



THE CAPE FEAR CHAPTER of MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

P O BOX 53621

FAYETTEVILLE, NC 28305

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

COL (Ret) Juan I. Chavez, USA

1st VP

COL (Ret) Arturo Rodriguez, USA

2nd Vp

COL (Ret) George Blanc, USA

3rd VP

LTC (Ret) William J. Dadek, USA

Secretary

LTC (Ret) Doneal G. Gersh, USA

Treasurer

LTC (Ret) Edward R. Thomas II, USA

Personal Affairs Officer

2LT Andrea Candlish, USA

Auxiliary Liaison Officer

Carol Ivey

Chaplain

Ch (MAJ) Ron Webb

Legal Advisor

Joe Vonnegut

INFOGRAM - January 2014

EDITOR: LTC John W. Hazlett, US Army (Ret)

www.cfmoaa.org

PRESIDENT'S NOTES by Juan Chavez,
phone: (910)797-5419,
email: President@cfmoaa.org

Happy New Year everyone! Hope all of you had a joyful holiday season, and ready to start working on your resolutions and challenges of a new year.

The month of December was a very eventful one for us. The annual trip to Myrtle Beach was very enjoyable and we can thank Art Rodriguez for that, he did a great job in arranging the whole event and insuring that it unfolded flawlessly.

The Chapter made several of our annual charitable donations as the year came to a close. Checks were formally presented to the USO, Red Cross, Fisher House, Chaplain Funds, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart. I want to thank Art Rodriguez, George Blanc

and Arlie Smith for helping me make the presentations on behalf of the chapter. Coverage of these presentations is included in this issue as well as our web site.

Last month I talked about adding an article to the *Infogram* and our web site to recognize chapter members who are excelling in their jobs, professions or other endeavors. We decided to label this article "Above and



CALENDAR

JANUARY

06	Ladies of MOAA Board Meeting	Nancy Garman Home	1000
07	CFC Board of Directors Meeting	Fort Bragg Club	1100
23	Ladies of MOAA Luncheon	Fort Bragg Club	1045
24	CFC General Membership Meeting/Dinner	Fort Bragg Club	1800

FEBRUARY

03	Ladies of MOAA Board Meeting	Fort Bragg Club	1000
04	CFC Board of Directors Meeting	Fort Bragg Club	1100
27	Ladies of MOAA Luncheon	Fort Bragg Club	1045

MARCH

03	Ladies of MOAA Board Meeting	Fort Bragg Club	1000
04	CFC Board of Directors Meeting	Fort Bragg Club	1100
26	Ladies of MOAA Luncheon	TBA	TBA
28	CFC General Membership Meeting	TBA	TBA

Beyond” because that is precisely what they are doing, going above and beyond what is normally expected of them. The first *Above and Beyond* article in this issue features Dean and Mary Russell; read what these great people have done for our community; they make us all proud.

We’re in the middle of the membership renewal period and notices are in the mail. If you have already renewed please disregard the notice, but if you have not, please do so NLT 17 January 2014. If you wish to renew online and charge the dues to your credit card, you can now do so by going to <http://www.moaa.org/OnlineChapterDuesPayment/>. Our goal is 100% renewal, so let’s get on with it.

Finally, I want to remind you that the January 2014 general membership meeting will be held in conjunction with a dinner on Friday, the 24th at the Fort Bragg Club. Please make your reservations as soon as possible, see event flyer in this issue for details -- looking forward to seeing all of you there.

MEMBERSHIP - RECRUITING AND RETENTION

by Juan Chavez, President, phone (910) 797-5419; email President @cfmoaa.org

RECRUITING The MOAA National campaign, “Chapter Recruiting 2013,” closed the month of November 2013 with 2,164 new members recruited nationwide since the first of the year, easily exceeding the annual goal of 2,000 as anticipated.

Although we contributed significantly to the MOAA National goal, we fell way short of achieving our own 2013 goal of 86. We finished the year with 53 gains; a respectable number nonetheless.

We gained 3 new members during the final month of 2013 and it is my pleasure to welcome:

COL (Ret) Hank Larsen, USA

LTC (Ret) Robert Heath, USA

2LT Stephen D’Onofario, USA

The monthly chapter gains for 2013: January – 23; February – 6; March – 4; April – 2; May – 2; June – 2; July – 2; August – 1; September – 3; October – 2; November – 3; December – 3 for a total of 53 for the year.

