



December 2016



Cape Fear Infogram[®]

A Five-Star Chapter

Publisher COL (Ret) Juan I. Chavez, USA † Editor LTC (Ret) Don Gersh, USA
An informative monthly newsletter for members of Cape Fear Chapter (NC-01)

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Annual dinner

USO of NC's Falkenbury explains opportunities for Chapter members, amendments pass, voting begins

The Chapter's annual meeting accomplished all the business President Juan Chavez planned for the evening. Although not as well attended as last year's, the evening at the Iron Mike Conference Center was enjoyable and informative.



John Falkenbury
 (Photo by Art Rodriguez)

SEE *PRESIDENT'S REPORT*, PAGE 2, FOR JUAN'S PERSPECTIVE ABOUT THE CHALLENGES THE CHAPTER FACES IN 2017

John Falkenbury, president and CEO of USO of North Carolina, introduced Renee Lane, the director of the USO at Fort Bragg. John discussed the mission and organization of his organization. He emphasized that the national USO does not financially support the states' organizations. Each

state or area USO is responsible for raising its operating funds. After John answered chapter members' questions, Juan presented a \$500 donation to the Fort Bragg USO on behalf of the chapter.

The members approved keeping dues at its current levels and approved the changes to the chapter's constitution and bylaws. Stan Dodson presented the slate of officers as well.

Election Results

President - Juan Chavez
 1st VP - Stan Dodson
 2nd VP - George Blanc
 3rd VP - Marty Williams
 Treasurer - Dennis Franken
 Sec'y - Don Gersh



Stan Dodson, chairman of the nominating committee, presents the slate of candidates. (Photo by Art Rodriguez)

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President's Report

By COL (Ret) Juan I. Chavez, USA

Phone (910)797-5419, email: President@cfmoaa.org

2017 will be pivotal for the chapter

The year 2016 is almost history; unbelievable how time flies. It was a great year for our chapter; we accomplished some great things. Financially, we are in the best shape ever; our scholarship program is solid. But how long can we sustain this?

Our membership continues to age and decline, while recruitment of new and younger people is sorely lacking. Moreover, we cannot seem to motivate our members to step up to leadership positions, or volunteer to help in other ways to sustain the chapter much less move it forward. Just having members participate in chapter activities like attending bi-monthly meetings, or renewing their membership are huge challenges.

This is an election year and voting for a new executive board just ended. Two of the seven candidates are new faces, and that is a very refreshing and promising sign. However, the other five agreed to continue to serve because no one else volunteered to replace them. I will be going into my fifth year as Chapter President, the first time in the history of the chapter that anyone has served more than two consecutive 2-year terms. I need to step down and make room for new blood, younger blood, new ideas.

The year 2017 will be a pivotal one for this chapter. We must decide whether we want to keep the organization viable, or let die on the vine. I think the importance and relevance of MOAA and its affiliates are such that we cannot opt for the latter. We must . . . be the advocates for a strong national defense; lobby for compensation and allowances for our volunteer force; fight for the welfare of our military families; and, protect and defend the hard-earned benefits/

entitlements of our retirees and their survivors. MOAA is the strongest and most effective military organization in the country doing just that.

Moreover, with Fort Bragg, the largest military installation in the country, in our midst we need to continue supporting our active military and their families through the various programs we have instituted over the years. That includes subsidizing the college education of our best and brightest, and assisting them in navigating their way towards an officer's commission in one of our Armed Forces. Finally, we need to support military-related activities within our local civilian communities. This not only promotes community goodwill, but helps in our recruiting efforts.

As we transition into the holiday season and begin to contemplate new year's resolutions, keep the future of your chapter in mind. We need the interest and support of every single member going forward.

Best wishes to all of you for a Merry Christmas or Happy Hanukkah, and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Please, keep our military men and women in your thoughts and prayers, particularly those in harm's way, many of whom will not be home with their loved ones during the holidays.

Juan



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Editorial Policy

The Cape Fear Chapter is affiliated with MOAA. As such, the Cape Fear Chapter is nonpartisan. Editorial policies are established by the Chapter's Publisher and Editor and are in consonance with MOAA's.

Advertising and sponsorship are accepted based on MOAA policies and standards.

