

# Coastal Carolina Clarion Newsletter

October 2020 issue



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## CCMOAA – President's Message

Hopefully, everyone is staying safe and healthy. As will be covered in more detail in this edition of Clarion, we will be hosting our first 2020 Social on December 10th. This is our annual Toys for Tots Luncheon. Please support this wonderful program with our local Marines to assist the less fortunate children in our community.

During our last Chapter Meeting, both Jim Brumit, President and David Lee, Past President - MOAA North Carolina Council of Chapters were in attendance. The specific topic of discussion was the potential dissolution of the Eastern Carolina Chapter, due to small membership numbers and lack of senior leadership. Coastal Carolina Chapter was asked to seriously consider incorporating the two remaining Counties – Wayne and Green into our geographic area. As mentioned in past Newsletters, Pitt and Lenoir counties were already incorporated into the Coastal Carolina Chapter, as was positively voted upon by our Board. Of the four East Carolina Chapter's counties, Wayne is the only county with active MOAA Chapter membership - 14 members, which are from the Seymour Johnson Air Force Base area. An option would be to create a Satellite in Wayne county for the current and future membership expansion. The Satellite would fall under the Coastal Carolina Chapter. Our Board will decide by our next meeting on November 19th if we can undertake the addition of Wayne and Green counties.

The next North Carolina State meeting will be on November 14th. This meeting will be virtual, as has been the last two. Even though the North Carolina MOAA Council and Chapters have been operating in a virtual space, this has not limited our ability to conduct business and accomplish important initiatives this year.

As always, we are standing by for any members or veterans who may need assistance.

## Happy Birthday – US Navy

Yahool!, number 245, that's a lot of candles. We are lucky to have terrific sailors who keep the watch, 24 hours a day. As Theodore Roosevelt said, "[A good Navy is not a provocation to war. It is the surest guaranty of peace.](#)" Happy Birthday and well wishes to all of our Navy members in CCMOAA.

## Wreaths Across America (WAA) – Update



For many of us, this is one of the signature events of the season. To remember the fallen, educate those who have never served, and to be part of an event where the entire community can participate is incredibly special.

**Wreath Purchases** - This year, Craven County is way behind the normal 3500 – 5000 wreaths purchased. Working with Dan

Walzak you can go onto the [Wreaths Across America](#) website and choose "**Local Sponsorship Group**". In the space provided below your purchase options, type in Coastal Carolina Military Officers Association (NC0176P) [42605]. If you would like for Dan to purchase the wreaths for you, please make out a check for the number desired, they are \$15.00

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apiece, and send it to his address at: 114 Sursee Ct, New Bern, NC 28562 and he will place the order for you. Remember the wreath sponsorship cut off day is November 30<sup>th</sup>. For every wreath purchased to honor those who have fallen, \$5.00 is returned to CCMOAA for our Scholarship Fund. As a personal note, these wreaths are my "Stocking Stuffers" for family and veteran friends living in the Kinston Veteran's Home.

**Ceremonies and Volunteering** - Due to current restrictions regarding COVID-19, this year's event, on 19 December 2020, will look vastly different. The National Cemetery Administration has provided specific guidance regarding Wreaths Across America. We will NOT conduct a ceremony as we are accustomed to here in New Bern. The veteran's services organizations will be allowed to place the ceremonial service wreaths, however, this will be conducted with limited attendance and recorded to be shared via New Bern's WAA Facebook page, Wreaths Across America - New Bern.

We are restricted to 50 people at a time in the cemetery. Time slots for volunteers wanting to place wreaths will be available, with the sign-up sheet/process coming out any day now. We will share the exact dates and process via email and the WAA Facebook page. The plan is for 30-minute increments, each person signed up will be given a certain number of wreaths to place. The number of wreaths available for each person will depend on how many wreaths are sponsored and how many volunteers sign up. As always, CCMOAA wants to make sure that everyone is afforded the opportunity to Remember, Honor, and Teach.

## Early Voting 2020



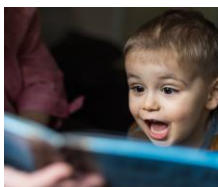
There are but a few more days until the General Election on 3 November 2020. If you wish to vote early at a [One-Stop Polling](#) facility, you still have time – they will be open until the 31<sup>st</sup>.

