

## **New River Chapter MOAA Meeting Minutes 21 October 2014**

**Call to Order:** Chapter President Doug Ehrhardt called the Annual Meeting to order at 1900 hours on 21 October 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; Ken Lynn, Secretary/Treasurer; Ron Wilsbach, Legislative Affairs Committee Chair; Lou Burge, Director at-large; Jim Dunne, Don Goodhart, Cathy Ehrhardt, member-spouse; Kathleen Wilsbach, member-spouse, Gerald Rappe, new member.

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

**Chapter Budget/Dues Report:** Chapter Treasurer Ken Lynn reported the Chapter's current cash balance on hand is: \$3,241.09 + a \$20 check on hand for a late 2014 dues payment. Expenses since the last meeting included meals for a guest speaker and 6 month P.O. Box rental. The balance on hand in the Scholarship fund is: \$11,800.50.

**Programs & Membership Committee Chair:** Charles announced he made a motion to the board to break off "membership" as a separate and fourth standing committee for the Chapter. The board agreed and it will be put forward to the membership for approval and amendment of the Chapter By-laws. Charles also noted that several politicians and citizens had contacted him after the Town Hall meeting and asked that our Chapter consider permanently hosting political debates since the two we've done have been so professional. He noted the board is considering that matter. Charles announced he intends to poll the membership on potential programs for 2015.

**Scholarship Committee:** Linda was unable to stay for the membership meeting, so Doug announced we're on track for receiving nominations for next year's awards.

**The Legislative Committee:** Ron reported on a TRICARE change where the cost share for compound drugs may greatly increase.

**Personal Affairs Committee:** Barbara Sears was unable to attend.

**Auxiliary Spouse Liaison:** Betty Schuette was unable to attend.

**Veterans Recognition Program:** Lou Burge reported that we're ready to recognize our first vet and the tentative schedule is set for Thursday, 30 October. We have a second vet identified for recognition next month. The goal is to try and recognize one nominated veteran each month.

## **New Business:**

**President's Update:** Doug introduced Don Goodhart, a new member who attended our August picnic, and Gerald Rappe who was attending his first meeting. Doug then gave an update on the MOAA annual meeting and NCCOC 4<sup>th</sup> quarter meeting. He also discussed some changes coming in the MOAA Levels of Excellence competition. Next he discussed plans for the December holiday party and a motion was made to determine if we could hold this year's event in the afternoon as opposed to the evening in hopes of enticing more folks to attend. A change in membership meeting venue was discussed as a means to potentially increase membership participation and attract new potential members. He relayed that the board will look into alternatives. Doug also noted the board had approved that new Chapter members, who are in good standing with MOAA national, will have their Chapter dues waived during their first year to entice new membership.

**ACHS Flagpole Project:** Lou gave an update on the project we're supporting in conjunction with the other VSOs in the county and that the board directed the treasurer to provide funding in the amount of \$489 to the project which is our share. The Chapter will attempt to get this funding back through the USAA funding grants now being awarded.

## **Other Business:**

**High Country Veterans Coalition:** Charles mentioned that there was discussion among the board in moving forward during our "down months" to work with the other VSOs in Ashe and Watauga counties on forming a coalition.

**Adjournment:** The president adjourned the meeting at 2005 hours.

Submitted by Ken Lynn, Secretary

Approved by Doug Ehrhardt, President