RETENTION Our 2014 membership renewal campaign is in full swing, our goal is 100%. Please mail in your renewals NLT 17 January using the form on the back page of the *Infogram*. If you have access to a computer, you can now renew your membership and pay by credit card online; just go to <http://www.moaa.org/OnlineChapterDuesPayment/> and follow the prompts.

For the first time Auxiliary members will be asked to pay annual dues at half the rate of Regular members. All Auxiliary members currently on our rolls will be given the option of continuing their membership at the new rate or dropping their membership. A letter was mailed

to all Auxiliary members explaining the options. If you have any questions please call Secretary Don Gersh at (910) 484-4545.

ABOVE AND BEYOND

The Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery Fund recently received a substantial donation from one of our chapter members, LTC (Ret) Dean Russell and his wife Mary.

In July, the NC General Assembly appropriated \$125,000 to upgrade the committal structure at the Veterans Cemetery at Spring Lake with the stipulation that the community was to raise a matching \$125,000 in donations.

At the 8 December Community Concerts screening of the documentary “Honor Flight” at the Crown Arena, Dean and Mary Russell were publicly recognized for their personal donation of a matching \$125,000. Governor Pat McCrory was present to sign a ceremonial \$125,000 check to honor his commitment.

The Friends of the Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery are pursuing the funding to provide a place of dignity for veterans and their families to have funeral services for their loved ones at the cemetery in Spring Lake. When attending funerals at that site, families are sometimes exposed to inclement weather.

No one knows that better than Dean Russell who is also the Commander of the Cape Fear Chapter Honor Guard. The Honor Guard was established to pay respects and provide support to the families of deceased chapter members upon request. The Honor Guard provides sentries at the casket or urn during the visitation, and serves as honorary pall bearers at the funeral service. Dean’s membership in MOAA and his role as commander of the Cape Fear Chapter Honor Guard were highlighted during his introduction.



The Russell’s unwavering support of our community and specifically our veterans is worthy of the highest esteem. The awareness of our chapter and MOAA in general they fashioned as a result of their benevolence is priceless. Thank you Dean and Mary!

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Major (Ret) Walter J. Campbell one of our regular members on December 19, 2013. Walter was a loyal and active member of the chapter for many years. Our heartfelt condolences are extended to his wife Jody and all of the Campbell family during their bereavement.

It saddens us to report that Major (Ret) John Koenig passed away on December 24, 2013. John was a member of our chapter for many years and a big contributor to our military and civilian communities, particularly the Airborne and Special Operations Museum; his loss will be keenly felt. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife Margarete and the entire Koenig family as they mourn their loss.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING/DINNER

The January general membership meeting will be held at the Fort Bragg Club in conjunction with a dinner on 24 January 2014 at 1800 hours in the Hodge Room.

Program will include musical entertainment followed by a “state of the chapter” report by the Chapter President and a video presentation by VADM Ryan, MOAA President.

We need a minimum of 75 people to attend to meet contractual obligations, so please plan to be there. For more information and reservations see event flyer in this issue.

CAPE FEAR CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

General Membership Meeting/Dinner

The Hodge Room, Fort Bragg Club

1800 hours, Friday, January 24, 2014

Cost: \$24.70 Per Person (Fees & Gratuity Included)

Dress: Coat & tie for gentlemen, equivalent attire for ladies

Menu

The Bragg Grand Evening Buffet

London Broil Steak w/Bordelaise Sauce, Chicken Parmigiano, Wild Rice Pilaf, Roasted Herbed Baby Red Potatoes, Green Beans w/ Almonds & Thyme, Roasted Veggie Blend, Marinated Cucumber & Tomato Salad, Mixed Greens Salad, assorted deserts and Dinner Rolls w/butter, and Tea and Ice Water.

