



An Affiliate Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America

**Save the Dates:**

**November 2020**

**11th:** Virtual Veterans Day Ceremony

**20th :** VET Smiles

**21st:** Virtual WNC MOAA Chapter Meeting

**December 2020**

**19th:** Wreaths Across America

**2021**

Quarterly Board and Chapter meeting locations continue to be dependent on COVID-19 restrictions. Until we are able to resume normal gatherings at the Hendersonville Country Club, both meetings will be conducted by means of a virtual platform. Meeting dates are currently set as follows:

<b><u>Board</u></b>	<b><u>Chapter</u></b>
Jan 13	February 27
April 14	May 22
July 14	August 21
October 13	November 20

**President’s Remarks**

I will go ahead and say it with my outside voice. “I miss seeing all of you and being able to gather like we used to.” With all the restrictions COVID-19 has imposed on us my guess is that I’m not alone. What’s not to like about food, fun, and fellowship? Growing up in a military household, Veterans Day was always a big deal. It was like a rerun of the 4th of July. Thinking back on it, what I treasure most are the memories of togetherness with other military families. A unique tribe who faced the best and the worst military life threw at us, we stumbled through it together. Now, a veteran myself, Veterans Day has an even deeper meaning than ever. As members of MOAA we are able to stick together through our ability to advocate for each other, which includes all ranks and services. Active duty, retired, former, reservist, military families and Surviving Spouses, we are all advocates for all our military members and their families by taking action on legislative issues that affect us all.

Regardless of how we meet, in person or remotely, we can’t underestimate the value of togetherness and our ability to NEVER STOP SERVING.

May you all have a blessed Veterans Day and Holiday Season.

**Donna Culp, Capt (USAF-Frm)**  
**President, WNC MOAA**

## MOAA MEANS ADVOCACY



As 2020 winds down and our Nation prepares for 2021, MOAA's mission remains unwavering. As General Atkins has said, "in one word MOAA means **Advocacy.**" Here's what that means throughout all of MOAA, Councils, and Chapters .

**Chapters, councils, and national MOAA are political-ly non-partisan.** Parties or candidates may not be supported or opposed. Supporting or opposing and ISSUE through lobbying, however, is permitted for 501(c)(19) organizations as follows:

- ⇒ **Lobbying:** Communicating with a member (or member's staff) of local state, or federal legislative body for the purposes of influencing the member's vote on legal specific action.
- ⇒ **Grassroots Advocacy:** Communication with member's of the general public in an effort to influence the votes of members of a legislative body. Publication of non partisan political analysis, such as how candidates have voted on relevant issues.
- ⇒ **Advocacy at the State and Municipal Levels:** Potential areas of interest are income and inheritance taxes and military retirees' and veterans rights and benefits.
- ⇒ It is important that chapters coordinate state legislative issues with the state council, if one exists.

The NCCOC (NC Council of Chapters) **does coordinate** state legislative affairs through the VP, Veterans/ Military Affairs. He and COL (Ret) Vern Pike developed a strategic plan which was approved at the August 15, 2020 NCCOC meeting. Implementation instructions for 2021 for the strategic plan will be forthcoming.

**Submitted by Jim Brumit, COL (USA-Ret),  
President, NCCOC (Ref: Council and Chapter, Policies**

## MOAA Members Have the Power to Take Action

### **Time Sensitive Legislation, Arlington National Cemetery.**

If your plans to are to be interred in Arlington National Cemetery, there are some concerning issues that may impact your final wishes. MOAA is requesting MOAA members to please take the time to submit your thoughts under Public Comments.

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2020-news-articles/advocacy/act-now-dont-let-arlington-cemetery-changes-move-forward-without-your-voice/>

### **MOAA Immediate Take Action legislation:**

<https://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/app/take-action?engagementId=509573>

These important issues require your immediate attention. Send your elected officials a MOAA-suggested message today.

### **Pass a Budget, on Time, to Avoid Damage Caused By Continuing Resolutions**

Continuing resolutions stall plans to modernize DoD and improve the lives of servicemembers, military families, retirees, and veterans. New programs receive no funds while outdated ones limp forward. Looming shutdowns put some servicemembers' pay at risk. Ask your lawmakers to pass a budget on time this year.