Editor may be reached at (910) 624-4597 or Secretary@cfmoaa.org

Chapter website

<http://cfmoaa.org/>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/CapeFearChapterMOAA/>

MOAA website

<http://www.moaa.org/>

MOAA "Take Action"

<http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>

Membership

Commissioned and warrant officers (former, current, retired) of all uniformed services

Chapter Notes:

Membership

RECRUITING

One new member joined our chapter during November bringing our total to 24 new members for the year. It is a pleasure to introduce our newest member:

Chap (LTC, Ret) Samuel Smith, USA

Our goal was to bring our membership up to 325 by the end of the year; it's unlikely that we are going to meet that, but keep beating the bushes nevertheless and bring in at least one new member by the end of 2016. MOAA National tells us there are more than 3,800 national MOAA members in our area who are not members of our chapter – if we can sign up 1% of them, we still have an outside chance of meeting our goal. *Anything is possible!*

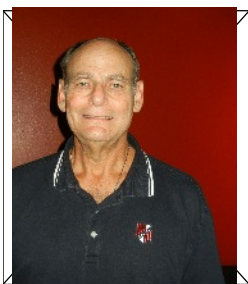
To review, the **eligibility criteria** for membership are: *any commissioned or warrant officer – active duty, retired, former, Reserve or National Guard, in any of the seven uniformed services.*

RETENTION

We have launched the membership renewal campaign for 2017 – our goal of course is 100% renewal. Renewal invoices have been mailed, but you do not have to wait, use the form on the back of the *Infogram* and remit today. Those who prefer to renew online and pay by credit card may do so by going to <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx>.

If you have any questions, please call Secretary Don Gersh at (910) 624-4597 or email Secretary@cfmoaa.org.





Editorial By LTC (Ret) Don Gersh, USA

Phone (910) 624-4597, email Secretary@cfmoaa.org

It's time to renew your membership

After four years as secretary, I find myself to be as frustrated now as I was my first year with the chapter's membership renewal history. The procedures I follow are clear. No problem there. So what is the cause of my frustration?

It's that some of our members have not paid annual dues for 2016. And some have not paid their dues for 2015, and still some have not paid any dues going back to 2014.

I'm supposed to drop from the rolls (DFR) those who haven't paid. Some of our members spend a goodly amount of time away from Fayetteville and they may not get the word. I don't understand how they wouldn't though, for it's like military pedagogy - "I'm going to tell you when membership renewal begins; then I tell you it's time for pay, and finally one of the board members contacts you and tells you we haven't received your dues."

This year will basically follow the same pattern. We've already advertised in the *Infogram* and *A Gram of Info* that it's renewal time. I'm reporting that the membership at the annual dinner voted to maintain the dues structure as \$20 for regular members and \$10 for surviving spouses.

POSTCARDS FOR DELINQUENT DUES

Last year we mailed invoices and enclosed self-addressed envelopes. For three years I've sent the surviving spouses self-addressed stamped envelopes. This year, I'm including in your membership renewal letter the invoice (and if you have not paid previous years' dues I'll include them), a self-addressed envelope, and new this year will be a stamped self-addressed postcard for

those who owe multiple year's dues with which you can indicate that you will pay your dues or that you no longer wish to be a member. In that case, all I ask is that you identify yourself on the return address, mark the appropriate statement, and mail it. I will then DFR you.

Printing and postage are major budget items for the chapter. We send much of our correspondence first class in order to have the mail either forwarded or returned. Sometimes we only discover members moved when the mail is no longer forwarded to them from the post office.

INFOGRAM MAILINGS

Every year it seems another major newspaper or magazine switch to posting their news on line instead of having it printed and mailed.

This is also a trend for nonprofit organizations too. It's quicker and easier to contact membership/readership using the World Wide Web and the various apps. Have you noticed we even have a Facebook?

Nothing in this issue should be news to you. Why? Juan already either sent you *A Gram of Info* or posted it on our website (www.cfmoaa.org) in one of the various listings.

The cost of printing and mailing the *Infogram* (printed in black and white) is at least \$3.50 per issue. Some 12-page color issue costs much more. To reduce admin expenses, I am no longer mailing printed *Infograms* to those who have access to our homepage on the web. Again, it's www.cfmoaa.org.

Don





**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE CAPE FEAR CHAPTER OF THE
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION *of* AMERICA**

Initial Application ☐ Renewal ☐ Date _____

(Last Name) (First Name) (MI) (Rank) (Branch of Service)

(Mailing Address: Number and Street) (Preferred Telephone Number)

(City) (State) (Zip) (Email Address)

Birth date _____ Spouse's name _____

Status: Retired ☐ Active Duty ☐ Former Officer ☐ Reserve ☐ National Guard ☐

Cadet/Midshipman ☐ Surviving Spouse ☐ (Please fill in the above information but show your deceased spouse's rank and branch of service)

I am ☐ a member of National MOAA; my member # is _____. I am a Life Member ☐

I am not ☐ a National MOAA member, but will consider joining.

In addition to my dues, I have included a donation of \$_____ for the Chapter's ROTC Scholarship Fund.

