

## **New River Chapter MOAA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 17 June 2014**

**Call to Order:** Chapter President Doug Ehrhardt called the meeting to order at 1730 on 17 June 2014 at the *Coffee House on the Backstreet* in West Jefferson.

**Members Present:** Doug Ehrhardt, President; Charles Knapp, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Programs & Membership Chair; Ron Wilsbach, Legislative Affairs Committee Chair; Betty Schuette, Women's Auxiliary Chair, Ron Schuette, Director-at-Large; and Lou Burge, Director at-large

### **Old Business:**

**New Program Start, Veterans Recognition Program.** President Doug Ehrhardt summarized the new program which At-Large Director, Lou Burge will be assuming leadership on, as follows: upon recommendation by a spouse, other family member or friend, the New River Chapter will research the information provided (name, service affiliation, unit, dates of service and duties) and create a certificate of appreciation to be presented to the veteran. When an appropriate date can be scheduled, two members of the chapter – one being from the veterans service branch – will visit and present the certificate along with a token memento – a set of dog tags with the veterans information, a pin with the American flag and service logo, and a John Wayne opener. The information on this program and nomination form is on the chapter website at <http://www.newrivermoaa.org/veteransrecognition.php>.

### **New Business:**

**Programs & Membership Committee Chair and Chapter Recruiting:** Charles spent several minutes going over the plans and itinerary for the upcoming July meeting where Col Mike Hayden, USAF-Ret and MOAA's Government Relations Director, will be speaking. Plans are to invite the High Country and Tar Heel Chapters as well as other local VSOs. Due to a conflict with a July 15 primary election, the Ashe County Board of Election Commissioners will not allow our use of the Arts Council building until after polls close at 7:30 PM. As Col Hayden has a very tight schedule for arrival/departure, the BOD reviewed numerous alternate venues that 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Charles Knapp research in trying to determine where to move the event. It was determined that the press conference will still be held at the Chamber of Commerce, a dinner will follow at Boondocks and the venue unanimously selected by the BOD for the meeting will be the Fellowship Hall in the MJPC across the street from Boondocks. This selection of this site since the Arts Council was denied was deemed to be the most cost effective (no charge), suitable for the size of the event, and located to ensure the timely execution of the official party. An update on the change will go onto the Chapter website and a letter is being mailed via the USPS to representatives of all the local veterans organizations, as well as the President, Legislative Chair and Newsletter editor of the NC Council Chapters near our location.

**Legislative Committee:** Legislative Chair, Ron Wilsbach reported on some of the information from MOAA's regarding the VA scandal and pay caps, which he will report on in our next newsletter.

**Personal Affairs Committee:** Committee Chair, Barbara Sears was unable to attend the BOD meeting. President Doug Ehrhardt reported, however, on having recently followed up on a discussion item when Darryl Vaughn, Ashe County VSO spoke to our chapter, and visited Darryl and had a copy of his DD214 scanned and entered into the official file of the Ashe County Clerk of Records. A brief discussion followed regarding the importance of having one's DD214 recorded this way.

**Auxiliary Spouse Liaison:** Betty Schuette, Chair, reported that she was glad to be back in Ashe County and looking forward to continuing support to chapter spouses. She commented that upon reviewing some information in *Military Officer* and on the national website, she felt that there was an overemphasis on topics not really relevant to spouses. President Doug Ehrhardt recommended searching the MOAA website for documents that support surviving spouses and can be found on the document link, <http://www.moaa.org/infoexchange/>.

#### **Other Business:**

**MOAA Presidents Symposium:** President Doug Ehrhardt reported that invitations have been sent to representative chapter members for the symposium to be held in Jacksonville, FL 4-6 September.

**Adjournment:** The president adjourned the meeting at 1830.

Submitted and Approved by Doug Ehrhardt, President