

New River Chapter MOAA Regular Meeting Minutes 12 May 2015

Call to Order: Chapter President Doug Ehrhardt called the meeting to order at 1805 on 12 May 2015 at the *Winner's Circle* in Jefferson.

Members Present: Doug Ehrhardt, President; Charles Knapp, 1st Vice President/Programs; Lou Burge, Director at-large, Linda Marsh, Scholarship Committee Chair, members Mik Mikulan, Bill Horner, Lee Eldreth and Don Goodhart, honorary members Les and Mary Jacobs, and member spouses Cathy Ehrhardt, Ann Burge, Mary Knapp, Robin Mikulan and Joan Horner. Our guest speaker was Dr. Horton Hobbs.

New Business:

President's Discussion: Doug pointed out that since the Secretary/Treasurer, Ken Lynn was unable to attend that there will be no report on the balance in the membership fund nor the scholarship fund. .

Old/Unfinished/Recurring Business:

Programs Committee Chair: Charles Knapp reported that he had received a check for \$300 from USAA for funds which were being provided in response to our application for support to the new veterans flag pole initiative at the Ashe County High School. To date, no further information is available regarding the ceremony which will take place to commission the veterans recognition. We have already made our contribution to the combined veterans groups that supported the effort. Charles also summarized our meeting dates/speakers for the remainder of the year.

- June – CDR Mik Mikulan will speak on the USPHS
- July – Mr. Iliario Pantano, Director of the NC Veterans Division will be our guest speaker. Additionally, we will be hosting the other Ashe County Veterans organizations to a meeting to begin work on the proposed veterans coalition. This meeting will be held at the Ashe County Arts Council.
- August – Picnic at Charles and Mary's home. The date will be Sunday, August 9 versus Saturday.
- September – Tracy Lynn Schuster, newly appointed Director, Rehabilitation Services, AMH
- October – Annual Meeting
- December – Holiday Party at Jefferson Landing

Scholarship Committee: Linda stated that there was nothing new to report regarding the Scholarship Committee other than what Doug had to share in that he had presented the MOAA Leadership Award to the North Wilkesboro JROTC junior, and also presented a \$1000 check from the Sears Scholarship to a Melisa Gonzalez. He will return to the North Wilkesboro HS to repeat the presentation to Ms. Gonzalez before her class peers.

The Legislative Committee: Ron Wilsbach was unable to attend..

Personal Affairs Committee: Barbara Sears was unable to attend.

Auxiliary Spouse Liaison: Betty Schuette has stepped down from her position as liaison and a new representative is needed.

Veterans Recognition Program: Lou Burge reported that we presented our fourth award to a PFC Fred Vannoy in April. Lou has a potential candidate for our next award, but we're also in search of more deserving veterans.

Other Business:

JROTC Leadership Awards: In addition to the North Wilkesboro JROTC presentation, Lou Burge attended the Wilkes Central HS JROTC Leadership Awards. In addition to the information that Lou shared from his visit, Doug reported that all three of the JROTC commanders at the high schools in our catchment area are retiring at the end of this school year. As the newly appointed JROTC leadership arrives, he suggested that our Officers and Board schedule an opportunity to invite them to a dinner in order to meet and greet them and get our program relations off to a good start.

New River Marathon: Doug reported, and thanked the volunteers who participated in support to the New River Marathon on May 2nd: Steve Tucker, Mik Mikulan, Monica Madden-Lynn, Ron and Betty Schuette and Cathy Ehrhardt. The New River Marathon rewards our support with a \$250 donation to our scholarship program.

Program: Our Scholarship Committee chair introduced our guest speaker as she was responsible for extending him an invite to speak at our regular membership meeting. Dr. Horton Hobbs, Ph.D, internationally acclaimed cave explorer, biologist and cave adventurer presented a slide presentation of over 100 pictures entitled "*Exploration into the Unknown: A View of Subterranean Darkness.*" Dr. Hobbs has made over 3,300 cave trips personally exploring at least 1,500 and surveying over 250 caves. He has identified and published 33 new species of crustaceans which live in the dark and deep.

Adjournment: The president adjourned the meeting at 1845.

Submitted and approved by Doug Ehrhardt