(No Host Bar)

RSVP NLT January 23, 2014

Send reservations and check (payable to CFC MOAA) to:

George Blanc, 3490 Thamesford Rd., Fayetteville, NC 28311

NAME_____

NAME OF GUEST(S)_____

NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS_____ x \$24.70=_____

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER by Ch (MAJ) Ron Webb, phone: (910) 635-8308, email: chaplain@cfmoaa.org

As we enter into 2014 and make our yearly plans why don't we plan not just on a good year, but a good spiritual year or a year in which we experience God in a deeper more meaningful way? There is an old saying, which has been taught to military officers probably since there have been officers that is "if you fail to plan you plan to fail." I think we all can relate stories of this principle coming to fruition at some point in our own experience as well as in a lot of other places. It is also clear from Holy Scripture that God is a planner and wants us to plan. Moreover, I think He wants us to make our plans with Him in mind. In Proverbs 16:3 God's Word says, *"Commit your works to the LORD. And your plans will be established."*

A way to go out about making our plans for the year is to apply a principle referred to by ministers as the "law of the harvest." For those of you who are unfamiliar it may come across as a bit draconian or a bit overly agricultural, but here it is: *"Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. 9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. 10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."* (Galatians 6:7-10)

Contained in the above overarching scheme of operations are three vital sub-principles: 1) Make sure that you are planting good things—i.e. true spiritual fruit (love, joy, peace, etc.). God in His Word will tell you what is good. 2) Don't give up the planting. Farmers know that everything that they plant is not going to come up just like military officers know that every initiative they attempt to execute is not going to come to fruition. Nevertheless, you can't give up or surely won't see good results. 3) Include your family and the family of God in your plans. In other words, don't make your plans focused only on yourself or your results will be severely limited.

MOAA brothers and sisters have a Happy New Year and may God bless all your plans.

Pro Deo Et Patria

WOUNDED WARRIOR "HOME FOR CHRISTMAS PROJECT"

The CFC sponsored a wounded warrior from the Wounded Transition Battalion at Fort Bragg as part of the Military Order of the Purple Heart "Home for Christmas Project."

President Juan Chavez presented a \$600 check on behalf of the CFC to SSG Adam Camp for travel expenses to his home in Memphis, Tennessee for the holidays. A total of 45 wounded warriors were similarly sponsored by various military and civilian community organizations.

SSG Camp was severely wounded in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan in 2010 when a .50 caliber machine gun was blown off its vehicle mount and struck him in the face. SSG Adam underwent five facial reconstructive surgeries at the UNC University Hospital the results of which were simply phenomenal. He is now "ready to return to full duty" he said.



NCDMV APPLIES VETERAN DESIGNATION TO DRIVER LICENSES /ID CARDS

Effective October 7, 2013, NCDMV began offering the opportunity for veterans to request a veteran designation to be placed on their driver licenses and identification cards. This service can be obtained at any driver license office throughout the State. A DD Form 214 reflecting an honorable discharge must be presented when requesting a veteran designation.

The decal is affixed when the license is produced and all licenses are produced in Raleigh. There is a \$10.00 charge for this license as it is considered a duplicate license.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS

The following presentations were made during the month of December as part of the CFC charitable giving program:

Fort Bragg Fisher House Manager Lorie Southerland accepts a \$500 donation from the Cape Fear Chapter of MOAA. Presenting the check on behalf of the chapter is First Vice President Art Rodriguez.

Ms. Renee Lane the Director of the USO of North Carolina's Fort Bragg Center accepts a \$500 donation from 2nd Vice President George Blanc as a CFC contribution in support of the USO's work on behalf of our service members and their families stationed at or transiting through Fort Bragg.

Mr. Phil Harris, Director, American Red Cross Highland Chapter accepts a \$300 donation from the CFC. Presenting the check on behalf of our chapter is past President Arlie Smith.



NOMINATIONS FOR THE ROBERT F. DEMETER CHAPTER SERVICE AWARD

The Robert F. DeMeter Chapter Service Award was established in 1998 in memory of the late LTC (Ret) Robert F. DeMeter, USMC, a former Chapter President (1989), to annually recognize a chapter member for outstanding service to the chapter. The award is the most prestigious award the Chapter can bestow upon one of its members.

The award consists of a rotating trophy, which the recipient retains for a period of one year. Nominations for the award are being solicited from the general membership. Please submit in hardcopy or email to Secretary Don Gersh NLT 31 January 2014.

A selection committee will determine the winner, and the award will be presented during the March general membership meeting.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

SENATE PASSES BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013

On Wednesday, the Senate passed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (BBA) by a vote of 64-36. The two year budget deal includes a provision that reduces working age retirees' annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) by one percentage point until they reach the age of 62 – and fails to grandfather existing retirees and currently serving members who plan to serve a 20-plus year career.

