

## **New River Chapter MOAA Meeting Minutes 18 September 2012**

**Call to Order:** Following a meal and playing of the National Anthem, Chapter President Doug Ehrhardt called the meeting to order at 1905 on 18 September 2012 at the *Coffee House* in West Jefferson.

**Members Present:** Doug Ehrhardt, Charles Knapp, Ron Schuette, Louis Burge, Lee Eldreth, Ron Wilsbach, Jim Dunne, Wilbur Wright, Barbara Sears, Rose Koontz, Linda Marsh, Betty Schuette (member-spouse/auxiliary /spouse chair), Ann Burge (member-spouse), Kathleen Wilsbach (member-spouse) and Cathy Ehrhardt (member-spouse).

### **Old/Unfinished Business:**

**Old Business:** Doug briefly reviewed that the Board of Directors did not meet prior to the general membership meeting as the business of the Chapter did not warrant a separate meeting.

### **New Business:**

**Chapter Budget/Dues Report:** President Doug Ehrhardt presented the information provided by Chapter Treasurer Ken Lynn that the Chapter's current cash balance on hand is: \$2,303.78 – that included a disbursement of \$29 for a 6-month renewal of the PO Box for the Chapter and \$84 reimbursement for last month's picnic. The Scholarship Fund balance is \$8,635.50, which Ken reported that is due principally from a healthy donation spree; he recommended that all members look towards pushing both the post card sales, and note card sales (samples of which were shown by Cathy Ehrhardt) as they make great stocking stuffers.

### **New Business:**

**Three Years as a Chapter Slide Presentation:** As members were completing the meal, Doug began the evening's program by showing a slide presentation of pictures taken since the time we first chartered as the New River Chapter and the August picnic.

**Personal Affairs Chairperson:** Doug reported that he had planned to provide a special token of appreciation to the outgoing Personal Affairs Chair, Karen Strickland, however, Karen was unable to attend due to a recent accident while participating in a half-marathon. Doug shared that a gift will be held over for presentation at the next regular membership meeting. He then introduced Barbara Sears who recently accepted the Chapter's invite to become our new Personal Affairs Chair. In her remarks, Barb promised to make every effort to respond to the members needs in the arena of personal affairs and further shared that she had become very intimately involved with

the issues relevant to the need during her own journey with husband Scott and his terminal illness.

**Fundraising /Scholarship Committee Update:** Linda Marsh reported that the RADM Scott L. Sears Memorial Walk and Picnic scheduled to take place on 14 July at Price Lake that was rained out will be held on September 29. Participants are asked to pay \$15 to walk and support the Sears Scholarship Fund. Everyone is reminded to bring a dish to share; water and eating supplies will be provided.

**Chapter Award.** Doug reported that once again, our New River Chapter was recognized as being a 5-Star Chapter. Doug reported that he and Cathy will be attending the annual meeting of MOAA in Arlington, VA in October to receive our award.

**By-Laws.** Doug provided a print copy of the Chapter's by-laws to each member present and asked that they be reviewed before the October meeting. Each year we try to revisit the by-laws and ensure that they remain relevant to our Chapter's operation. If unable to attend, everyone is reminded to submit any recommended changes to Doug or Ken prior to the next meeting.

**MOAA Connect.** Using an Internet connection, Doug made a presentation regarding MOAA National's newest program for member interaction, MOAA Connect. Doug shared how both the NC Council and our New River Chapter were asked to participate in reviewing the new program prior to a full scale roll out to all of MOAA. He pointed out how everyone in the Chapter is already loaded into the database for MOAA Connect and shared the means by which persons are to log on and create their own personal biography. In response to a comment how the program may serve to enable members to contact prior acquaintances, as well as others from their service associations, Doug demonstrated how individuals could be searched, by name, for specific states or towns. Doug provide a sheet of names of persons he was able to identify in our catchment area by using MOAA Connect and asked if any members knew the persons named to please contact them. Otherwise, the names will be used to craft invitation letters in the near future.

### **Other Business:**

**50/50 Raffle:** Not held at the meeting.

**Holiday Party:** Charles asked to address the members regarding the forthcoming holiday period, as he and Mary will travel in October and we don't meet in November. He specifically wanted to learn of Chapter plans for the holiday party, as he would want to ensure that he and Mary would be able to prepare for the event, but also raised the ever present concern regarding weather conditions. A suggestion was advanced to consider the Coffee House as a potential for a back-up locale, but then it was decided that as a means to preclude any weather issues, we go ahead and plan to use the Coffee House, if agreeable with Julie McGunegle, as our locale. The date was set as December 8<sup>th</sup> to hold the party; Cathy Ehrhardt, Betty Schuette, Linda Marsh and Barbara Sears accepted the call to stand up a planning and decorating committee. As

the date approaches, they will coordinate with others on the details. Doug will meet with Julie to ensure proper coordination for the plan.

**Adjournment:** The president adjourned the meeting at 2020.

Submitted and Approved by Doug Ehrhardt, President