



Coastal Carolina Military Officer's Association

Editor:
Maj Bill Culler USMC (Ret.)

CLARION

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Next Event

Installation Dinner on Thursday, 21 January at the New Bern Golf and Country Club.
Cocktail Social at 1730; Dinner served at 1830. Details in this issue.



From the President CAPT MARIE SENZIG NC USN (RET.)



Welcome to 2016! As you read this I am in Wisconsin enjoying the brisk weather. I hope that you

had an enjoyable Christmas season.

Our annual Toys for Tots luncheon was a success. **Cpl Francisco Cardenas** and **Sgt Clift Austin** from the Jacksonville Reserve Marine Corps unit had bicycles and many toys to transport in their van. Alas, Santa Claus was too busy to make an appearance, but we did see Rudolph with his flashing red nose! There was a table full of supplies for the Kinston State Veterans Home that included 14 stuffed shoe-boxes, additional toiletries and supplies for the Canteen ranging from large boxes of tissues, bottled water, soda, candy bars and lots of assorted chips.

We were accompanied to the Veterans Home by 12 NHCCP

staff who also joined us for lunch. The Senior Nurse Executive **CAPT Sharie Kennedy**, **LT Saralinda Guzman-Garcia**, (also a CC/MOA Chapter member) **HMC Harris**, the Junior and Senior Sailors of the Quarter and other Hospital Corpsman enjoyed their visit to the Veterans Home. The stack of 80 shoeboxes they contributed was quite impressive! The veterans eyes lit up when they saw the sailors in their cracker-jack uniforms. LT Garcia almost didn't get her hand back from one resident.

Please join us January 21st for our installation ceremony at the New Bern Country Club at the usual times. Please see the RSVP form at the end of this newsletter.



CC/MOA Dues Renewal

On 23 November 2015, renewal notices were mailed to forty (40) CC/MOA members whose dues will expire in December. As of this printing 11 members have not responded. Dues must be paid by 15 January 2016 to remain a member in good standing.

Due to increased costs of postage, printing and mailing supplies, the annual dues have been raised to \$25. Three year and five year renewals have remained the same (\$51 and \$80 respectively). Please consider taking advantage of the savings offered by renewing for multiple years. This will not only save YOU money but it will also reduce certain printing and mailing costs incurred by the 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 CC/MOA.

You may include your donation to our annual scholarship 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 2016. If you have any questions concerning the annual dues increase; 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.

Dan Walczak
Treasurer, CC/MOA

CC/MOA Officers and Directors for 2016

We elected our 2016 Chapter Officers and Directors at our Toys-for-Tots Luncheon on 11 December and they will be installed at our dinner meeting on 21 January.

President - CAPT Marie Senzig NC USN (Ret.)	1st VP - Capt Curtis Bare USMC (Ret.)
2d VP - Maj John Murphy USMC (Ret.)	Secretary - Maj Bill Culler USMC (Ret.)
Treasurer - Maj Dan Walczak USMC (Ret.)	
Directors - Col Mike Kennedy USMC (Ret.)	COL Malcolm Roberts USA (Ret.)
LtCol Keith Thompson USMC (Ret.)	Capt Alva Windham USMC (Ret.)



2015-6 CC/MOA Scholarship Raffle Winners to Date



1 Nov Leigh Wilkinson, New Bern
15 Nov Robin Snyder, Cary
29 Nov Col Mike Kennedy, New Bern
13 Dec Jeff & Karen Bonheim, West Point, NY
27 Dec Louis Balogh, Havelock

8 Nov Susan Tussey, Petersburg, PA
22 Nov Claire Bonheim, West Point, NY
6 Dec Doug Walczak, Manassas, VA
20 Dec Sue Kennedy, New Bern

Photos from the Toys-for-Tots Luncheon and Visit to the NC State Veterans Home in Kinston - 11 December



A dozen staff members from the MCAS Cherry Point Naval Health Clinic were our guests for our Toys-for-Tots luncheon at the Taberna Country Club on 11 December. Afterward they accompanied us as we caravanned to the North Carolina State Veterans Home in Kinston. Navy nurse **LT Saralinda Guzman-Garcia** (bottom row, far right) is also a CC/MOA member.

Chapter Secretary **Maj Bill Culler USMC (Ret.)** inspects one of bicycles donated by the Chapter to the Toys-for-Tots program.



Chapter President **CAPT Marie Senzig USN (Ret.)** is flanked by **Cpl Francisco Cardenas (1)** and **Sgt Clift Austin ®** from Camp Lejeune displaying some of the toys donated by our members to the Marine Corps Reserve's Toys-for-Tots Program.

**Photos from the Toys-for-Tots Luncheon
And Visit to the NC State Veterans Home in Kinston - 11 December**



Items donated by our members for the North Carolina State Veterans Home snack bar in Kinston

(l-r) **HM2 Kyle Johnson**, President **CAPT Marie Senzig** and Naval Health Clinic Hospitalman of the Year **HM Duke Seals**® are pictured with some of the items donated by our members to State Veterans Home snack bar.



