

WNC-MOAA BOD Meeting  
Tuesday – July 15 2025  
Meeting: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm  
Conference Room, WNC Air Museum  
1340 E Gilbert St, Hendersonville, NC 28792

**Elected:**

Steve Watkins	President
Stacie Litsenberger - <b>Absent</b>	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
<b>Vacant</b>	USMC Rep
Jeff Snyder	USAF Rep
Jim Steinbaugh - <b>Absent</b>	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 - <b>Absent</b>	Immediate Past President

**Appointed Positions:**

<b>Vacant</b>	Chaplain
Rick Deveraux - <b>Absent</b>	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
Sharon Woodcock/Donna Culp	Surviving Spouse Liaison

In attendance was Chapter member Steve Salter. Steve presented a letter of intent to the President to run for the Chapter Treasurer position during the upcoming Board cycle. He attending the meeting as an observer/Non-Voting attendee.

Meeting was called to order at 1:30pm followed by the Invocation and Introductions of all present. Quorum was not declared. A motion was made to approve the January 2025 meeting minutes. The motion was approved, and will be ratified during the next board meeting.

**Steve Watkins opening remarks:**

- Steve thanked everyone for attending and previewed the agenda for the meeting.
- More discussion to happen later in the meeting regarding the picnic. We did have 4 new members join the chapter after the meeting.

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**Officer Reports:**

- A. **Secretary:** No new updates
- B. **1<sup>st</sup> VP:** - Not Present  
**2<sup>nd</sup> VP:** - Not Present
- C. **Treasurer:**
- Introduced Steve Salter to the Board. Steve has volunteered to take over the Treasurer duties at the end of Doug's term pending approval by the membership at our annual meeting in November.
  - Doug reviewed the Closeout of Qtr 2. Balance YTD is on track with our budget.
  - Picnic charges, grants and the raffle all provided full funding for the picnic and no supplemental funding will be needed.
  - Grant from National MOAA for \$3,250 to the Veterans Healing Farm will be provided in Q3.
  - Helene recovery grant to be awarded in Q3 for a most deserving WNC veteran. This grant was given to the Chapter by a SC organization to disbursed by the Board.

**Service Representatives & Satellite Reports:**

Army & Woodfin Rep: Rod Honeycutt - Not Present

Navy Rep: Herb Mensch - No new updates

Marine Corps Rep: Vacant

Air Force Rep: Jeff Snyder - No new updates

At Large Rep: Jim Steinbaugh - Not Present

Smoky Mountain Satellite: John O'Donnell reviewed that he has scheduled the next Smokey Mountain Satellite meeting for Aug 20 and continuing to investigate options for satellite area events.

Black Mountain Satellite: Vacant

Woodfin Satellite: Rod Honeycutt - Not Present

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**Appointed Positions Reports:**

Chaplain: Vacant

Federal Legislative Affairs: Dr. Vivianne Wersel - Not Present (Leading a class)  
Submitted the following Legislative Update:

**What's Happening with the FY 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)?**

Both the House and Senate have made significant progress on the FY 2026 NDAA, a comprehensive bill that outlines our national defense priorities and funding levels for the coming year. This year's versions include strong support for service members, technological innovation, and international cooperation—strengthening security—all while addressing key readiness and modernization concerns.

**Senate Highlights**

- The Senate Armed Services Committee approved its version on July 9 with overwhelming bipartisan support (26–1 vote).
- It allocates \$925 billion for national defense, with over \$878 billion directed to the Department of Defense.
- Key components include:
  - \$500 million in aid for Ukraine, with continued funding through 2028.
  - A requirement to keep at least 103 A-10 aircraft, halting plans to retire the fleet.
  - Significant investment in advanced military technologies, including artificial intelligence, unmanned systems, and hypersonic.
  - Adoption of several acquisition reform provisions from the FORGED Act to make it easier for non-traditional and small companies to work with the Pentagon.

**House Highlights**

- The House Armed Services Committee released its version on July 8, authorizing nearly \$848 billion, closely aligning with the Department of Defense's request.
- Funding provisions include:
  - \$300 million for Ukraine assistance.
  - An additional \$600 million for the E-7 Wedgetail AWACS aircraft.
  - Extra resources for ICBMs, GPS upgrades, and military executive aircraft.
  - Strategic cuts, such as a \$300 million reduction to the KC-46 program and some reductions in F-35 research.
  - A push for procurement reform through the SPEED Act, aiming to modernize and streamline acquisition processes.

Additionally, Vivianne asked the board for any inputs regarding interactions with National MOAA. Key points of conversation included the following:

- The National MOAA site lists NC as a least favorable state to retire
- Need to include more retiree & former officer focus to its initiatives
- Desire to expand MOAA inputs beyond benefit related issues

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State Legislative Affairs: Tricia Vinson

There have been two bills signed into law so far that impact the veteran community.