### **Ask Your Lawmaker to Help Expand Benefits for Tens of Thousands of Vietnam Veterans**

The Senate version of the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) would expand VA benefits available to Vietnam veterans exposed to herbicides such as Agent Orange, adding conditions scientifically linked to such exposure.

### **Urge Your Lawmakers to Support FY21 NDAA Provisions to Stop Cuts to Military Medicine**

Act now to urge your elected officials to support FY21 NDAA legislation that will halt cuts to military medicine and increase congressional oversight of these efforts.

**Submitted by Dr. Vivianne Wersel, Au.D.**

**Chair, WNC MOAA Legislative Affairs**

**Give the gift of advocacy—Take Action**

<http://takeaction.moaa.org>





## **Update: Bills to be Introduced in January**

HB 64—Blue/Gold Star Mother’s Appreciation Day—Committee on Homeland Security, Military, and Veteran’s Affairs

**MOAA believes this bill may be introduced in the 2020 short session. If not, then in the 2021 session is likely**

HB 650—Military Retirement Income Tax Relief—Commerce and Finance Committee; WNC Representatives involved: **Ager and Fisher**

**MOAA believes this bill may be introduced in the 2020 short session. If not, then in the 2021 session is likely**

HB 896—In State Tuition Military Spouses—Committee on Appropriations, Education; WNC Representatives involved: **Fisher**

**MOAA believe this bill may be introduced in the 2021 session**

SB 188—Military Retirement Income Tax Relief—Committee on Rules and Operations

**MOAA believe this bill may be introduced in the 2021 session**

SB 767—Combat Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act—Committee on Rules and Operations

**MOAA believes this bill may be introduced in the 2020 short session. If not, then in the 2021 session is likely**

### **Additional Issues:**

Improve Military Spouse Licensure Portability

Virtual schools for Military children transitioning to a new school district where they do not have access to specific curricula

Additional actions to improve spouse licensure procedures; HB 1053; half sub-issues passed 23 Aug 2019

**MOAA believes these deferred sub-issues will likely be introduced in the 2021 session**

Interstate compacts to support license portability; 2/5ths sub-issues passed with SB 36126 Aug 2019; Issues remaining: (1) psychological interjurisdictional compact; (2) Audiology Speech Language Pathology Compact—HB 1053 10 Jun 2020

**There is no SB on this issue at this time. The expectation is that there will be a SB in introduced to address this issue in the 2021 session.**

## **Chapter Members Invited to Help with State Level Legislative Affairs**



The state part of our legislative efforts is about to restart following the North Carolina elections. We now know who the new representatives and senators will be, and we will begin to contact all that we have yet to contact.

*The goal is to achieve a relationship where we can reach the state legislators on critical near term and long term items of interest.*

We are also considering expanding the contact effort for any MOAA members who would like to help, especially those who already have a relationship established with individual legislators. If any one does have a personal relationship with any of the existing state legislators within Western NC or the new legislators or the 4 Senators and 10 Representatives, **please contact Colonel (Ret) Michael Padgett at [sopadgett@aol.com](mailto:sopadgett@aol.com).**

**Submitted by Michael Padgett, WNC MOAA Legislative Affairs State Liaison**

Sustaining In-state Tuition until Enrollment—HB 1047 introduced 29 Apr 2020; SB 706 introduced 19 Jun 2020

**These bills may be taken up in the remaining sessions in the 2020 short session. If not, MOAA expects these issues to be reintroduced in the 2021 session.**

Engage all helping agencies ask the question, “have you or a family member ever served in the military?”

**MOAA hopes this issue will be emphasized in some way in the 2021 session.**

**Submitted by Michael Padgett, WNC MOAA Legislative Affairs State Liaison**

## MOAA Mission

### Extends to Chapters and Satellites

**National MOAA**— For more than 90 years, MOAA has been fighting for the interests of military members and their families.

An independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization with more than 350,000 members, MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers.

MOAA plays an active role in military personnel matters and especially in proposed legislation affecting the career force, the retired community, and veterans.

**Affiliate Chapter** — Founded in 1968 with an initial membership of 18 former officers, WNC MOAA was incorporated into National MOAA as an Affiliate Chapter in 1969. Members reside throughout a 14-county area of Western North Carolina. The counties include Buncombe, Henderson, Jackson, Madison, Haywood, Transylvania, McDowell, Rutherford, Polk, Macon, Graham, Swain, \*\*Cherokee and Clay.

