



**WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, Inc.
Winter 2014/February**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this we are already three weeks into the new year. However, it's my first opportunity to wish all the members of our great MOAA Chapter a Happy New Year.

As I told your board yesterday at our first meeting I am both honored and humbled to take the helm from Don Jackman, who has done such a fine job as our leader over the past two years. But, change is inevitable...so, here I am. And I must tell you that the board you have elected is second to none! What a wonderful group of dedicated professionals.

In this first message I'd like to emphasize two primary themes...commitment to our fellow veterans (active, former, and retired) and growth of our chapter. And I believe strongly they go hand-in-hand.

First, the commitment part and what each of us is called to do. By now you are aware of the recently-passed federal budget which included a reduction in military spending specifically related to retirement pay. Since space won't allow it I won't go into all the details. But MOAA national, your state MOAA Council of Chapters, your local Chapter Board, and I believe this is a critical issue that MUST be corrected for the good of not only our veterans, but our country as a whole. Please see Karen MacKay's Legislative update in this issue for actions that you should take. Members of your board met with Congressman Mark Meadows on 21 January to express our grave concern. And he has agreed to fight the fight for us.

Secondly, growth of our chapter. Our MOAA voice in support of the mission depends upon membership. I would ask--and challenge--EACH OF US to invite (no, BRING) a fellow service member--active, former, or retired who is not a member of our local chapter--to our next luncheon meeting on 15 February. Our program/speaker will be our own MG Rick Devereaux, USAF (Ret) presenting on "Drones". You might remember, he was "bumped" by Rep. McHenry at our November meeting. Please see his bio in this issue. The proven and most effective way to "recruit" new members is by personal invitation. So, please bring a guest and let them see what we're all about. My bet is they will thank you. I know I will.

In closing, be well, stay warm; and I look forward to working for and with each of you as we move through this new year and new term.

Blessings,

John



General membership Meeting and Luncheon

Saturday, February 15, Hendersonville Country Club 11am Social; 12pm Lunch and Program

See Page 7 For Details

LTC KAREN McKAY, USA-RET LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Rep McHenry Speaks to WNC Chapter

Congressman Patrick McHenry, NC 10th District Representative, spoke to our chapter at the November 2013 meeting. His talk and Q&A were brief because he had another appointment in Asheville.

The five-term Congressman opened his talk with an explanation of how he became a WNC Representative after years of representing a primarily conservative Republican district. For the first time in more than a century, Republicans won the state legislature and the right to redraw the Congressional District map, and McHenry found himself representing heavily Liberal/Progressive Asheville, too.

Turning to issues of importance to the active military and veterans, McHenry spoke of the terrible tragedy of military suicides. The rate of soldiers, both still on active duty and separated, taking their own lives every day is shocking, and Congress must work with DOD to find solutions.

McHenry also addressed the scandalous backlog of VA cases and the impact on veterans, underlining the problem with statistics.

About Obamacare, he said that as of that week, the first week of November 2013, only one person had been registered in the state of North Carolina.

Responding to questions from members present, Congressman McHenry said that:

Progressivism is something that started with the FDR Administration, and has to do with growing the welfare state;

He sits on the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee;

They are pursuing the facts in the Benghazi attack;

A select committee on Benghazi is unnecessary: "We don't need one.";

It is impossible for the House to get anything done because all their bills die in the Senate;

The House has no effective power other than committee hearings;

Phone calls and email are the only effective ways to get a Member's attention, but McHenry stressed that forwarded mass messages don't work. Make it personal and original, and don't send letters via USPS because it takes too long to receive them if at all.

How our Representatives voted:

Ryan-Murray Bipartisan Budget Compromise:

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Omnibus Bill)

Burr: NO

Burr: NO

Hagan: YES

Hagan: YES

McHenry: YES

McHenry: YES

Meadows: NO

Meadows: NO

How to follow Congressional votes

It's not easy. Some Members' official websites list their votes on bills, others do not. If you know a bill's number or title, that will facilitate a keyword search.

www.burr.senate.gov

Senator Richard Burr's website is very useful, informative and easy to navigate. Offers a detailed list of his votes on bills.

www.hagan.senate.gov

Senator Kay Hagan's website is also very useful, informative and easy to navigate. Offers a detailed list of her votes on bills.

