



Coastal Carolina Military Officer's Association

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CLARION

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Coastal Carolina Chapter Web Page: ccmoaa.org

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From the Presidents
COL IHOR W HUSAR USA (RET.)
MARIE SENZIG NC, USN (RET)



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Quoting new Chair of MOAA's Board of Directors, Admiral Walter Doran, USN (Ret), "MOAA is recognized as a leading organization advocating for servicemembers and veterans and their families." We, as MOAA members, need to renew a commitment of our time in participating in activities at help service members, veterans, and their families.

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Our chapter distinguished itself for being awarded the Four Star Level of Excellence for calendar year 2017. Congratulations to all chapter members who helped in submitting the application.

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Year in Review - As I head to my new home in Southern Pine, NC, I leave you with our Year-in-Review. We started off the year with installation of officers and by giving our Chapter's Heavy Lifter award to Malcolm and Mary Roberts by Dee Culler. We then held a Poker-run charity ride on 14 April to raise money for our high school scholarship program. We took over for a struggling chapter and on 18 April, for the first time, our chapter participated in East Carolina University's joint Army and Air Force ROTC awards ceremony. Our chapter presented MOAA ROTC medals and certificates to two Army and two Air Force outstanding cadets. In addition, starting 18 April and continuing through 30 May, our chapter presented MOAA medals and certificates to outstanding cadets at all eight high schools in our catchment area with JROTC programs. At our annual scholarship dinner held at The Flame Restaurant in New Bern on 24 May, we awarded \$1000 scholarships to five exceptional high school students.

Calendar of Events

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Social Events - Social occasions were highlighted by a well attended dinner cruise on 21 July, departing from the Beaufort, NC Front Street Marina, our annual fall dinner on 19 September at Moore's Olde Tyme Barbeque, and the annual Toys for Tots luncheon held on 12 December at the Taberna Country Club.

Veterans Activities: The Chapter honored our local veterans by participating in the annual Veterans Day Luncheon on 9 November held this year at the New Bern Temple Baptist Church. In remembrance of fallen servicemen, members of our chapter participated on 15 December in the annual Wreaths Across America wreath laying ceremony at the New Bern National Cemetery.

Farewell - It is with heavy heart that I have submitted my resignation as president to the chapter Board of Directors effective 28 February. We are moving to Moore County to be closer to family rather than rebuild. As you may be aware, our home in Trent Woods was severely damaged by Hurricane Florence. We have a contract to sell our home in "as is" condition, our closing date is 28 February.

President Message Continued from page 1

From the Desk of Marie - While my schedule is as hectic as ever, I am glad to be more involved in the Chapter. I have volunteered to fill in for Iggi until formal elections can be held. After much arm-twisting I have been persuaded to put my hat back in the ring as President.

So, until the elections I would like to thank Iggi, John, Malcolm and Jim for their continued willingness to serve in their respective positions, as we say in the Navy, BZ! I am also pleased to welcome all of our new members, several of which have volunteered to take board positions to keep the Chapter at the forefront of east Carolina's military officer corps.

In this issue of the Clarion, Iggi has put in a year in review, John has provided a formal update on membership and a special request concerning our membership survey. It is a active Pdf form that will take less than five minutes to fill out. We are interested in your feedback as it will define the CCMOAA Chapter activities for 2019.

There is a great deal more to include: Our annual [Membership Dinner](#), legislative, membership dues, general chapter news and our need for both scholarship funds and nominations. I am looking forward to seeing you all in at our membership dinner in March.



1st Vice President's Report-John Murphy

Membership - Over the last year we have gained several new members and have had several members resign from the Board of Directors (BoD). Our BoD members have served faithfully and carried the load for the Chapter for a very long time. These loss is bittersweet as we recognize their sacrifice and the need to step down, but we will miss their quick wit and sage commentary at the board meetings:

Malcolm Roberts - resigned as Chapter 2nd Vice President and Director effective 31 December 2018.

John Murphey - resigned as Chapter 1st Vice President and Director effective 31 January 2019.

Iggi Husar - resigned as Chapter President effective 28 Feb 2019.

Jim Dargan - resigned as a member of the Board of Directors effective 28 Feb 2019.

We received a check from MOAA National acknowledging our recruitment efforts in 2018. We are pleased to welcome:

Kelvin Goodwine, CDR, USN (Ret)

Tim Mason, Col., USA (Ret)

Ken Powell, Col., USA (Ret)

Randall Ramian, CAPT, USN (Ret)

Mark Sandvigen, LCDR, USN (Ret.)

Alva Windham, Capt., USMC

MOAA's greatest mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families, which is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's and state's capitals. MOAA's experts in Washington and North Carolina are there to support legislation that benefits the military community and are equally vigilant when fighting to stop legislation that threatens our livelihood. The larger our numbers, the greater our voice.