If you are a registered voter, identification is not required, you can just show-up and vote. If you are disabled, all facilities have Curbside voting lanes and within the enclosure, Automark Voting Machines (touch screen ballots). Regardless of how you vote, you will ALL get a souvenir 2020 I Voted Pen – no I Voted stickers this year.

If you have not voted in two successive General Elections, you will need to reregister – takes all of 5-10 minutes. Please be sure to read the information on the [Board of Elections](#) website, as you will need ID for this process.

Regardless of how you chose to get your choices tallied, Continue to Serve – Vote!

## CCMOAA – Toys-for-Tots



We are closing in on a date and time for our Winter Toys-for-Tots event. We are looking at 10 December 2020 for our luncheon. The proposed times are 11:00 for a Social Hour, 12:00 PM- 1:30 PM for Lunch, Awards Presentations, and Membership News. Our Second Vice, Randy Bogle, CAPT. USN (Ret.) is working out some of the finer details. We will have a RSVP and menu to you all in the next couple of weeks.

Randy is working on a special feature for this year's event given Covid-19 Phasing. For those who do not wish to dine-in, you will be able to drop off your toy and pick up a take-out lunch. There will be a section on the RSVP for you to make your choice of Dining-In or Take-Out.

## CCMOAA – Surviving Spouse



Following the death of a loved one can be overwhelming to keep track of what arrangements need to be made, who needs to be contacted, and notes on important phone calls. MOAA provides a [compact handbook](#) designed by surviving spouses to assist with these difficult tasks. Download these documents and give them a look. If you are a surviving spouse, download them to see what you may have missed.

Do not wait to do this task and update the information often. Go through the handbook and checklists and do it while you are both still healthy – it is the world's best scavenger hunt. The number of electronic

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accounts, logins and passwords, contact information, etc. is not something you want your husband or wife to go hunting for. More importantly, where are your military papers – DD-214s, DFAS, Social Security and TriCare/Medicare information kept. If your house is like my house, there are cubbies, dens, and closets with essential information (all carefully filed 😊) everywhere.

## Veterans Day - Fields of Flags



For the past six (6) years, local Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 886 has been presenting a “Field of Flags” display, at Union Point Park, over the Veterans Day Weekend. Many of you have seen it. Since it began, it has grown to become a tradition in downtown New Bern.

In 2019, we had over 650 flays displayed. Each flag, having a tag with a name of a veteran, their branch of service and campaign(s) served. These flags honor our veterans who are no longer with us, as those who are still living, and those who are still actively serving in our US Military.

If you would like to be part of this tradition, and help honor one of our veterans, members of the VVA Chapter 886 will be at the Union Point Pavilion, between 11 AM and 2 PM from Saturday 10/31 through Thursday 11/5. Donations are always welcome and are used to benefit Craven County Veterans in need. However, a donation is not required to participate.

If you have questions please contact either Gary Gillette ([garylgill@outlook.com](mailto:garylgill@outlook.com)) or Rick Miller ([rickmiller950@hotmail.com](mailto:rickmiller950@hotmail.com)) to find out more. Be a part of a wonderful Veterans Day Tradition!!



In 2021, Craven County Habitat for Humanity (CCHFH) will embark on a Veterans Build. The Veterans Build is a *double entendre*, it is a home built by veterans for a veteran. If you know a veteran in need of stable housing please let the Board know – house plans will be decided upon based on veteran’s need. If you would like to volunteer for this build, CCHFH is now accepting volunteers and provides the training needed to be productive.

In addition, CCHFH has extended its service offerings to include critical repairs to veteran’s homes (roof, plumbing, electrical, etc.) and modifications of existing structures to accommodate disabilities (ramps, fixtures, accessibility modifications, etc.).

CCHFH has also teamed with our own Navy Federal Credit Union for Financial Literacy classes to assist in the transition from apartment, group home (Wounded Warrior), or extended skilled nursing care to a new home. Let’s keep our veterans in Craven County by providing an inviting place to live and work.

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## Flu Shot 2020: Full Details for VA, TRICARE Availability

By: Kevin Lilley

Both the VA and TRICARE offer programs designed to ease access to no-cost flu shots for beneficiaries. Below, you’ll find details, links, and other resources for each; learn more about the immunization itself at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website.