Chapter membership is composed of men and women who are or have been commissioned officers, former officers, or warrant officers of the eight uniformed services (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Public Health Service, and the Space Force), as well as the Reserve or National Guard components of those services. Widows/widowers of deceased eligible members are eligible for membership as Surviving Spouses.

**Chapter Satellites**— A satellite affiliate of an existing chapter may be organized when the travel distance to the closest chapter is impractical and/or there are insufficient resources to run a chapter. Satellite members pay dues to the host chapter, and the host chapter in turn is expected to share some of the money collected with its satellite for program expenses.

Since the chapter does all the heavy lifting in these areas, satellites are not required to have:

- Full formal organizational structure
- Bylaws
- Specific meeting requirements
- Newsletters

**\*\* Clay and Cherokee counties are included in NE Georgia MOAA chapter for chapter activities, but remain included in WNC MOAA chapter for legislative affairs.**

Satellites may participate in:

- Social gatherings
- Community service
- Advocacy activities

Establishing a satellite requires:

- At least 10 national MOAA members
- At least 2 leaders— a chair and a co-chair
- Coordination with the potential host chapter and state council
- Endorsement from host chapter and council.
- Memorandum of Understanding with host chapter
- Petitioning through the host chapter and relevant council to national MOAA to become a satellite.

Satellites:

- Are represented on the host chapter board, and have access to host chapter newsletter, events and functions, dues collection and finances.
- Are not eligible to compete independently for national awards or incentives, as they are part of the host chapter.
- Are not formally chartered but are provided appropriate recognition from National MOAA.

The host chapter maintains the electronic membership roster for the satellite and satellite members are counted as members of the host chapter.

WNC MOAA currently has two satellites and welcomes additional satellites to join us as geographical and travel needs may indicate. If you are interested in exploring the option of establishing a WNC MOAA satellite, please contact Donna Culp, President of WNC MOAA at [President@WNC-MOAA.org](mailto:President@WNC-MOAA.org) or use the contact form on our website [www.wnc-moaa.org](http://www.wnc-moaa.org).

#### Reference:

MOAA Council and Chapter Policies and Procedures Guide

<https://www.moaa.org/>

WNC MOAA Mission Statement

**Submitted by Donna Culp, WNC MOAA President**

## Treasurer's Report

### Banking

Aug I Balance 15400.48

### Expenses

Admin 66.75

Name Badges 128.58

Nov 1 Balance 15,608.14

Submitted by Mike Covell, WNC MOAA Treasurer

## WNC MOAA

### ZOOMS Forward

Until a reliable and safe vaccine becomes available and we can resume in person general chapter meetings we're going to "adjust fire" and move forward using ZOOM.

Normally WNC MOAA chapter meetings have been held four times a year, the third Saturday of February, May, November, and August at the Hendersonville Country Club (1860 Hebron Rd, Hendersonville, NC 28739). Since the onset of COVID-19 in-person general membership meetings continue to be suspended.

Invitations to attend WNC MOAA chapter meetings via ZOOM will be emailed in advance with the link to join via computer or phone.

Stand by for the ZOOM meeting invitation for November 21st that will include an attached agenda to make it easy to follow along.

*Thank you!*

Donna Culp, WNC MOAA President



We're doggone grateful for -

Your service

And

Your commitment to  
NEVER STOP SERVING

By being a member of  
MOAA and WNC MOAA

Thank you!



## For 1st Time in 3 Decades, Military Families and Retirees Are Getting Revamped IDs



Read the complete article by going to:

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2020/08/24/1st-time-3-decades-military-families-and-retirees-are-getting-revamped-ids.html>

Submitted by Jeff Snyder

Reference: Military.com

## Smoky Mountain Satellite Conducts First Hybrid Meeting at Jonathan Creek VFD Pavilion

October 6th, Smoky Mountain Satellite held a "hybrid" satellite meeting at the Jonathan Creek VFD outside pavilion. In addition to the meeting being held outside, an FM transmitter was on standby for participants who might prefer to sit in their vehicles and listen to the meeting via their vehicle radios. Guest speaker, Patrick Johnson, Director of Haywood Co. DHHS, and Retired USAF Col, discussed COVID and provided Q&A.



