

WNC-MOAA BOD Meeting  
Tuesday – April 22 2025  
Meeting: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Conference Room, Veterans Healing Farm  
138 Kimzey Rd, Mills River, NC, 28759

**Elected:**

Steve Watkins	President
Stacie Litsenberger	1 <sup>st</sup> VP/Programs Chair
Kevin Ritter - <b>Absent</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> VP/Membership Chair
Doug Abbotts	Treasurer
Joe Neubert -	Secretary

**Directors:**

Rod Honeycutt - <b>Absent</b>	US Army Rep
Herb Mensch -	US Navy Rep
Vacant	USMC Rep
Jeff Snyder	USAF Rep
Jim Steinbaugh	At Large Rep
Kevin Ritter - <b>Absent</b>	Black Mountain Satellite Chair
Rod Honeycutt - <b>Absent</b>	Woodfin Satellite Chair
John O'Donnell	Smokey Mountain Satellite Chair
Donna Culp	Immediate Past President

**Appointed Positions:**

Vacant	Chaplain
Rick Deveraux	Senior Advisor
Steve Watkins	Newsletter Editor
Dr. Vivian Wersel - <b>Absent</b>	Legislative Affairs, Federal
Tricia Vinson	Legislative Affairs, State
Jeff Snyder	JROTC Liaison
Dr. Vivian Wersel - <b>Absent</b>	VA Liaison
Vacant	Spouses Activity Group
Sharon Woodcock/Donna Culp	Surviving Spouse Liaison

Meeting was called to order at 2:00pm followed by the Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions of all present. Quorum was declared and followed by a motion to approve the January 2025 meeting minutes. The motion was approved.

**Steve Watkins opening remarks:**

- Steve thanked everyone for attending.
- Alan Yeck gave an overview of the status, activities, and plans for the Healing Farm.

WNC-MOAA BOD Meeting  
Tuesday – April 22 2025  
Meeting: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Conference Room, Veterans Healing Farm  
138 Kimzey Rd, Mills River, NC, 28759

**Officer Reports:**

A. **Secretary:** No new updates

B. **1<sup>st</sup> VP:**

- Stacie expressed her interest to invite Adam Smith to the next quarterly meeting. Adam has a poignant story of travel to WNC in support of the Helene recovery.
- Discussion regarding a group night to see the Asheville Tourists.
- Proposed to have discussion regarding inviting other local veteran organizations to attend the picnic.

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP:** Not Present

C. **Treasurer:**

- The National MOAA website is now operational (still some debugging needed) and Doug will have access to assist in membership tracking.
- Reviewed the closing of the FY2025 Q1 Cash Flow Statement.
- Highlights for the quarter was that expenses were just under net income with reserve (bank balance) of \$14,803.16.
- Reinforces the goal is to maintain a net income equal to or more than expenses to keep the reserve at a comfortable level.
- Total of 26 past chapter members have not yet renewed FY 2025 dues. Reach out to these members is continuing in advance of dropping them from the rolls.
- Doug and Steve discussed that reviews have determined all surviving spouses are either exempt or fully paid up for chapter dues.

WNC-MOAA BOD Meeting  
Tuesday – April 22 2025  
Meeting: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Conference Room, Veterans Healing Farm  
138 Kimzey Rd, Mills River, NC, 28759

**Service Representatives & Satellite Reports:**

Army & Woodfin Rep: Not Present

Navy Rep: No new updates

Marine Corps Rep: Vacant

Air Force Rep: No new updates

At Large Rep: No new updates

Smoky Mountain Satellite: John not able to attend. He did share inputs regarding a visit to WestBridge Vocational which Steve reviewed.

Black Mountain Satellite: Not Present

Woodfin Satellite: Not Present

**Appointed Positions Reports:**

Chaplain: Vacant

Federal Legislative Affairs: Not Present (Leading a class)

State Legislative Affairs:

- Tricia shared that all State bills have now been presented to the State Legislature for review. Next step is for the decisions on which of the bills are to be worked on over the next 2 years.