If a new applicant, how did you learn about the Cape Fear Chapter of MOAA? _____

Signature: _____

**Annual Chapter membership dues: \$20.00 for Regular Members
\$10.00 for Surviving Spouses**

Please mail this application with your check (payable to CFC, MOAA) to:

**CAPE FEAR CHAPTER, MOAA
P.O. Box 53621
Fayetteville, NC 28305**

Revised Nov 2016



Chaplain's Thoughts

By Chap (LTC) Timothy Atkinson, USA
phone (910) 978-3541 chaplain@cfmoaa.org

Our Life as a Gift to God

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor,
The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The
Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6 King James Version*

Many may recognize this verse as the opening lyrics of the Hallelujah Chorus in Handel's Messiah. As Christmas and New Years is close approaching, I want to greet each and every member of CFC MOAA and wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a Happy New Year. What you have accomplished this year has been truly remarkable. I'm trusting that next year will be even better with God's help.

At Fort Leonard Wood, my first assignment, I attended a performance of the Messiah at Christmas time. When Handel wrote this, his greatest work, it was first performed as a benefit to redeem prisoners languishing in debtors prison. One hundred forty-three debtors were released as a result of his benefit performance, and Handel's Irish backers agreed to pay off some of his considerable London debts. Handel specifically rearranged the aria "He Was Despised" to accommodate Susannah Cibber's voice, who was taking refuge in Ireland from the fallout of a scandalous divorce. Her emotional rendition helped redeem her reputation and she returned to England, where she became the most popular actress of her time. Legend has it that King George II was present at the first performance and that he stood during the "Hallelujah Chorus" in honor to God, thus starting a precedent held to this day. Handel gave us a Christmas present that keeps on giving to so many each Christmas.

I love the feelings and the celebration of this season. I hope that many of you will have taken advantage of the CFC MOAA Myrtle Beach trip. I plan to attend with my wife, Peg, and hope to see you. Activities like this as well as the quarterly meetings help us to build relationships of support, keep up with each other, and share companionship and old war stories.

Let me finish my thoughts with a few comments about the New Year with this question: "How can we make our life a gift for God as King?" Handel wrote the letters "SDG" --*Soli Deo Gloria*, meaning to God alone the glory. His work was a gift to God and helped him and so many to overcome their difficult situations. We can do the same by volunteering in CFC MOAA, like volunteering to help the USO. When we use our gifts to glorify God as we finish out this year and begin the next, we will experience Him more. Handel reported having a spiritual epiphany while writing "The Hallelujah Chorus." "I think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God himself," he wrote, continuing, "Whether I was in the body or out of the body when I wrote it, I know not." And lastly don't give up.

Before Handel's breakthrough with "The Messiah" he was going through a depression and having really bad financial problems. The blockbuster success of "Messiah" in Ireland in 1742 did not carry over to England where it was not well received until performed as a benefit for an orphans' hospital in 1749. It really caught on after that and now it is the most widely and oft-performed piece of music in history. When we use our gifts and talents to help someone else the benefits do not always come immediately, so be patient and trust God with the results. Leave the issues in God's

(Continued on next page)

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hands and let Him get all the glory when He comes through for you and your family.

Peg and I think you are outstanding patriots and appreciate and love you so much; and once again my prayers are for you, and that you may have a wonderful Christmas or Hanukkah, and a very happy and prosperous New Year.

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Doneal G. Gersh
LTC, US Army, Ret.
Secretary, Editor, Legislative Affairs

Military Officers Association of America
www.cfmoaa.org

PO Box 53621 Phone: (910) 624-4597
Fayetteville, NC 28305 doneal.gersh@gmail.com

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Steve Mannell
Chief Financial
Officer

For more information
910-307-3501
smannell@aafmaa.com



Carrie Clark
Senior Relationship
Manager

For more information
910-307-3511
cclark@aafmaa.com

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*"We are a powerful voice speaking
for a strong national defense, and
representing the interests of military
officers and their families at every
stage of their career."*

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Calendar of Events:

2 Dec - Myrtle Beach Trip

6 Dec - Cape Fear Chapter Board of Directors Meeting at Iron Mike Conference Center, 1100 hours

3 Jan - Cape Fear Chapter Board of Directors Meeting at Iron Mike Conference Center, 1100 hours

20 Jan - Cape Fear Chapter MOAA Installation Dinner at Iron Mike Conference Center, 1700 hours

7 Feb - Cape Fear Chapter Board of Directors Meeting at Iron Mike Conference Center, 1100 hours

7 Mar - Cape Fear Chapter Board of Directors Meeting at Iron Mike Conference Center, 1100 hours