



JANUARY 2020



INFOGRAM

CAPE FEAR FEAR CHAPTER CHARTERED MARCH 22, 1961

An informative monthly newsletter for members and friends of Cape Fear Chapter (NC-01)

VISIT OUR HOMEPAGE AT WWW.CFMOAA.ORG



NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, January 25, 2020

State of the Chapter Report
McKellar's Lodge, 1130 hours

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

RETIRED ARMY MAJ. IRA M. WATKINS

(910) 308-7702 president@cfmoaa.org

The Dawn of a New Year

As the dawn of this new year begins, let us not forget to reflect on and appreciate the successes of MOAA and our chapter in the past year. After all, these successes have allowed us to reach this year as an active and impactful chapter. In the words of a noted author, "Without the stairs of the past, you cannot arrive at the future."

With the words above in mind, here is a recap of some of the key achievements by MOAA and the chapter during 2019: Secured the repeal of the widows tax; ensured a 3.1 percent active duty pay raise; obtained a delay in DOD's plan to eliminate 18,000 military medical billets, and ensured no new health care access fees for currently serving and retirees, to name a few successes at the national level.

Regionally, our chapter provided scholarships, grants and donation totaling nearly \$30,000 to ROTC/JROTC cadets, JROTC units, and organizations that provide services and support to our military and civilian community, such as the Red Cross, USO, Fort Bragg Army Soldier and Family Support

Center, and the Airborne and Special Operations Museum.

We can also reflect proudly upon our continued support of Cumberland County's annual recognition of Purple Heart Recipients Program, and sponsoring youth within our community to attend educational activities at the Freedom Foundation in Valley Forge, Pa. The experience at the Freedom Foundation is designed to promote civic responsibility, patriotism, and knowledge of American history and government. Last, but not least, we can be thankful for the more than 1,200 hours of service donated by members to the USO.

The achievements listed above and others not mentioned should give us the impetus to excel again this year on the core objectives and values of MOAA and our chapter. Everything begins and ends with membership, as you, the member, are our most valuable asset. With that being said, we are currently in the renewal cycle for chapter membership. If you need to renew your chapter membership, and have not done so, please renew as soon as possible. If you have any questions about your

membership status or issues with renewal, contact Secretary Sara Ballard, [910-491-4424](tel:910-491-4424)/sara.ballard@outlook.com, or Treasurer Ralph Hinrichs, [910-987-7559](tel:910-987-7559)/rwHinrichs@aol.com.

I strongly urge each of you to join MOAA National during the chapter renewal cycle if you are not already a member. Remember, basic membership in MOAA national is cost-free and entitles you to free electronic access to MOAA communications about news and support of critical advocacy efforts to protect your military benefits. Also, remember the small sampling of successes achieved by MOAA last year that are listed above as an incentive to become at least a basic member. You can also help our chapter in our annual rating by becoming, as a minimum, a MOAA member at the basic level.

As stated before, members are our most valuable asset. We **really, really** need some of you to step forward and serve in some of the vacant position that we have now or to replace long-serving members who have given above and beyond expectations. Remember, there are

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opportunities for spouses to serve on our leadership team. Bear in mind also that this will be an election year for our chapter, and there will be opportunities to be elected into key position for the Board of Directors.

I know many of you have busy schedules or would just like to enjoy the peace of retirement, but our chapter's achievements and contributions to the community over the years is deserving of a small sacrifice in time to ensure continued success and relevancy. Just ask yourself when considering serving; if not me then who? And if not now, then when?

2020 begins with reflection and focus on membership renewal. Our first opportunity for members to come together, receive information on the state of the chapter, and enjoy comradery is the luncheon at McKellar's Lodge on January 25 at 11:30

a.m. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Complete your reservation now, if not already done, and send it to Rich Underwood, runderw477@aol.com/910-487-5618. Reservations can be obtained from our website. Let's begin the steps for a successful year with a great membership meeting on January 25th.

In closing, the new year is here. Let's move forward together and make the best of the days this year has to offer, and to take advantage of any and all opportunities to exemplify our motto of "never stop serving."

Ira



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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 editor@cfmoaa.org

Chapter Website <http://www.cfmoaa.org/> **MOAA Website** <http://www.moaa.org/>

MOAA "Take Action" [http://www.moaa.org/take Action/](http://www.moaa.org/takeAction/)

Membership Open to active duty, former, retired, and National Guard and Reserve commissioned and warrant officers of the uniformed services or their surviving spouses.



CHAPLAIN'S THOUGHTS

RETIRED ARMY CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) TIMOTHY ATKINSON
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New Day Fresh Start

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV)

As we go forward in the New Year, Peg and I wish all of you a blessed and prosperous one.

I have noticed in the military, the focus is not on the past, but the future. In my first assignment at Fort Leonard Wood, it amazed me how the focus was on future training and very little on what had just happened.

This forward looking view was about producing results. The training of young men and women to become soldiers was our product and our success was in doing this. The young men and women would graduate as proud Engineers ready for combat.

As important as history is, sometimes it can be a hindrance. The past is like using your rear-view mirror in the car. It's good to glance back and see how far you've come, but if you stare too long, you'll miss what's right in front of you.