<http://mchenry.house.gov/>

Congressman Patrick McHenry's website offers no list of his votes or legislation, nor any links to sources of information on his voting record.

(Continues next page)

Legislative Affairs Continued

<http://meadows.house.gov/>

Congressman Mark Meadows' website is also very useful, informative and easy to navigate, with a detailed list of his votes on bills.

Other places to look for information on bills and votes:

www.senate.gov

www.house.gov

www.Congress.org to sign up for Megavote, which will email you notices on how your elected representatives voted on specific legislation. Very useful tool.

*****VERY IMPORTANT:** Let your Senators and Representative know how you want him or her to vote on specific bills and issues. Congressman Meadows says that no Member of the House has gotten heat from military retirees over the two recent budget acts that hurt us. If they don't hear from us—**loud and clear!**—they assume we don't care and that we accept our fate.

Use the phone or email to communicate with your Members—the phone is better. They do count the “fors” and “againsts” on any specific issue or bill. Contact them frequently, and don't hesitate to nag them—the squeaking wheel gets the grease. Don't send snail mail letters—since 9/11 they go through multiple layers of security and often don't ever reach their destination!***



WESTERN SATELLITE FORMATION NEWS

Thanks to the hard work of Brent Ramsey, Chuck Luce, and Frank Burda the creation of another venue for fellowship and service is progressing nicely. The board approved forming one centered around the Waynesville area and provided mailing info and funding to send out letters inviting MOAA members. So far 35 have responded positive and 14 had were not interested. There are a lot of potential members in this region. The board is committed to assisting these folks in making this happen. It is not as easy as it would seem and many do not realize that in this area a 20 mile radius does not mean 20 mile road distance, sometimes you must go a long way to get there and it is not on four lane roads. This will help us recruit new members and have a larger “One Powerful Voice”. **Thanks Gentlemen!**



Visit and “Like” us at WNC-MOAA on Facebook, more to come

2014/5 Officers/Board Members

Board of Directors

President	John Knapp	CAPT USNR-Ret.
1 st VP	Spence Campbell	Col USA-Ret.
2 nd VP	Jeff Snyder	Col USAF-Ret.
Secretary	Marleen Varner	Aux
Treasurer	Mike Covell	CAPT USN-Ret.
Past Pres.	Don Jackman	LTC USA-Ret.
USA	Chuck Luce	LTC USA-Ret.
USMC	Robert Smith	LtCol USMC-Ret.
USN	Herb Mensch	CAPT USN-Ret.
USAF	Ken Hadeen	Col USAF-Ret.
At Large	Frank Ortiz	MAJ USA-Ret.

Appointed Positions

Sr Advisor	Rick Devereaux	MG USAF-Ret.
Chaplain	Bob Lair	Col USA-Ret.
Editor,NL	Bob Smith	Maj USA-Ret.
Legal Affairs	Micky Parnell	Capt USA-Ret.
Legis. Affairs	Karen McKay	LTC USA-Ret.
Pers. Affairs	Ken Hadeen	Col USAF-Ret.
VA Hosp LNO	Len Baker	LTC USA-Ret.
Webmaster	Len Baker	LTC USA-Ret.

Phone numbers listed on: WNC-MOAA.org



Pres Jackman's last official act, thanking Rep McHenry



Outgoing Sr Advisor Paul Sutherland swearing in new Board. Thanks for the many years of great service!



Chapter President Pin for CAPT John Knapp

DMV Applies the Veteran Designation to Driver Licenses and Identification Cards

Effective October 7, 2013, DMV began offering the opportunity for veterans to request a veteran designation to be placed on their driver licenses and identification cards. This service can be obtained at any drivers license office throughout the State. Below are DMV's procedures for obtaining the designation.

Temporary Solution

The Temporary Solution is a decal that is applied by hand to the back of the drivers license card at the DMV headquarters office in Raleigh. The decals are not available in local drivers license office however a duplicate license may be requested there for a \$10 fee, present your DD214, the examiner will then request a duplicate with decal.

Permanent Solution

When renewing your license present your DD214 and the decal will be affixed at no additional cost (regular renewal fee applies).