SMS Chair, Craig Love leads the meeting,



Guest Speaker, Patrick Johnson, Director of Haywood Co. DHHS addressing COVID issues.



Past SMS Chair, David McCracken (sitting at left) shares thoughts with members in attendance. Pictured: Standing (L to R) Bill Gunn, Marty Downie, and sitting (R table) Katharine Knight.



## 7 Good reasons to Join and Be a Member of a Local MOAA Chapter

### 1. Make yourself heard.

MOAA's chapters provide critical grassroots support for MOAA's national legislative agenda. Our benefits are under attack, and MOAA is in the fight to preserve them. Chapter members let their legislators know what's on their minds and open doors for MOAA's legislative team in Washington, D.C. In these difficult times, MOAA members need to stick together, and our chapters are the best way we know to do that.

### 2. Give back to the community.

Chapter members are MOAA's ambassadors in their communities, supporting countless programs that make a difference in the lives of others. These members continue their "officership" service and are giving back in the truest sense.

**3. Value added to chapter members' lives.** MOAA chapters sponsor interesting programs and opportunities to interact with civic, political, military, and business leaders on issues important to members.

**4. Networking with fellow officers.** Chapters include second-career members in the work force and retired servicemembers who have contacts in their communities that can be valuable to transitioning officers.

**5. Stay informed.** Chapter newsletters, websites, and meetings provide you with the latest information on local, state, and national issues and changes to military benefits.

**6. Influencing state legislation.** Most states have a council of chapters that unites chapters in the state. These councils, and independent chapters in states without a council, often lobby for and pass state level legislation that affects military members and their families, such as exempting military retired pay from state income tax or increasing funding for state veterans' programs.

**7. Camaraderie with a purpose.** MOAA chapters unite active duty, former, and retired officers from every branch of service, including National Guard and Reserve, as well as surviving spouses. These centers of camaraderie not only give you a chance to connect with other members with similar backgrounds and interest, but to also develop close and lasting friendship.

**Reference: MOAA Website**

**file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/2020-reasons-to-join-a-chapter%20(2).pdf**

## WNC MOAA Business Cards

### Available for Members

Now available upon request chapter business cards, helpful for inviting a prospective new member to consider joining and help them learn more about us by visiting our website.



Western North Carolina Military Officers Association of America

P.O. Box 1984

Hendersonville, NC 28793

[wnc-moaa.org](http://wnc-moaa.org)

Contact [President@WNC-MOAA.org](mailto:President@WNC-MOAA.org)

## Hails & Farewells

### Hails

Steven Salter LT USNR FRM

Sharon Mawby LT USN Ret

Patrick Cushing Maj USMC Ret

William (Sandy) Hastie CAPT USN Ret

Katharine Knight CAPT USNR Ret

Martin Downie COL USA Ret

John Hawkins COL USA Ret

Patricia A. Vinson LTC ARNG Ret

### Farewells

None reported

### TAPS

None reported

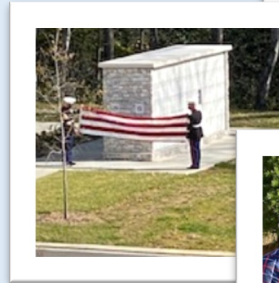
## WNC MOAA Members Making a Difference



September 19, 2020—**Bonnie Hartel** (far R) presented **Quilt of Honor to Mr. and Mrs. Ross Dodson** along with fellow quilter, Bonnie Cunningham (far L) at the Transylvania County Court house gazebo.



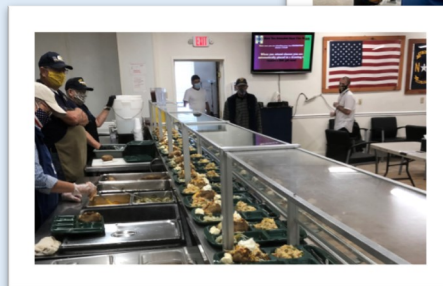
Four Seasons Hospice thanks volunteers with drive through gift bags. Thank you “We Honor Veterans” volunteers.