### VA Flu Shots

Where: Participating retail pharmacies and urgent care locations within VA’s network, as well as walk-in VA flu stations. Patients admitted to a VA facility may be able to receive the vaccine during a scheduled VA appointment. Use the VA’s online locator to find in-network pharmacies and urgent care providers.

Eligibility: Veterans must be enrolled in the VA health care system to receive the vaccine at participating retail pharmacies. To receive the vaccine from participating urgent care locations, they must be enrolled and have received

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care from a VA provider or in-network community provider in the last 24 months. Check eligibility with your local VA medical facility or call 844-MyVA311 (844-698-2311) and select option 1, then select option 1 again.

Per VA's website, vaccines are set to become available to beneficiaries at urgent care providers in VA Community Care Region 4 (Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming) on Sept. 30. Vaccines are not available to beneficiaries in Alaska at retail pharmacies. Beneficiaries in VA Region 6 (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands) can receive free vaccines at VA health care facilities.

## TRICARE Flu Shots

Where: A military hospital or clinic, participating network pharmacy (see note below), or TRICARE-authorized provider (visit may require a co-pay or cost share). TRICARE's flu vaccine webpage includes links to find these locations.

Eligible beneficiaries can receive the standard or high-dose flu shot. Call the provider before your visit to ensure vaccine availability. When contacting pharmacies, ensure the vaccine will be given by a pharmacist. If it's being administered by an on-site provider or via an in-house medical clinic, it may not be covered by TRICARE Active duty members, as well as National Guard and Reserve members, must get the flu vaccine. They have priority at military hospitals and clinics.

## Surviving Spouse Corner: Preparing for the Unpredictable

By: Gail Joyce

Many women — and men — are blindsided by the death of a spouse, because couples rarely talk about the inevitable. When you are at your most vulnerable, you must make choices that will have an enduring impact. Should the body be cremated or preserved? What type of service and where will it be held? Will he or she be buried in a hometown family plot or in a national cemetery many miles away?

To be better prepared for these difficult decisions, take time to have that important conversation with your spouse and your children about death and what happens after death. This conversation is a gift of love that each member of a marriage or family makes to the other.

Resources are available on MOAA.org and other websites that will help you have those conversations and make planning for the unknown perhaps a little easier. Find out who your local veteran service officer is, get to know them before you really need them, and then make sure they are the first on your list to contact. Ask your chapter to schedule at least one meeting each year where these issues are discussed. MOAA, the Surviving Spouse Advisory Council, and your surviving spouse liaison can provide members with a wealth of information.

### Steps to take:

- Encourage members and spouses to talk to each other about end-of-life issues and ways to prepare.
- Prepare and organize important documents (such as DD Form 214, wills, living will, durable power of attorney, insurance policies, birth/marriage certificates, passwords, insurance policies, bank account and investment information).
- Make sure utilities are in both names.
- Open a credit card account in your name.
- Establish eligibility for burial in a VA National Cemetery.
- Make a list of helpful resources, including MOAA, the VA, AARP.org, Military OneSource, MOAA Minnesota Chapter "The Day After Calls," MOAA's Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter, and MOAA's Surviving Spouses and Friends Facebook group.

## Does Your Small Business Need a Federal Contract? Start Your Research Here

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By: Brian Anderson

As MOAA career consultants, we work with a lot of transitioning servicemembers and veterans seeking to enter various industries and sectors, from private corporations and federal service to nonprofits and academia. But we also hear from more than a few who are committed to entrepreneurship and would like to start or grow their small business venture.

According to the most recent data, there is about one veteran-owned firm for every 10 veterans. Many of these 2.4 million veteran-owned firms are small businesses, solely responsible for employing 5.8 million individuals. These business entities range across the full spectrum of industries and sectors, but nearly 17% -- by far the largest distribution -- of veteran-owned businesses are in the professional, scientific, and technical services field.

Given the nature of those business specialties, it makes them prime for contacting and consulting opportunities. When preparing your market research and business development strategies, do not leave out the largest customer in the world: the U.S. government. The federal government contracts to procure all types of products and services, with 26.5% of prime contracts -- worth about \$132.9 billion -- awarded to small businesses in 2019.

MOAA understands navigating the government contracting world can be complex, but federal contracts are a tremendous financial opportunity for veteran-owned small businesses. For more, check out these resources from the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Veterans Business Development: