

INFOGRAM

CAPE FEAR CHAPTER CHARTERED MARCH 22, 1961

AN INFORMATIVE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF CAPE FEAR CHAPTER (NC-01)

President's Report

By Retired Army Maj. Ira M. Watkins

Phone (910) 308-7702

October Highlights

General Membership Meeting and Chapter Elections. My two-year term as chapter president is coming to an end and I will not seek reelection. I have enjoyed my service and wish to thank the board of directors and the membership at large for their support. God willing, we will be able to get together at the Iron Mike Conference Center on November 21 when a slate of candidates will be presented by Art Rodriguez, Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

Participate in the Electoral Process. Make your voice heard and cast your vote in the upcoming election. If you are not a registered voter, you can download an application at <https://ncsbe.gov>. If you are a registered voter and need to check your status, you can use the voter search tool at <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup>. This web address can also be used to view a sample ballot. There are three ways you can vote; 1. Mail in Voting. Go through the procedures to request a ballot at ncsbe.gov or visit your county board of elections office. For Cumberland County the address is 227 Fountainhead Lane Suite 101 Fayetteville, NC 28301. When mailing in a ballot, pay strict attention to the procedures for completing the ballot, and the date that the ballot must be received by the board of elections. The ballot can be mailed or dropped off at the county board of elections. There is also the ability to track your ballot using BallotTrak via <https://ncsbe.gov>. BallotTrak should provide an email/text message to you on the status of your ballot. 2. Early Voting. Begins on October 15 through October 31. To view location and hours go to <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/OSSite>. 3. Vote in Person. Polls will be open from 0630 hours (6:30 a.m.) to 1930 hours (7:30 p.m.) on November 3. You can find you election day polling place at <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/PPLkup>.

TRICARE and FEDVIP Open Season is Fast Approaching. If you are enrolled in the TRICARE and FEDVIP dental/vision plans, the time to review/change your plan is set for Nov. 9 through Dec. 14.

Remember there might be cost increase to your current plan for 2021 that you may want to review to determine if a plan or provider change is in order. You may also want to take advantage of the MOAA webinar on how to use the BENEFEDS Plan Comparison Tool to shop for dental/vision insurance plans that meet your family needs. If you missed the live presentation on October 7th, you could find a copy on the MOAA website. Topics to be covered in the tutorial include FEDVIP dental and vision

providers, FEDVIP eligibility, what type of plan (Standard or High) is right for your family, review of the BENEFEDS website, and demonstration of the BENEFEDS Plan Comparison Tool.



October the Harvest Month and 2nd Month of Fall. There are lots of things to reflect on, anticipate, or consider doing this month. Remember our farmers and the strength that they provide our nation. It is “Anchors Aweigh”, the Navy’s 244th birthday this month. Look forward to the 116 World Series beginning on October 20. This is a great month to travel according to the experts. However, the pandemic may cause some hesitancy to do so. Consider a staycation as an option or virtual tour. There are some interesting ones online now. Have a great October, Stay Healthy, Stay Connected and Never Stop Serving.



Special Thanks to Members/Sponsors/Supporters. I wish to convey my sincere appreciation to all of you for the success of our September ROTC Scholarship Fund drive. This undertaking was initiated due to the cancellation of our annual golf tournament because of Covid-19. Several of you, along with some of our normal sponsors and supporters of our golf tournament, really stepped up to the plate to help the scholarship fund drive to score big during this challenging pandemic year. For those of you who missed the opportunity to donate it is not too late, just mail your donation check to CFC MOAA, P.O. Box 53621, Fayetteville, NC 28305. Make check payable to “CFC, MOAA” and write in the memo line “Scholarship Fund.”

Ira

Publisher - Ira Watkins • Editor - Don Gersh • Webmaster - Juan Chavez

The **Cape Fear Infogram** is published monthly for members and friends of Cape Fear Chapter, MOAA , Post Office Box 53621, Fayetteville, NC 28305.

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.

Chapter to meet for annual meeting at fort bragg on Nov. 21

COVID-19 permitting, a meeting of the general membership is planned for Nov. 21, at the Iron Mike Conference Center, Fort Bragg, for its annual meeting. This will be the first time since January of this year that the chapter will be assembling in person again.

Being an election year for our chapter, the importance of this annual meeting is such that, barring a total prohibition, we are compelled to try to meet in person if we can. All COVID-19 safety protocols will be observed.

