

**New River Chapter, MOAA
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
17 May 2011**

Call to Order: Chapter President Doug Ehrhardt called the meeting to order at 1730 on 17 May 2011 at the *Coffee House on the Backstreet* in West Jefferson.

Members Present: Doug Ehrhardt, President; Charles Knapp, 1st Vice President; Ken Lynn, Secretary/Treasurer; Karen Strickland, Personal Affairs Committee Chair; Ron Schuette Director at Large; Betty Schuette Auxiliary/Spouse Representative; Linda Marsh, Scholarship Committee Chair.

Old/Unfinished Business:

Chapter Budget/Dues Report: Chapter Secretary Ken Lynn reported that the Chapter's current cash balance on hand is: \$1,722.32.

Committee Reports: Personal Affairs Chair Karen Strickland reported that she's queried the membership, but no one has offered ideas on items they would like for her to address in the newsletter. She'll continue to provide items she feels are of general interest. Auxiliary/Spouse Rep. Betty Schuette addressed the MOAA National cell phone collection initiative where old cell phones are collected, turned into National and calling cards are issued to deployed service personnel so they can call home for free. A collection box has been established at the *Coffee House*. Doug Ehrhardt reviewed the status of the Programs and Membership Committee continuing to discuss the formation of a local speaker's bureau. He proposed a draft form where members could identify their background and areas of interest for future speaking engagements. There was also more discussion on inviting a guest speaker for the next meeting. There are good leads on three potential new members.

Sears Scholarship Fund Report: The Board of Directors met with Scott and Barbara Sears last week. The Sears' made a \$5,000.00 donation to the fund. With that donation, the Board approved a payment to reimburse Doug Ehrhardt the \$998.86 he paid from personal funds to purchase the initial set of post cards. The Scholarship Fund is now completely debt free and the current cash balance on hand for the fund is \$5,239.61. Ken notified the Board that he had submitted articles to all the area newspapers to support our summer P.R. initiative. Doug share information regarding his meeting with the Ashe County High School principal where the scholarship initiative and other matters were discussed. He also outlined our plans to set up a booth at the Christmas in July event to make card available to the public. Linda continued to outline ways the Chapter might consider using as criteria to award the scholarships with a written essay getting special emphasis.

MOAA Levels of Excellence Award: Doug gave an update on the status of the Chapter's submission to compete for a *5-star Chapter of Excellence Award*. Applications are due to National by 1 June.

Hosting a State Event: As a follow-on to last month's meeting, this idea was also briefly discussed and there was general agreement that this is something the Chapter should pursue in concert with the High Country Chapter if they're interested.

ACHS Awards Day: Doug announced that our Chapter is on the schedule to present the MOAA Leadership Award to the rising senior in the ACHS JROTC Corps at the ACHS Awards Ceremony on Friday, 20 May.

New Business:

NC Council of Chapters Update: Doug gave a quick update on all the matters discussed at the Council meeting on 14 May. He received our two communication award plaques which were presented at the general membership meeting. He discussed some membership accountability errors between our membership rolls and the rolls of the Council and National. He's working to reconcile the error as it appears the Council and National are using outdated figures.

Scholarship Fund Publicity: In addition to the items discussed above in "Old Business," Charles has been working separate post card publicity events whereby we'd get photographs of our local artists, our photographer, graphic designer along with some Chapter members. The first shoot is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, 26 May.

Adjournment: The president adjourned the meeting at 1815 hours.

Submitted by Ken Lynn, Secretary

Approved by Doug Ehrhardt, President