VA Liaison:

- Stacie updated the team on the VA's progress, including that all 7 of the probationary employees initially let go are now back to work following review.
- Great news shared that WNC has been selected as the National trial region for a new disaster stress support initiative. Anticipating that this program will engage with both the VA hospital and the Healing Farm.

JROTC:

- Jeff reviewed the annual process for Leadership Awards and the need for chapter representatives to attend external award ceremonies. He shared currently 4 of the 18 regional JROTC programs have invited MOAA to attend award ceremonies. 2 in the Smokey Mountain area and 2 in Hendersonville/Flat Rock. Still looking for volunteer to represent MOAA,

WNC-MOAA BOD Meeting  
Tuesday – April 22 2025  
Meeting: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Conference Room, Veterans Healing Farm  
138 Kimzey Rd, Mills River, NC, 28759

Surviving Spouse Liaison:

- Sharon has reached out to Len Baker's widow and assisting as she can.
- Contact information now available for all surviving spouses and working to reach out regarding picnic invitation and workshop interest.

Senior Advisor: Not Present

Past President:

Donna concurs with Steve about the issues with the new CM and NRT. She respectfully requested that Steve meet with her via Zoom to discuss how the satellites appear in the new CM and how that part functions and will report back to NCCOC. Steve agreed to the ZOOM meeting.

VRQ – Jeff Snyder:

- The VRQ is aiming to reopen by Veterans Day.
- The Quality Inn, where the veterans are housed lacks a large common area for serving meals, so they are being served outside in take-out trays.
- The volunteer requirement has dropped from 5-7 to 2-4 people passing out the meals.

Old Business:

- Steve reminded everyone to consider nominating individuals for board positions for the upcoming year.
  1. A candidate for Treasurer has been identified.
- 2025 Outreach Grant was submitted in support of the Healing Farm. Awaiting response.
- \$2,300 donation received from an organization in South Carolina intended to support veterans in WNC impacted by hurricane Helene. Suggestions to use this donation for a specific purpose, rather than just donating it to the VRQ.
- Consideration of Deerfield for a future Board meeting.
- In Jan, Tricia mentioned a veteran who lost his home yet still volunteering. More information forthcoming as a potential donation opportunity.

PICNIC:

- Finalized event time is 11:30-3:30 PM on May 30 at the Mills River Park – Willow Oak Shelter.
- After post meeting follow up, the BOD decided on \$20/person cost for members and guests. Any remaining charges will be covered from raffle income and MOAA recruiting grant. Caterer has been secured @ \$30 ea

WNC-MOAA BOD Meeting  
Tuesday – April 22 2025  
Meeting: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Conference Room, Veterans Healing Farm  
138 Kimzey Rd, Mills River, NC, 28759

- Discussion regarding inviting members of other local Veteran organizations to our picnic. Decision made that MOAA members and guests, to include eligible potential new members are invited to attend, but other veterans' groups, as a whole would not be invited.
- Board voted to authorize \$200 for raffle baskets in support of the picnic fund raiser.
- Will hold a Service Cornhole competition at the picnic.
- Will communicate and coordinate transportation support for disabled picnic attendees.

**New Business:**

- Steve shared the MOAA National Awards presented to our Chapter
  - 2024 5-Star Award – Levels of Excellence
  - Harris Communications Awards
    - Website 2024 5-Star Award
    - Newsletter 2024 5-Stat Award
- The next Blue Ridge Honor Flight is 27 September, 2025.
- The 2025 Wreaths Across America event has been announced for December 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Workshop – Preparation for Death of Veteran Spouse. Date TBD
- Women Warriors' Keynote Luncheon. Board voted and approved a \$250 donation to the program and to have a MOAA recruiting table at the event.
- Upcoming Chapter Meetings
  1. August: Speaker will be Adam Smith. Location TBD
  2. November: Location – Champion Hills.
    - Speakers: Surviving Spouse support