The first one is HB91 or now SL2025-20 which recognizes Space Force as an official military service branch, established on Dec. 20, 2019, and is effective as of 6/26/2025.

The second bill is SB118 or now or now SL2025-72. This bill is 8 pages in length and includes a lot of different components and nuances. The major topics includes reducing concealed handgun fees for certain veterans, provides additional time for military families to provide proof of residency for public school enrollment, prohibits discriminatory admissions policies regarding active-duty service members and veterans, require military admissions deferment for certain persons admitted to the UNC system, and provide in-state tuition to certain honorably discharged veterans. It also regulates compensation for services related to veterans' benefits matters, authorize remote drivers' license renewals for active-duty military and their families; it provides children of wartime veterans scholarship funds award flexibility and authorizes sheriffs to send permit expiration notices via email.

There are a lot of nuances and conditions under the main titles so I would recommend reading the bill/law if it may pertain to a specific member.

The bill #'s are indicated below and can be found at <https://www.ncleg.gov>

**SESSION LAW 2025-20 HOUSE BILL 91**

**SESSION LAW 2025-72 SENATE BILL 118**

VA Liaison: Stacie / Vivianne - Not Present

JROTC:

- Jeff summarized the Leadership awards presented at the end of the school year supporting 18 programs in total.
- Presented in person to 6 units

Surviving Spouse Liaison:

- Sharon continues to keep contact with a number of surviving spouses. She has a good listing but always looking for anyone else to be added.
- Discussion regarding the requirement for updated ID cards and implications if the deadline is missed.
- Steve and Tricia indicated they will clarify and communicate.

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Senior Advisor: Not Present

- Rick shared there will be a Service Academy orientation day on Aug 18 at Haywood Community College for any interested High School students.

Past President: Not Present

VRQ – Jeff Snyder:

- The chapter continues to support our veterans at the temporary quarters while the main facility continues to be rebuilt after being flooded by Helene.
- Timeline for reconstruction is now delayed 1-2 years due to various financial, permit and construction issues. The Quality Inn will continue to serve as temporary quarters for 40-50 veterans.
- 3-4 servers needed for 1-3 lunches each month.

**Old Business:**

- Steve reminded everyone to consider nominating individuals for board positions for the upcoming year.
- 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.
- Consideration of Deerfield for a future Board meeting.

**Picnic:**

- Thorough after-action discussion was the picnic was a great success & enjoyed by all.
- Turnout was higher this year and feedback was overwhelmingly positive.
- General input was to maintain the format and caterer.
- Should start planning much earlier in 2026 with a sub-committee.
  1. Reserve a location early
  2. Reserve Mike for food
  3. Start early on raffle items.
- 11am start time
- Attempt to have a cornhole game
- Menu was considered great.
- Cost elements seemed fair and should continue with goal of \$20/person

## **New Business:**

- Discussion regarding condition of the Chapter's flags and flagpoles which are in poor condition. Proposal to utilize a \$333 grant from the North Carolina of Conference of Chapters to purchase new flag poles, eagle topper and flags not to exceed \$400. Motion made, voted on and approved, will be ratified at the next board meeting.
- Discussion regarding conversion to a credit card reader for use at Chapter Meetings, Picnic, etc. Motion was made to make the purchase not to exceed \$100, voted on and approved will be ratified at the next board meeting.
- 2026 Open Board Positions include the following:
  1. 1<sup>st</sup> VP and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP
  2. TreasurerJeff and Joe to meet to coordinate formation of a nominating committee.
- 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. Tentatively in the Feb/Mar 2026 timeframe.
- Women Warriors' Keynote Luncheon will be Sept 26. We have made a contribution and will have a table at the event. Veterans and family members can attend for free ...provided they pre-register. Stacie is the lead and POC for any questions.
- Open discussion regarding opportunities for increased service to veterans related volunteer activities to complement our lunch service at the VRQ. Suggestions included Veteran Headstone cleaning, adopting a deployed unit, visits/volunteering at the VA hospital. More discussion to be included in next meeting with research to be done in advance.
- Upcoming Chapter Meetings and Events
  1. August 16: General Chapter Meeting. VFW Hendersonville
    - Outreach Grant to be presented to the Veterans Healing Farm
    - Adam Smith is confirmed as the keynote speaker
    - Mike B's confirmed as the caterer.
  2. November 15: Location – Champion Hills.
    - Speakers: Surviving Spouse support