Paul the Apostle said, "One thing I do, forgetting what is behind and straining on what is before (Phil. 3:13)."

Businesses and organizations go forward because they know it is their key to existence. Going forward as an individual is just as important but sometimes quite difficult.

I believe the reason Paul could move forward was because he had a revelation about the grace of God, even as Jeremiah did in our passage says, "His mercies are new every morning."

Do we believe that God's mercies are new for us every morning? It is so easy to be bound by past issues. Past failures do produce present fears. However, through the grace of our Lord we can see each day as a new day and a fresh start.

I would like to point you to the account of Ruth in the *Bible* on this New Year's message. She had lost her husband and now her mom-

in-law, Naomi, was encouraging her to go back to her native people and culture and not continue to follow her.

However, Ruth chose to trust God and commit to a new life in her relationship with Naomi. Ruth replied, "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God (Ruth 1:16)."

She chose relationship and ultimately she was choosing to follow God. Indeed God blessed her and her story has been one of encouragement for the ages.

Please reread this book in the New Year. It is a romance, but shows how God can start a new beginning even in the most difficult of times.

Tim

CHAPTER NEWS

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – 2020 CAMPAIGN

The general membership voted on 16 November 2019 to maintain the dues structure at \$20 for regular members/\$10 for surviving spouses for 2020. Accordingly, the Membership Renewal Campaign for this year is underway with the goal of achieving 100% retention.

We are asking our members to submit their renewals as soon as possible. Remit by USPS mail using renewal form at download below together with check payable to “CFC MOAA” and mail to “CFC MOAA, P.O. Box 53621, Fayetteville, NC 28305”; or, online using a charge card by going to <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx> and following the prompts.

There are still several chapter members who have not paid their 2019 dues. If you fall in this category, please bring your account up to date by remitting for both 2019/2020; call Secretary Sara Ballard at (256) 426-7487 if not certain. One of the criteria for earning a 5-Star Chapter award is to achieve 95% or better retention. You can contribute to clearing that hurdle by renewing your membership now.

DeMeter Chapter Service Award Nominations

The Robert F. DeMeter Chapter Service Award was established in 1998 in memory of the late Lt.Col. (Ret) Robert F. DeMeter, USMC, a former chapter president. It is presented annually to recognize a chapter member for outstanding service.

The DeMeter Award has evolved to become the most prestigious award the chapter can bestow upon one of its members.

The award consists of a certificate and a rotating trophy which the recipient retains for one year.

Nominations for the award are being solicited from the general membership. Please submit in hardcopy or email to Secretary Sara Ballard by Feb. 1.



Nominations should be mailed to:

Cape Fear Chapter, MOAA

Post Office Box 53621

Fayetteville, NC 28305

Email nominations should be addressed to:

Secretary@cfmoaa.org



***General Membership
Meeting***

Luncheon

*McKellar's Lodge
Fort Bragg*

1130 hours, Saturday, January 25, 2020

Cost: \$20.00 Per Person

(Tax & Gratuity Included)

Buffet Menu

*Baked Chicken,
Pulled Pork,*

Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy,

Baked Beans, Green Beans

Salad Bar

Corn Bread & Butter

Endless Beverage Station

(No Host Bar)

RSVP NLT January 23, 2020

*Send reservations and check
(payable to CFC MOAA) to:
Rich Underwood, 293 Wedgeview Dr.
Fayetteville, NC 28306*

Reservations Request

Name _____

Number of Reservations ____ *X \$20 =* _____

Name of Guests





FAYETTEVILLE

Military Appreciation Night

Saturday, Feb. 8
Tickets \$10 per person

Fayetteville Marksmen
take on the
Birmingham Bulls
at the Crown Center Complex

Volunteers needed for:

- Surviving Spouse Liaison
- Transition Officer
- Personal Affairs Officer
- Webmaster
- Newsletter Editor

INTERESTED MEMBERS
AND SPOUSES SHOULD
CONTACT PRESIDENT
IRA WATKINS



**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

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**

CAPE FEAR CHAPTER, MOAA
POST OFFICE BOX 53621
FAYETTEVILLE, NC 28305



*...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...*

visit our website at:

www.cfmoaa.org



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JAN 2020

- 7 - CAPE FEAR CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AT
IRON MIKE CONFERENCE CENTER, 1000 HOURS
- 25 - ANNUAL STATE OF THE CHAPTER REPORT, MCKELLAR'S
LODGE, 1100 HOURS

FEB 2020

- 4 - CAPE FEAR CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AT
IRON MIKE CONFERENCE CENTER, 1000 HOURS
- 17 - PRESIDENT'S DAY

MAR 2020

- 3 - CAPE FEAR CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AT
IRON MIKE CONFERENCE CENTER, 1000 HOURS
- 14 - AWARDS AND RECOGNITION LUNCHEON MEETING AT IRON
MIKE CONFERENCE CENTER, TIME TBA**

APR 2020

- 7 - CAPE FEAR CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AT
IRON MIKE CONFERENCE CENTER, 1000 HOURS