**Next Board Meeting set for 15 July, 2025 from 2-4PM. Location TBD**

- Board vacancies: USMC Rep / Chaplain / Black Mtn Chair / VA Liaison

**Open Items:** None

**Meeting was closed at 4:15 pm**

**Attachments:**

1. Agenda
2. 2025 Women Warriors' Keynote Luncheon

- 2:00pm **Welcome**
- a) Roll Call – *Quorum*
  - b) Pledge of Allegiance
  - c) Invocation
  - d) Introductions
- 2:10pm **Approval of January Minutes**
- 2:12pm **President’s remarks** – Steve Watkins
- 2:17pm **Officer Reports** (5 minutes each)
- a) Secretary – Joe Neubert
  - b) 1<sup>st</sup> VP – Stacie Litsenberger
  - c) 2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Kevin Ritter
  - d) Treasurer – Doug Abbotts
- 2:37pm **Service Representatives & Satellite Reports** (3 minutes each)
- a) Army Rep – Rod Honeycutt
  - b) Navy Rep – Herb Mensch
  - c) Marine Corps Rep – vacant
  - d) Air Force Rep – Jeff Snyder
  - e) At Large Rep – Jim Steinbaugh
  - f) Smoky Mtn Chair – John O’Donnell – WestBridge Vocational
  - g) Woodfin Chair – Rod Honeycutt
  - h) Black Mtn – Ernie Reynolds
- 3:00pm **Appointed Positions Reports** (2 minutes each)
- a) Chaplain – vacant – Deaths: Len Baker / Ed Cottrell
  - b) Federal Legislation – Dr. Vivianne Wersel
  - c) State Legislation – Tricia Vinson
  - d) VA Liaisons – Stacie / Vivianne
  - e) JROTC – Jeff Snyder
  - f) Surviving Spouse Liaison – Sharon Woodcock
  - g) Senior Advisor – Rick Deveraux
  - h) Past President – Donna Culp
  - i) Newsletter/Website – Newsletter suspense to Steve: **25 April**
- 3:19pm **Old Business**
- a) Vacant Board Positions
    - 1) USMC Rep / Chaplain / Black Mtn / VA Liaison
  - b) Satellites submitting funding requests to the Treasurer.
- 3:25pm **New Business**
- a) MOAA Awards
    - 1) Levels of Excellence Award – 2024 5-Star Award
    - 2) Harris Communications Awards
      - i. Website - 2024 5-Star Award
      - ii. Newsletter - 2024 5-Star Award
  - b) 2026 Board Position Nominees
    - 1) Committee
  - c) 2025 Member Picnic After Action Review
    - 1) Date/Time: 30 May 2025 / 12-3pm
    - 2) Location – Mills River Park
    - 3) Meal - ? / Cost
    - 4) Committees: ?
    - 5) Activities - Silent Auction: ? / Raffles: ? - Budget / Engaging activities

- 6) Budget
- 7) Spouses / Guests costs
- d) MOAA Foundation Community Outreach Grant – *submitted:VHF - Marketing*
- e) Upcoming General Membership Meetings
  - 1) Speakers/Topics: Life Planning – in prep for workshop
  - 2) Locations – Aug:? / November: Champion Hills
- f) Scheduled/scheduling activities/events
  - 1) Next General Membership meeting – Picnic - 30 May 2025
  - 2) Satellite events
    - i. Smoky Mtn –
      - 1. 14 June – The Haywood County Veterans & Community Gathering at the Waynesville American Legion: 12-6 pm.
      - 2. 20 June - Maggie Valley – Location: TBD
    - i. Woodfin – nothing scheduled
  - 3) Workshop – Preparation for Death of Veteran Spouse: TBD
  - 4) Blue Ridge Honor Flight – 27 September 2025
  - 5) Wreaths Across America – 13 December 2025
- g) Veterans Healing Farm – 2025 Women Warriors Keynote Luncheon - Sponsorship
- a) July 2025 Board meeting
  - 1) Date: 15 July 2025 Time: 2:00pm – 4:00pm
  - 2) Locations: TBD
- b) Open Issues