As we march smartly into 2019, our chapter will only be as vibrant and active as those who continue to serve. Make a commitment to speak to your friends and colleagues about MOAA and what we achieve for our active duty and veterans. Membership is open to active duty, former, retired, and National Guard and Reserve commissioned and warrant officers of the uniformed services and their surviving spouses. Our membership forms are on the website or they can contact us directly requesting one.

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1st Vice President's Report (cont.) John Murphy

Many of this years activities will include and appeal to you as our members and others to make our Coastal Carolina Chapter a brand that is recognized and appreciated for all it does. How can you help, please see these simple guidelines below:

Volunteer. Our Chapter depends on the dedication and volunteer activities of all, not just a few. Please look at our survey and make your voice heard. We need you to get reengage and join an activity dedicated to membership, legislative activities, personal affairs, and scholarship. More importantly, we need you to:

Make yourself heard. MOAA's Chapters provide critical grassroots support for MOAA's national legislative agenda. Chapter members let their legislators know what's on their minds and open doors for MOAA's legislative team in Washington DC and Raleigh.

Give back to the community. Chapter members are MOAA's ambassadors in their communities, supporting countless programs that make a difference in lives of others. These members continue their "officership" and are giving back in the truest sense.

Find camaraderie with a purpose. Fellowship, mentorship and camaraderie are all key ingredients of the pledge to "**never stop serving**" MOAA chapters unite officers from every branch of service, at every point in their lives. Whether you're looking to connect with members who share similar backgrounds or your seeking career advice as you transition to the next chapter of your life, you'll find all this and more in our chapter.

Influence state legislation. Most states have a council of chapters that unites every MOAA chapter in the state. These councils and independent chapters in states without a council often lobby for and pass state-level legislation that affects military members and their families, such as exempting military retired pay from state income taxation or increasing funding for state run VA programs, or providing for our military families.

Stay Informed. Chapter newsletters, MOAA websites and meetings provide you the latest information on local, state and national issues, current defense topics and changes to military benefits.



2d Vice President Malcolm Roberts

Our regular Membership Dinner is scheduled for installation of officers, camaraderie, and a brief talk by RAdm Jay DeLoach:

Where: Miller's Landing Club & Conference Center (MCCS), 4843 Club Drive, MCAS Cherry Point, NC 28533

Time: Social Hour (No Host Bar) at: 1730-1830; Dinner Served at: 1830

Reservation information is [Page 8](#); see you there.



Secretary's Desk Mark T. Sandvigen

Web Manager: We are doing our level best to upgrade our website to be more relevant and carry the information you are most concerned about.

We have been working with the web designer to make the site easier to Navigate, have downloadable materials, is less word heavy, searchable, etc. The idea is to reduce the bombing of your email accounts with one announcement after another.

To make this work, we have made several assumptions:

- You have an account with <http://www.moaa.org/> and you get their daily updates.
- You will use our site, <https://ccmoaa.org/> as an area for local MOAA news, activities, and events
- Our members realize that many of the items on our site are time-sensitive so will not remain there forever. As many of you may have noticed, some of our postings are way past their Sell By date—they now have a time stamp for their removal.
- The site is to be used to “Brand” our Coastal Carolina MOAA Chapter along with providing links to other North Carolina Chapters, our legislators, and their activities as well.
- We have instituted a monthly e-Newsletter to alert you to items that have a short time horizon. This e-newsletter has been tested on multiple email providers, Apple and Android OS(s). It may not work of older phones or mail systems.

We welcome your suggestions on how to make this site better – please send your suggestion or comments to mtsandvig@msn.com.

Survey: We have been working with the North Carolina Council of Chapters to develop a survey soliciting feedback from our members. The [survey](#) is easy to fill out form included on the CCMOAA website. You will need a version of [Adobe Acrobat](#) to fill it out, the link is provided. If you need help or once filled out, please save it and return to Mr. Mike Kennedy, 3607 Cranberry Lane, New Bern, NC 28562-8432 or at kennedymj16@hotmail.com. It is important that we get your feedback as it will influence the direction the Chapter goes in 2019.

One of our Own! As you may have noticed in the New Bern Sun Journal, one of our own CWO3 Reeshema Walker, USMC (Ret.), a member of MOAA’s Coastal Carolina Chapter was recently honored.



After our area was hit by both Hurricanes Florence and Michael, Reeshema, took her place at the “pointy end of the spear” to assist with recovery and helping our active duty and veterans’ communities get back on their feet.

Due to her unstinting efforts, she was nominated as one of the 52 faces of the community (<https://www.newbernsj.com/news/20190225/52-faces-of-community-reeshema-walker>) for her unstinting efforts, and for almost single handedly putting together the Veterans Stand-down held here in New Bern this last week.

