

New River Chapter MOAA 19 April 2011 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: Following a meal, opening remarks and the playing of the National Anthem, Chapter President Doug Ehrhardt called the meeting to order at 1900 on 19 April 2011 at the Coffee Shop in West Jefferson.

Members Present: Doug Ehrhardt, Charles Knapp, Ken Lynn, Ron Schuette, Karen Strickland, Dan Strickland, Bill Horner, Lee Eldreth, Jerry Lafferty, Robert Burgess, Wilbur Wright, Jim Dunne, Linda Marsh, Pat Gobble, Betty Schuette (member-spouse/auxiliary-spouse chair), Lee Lafferty (member-spouse), Betty Dunne (member-spouse), Cathy Ehrhardt (member-spouse), Erika Burgess (member-spouse), Monica Madden-Lynn (member-spouse), Dave Bethel (guest).

Old Business:

President Doug Ehrhardt reviewed the work of the Board of Directors who met immediately prior to the general membership meeting (see the Board meeting minutes same date for a summary).

New Business:

Guest Speaker: NRC's own Jerry Lafferty entertained the crowd with various stories from his 26 year Navy career. Jerry served on seven different ships, but decided to focus on stories that took place on only three ships. After this presentation, we're all waiting to hear what happened on the other four ships! Thanks Jerry!

2010 MOAA National Communication Awards: President Ehrhardt announced that the *New River Current* won 1st place in the print news category for chapters smaller than 125 members. Our *Murals of Downtown West Jefferson* Postcards also won honorable mention in the unique communications category. Certificates will be presented to the Chapter at the May meeting of the NC Council and Chapters.

ACHS JROTC Support: President Ehrhardt has drafted a letter to be sent to the new Ashe County High School principal requesting a meeting to discuss our intended support to the school and, specifically, to the JROTC program.

Hosting a State Event: President Ehrhardt put forward the idea of our Chapter (possibly in coordination with the High Country Chapter) hosting a future quarterly meeting of the NC Council and Chapters. The proposal was positively received and future discussion will ensue to determine when this might make a good venue for us and the other state chapters.

MOAA Levels of Excellence Award: President Ehrhardt announced that the Board approved the Chapter's submission to compete for a *5-star Chapter of Excellence Award*. Applications are due to National by 1 June.

Other Business:

Cell Phone Collection initiative: Auxiliary/Spouse Rep. Betty Schuette discussed the MOAA National cell phone collection initiative where old cell phones are collected, turned into National and calling cards are issues to deployed service personnel so they can call back home for free. Efforts are under way to establish a collection point at the *Coffee House*.

Coupon Collection Initiative: Pat Gobble mentioned her desire to serve as the focal point for coupon collections. The coupons can be turned over to the DoD and overseas commissaries will extend the expiration date by six months so service members and their families can take advantage of the savings. Anyone interested should save their coupons and get them to Pat.

Adjournment: The president adjourned the meeting at 1955.

Submitted by Ken Lynn, Secretary

Approved by Doug Ehrhardt, President