WNC-MOAA at the Columbus Parade

The chapter was represented at this first annual parade by a distinguished group of patriots. The event was organized by a group of patriots including chapter members Hoot Livingston, Bob Lair, Frank Ortiz, & Bill Hillhouse. Proud participants were Frank Blazey, John Knapp, Mike Covell, Jeff Snyder, Spence Campbell, Gerry Lawton, Larry Wilson, & Don Jackman. We will support this great event again!



Volunteer opportunity

A-B Tech Vets have their own place on campus; Vet Connections Café is where veterans on the A-B Tech campus can find a place to connect. A group of A-B Tech Volunteers have created a relaxing environment where veterans attending the college can come to take a break, enjoy some refreshments, network with other veterans, study and receive tutoring from knowledgeable volunteers. More volunteers are needed to extend the hours due to increased interest in this open lab by veterans. Volunteers are scheduled for two or three hour shifts in the morning and afternoon. Requirements for this volunteer role are good listening skills. Computer skills as well as knowledge of language arts, history, science or math are helpful, but the desire to help others is a foremost prerequisite. The café is open Tuesdays from 12:30 to 3:30, Wednesdays from 10 to 2 and on Thursdays from 12:30 to 3:30 in Birch, room 126. Hours can be extended for the veterans if more volunteers are available.

Find out how you can help at A-B Tech by calling or emailing Jeralie Andrews, Coordinator of Volunteer and Intern services, 398-7761, jeralieandrews@abtech.edu. Orientation and training are provided.

Free Pottery Class for Veterans

Odyssey ClayWorks is pleased to offer a **FREE** pottery class for Veterans. Discover your hidden talent in the company of fellow Veterans. Experience the joy and mental health benefits of working with clay at the potter's wheel. Participants will make their own pots, glaze them and take them home. Classes will meet for 8 weeks, **Saturdays 9:00- 11:00 am, February 15- April 5**. Please feel free to stop by Odyssey for a visit to become familiar with the studio, meet other potters and ask questions. Call 828-285-0210 to register. Located in River Arts District Asheville at 236 Clingman Ave.

TAPS

Our chapter lost our devoted recruiter LtCol Bob Augur Dec 20, 2013. Bob was a champion of education, aviation, and an all around people person. He was a resident of the NC Veterans' Nursing Home at the time of his passing. Bob was always a pleasure to chat with and a great one to share his many varied experiences. He was our "energizer Bunny" always looking for ways to let potential members know what the chapter had to offer. Truly a great gentleman, patriot, and father, he will be greatly missed by all. Further information and link to obituary can be found in the TAPS section of the web site. If you know of the death or major illness of a fellow member please contact our Secretary Marleen Varner at 828-274-4267.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Duane Bugbee Capt USMC-Ret, wife Marie, Hendersonville
Kenneth Lee Jr LCDR USN-Ret, wife Sheryl, Black Mountain
Ronald Leslie LtCol USAF-Ret, wife Kim, Biltmore Lake
Bob Stenger CPT USA-Former, wife Rosemarie, Hendersonville
John Wilkerson LtCol USAF-Ret, wife Cindy, Flat Rock

Welcome aboard and hope to see you at the February 15 gathering!

Online Membership Dues Payments by Credit Card

WNC MOAA members may now pay their annual membership dues by credit card. Here's how it works. Log on to www.MOAA.org. Select Chapters from the drop down tab at the top of the page. When on the Chapters page, select Online Chapter Dues Payment. Complete filling out the form and your dues will be paid for the year. You have just saved time and postage. You have also saved me time from making deposits at the bank. It's a win-win operation. At this time, you can only pay for the current year and Auxiliary Members are not eligible for this service. If you have any questions, contact Mike Covell, Chapter Treasurer, 828-242-6816.