In the New Bern Sun Journal article is her citation plus personal background information (I would not presume to rewrite it), may I please ask you all to recognize her efforts?

North Carolina Chapters - We have been asked by our Council President provide the following to our members. A lot of information about who we are and what we do in North Carolina is not being adequately utilized. All of our 15 chapters has material on MOAA’s North Carolina’s website - https://www.moaa-nc.org/_chapters.php. Our Council President wants to encourage everyone to use the site – www.moaa-nc.org to keep informed of items that are uniquely Tar Heel.



Treasurer's Report Dan Walczak

We are sticking this in again as we are still getting a trickling of dues coming in. We still have some stragglers, dues must be paid by 15 January 2019 to remain a member in good standing. Annual dues are \$25; renewal options are three years for (\$51) and five years for (\$80). Members are encouraged to take advantage of the savings offered by renewing for multiple years. This will not only save YOU money but it will also reduce printing and mailing costs incurred by our Chapter. Your prompt attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated since we are required to send an updated roster to MOAA National and to pay annual dues to the Council of Chapters based on the number of members in good standing in CCMOA.

Scholarships - We have fallen short of our scholarship funding goals this year. There are many reasons for this, but the long and the short of it is that we are short. You may include your donation to our annual scholarship fund drive with your dues. It is not necessary to write a separate check for your dues and your donation. Our goal again is to raise \$5,000 to award five (5) scholarships to eligible students in May 2019. If you have any questions concerning the renewal process; the multi-year renewal options; or the expiration of your dues, please call me at (252) 288-5541 or email danimal@suddenlink.net.



Gail Bateman Scholarship Chairman

While we are short of scholarship funds, scholarship letters are going out to all the high schools in Beaufort, Carteret, Craven, Jones and Pamlico counties, soliciting applicants for the \$1,000 scholarships offered to college-bound students.

If you know of a deserving family members of active and retired military personnel who are graduating seniors or students already attending college please refer them to Ms. Gail Bateman, (252) 631-4103, or gail.bateman@comcast.net.

Members wishing to donate directly to the scholarship fund can send their donations to Dan Walczak P.O. Box 373, Havelock, NC 28532



Keith Thompson Programs Coordinator

The guest speaker for the March Membership Dinner will be RAdm Jay Deloach.



Jim Dargan Nomination Committee

We are asking for members to step-up and look to lead one of the Director spots on the Board. You do not have to be a retired officer, you can be a surviving spouse or the spouse of a member.

It is important that we have knowledgeable people representative of our Chapter to fill in to create a quorum and to make needed decisions.

2019 Slate of Officers

Officers

*President:	CAPT Marie Senzig, USN (Ret)
*1 st Vice President:	Col. Mike Kennedy, USMC (Ret)
*2 nd Vice President:	CAPT. Randall Ramian, USN (Ret)
Treasurer:	Maj Dan Walczak USMC (Ret)
Secretary:	LCDR Mark Sandvigen, USN (Ret.)

Board Members

- * Previous President (Vacant)
Mrs. Gail Bateman
LtCol Keith Thompson USMC (Ret)
- * (Vacant)
- * (Vacant)
- * (Vacant)

If you would like to be nominated to be a member of the Board, please contact Mr. Mike Kennedy, (252) 631-3191 or at kennedymj16@hotmail.com.



Legislative Chairman's Report Mark T. Sandvigen

Our Chapter would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the indefatigable efforts of the late Rep. Walter B. Jones. Continually recognized by MOAA as a fierce protector of the numerous military installations in his district, including Camp Lejeune, MCAS Cherry Point, Seymour Johnson AFB, and Marine Corps Air Station New River.

According to one statement, "We will remember the man that, with a kind heart and the courage of his convictions, he dedicated his life to serving his Savior and to standing up for Americans who needed a voice... he was the champion for our men and women in uniform and their families, always mindful of their service and sacrifice."

VOTE, you have more than earned the right! The office of Walter B. Jones still serves us through the Clerk of the House of Representatives—our Website has been updated to reflect this. Also, a special election will be held in 2019 to fill the vacancy left by Rep. Jones. Both parties will hold primaries to decide their nominees. In order to win the nominations, a candidate must exceed 30% of the vote to avoid a runoff. There must be 30 days of absentee voting prior to each election, according to state law. Governor Cooper set a filing deadline of March 8, and a primary date of April 30. If needed, primary runoffs will occur on July 9, and the general election will be on September 10. However, if no primary runoffs are needed, the general will occur on July 9.