**VA Volunteer Services** held a special birthday bash in September for CLC resident, and WNC MOAA member, **John Mulligan** (Front Center) *John has been a VAVS Volunteer for 33 years logging in 18,000 hours!*



Recognized for his volunteer work at Charles George VA Hospital in Patient Advocacy, **Felipe “Phil” Casso has received the VA Outstand Service Award.** A volunteer since 2006, started out volunteering 1 day a week, which progressed to 3 days a week logging in 4,000 hours! Phil says he “feels blessed with the work.”



**WNC MOAA Prep and Serve Teams volunteer at the VRQ (Veterans Restoration Quarters) the 4th Wednesday of every month** to provide a hot lunch for homeless veterans working to get back on their feet. **Sept & Oct Teams:** Fred Herres, Vic Marshall, John and Donna Culp, John Odell, Bonnie Hartel , Jeff and Paula Snyder.

## NEVER STOP SERVING ... CHAPTER INVOLVEMENT



**We Honor Veterans** - Since November 2014, WNC MOAA, in partnership with Four Seasons Hospice, has honored over 500 veterans with special pinning ceremonies to salute veterans in hospice care and thank them for their service. Although the pinning ceremonies have been modified so as to be conducted remotely, the program continues. To learn more and get involved, contact **John Knapp**, 828-702-3317 [j.knapp4@att.net](mailto:j.knapp4@att.net)



### Veterans Restoration Quarters (VRQ)

**VRQ** - Meal Prep Teams provided by WNC MOAA have been slicing, dicing, and serving lunch to homeless veterans the fourth Wednesday of each month for well over five years. With strict precautions and protocols in place, prep/serve teams are continuing this service. Teams are limited to 5 or less. Volunteers are screened with a questionnaire and touchless thermometer. All volunteers are required to wear a face mask and gloves while working in the kitchen and to practice social distancing – being mindful of personal space and refraining from physical touch including handshakes, fist bumps, etc. For more information about volunteering or making donations, contact **Jeff Snyder**, 828-684-2359 [jsnyder243@aol.com](mailto:jsnyder243@aol.com)



**Blue Ridge Honor Flight** transports American veterans to Washington, DC 2-3 times each year to “visit memorials dedicated honor their service and sacrifices of themselves and their friends.” Although all flights scheduled for 2020 have been suspended, there are opportunities to donate, as well as learn more about applying as an honoree, guardian, or volunteer. For more information, contact **Rick Devereaux**, 828-772-6023 [rick-devereaux1@gmail.com](mailto:rick-devereaux1@gmail.com) or [www.blueridgehonorflight.com](http://www.blueridgehonorflight.com)

**UPDATE:** Depending on COVID-19, the 2021 flight schedule, is tentatively set for 5/8, 9/18, and 10/16 out of Asheville Airport.



**JROTC** – Active in 17 high schools throughout WNC, JROTC is supported by WNC MOAA with annual MOAA Leadership awards for rising Seniors. When group gatherings can resume, volunteers will be needed to present the awards. Until then, stand-by-to-stand-by. For more information, contact **Jeff Snyder**, 828-684-2359



### Smoky Mountain Outreach Foundation

\*\*\*\*\*

### VET SMILES

**VET SMILES - Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**, ECU Community Service Learning Center Dental School in Sylva will be conducting the “Smiles for Vets” dental day. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, up to 30 vets will be seen vs. the normal 40. Present to receive and help process participating veterans, in accordance with COVID restrictions, will be members from WNC MOAA, our Smoky Mountain Satellite (SMS MOAA), the Smoky Mountain Outreach Foundation (SMOF) and NC Serves. Donations of money, food for breakfast and lunch for the day, water bottles, soft drinks (regular and diet) are welcome. For more information, contact **David McCracken**, 828-550-5980, [dem32415@aol.com](mailto:dem32415@aol.com)

A SMOF pilot initiative started two years ago, VET SMILES has proven to be effective helping veterans who do not qualify for dental care with the VA find a dental home. As a result, a new 501 (c) (3) foundation is in the planning stages to take VET SMILES statewide. Stay tuned for further developments.



In Western North Carolina, at least three cemeteries are participating in this annual event.

- \* Western Carolina State Cemetery in Black Mountain
- \* Greenhill Cemetery in Waynesville
- \* Highlands Cemetery in Highlands



Once finalized, more information to follow.

