New River MOAA Board Meeting Minutes January 17, 2022

A quorum was present for the on-line (Zoom) meeting (Doug Erhardt, Don Goodhart, Barbara Sears, Mic Mikulan, Charles Knapp, and Bob Worley.

Doug informed everyone about a Chapter member’s recent diagnosis with cancer and asked all to keep him and his family in their prayers. Updates will be provided as available.

Doug informed everyone that National MOAA has contacted us to schedule a visit. They were here 3 years ago but it’s time to come again. After some discussion at the last Board meeting, it was decided to contact the High Country MOAA (Fred Schmidt - Boone) to see if they were interested in doing a combined meeting. Doug talked with Fred and they are interested. They want us to choose the date (as well as an alternate) and they will work to choose the location in the Boone area. The group agreed June/July/August was the best timeframe. Charles requested we check the Chamber of Commerce calendar so we don’t conflict with other events; Doug will contact the Chamber for their calendar. We will aim for June but need to consider Armed Forces Day (May 21). Doug will pick two dates and send them to Fred. When we have agreement on the dates, Doug will have Steve Tucker forward the on-line request to National MOAA. Charles recommended to have National MOAA send a speaker that can discuss legislative issues and priorities.

Charles informed everyone that the contractor he had spoken with about repairing the two veteran’s homes has apparently shut down and cannot be contacted. The vets and their families are excited about getting the work done but understand the issue with finding the right contractor to do the work. Charles will search for another contractor and will keep us updated.

2022 Schedule of events. We typically hold 6 events per year. Because of the pandemic not all 6 were held in 2021. Doug will send a calendar with proposed dates for 6 events to all Board Members for discussion.

Membership - Per Mik we acquired 2 new members in 2021.

Bob asked if we should disburse the funds designated for the Fisher Houses. The Board agreed and Bob will send a check.

Barbara led a discussion about the Marathon Jam. We have agreed to reduce the time from 24 hours to 4 hours and are looking at Armed Forces Day (May 21). We will accept donations at the site and will still give quilts to area vets. Barbara has quilt makers lined up but we need to use the Veterans Affairs Officer (Darryl Vaughn) to help find local vets. We will need to provide some sort of food. Rebecca Williams at the Arts Council can help source bands.

Scholarships - Doug and Cathy Erhardt will develop criteria for Scholarships. Per Bob we have $10,000 which will provide 2 scholarships (Ashe and Wilkes Counties).

Bob presented the Treasure’s report.

There being no further business the meeting was dismissed.