**Next Board Meeting set for 14 Oct, 2025 from 2-4PM. Location TBD**

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

**Open Items:** None

**Meeting was closed at 3:40 pm**

**Attachments:**

1. Agenda

- 1:00pm **Welcome – walk-through of museum – Jeff Moore**
- 1:30pm **Welcome**  
a) Roll Call – *Quorum*  
b) Pledge of Allegiance  
c) Invocation  
d) Introductions
- 1:40pm **Approval of April Minutes**
- 1:42pm **President’s remarks** – Steve Watkins
- 1:47pm **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 (*Steve*) – *3 new members*  
d) Treasurer – Doug Abbotts  
1) 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Close-out  
2) Picnic Financials wrap-up
- 2:07pm **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  
g) Woodfin Chair – Rod Honeycutt  
h) Black Mtn – vacant
- 2:30pm **Appointed Positions Reports** (2 minutes each)  
a) Chaplain – vacant – Deaths: John Jensen (Spouse: Sue Jensen)  
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  
a. Service Academy orientation day on August 18 at Haywood Community College for any interested High School students  
h) Past President – Donna Culp  
i) Newsletter/Website – Newsletter suspense to Steve: **17 July**
- 2:46pm **Old Business**  
a) 2026 Board Position Nominees – *will discuss in New Business*  
b) 2025 Member Picnic After Action Review/Discussion  
1) Month: May vs August ?  
2) Day: Friday vs Saturday ?  
3) Time: 11:30-3:30 (2025) vs 10:30 – 1:30 (2024)?  
4) Location: Fletcher vs Mills River vs other?  
5) Cost: Free to members (we paid) vs \$20/person vs ?  
6) Budget: ?  
7) Cheddar Up: ?

- 8) Raffles: ?
- 9) Games / Service Competitions: ?
- 10) Menu / Drinks: ?
- 11) Alcohol vs no Alcohol: ?
- 12) 2026 Picnic: Yes / No - ?

3:05pm

**New Business**

- a) WEBB Cares (SC) \$2300. Donation
- b) NCCOC distributed \$333.33 to each NC Chapter that received a MOAA Grant
  - 1) WNC-MOAA received \$333.33
  - 2) Propose we purchase new flag poles / Eagle / new top for Chapter flag
- c) Propose we purchase a Credit Card Reader from Cheddar Up for onsite CC payments (~\$90)
- d) 2026 Board Position Nominees
  - 1) Nomination Committee
    - i. Bylaws: Section 2 (pg 5). At least 60 days before the odd numbered calendar year annual meeting, the Board of Directors shall appoint a nominating committee of five regular members, not currently holding elective or appointive office, to nominate candidates for the elective offices. The committee shall notify the Secretary by email, at least 30 days before the annual meeting, of its proposed slate of officers and directors for the next calendar year, and the Secretary shall list in the Chapter's newsletter the nominated candidates for the elected offices or email a copy thereof to each regular member at least 20 days before the annual meeting.
    - ii. Dates for Reference:
      - 1. 60 days before Annual Meeting – Sept 16, 2025
      - 2. 30 days before Annual Meeting – Oct 16, 2025
      - 3. 20 days before Annual Meeting – Oct 26, 2025
    - iii. Jeff Snyder can you take the lead on this?
- e) Upcoming General Membership Annual Meeting
  - 1) Date: Nov 15, 2025
  - 2) Location – Champion Hills Club House, Hendersonville
  - 3) Member vote & Installation of 2026/27 Board of Officers
  - 4) National Leadership – said no / State NCCOC Leadership will attend
  - 5) Speakers/Topics: Life Planning – in prep for workshop
  - 6) Possibly Holiday theme – work with Champion Hills
  - 7) Invite potential members – utilize MOAA mailing
- f) Scheduled/scheduling activities/events
  - 1) Satellite events
    - i. Smoky Mtn – ?
    - ii. Woodfin – ?
  - 2) Next General Membership meeting –
    - i. August 16, 2025 – VFW, H'ville
    - ii. 11:15am – 2:00pm
    - iii. Speaker – Stacie has Adam Smith lined up to speak
    - iv. MOAA Foundation Community Outreach Grant presentation to Veterans Healing Farm
    - v. Caterer: Mike B's Catering
  - 3) VHF – 2025 Women Warriors Keynote Luncheon – Sept 6, 2025, Flat Rock
    - i. WNC-MOAA will have a table

- ii. Stacie has volunteered to take the lead
  - iii. Veterans & family members can attend for free – must register.
- 4) Blue Ridge Honor Flight – 27 September 2025
- 5) Wreaths Across America – 13 December 2025
- 6) Workshop – Preparation for Death of Veteran Spouse – Feb/Mar
  - i. Speakers: Estate planner; Financial planner; Retirement community; Geriatric Care; and Hospice care
  - ii. Location - TBD
- g) October 2025 Board meeting
  - 1) Date: 14 October 2025 Time: 2:00pm – 4:00pm
  - 2) Locations: TBD
- h) Open Issues

3:30 pm

**Adjourn**