There is a lot of positive energy in the State of North Carolina's legislature. Below are items currently on the Legislative schedule:

On Wednesday, HB 213 "Equal Tax Treatment of Gov't Retirees," (aka Bailey Act) was filed in the NC House to address the unfair tax issue faced by our retirees - taxation of government retirement benefits. The bill's primary sponsors are: Rep. George Cleveland (R-Onslow); Rep. Hugh Blackwell (R-Burke); Rep. Pat Hurley (R-Randolph); and, **Rep. Michael Speciale** (R-Craven).

Now is a great time to thank these legislators and remind them of the impact of their work, and we ask that you take a moment to send them an email which you can personalize. On our CCMOAA [website](#) is a sample letter you can cut and past into the Representative's email page and send it off. Be sure to add your contact info!

On the top of the North Carolina's legislative agenda is Healthcare and Education; both of these legislative thrusts require watching and involvement as they take up 50% of the state budget. A recent report from the National Association of State Budget Officers found that Medicaid represents about 29.7 percent of total state spending in fiscal year 2018. In 2008 it was 20.5 percent. Spending on elementary and secondary education accounted for just 19.6 percent of total state spending in 2018 and the studies found that increases in public-welfare spending explain why there is less state money for higher education.

Why is this important? Many states are now saddled with recipients of Medicaid that do not qualify. Who does qualify, our veterans? Many of our younger veterans are "one and done" and leave the service as pay and benefits have been reneged upon and are not seen as worthwhile for them or their families. When they get out, enter college, or seek their first jobs, many of these families are at risk from low incomes. The number one item is housing, the number two is **healthcare**. Inform [Senator Sanderson](#) and [Rep. Michael Speciale](#) that you want low-income veterans included in this bill.

You can also find the weekly legislative reports under our [Legislative Tab](#) on our CCMOAA.

Membership Dinner RSVP



Installation of Officers and Board of Directors



You are cordially invited to our March 2019 Dinner Meeting

On

Thursday, March 21, 2019

At

Miller's Landing Club & Conference Center (MCCS)

4843 Club Drive

Cherry Point, NC 28533

(252) 633-466-9616

Attire: Business

Social Hour (No Host Bar) at: 1730-1830

Dinner Served at: 1830

Dinner Menu

Please Select One:

___ Grilled Beef Sirloin, Potato or Rice, Chefs Vegetables, Mixed Green Salad

Or

___ Grilled Salmon, Potato or Rice, Chefs Vegetables, Mixed Green Salad

Desert – Cheese Cake with Strawberry

Cost is \$26.00 per person. All Taxes & Gratuities Included.

Reservations for this event are requested by Thursday, 14 March 2019

Contact CAPT Randall Ramian (650) 235-6350 / rjramian@aol.com with cancellations NLT 48 hours prior to 21 March 2018

Name(s) of Members and Guests: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Check Enclosed for: _____ (\$26 / person). Mail checks payable to: CC/MOA.

Mail To: CAPT Randall Ramian, 4502 Gloucester Drive, Trent Woods, NC 28562 (650) 235-6350

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 2019

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Date	Event	Location
Feb-May	Scholarship Fundraising	TBD
21 Mar	Chapter Dinner-Special Elections	Miller's Landing Club & Conference Center (MCCS)
27 Mar	ECU ROTC Awards Ceremony	ECU, Greenville, NC
10 Apr	Pamlico County's NJROTC Annual Awards Ceremony	1800, High School Auditorium
Apr-May	JROTC Awards Ceremonies	West Carteret, Havelock, Jones, Pineville, Washington, & West Craven High Schools
May	ROTC Commissioning Ceremonies (Army & Air Force)	ECU, Greenville, NC
17-18 May	2 nd Qtr Council of Chapters Meeting	Flat Rock, NC
23 May	CCMOAA Scholarship Dinner	Tentative-The Flame, New Bern, NC
27 May	Memorial Day	*Activity TBD
31 May	NBHS NJROTC Annual Awards Banquet	1800; The Flame, New Bern, NC
4 Jul	Independence Day	Activity TBD
18 July	2 nd Annual CCMOAA Dinner Cruise	*(TBD) Depart Beaufort, NC
3 rd Qtr	3 rd Qtr Council of Chapters Meeting	TBD
Aug-Nov	WAA Fundraising	TBD
Sep	Veterans Stand Down	New Bern, NC
4 th Qtr	Council of Chapters Convention	TBD
19 Sep	CCMOAA Fall Dinner	*Tentative- Annual Moore's BBQ, New Bern, NC
1 Nov	Veterans Day Luncheon	Tentative-New Bern National Guard Armory
2 Nov	Veterans Day Parade (Tentative)	Morehead City, NC
14 Dec	National Wreaths Across America Day	New Bern National Cemetery
12 Dec	Toys for Tots Luncheon	Taberna Country Club, New Bern, NC

* Survey result dependent