2014 Dues were due and payable Jan 1

As of Jan 24 our chapter is 206 strong. Also 98 have paid 2014 and beyond (one thru 2019), 106 thru 2013, and two that promised they were going to pay their 2013 but seem to have forgotten. We have used this newsletter as your "invoice/reminder" that dues are due. We include your individual status as we have it in our records on the back page above your address. Also, we include your national MOAA number for example: **0123456 PAID THRU 2013**. This would indicate you now owe 2014 dues, and we have your National #. If there is no number, or it is incorrect or if your records indicate you have already paid, please contact me at: robertsmith656@msn.com or 828-925-7070. The treasurer and I will resolve the problem. We have hoped to avoid a mailing separate invoice. Every year we must call numerous times to get all that intend to maintain chapter membership to pay. Addresses and e-mail addresses are other hard items to keep current. Please remember when moving or changing e-mail address to let the chapter know. If we do not have a correct address it is very time consuming to track you down, further if we mail your newsletter and it is returned we are charged more to get it back than it cost to send it. Snowbirds please consider opting for the electronic delivery (see comment on keeping e-mail address current). I usually have around 40 that get e-delivery however we still must mail 200 copies to get a favorable printing and mailing rate. Please help us get the word out effectively at minimal cost.

WNCMOAA Treasurer's Summary

Bank Balance \$10,493.61 2014 Budget \$19245.35

2013 Budget Income v. Actual \$15,993.71/\$23629.71 Budget Exp vs. Act \$15,993.71/\$13,143.36

General Membership Meeting and Luncheon Saturday, February 15

Guest Speaker and Program

Major General Rick Devereaux, USAF-Ret.

Attack of the Drones Revolution or Evolution in Warfare?

With the array of advancements in military technology over the past several decades, none has evoked more attention and controversy than the use of aerial drones, more properly known as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPAs), against terrorist and insurgent targets in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, and Yemen. Questions surrounding this instrument of warfare have focused on its impersonal nature, its covertness, and its proclivity to generate civilian casualties, leading many to debate the merits of this warfighting instrument. This presentation will focus on these questions from a military officer's perspective, helping separate myth from reality in this new form of warfare.

Major General Rick Devereaux is a defense industry consultant who recently completed a career in the US Air Force. His last assignment was the Air Force's Director of Operational Planning, Policy, and Strategy at the Pentagon where he helped set policy for the USAF remotely piloted aircraft program including the training and career path for those who operate them. General Devereaux's 34-year career in the Air Force included five commands, four Pentagon tours, Director of all AF formal training operations, and responsibility for the Air Force's relationships with foreign air forces around the globe. He is a Command Pilot, having logged over 4,000 hours in the C-5 Galaxy, KC-135 Stratotanker, and multiple training aircraft. He earned a B.S. in International Affairs at the US Air Force Academy and holds three masters degrees including an M.S. in National Security Strategy from the National War College, Washington, DC.



FEBRUARY MENU

Pot Roast Jardinaire

Marinated Vegetables

Chicken Marsala

Caesar Salad

Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Cucumber and Sour Cream Salad

Peas and Carrots

Assorted Deserts

Corn Pudding

THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION, INC
OF
AMERICA, Inc.

WNC MOUNTAIN MOAA NEWS

Is the official publication of the WNC Chapter
Of MOAA
Published Quarterly

Editor:

MAJ Robert A. Smith USA-Ret.

c/o WNC MOAA

P. O. Box 1984

Hendersonville NC 28793

EditorMountainNews@WNC-MOAA.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



General Chapter Meeting Registration and Renewal Form

Chapter Meeting/Luncheon REGISTRATION

Clip or Copy and Mail To: **WNC MOAA; P. O. Box 1984; Hendersonville, NC 28793**

DEADLINE: Payment must be received NLT: *Tuesday, February 11, 2014*

Make Checks payable to: WNC MOAA Enclosed is my check for ____ meal (s) At **\$20 per person.**

I/We plan on attending the WNC MOAA General Chapter Meeting on Saturday, February 15, 2014

NAME: _____ **Guest:** _____

Phone #: _____ **E-mail:** _____

This is the 1st WNC MOAA event attended: **Y/N**

2014 Dues were Due and Payable Jan 1 2014, past due March 1

Chapter Membership RENEWAL :\$25 Regular member and spouse; \$5 auxiliary (surviving spouse)

Name: _____ **Rank:** _____ **Service:** _____ **Spouse:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **ST:** _____ **Zip:** _____

National MOAA#: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

I would also like to contribute \$ _____ to : _____