

## **New River Chapter MOAA Meeting Minutes 23 Feb 2010**

**Call to Order:** After enjoying meals and snacks, Chapter President Doug Ehrhardt called the meeting to order at 1850 hours on 23 February 2010 at the West Jefferson Coffee House. After extending welcoming remarks, Doug then asked for everyone to stand for the playing of the National Anthem.

**Members Present:** Doug Ehrhardt, Charles Knapp, Ken Lynn, Jim Gee, Porter Hicks, Lee Eldreth, Jerry Lafferty, Dan Strickland, Karen Strickland, Lee Lafferty (member-spouse), Lois Hicks (member-spouse), Linda Gee (member-spouse), Cathy Ehrhardt (member-spouse), Monica Madden-Lynn (member-spouse)

Old/Unfinished Business:

**Membership Dues/Budget/Non-Profit Update:** Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Ken Lynn reported that 21 of 37 members have paid their combined 2009/2010 dues for a total of \$420 collected. Per the Bylaws, the \$20.00 annual dues become due on 1 January and are considered delinquent if not paid by 31 January. Those members who have not yet paid their dues should mail a check to: New River Chapter, MOAA, P.O. Box 1202, Jefferson, NC 28640. Contact Ken if you have questions about dues.

Two expenditures have been made since our last meeting: a \$300.00 payment to Lost Province Productions for web site design; and \$22.00 for post office box rental. The founding officers have agreed to cover the additional initial start-up costs from personal funds that were previously discussed (see the 27 October 2009 general membership meeting minutes and the 19 January 2010 Board of Directors meeting minutes). Consequently, our current operating balance stands at \$1,106.01.

Our application for non-profit status was submitted to the IRS on 3 November 2009 and the IRS replied on 18 November saying they had received the application. We are now waiting to hear back from the IRS on the determination.

**Chapter Web Site Report:** Doug gave a tutorial of the Chapter web site showing members how to access information, how to subscribe to the RSS link which will notify subscribers anytime an update is made to the site, and how to gain access to the "members only" section that requires you to contact Doug for a password. Doug has also submitted our web site to compete in MOAA national's Communication Award Contest. All members are highly encouraged to bookmark and visit the site on a frequent basis as it is intended to serve as our primary means of communication and also a repository for all our important documents such as our Bylaws and meeting minutes: <http://www.newrivermoaa.org/>.

**Flag Discussion:** As a follow-on to the suggestion made at the October meeting that service members chip in and buy their respective service flags and then donate them to the Chapter, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Charles Knapp has volunteered to research and get pricing options on a variety of sizes and quality of service flags. Doug suggested we then poll the membership on how they'd like to proceed on making the purchase. Doug

and Lee Eldreth have secured a loaner American Flag to be used at our meetings, but eventually the Chapter will purchase its own American and MOAA Chapter Flag...although the latter two will be somewhat expensive.

**Buddy System:** Since some of our members do not have access to or use the Internet, we are looking for volunteers to “buddy up” with each of these members. As a buddy, you would share information that is communicated via the web site and remind these members of meeting dates, etc. Karen Strickland has volunteered to be the buddy of Edith Jones and Monica Madden-Lynn has volunteered to be the buddy of Pat Gobbles. Please contact Doug if you’d like to be a buddy. We need approximately four more buddies.

New Business:

**Committee Discussion:** Doug introduced our three committee chairs: Porter Hicks will chair the Legislative Committee; Mac Hunt will chair the Programs/Membership Committee; and Karen Strickland will chair the Personal Affairs Committee. Porter then gave an update on the status of the 21 percent Medicare/Tricare funding cuts that are potentially looming as well as an overview of the national healthcare legislative debate currently ongoing. Porter is attempting to make contact with our 5<sup>th</sup> District Congressional Representative, Virginia Foxx, and get her position with respect to the current legislation. As the Programs/Membership Committee stands up, Mac and Ken will contact the ACHS JROTC leadership and begin a dialogue with them on how we can support their program.

**Bylaws:** Reference Article XI of the Bylaws, Ken put forward a motion that as secretary he track any needed changes to the Bylaws and then at our annual membership meeting we vote on the recommendations rather than making numerous amendments to the Bylaws. All members in attendance agreed.

**Fundraising:** Doug briefly discussed fundraising options. A 50/50 raffle was suggested and will take place at each general membership beginning with the April meeting. Charles has volunteered to take the lead on developing a Chapter lithograph promoting scenes from Ashe County. The idea of hosting a golf tournament was also put forward. The membership was encouraged to come up with additional fundraising ideas.

**Give Me 10 Campaign:** Doug discussed MOAA national’s program to recruit new members. There are financial incentives associated with this program and as a new Chapter we can certainly use more members and the recruitment dollars. For example, our Chapter can earn \$10 for any currently serving armed forces member we recruit to join our Chapter and \$20 for any former or retired member we recruit. We can also receive \$20 for any current Chapter member who upgrades their membership to “Life” Member. In order to qualify for the financial incentives a special enrollment form needs to be filled out and submitted. See the Chapter website for more information and/or to download these forms. Doug pointed out that MOAA national has used a

photograph from our chartering ceremony in their "Give Me 10" brochure giving us national exposure (see our web site to view/download the brochure). Finally, Doug provided information, and copies, of a "business card" that members can use as an "ice breaker" whenever meeting and/or talking to fellow officers and potential recruits. Members are encouraged to obtain several cards and keep them on their person for communicating news and information not only about our Chapter, but also MOAA National. The cards can also be accessed on the website under the membership section.

**Chapter Newsletter:** Ken discussed plans to begin publishing a bi-monthly Chapter newsletter. All in attendance were in agreement. A contest is currently underway to name the newsletter before its inaugural publication tentatively slated for April. An e-mail has already been sent out to the membership asking for suggested names and an e-mail vote will be held during the second week of March to decide on the name.

Other Business:

**Meeting Location:** By all accounts following our first meeting at the West Jefferson Coffee House, this permanent meeting location is a smashing success. In addition to the normal selection of fabulous menu items, our host, Julie, provided a choice of two meal options at extraordinarily reasonable prices...and plans to provide meal options at all our meetings. In the future, we will make the menu choices/prices available in advance so members can order a meal (if you choose) and we can give Julie an idea of how many meals to prepare. Visit the Coffee House at <http://www.westjeffersoncoffeehouse.com/>.

**At-Large Directors:** The two At-Large Board of Directors positions remain unfilled. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please contact Doug.

**Adjournment:** The president adjourned the meeting at 2035 hours.

Submitted by Ken Lynn, Secretary

Approved by Doug Ehrhardt, President