4:00 pm

**Adjourn**



# The 2025 Women Warriors' Keynote Luncheon

September 6, 2025 (11am - 2pm)

at Blue Ridge Conference Center, Flat Rock, NC 28731

– Featuring Lt. Col. Lisa Jaster –

## Sponsorship Opportunities

### Army Lieutenant Colonel Lisa Jaster

is a soldier, an engineer, a wife and mother, and a trailblazer. One of only

three women to graduate from the first integrated United States Army Ranger program — one of the most difficult combat training courses in the world — Lisa was the first female Army Reserve officer to become Ranger qualified. Lisa endured the training, which takes a minimum of 61 days and includes up to 20 hours of training per day alongside a strict diet, for a grueling six months. She graduated at age 37, while the average trainee age is 23.

Lisa, a fitness fanatic who continues to train CrossFit and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, has a hard-won understanding of the importance of perseverance, as well as a deeply ingrained respect for camaraderie stemming from a seven-year-long active-duty career (including tours in Iraq and Afghanistan).

Prior to receiving her Ranger tab, Lisa worked as an engineer with Shell Oil in Houston and an Army Reserve individual mobilization augmentee with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Lisa initially was commissioned in the Army in 2000 after graduating from the prestigious United States Military Academy at West Point and returned to the reserves in 2012 after a five-year hiatus from serving. She volunteered for combat training when she discovered the Army Ranger course was being opened to women for the first time in 60 years as a U.S. government experiment to see how women would fare in the notoriously brutal program. She is also the author of the best-selling book *Delete the Adjective*, in which, she shares captivating stories of her experiences in Ranger School while offering valuable lessons on breaking the barriers society places on you.

Lisa is the recipient of numerous military accolades including two Bronze Star Medals and three Meritorious Service Medals.

**The Veterans Healing Farm (VHF)** is a 501c3 nonprofit organization focused on helping Veterans and their families enhance their mental, emotional, and physical well-being.

VHF offers a variety of programs and services for our Veteran community. This includes agritherapy (growing produce, medicinal herbs, beekeeping, and tomatoes), workshops (equine therapy, canine therapy, neurofeedback therapy, music therapy, art therapy as well as medicinal plants, jam making, vegetable canning, mushroom inoculation, and dozens more. Past Veteran-centric events have included the Traveling Vietnam and 9/11 Memorials, Resource Fair, kayaking, fly fishing, sporting events and living music during the summer months.

### What is the Women Warriors' Keynote Luncheon?

This is the first of what we hope to be an annual event for our women warriors who have served our nation including, Active-Duty Service Women, Women Reservists, National Guardswomen, Women Veterans Organizers, Women in Corporate Leadership, Women Veterans Advocates, Veterans Service Organizations, and Private & Government Resource Groups. This event will feature distinguished speakers, a farm tour, camaraderie and much more. Female Veterans representing all branches of service and service eras, who are engaged in a wide range of endeavors with varying levels of experience, will be present for this important event.

### Why should you be a Sponsor or an Exhibitor?

The Veterans Healing Farm's Women Warriors' Keynote Luncheon is where foster a strong sense of community and belonging, helping female veterans to feel seen and valued. In essence, this event will provide a space for female veterans to connect, support each other, and address their unique needs in a safe and supportive environment. This year we're expecting 150 Veterans and community leaders to attend the luncheon.

In addition to reaching the Veterans on-site, we offer a wide range of sponsorship opportunities that will allow your organization to share your product or service offerings all VHF Veterans, family members, care givers, and volunteers.

By sponsoring or exhibiting at the Women Warriors' Keynote Luncheon, you not only get exposure to a large audience of active women, you also assist the Veterans Healing Farm in our mission. With your generous support, we're looking forward to making this an annual event. We hope you'll join us in Hendersonville this September!

Veterans Healing Farm | [www.veteranshealingfarm.org](http://www.veteranshealingfarm.org)  
138 Kimzey Road, Mills River, NC 28759 • Phone: 828-595-6111 • [f /VeteransHealingFarm](https://www.facebook.com/VeteransHealingFarm)