Because of the fast-track nature of the bill, many members of Congress were caught off-guard by the overall financial impact retirees would face.

Servicemembers who retire at the 20 year point will feel the full negative financial impact of the provision by experiencing a near 20 percent reduction in their retired pay by the time they reach age 62.

For example, an E-7 retiring this year with 20 years of service would see an average loss of over \$3,700 per year by the time he/she reaches age 62 – overall impact: \$83,000 loss by age 62.

Even though the bill includes a COLA “catch-up” clause at age 62 that recalculates the follow-on retiree’s annual pay base, the financial loss of the years between retirement and age 62 are permanently lost.

From the outset, the architects of the BBA insisted that the COLA adjustment would exempt disability retirees. After MOAA’s review of the language, we discovered that it contains no exemption for Chapter 61 retired pay or for certain survivors’ benefits.

Survivors of retirees under age 62 will see a reduced annuity; however, when their retiree would have reached age 62, the survivor’s annuity will be recalculated to the full annual COLA.

This week MOAA, mobilized to voice our concern with the provision. The senate effort kicked off last Saturday with a conference call between MOAA President Vice Adm. Norb Ryan, USN (Ret) and Sens. Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.) and Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) to discuss the overall impact of the COLA cut.

On Sunday, MOAA organized a “Storming the Hill” event with our partners in The Military Coalition and The American Legion. Hill stormers visited every senate office on Monday urging them to strip the harmful provision.

On Tuesday, Admiral Ryan spoke at a press conference with Sens. Ayotte, Graham and Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) to explain the disastrous consequences of the retirement provision. Ryan stressed that MOAA did not want to prevent a bipartisan budget agreement, but implored the senate to find alternative funding to avoid disproportional cuts on the backs of military retirees.

Other budget-saving measures in the agreement include a provision altering retirement contribution amounts for federal retirees. However these provisions apply only prospectively to new hires, grandfathering current employees into their retirement system. Military retirees were not afforded this protection.

MOAA members launched over 188,000 messages sent to Capitol Hill in less than a week. Admiral Ryan stated, “We may have lost this round, but we have not lost the fight. The Senate Armed Services Committee leadership has vowed to take a look at this provision in January when the House and Senate return and we will hold them to it.”

If not repealed, the provision goes into effect in December 2015
(Source: MOAA Legislative Update, 27 December 3013).

MOAA LADIES NOTES by Nancy Garman, President, phone: (910) 485-7648

Happy New Year! It is hoped that all will enjoy a healthy, happy year in 2014. The Ladies Club governing board will start the New Year with their monthly meeting at 10:00 AM at the home of Nancy Garman. We will continue the custom of the outgoing board treating the incoming board to a pot luck brunch. The monthly general membership meeting will be 23 January at the Fort Bragg Club at 10:45 AM. We will honor our charter members, our past presidents and remember those members who we lost in 2013. They include: Louise Broadhurst, Irene Brindel, Inge Thompson, Edna Crumblish, Lettie Harris, Rose Parsek, Martha “Scottie” Vannaman, Lois Mack and Laura Davies; all are missed!

The new officers President Janet Shipp, Vice President Elda Thacker, Secretary Mary Wright and Treasurer Denise Jasienowski will be installed at the January luncheon.

This is my last Infogram letter. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your president for the past two years. The outgoing board and I have tried to lead the CFC Ladies Club of MOAA to fulfill its purpose and make your meetings enjoyable. We congratulate the new officers and the new board. May your year be successful.

**THE CAPE FEAR CHAPTER
of
MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**
POST OFFICE BOX 53621
FAYETTEVILLE, NC 28305



Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 240
Fayetteville, NC

PLEASE ENROLL ME AS A MEMBER OF THE CAPE FEAR CHAPTER, MOAA

____ Initial Enrollment ____ Annual Renewal Date: _____

Category: Regular ____ (\$20) Auxiliary ____ (\$10)

NAME: _____ SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

RANK: ____ SERVICE: _____ Active Duty ____ Retired ____ Veteran ____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

NATIONAL MOAA MEMBER? Yes ____ Membership # _____; No ____

I would like to receive my Infogram by: ____ Regular Mail ____ E-mail

Please mail with any payment due to:
Cape Fear Chapter, MOAA
PO Box 53621, Fayetteville, NC 28305

01/2014