bob Lair, Vice Chairman of the NC House of Flags presented the American Legion Post Commander located in the VRQ with a set of flags in order to have residents able to start their own Honor Guard. Our guest speaker was ABCCM Executive Director, Reverend Scott Rogers and many people brought numerous items needed by the VRQ such as back packs, new clothing, and an endless list of other items.



Chaplain Lair and Kim Spangle



VRQ Culinary Commando Team



President Bob at the VRQ Meeting



**Mighty Nice Lookin'
Helicopter!!**

Who Is This Guy??

WNCMOAA Finances

Checking Account

Deposits: \$1745.00
 Withdrawals: \$2604.45
 Bal as of 9/30: \$8603.03
 Bal as of 10.20: \$8102.12

JROTC Savings

Withdrawals \$0; Deposits \$192.00; Interest \$0.19
 Bal as of 9/30: \$895.81

NOVEMBER 20 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING INFORMATION

Place: Hendersonville Country Club, Hendersonville NC.

Time: *Social hour starts at 1100; program starts at 1200.*

Cost: \$18.50/person for buffet

Speaker: Nationally known author Dr. Bill Forstchen

Dr. Forstchen is a full Professor of History and Faculty Fellow at Montreat College NC. He has collaborated on several series of historical books with former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, the most recent having been published October 2009, "To Try Men's Souls" about General George Washington's darkest moments during the Revolutionary War at Christmas 1776. His last solo book published in March 2009 was "One Second After" which is based in WNC and is about what may happen in the aftermath of a cataclysmic war.

MENU

Beef Stroganoff w/Poppy Seed Noodles

Fried Flounder

Medley of Fresh Vegetables

Macaroni and Cheese

Citrus Glazed Carrots

Orange Raisin Cole Slaw

Tomato and Green Bean Salad

Ambrosia

Buffet Deserts

REGISTRATION FORM LAST PAGE: RSVP NLT Tuesday, November 16th

Not gold, but only man can make
A people great and strong;
Men who, for truth and honor's sake,
Stand fast and suffer long.

Brave men who work while others sleep
Who dare while others fly—
They build a nation's pillars deep
And lift them to the sky.

Walt Whitman

November 11, 2010



THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
CHAPTER
of the
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
of AMERICA, Inc.
WWW.WNC-MOAA.ORG

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General Chapter Meeting Registration Form

Clip or Copy and Mail To:

WNC MOAA, Inc.

Attn: Secretary

610 Turtle Creek Drive

Asheville, NC 28803

DEADLINE: Payment must be received NLT: Tuesday, November 16, 2010

Make Checks payable to: WNC MOAA

I / We will attend the WNC MOAA General Chapter Meeting on November 20, 2010.

NAME: _____

Phone #: _____

Enclosed is my check for _____ meal(s) at **\$18.50 per person.**