To donate go to <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>

**MOAA:** Change address, update contact information, join, renew, or upgrade membership



Call the Member Service Center at (800) 234-6622 or (703) 549-2311 or e-mail [msc@moaa.org](mailto:msc@moaa.org). You also may [update your membership information online](#).

**WNC MOAA:** PO Box 1984, Hendersonville, NC 28793 – or “contact us” via our website <https://www.wnc-moaa.org/>

### MOAA and WNC MOAA

relies on every member’s contact information to be current so you won’t miss receiving:

- \* Chapter newsletters
- \* Emails about important events
- \* Special invitations

*Thank you  
For  
Remembering!*



### It’s about that time again!

Premium/ Annual Dues members have the opportunity to renew as a Premium member or upgrade to Life membership.

For more information <https://www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa/>

Or Call MOAA at

1-800-234-6622



WNC MOAA Chapter Members

Annual dues renewal

January 1st through March 31st



Dr. Mark Jaben

Medical Director

Haywood Department  
of Health and Human  
Services

### Join us for our General Chapter Meeting 21 November 2020

**Guest speaker** Dr. Mark Jaben will be sharing with us the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 and best practices for the way ahead. He will also entertain a Q & A for all participants to ask any question that may be nagging at you or just want to gain clarification about information swirling around in your community.

**Location:** ZOOM (by Email invitation)

**Time:** 11:00 am to 2:00

**Agenda will arrive with Email invitation**

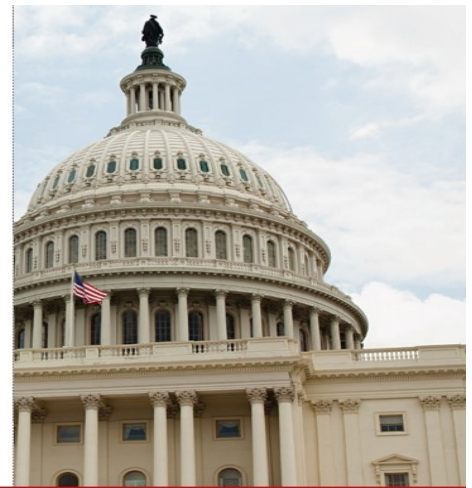
**BYOL (Bring your own lunch)**

# THE LARGER OUR NUMBERS, THE GREATER YOUR VOICE.

Why MOAA chapter membership matters.



Western North Carolina Chapter



## MOAA AND CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_

Active  Retired  Former  Reserve  National Guard  Surviving Spouse

Spouse name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

(To ensure deliverability of MOAA communications, please provide a personal email address.)

Are you a member of MOAA?  Yes  No  Unknown

MOAA Member Number (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**Not a MOAA national member yet? Check here  
to receive a BASIC Membership at no cost to you.**

**BASIC**

And, for only \$4 a month, you can upgrade to **PREMIUM** membership, giving you immediate access to a full spectrum of career and financial resources, exclusive publications, college scholarships for dependents, and countless discounts on products and travel. Visit [moaa.org/join](http://moaa.org/join) to learn more or call 800-234-6622

How did you hear about MOAA Chapter involvement? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of any other MOAA Chapter(s)?  Yes  No

If yes, which one(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

### To complete enrollment:

• **Fill in this form**

• **Print it out**, fill it in by hand, and mail it with a check made out to **WNC MOAA**

**Mail to WNC MOAA PO Box 1984, Hendersonville, NC 28793**

• Go to [wnc-moaa.org](http://wnc-moaa.org) for more information about our chapter

Chapter membership  
and dues information:

Please use this form as new  
member/ renewing  
membership/ change in  
contact information.

Valid: 1 Jan – 1 Mar

**New Member:** \$40 (Includes  
spouse)

**Renew:** \$30

**Surviving Spouse**

**New Member:** \$20

**Renew:** \$10

**Name Badge Application**  
(included in new  
membership):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Ret: \_\_\_\_ Fmr: \_\_\_\_

Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Resident City: \_\_\_\_\_

Badge: Magnet Type Only

You will be opted in to receive e-communications from MOAA and your local chapter. You will be able to opt out of any further e-communications at any time. MOAA will not sell or share personal information.