Twelve staff members from the MCAS Cherry Point Naval Health Clinic are pictured with CC/MOA members 1stVP **Capt Curtis Bare USMC (Ret.)**, President **CAPT Marie Senzig USN Ret.**, **LT Saralinda Guzman-Garcia USN** and Secretary **Maj Bill Culler USMC (Ret.)** with some 80 shoeboxes containing hotel-type toiletries, warm socks, pencils, pads and pens, handkerchiefs, 2016 calendars, games and puzzles for State Veterans Home in Kinston.

MCAS Cherry Point Naval Health Clinic Staff Visit with Residents of the NC State Veterans Home in Kinston



Marine veteran **Ricky Sikes** is pictured with Naval Health Clinic Corpsmen.

(L-R) **Martine Offenberger, CAPT Sharie Kennedy**, Senior Nursing Executive at the Cherry Point Naval Health Clinic and Navy veteran **Marvin Boyd**.



Naval Health Clinic Corpsmen visit with Navy veteran **George King** at the State Veterans Home in Kinston on 11 December.

What's Ahead for 2016 (From MOAA's *Legislative Update* - 18 December 2015)

FY 2016 Defense Authorization Conference Report

In order to modernize and improve the military healthcare system, the conferees agree that all elements of the current system must be re-evaluated, and that increases to fees and co-pays will be a necessary part of such a comprehensive reform effort.

2015 saw the biggest changes to the military retirement system in a generation. While the changes largely will affect only new recruits in 2018 and later years, Congress approved a major overhaul to military retirement in this year's defense bill, cutting their future retired pay by 20 percent and asking them to help fund their own retirement via Thrift Savings Plan accounts.

2016 is already shaping up to be the year where every military beneficiary - past, present, and future - could see dramatic changes to their health care benefits. Armed Services Committee leaders already tipped their hand in this year's Defense Authorization Act. As the report language indicates, nothing about the current system will be sacrosanct when lawmakers examine TRICARE - and neither will your wallet. Proposals earlier this year recommended scrapping TRICARE altogether, forcing beneficiaries into plans similar to those of federal civilians, imposing significantly higher fees, and means-testing TRICARE and TRICARE For Life (TFL) benefits so beneficiaries with higher incomes would pay even more. All of those and others could be on the table again in 2016.

The question is: Are you prepared to protect your and your families' interests? MOAA members sent 420,000 emails to their elected officials in 2015. Your hard work helped avert even bigger military retirement cutbacks for future troops. But now it's about you and yours. Proponents of big TRICARE/TFL fee hikes are hoping you'll get tired of writing your elected officials and just accept

the changes proposed by the Pentagon. But if the answers you gave during MOAA's recent survey are correct, your priority is on fixing the access and other problems many are having with TRICARE, and defeating proposals for disproportional fee hikes. If that's how you feel, we'll need you to be more active than ever on these issues in 2016. Some who have an interest in deterring your messages to Congress will try to discourage you by saying your MOAA-recommended tear-out letters, postcards, and emails don't count much in legislators' minds. Nothing could be further from the truth.

We've seen from years of experience - and direct feedback from legislators and their staffs - that volume of correspondence counts. When legislators get tons of mail on a topic, the vast majority aren't going to ignore their constituents. This isn't just a "defending our rice bowl" issue. Sustaining a top-tier health care benefit for career servicemembers and their families is essential to long-term retention and readiness. We're going to be asking for a lot of activity from you in the months ahead. We hope you'll stand with us as we continue to stand for you - and that you'll ask your friends and relatives to get active, too.

National and state MOAA leaders will be Storming the Hill on health care and other issues in early April. Their office visits with legislators will be much more effective if legislators have received a barrage of constituent input.



You are cordially invited to our Chapter Officer Installation Dinner at the New Bern Golf and Country Club on **Thursday, 21 January 2016.**

Attire for this event: Coat & Tie

Cocktail Social at 1730

Dinner Served at 1830

Menu

Chicken Piccata, Wild Rice, Sauteed Green Beans, Plated House Salad, Dinner Rolls w/ Butter, Chef's Choice for Dessert, Coffee & Tea

Cost is \$23.00 per person. All Taxes & Gratuities Included; Cash Bar

Reservations for this event are requested by Saturday, 16 January 2016. Contact Maj John Murphy with cancellations NLT 48 hours prior to 21 January.

(252) 571-5710

1murfnc@earthlink.net

Program(s)

We will install Chapter officers/directors for 2016. The slate can found on page 2 in this issue.

Name(s) of members and guests _____

Telephone No. _____ E-Mail Address _____

Check enclosed for _____ (\$23.00 per person). Make checks payable to CC/MOA.

Mail to: Maj John D. Murphy
243 Snead Road
New Bern, NC 28560

**Coastal Carolina Military Officers
Association
P.O. Box 373
Havelock, NC 28532**



*A 4 Star Level of Excellence
Chapter for 2012, 2013, 2014
and 2015*

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 2016

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Uniform</u>
Friday/Saturday, 8-9 Jan 2016	1800 & 0830	4th Quarter NC State Council of Chapters meeting at the SpringHill by Marriott Suites in Charlotte (Ballantyne area close off I-485), hosted by the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter.	Coat & Tie Dressy Casual
Thursday, 21 Jan 2016	1730	Chapter Installation Dinner, New Bern Golf and Country Club. Details on page 7.	Coat and Tie