The agenda will include a vote by the general membership on the dues structure for 2021 and the presentation of the slate of candidates for election to the Board of Directors for the two-year term beginning January 2021. Paper ballots will be provided to those present and voting will commence.

Since most of us have not had the opportunity to physically socialize outside our immediate families during these trying times, every effort will be made to make this event a safe and enjoyable experience for all. For more information and reservations please see event flier at download below.



**CAPE FEAR CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA**

Annual Membership Meeting/Dinner

Saturday, November 21, 2020, 1700 hours

Lafayette Room, Iron Mike Conference Center, Fort Bragg

Menu

Choice of London Broil or Oven Roasted Half Chicken
Garlic Mashed Potatoes; Roasted Seasonal Vegetable Blend; Mixed Green Salad w/Dressings
Fresh Baked Dinner Rolls w/Butter
Iced Tea, Water and Coffee
Dessert: Tiramisu

Cost: \$20.00 per person (Tax & Gratuity Included)

Dress: Coat & Tie for Gentlemen; Comparable Attire for Ladies

RSVP NLT November 19, 2020

Send reservations requests to:

Richard Underwood, 2933 Wedgeview Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28306

Name: _____

Name of Guest(s): _____

Number of Reservations _____ x \$20.00 = _____ Choice of Entrée/Number of
Beef _____ Chicken _____

Attention!

Do not send in any checks with reservations requests. All meal costs will be collected at the check-in table upon arrival. Only cash or checks will be accepted, no charge cards please.

A MESSAGE FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

For the past 10 years, our chapter has experienced a problem attracting members to run for elective and appointive leadership positions on its executive board. Why is this a problem you ask, we are an organization made up of nothing but leaders! Folks who spent years in uniform leading, managing, and commanding organizations far larger and more demanding than this chapter.

What has sustained our chapter thus far is the willingness of a dedicated few to continue serving consecutive terms to keep the chapter afloat. In a lot of cases these same individuals have had to double up and held other essential positions because no one wants to volunteer to fill them, e.g., Personal Affairs Officer, Surviving Spouse Liaison, Transition Liaison, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, etc.

So here we are again, faced with the same problem we grapple with every two years: Who is going to step up and pick up some of the load and move this great chapter forward?

As you may or may not be aware, this is an election year for our chapter too, and the 2020 Nominating Committee is currently accepting nominations for candidates to fill chapter leadership positions for the 2-year term beginning January 2021. The elective positions and their status are:

Chapter President – Nominations are open.

1st Vice President – Incumbent (George Bond) has agreed to stay on for another term.

2nd Vice President – Incumbent (Richard Underwood) has agreed to stay on for another term.

3rd Vice President – Incumbent (Marty Williams) has agreed to stay on for another term.

Treasurer – Incumbent (Ralph Hinrichs) has agreed to stay on for another term.

Secretary – Nominations are open.

As you can see, the top job of Chapter President, and the incredibly important position of Secretary are begging for candidates. This is an opportunity for someone who wants to do their part to step up and make a difference.

(Side Bar: Regular members and Surviving Spouses are eligible to hold elective positions if they are current members of MOAA National and the Cape Fear Chapter in good standing, i.e., their dues are paid up to date. Spouses of eligible regular members are also permitted to hold office.)

The Cape Fear Chapter is the oldest and the largest MOAA chapter in North Carolina and one of the most effective in the state and even the nation judging from its consistently 5-star Level of Excellence performance year-in and year-out.

Under no circumstances should we allow this great organization that contributes so much to advocating for and insuring the interests of our active military and their families, our military retirees, and our veterans in general, to die on the vine.

So if you're that person who has been standing and observing from the wings and now feels confident and unencumbered to assume the responsibility of leading this chapter forward, please call Art Rodriguez, Chairman of the Nominating Committee at (910) 987-5926, or any member of the Nominating Committee, and submit your name in nomination.





Besides the elective positions, there are several appointive positions that need to be filled as well starting in January 2021.

There is a dire need of volunteers to help carry the load of operating the Chapter in an effective and efficient manner. These positions only require a commitment of a few hours of your time a month and most of the work can be performed from home. Any regular member or surviving spouse in good standing can fill these positions; spouses of regular members are also eligible and encouraged.

Some of the positions below have been vacant for two years and others have been filled by the same person for a long time.

Surviving Spouse Liaison: This position is considered an essential position by MOAA; it has been vacant for two years, but the duties have been performed by President Watkins. Though a Surviving Spouse is preferred for this job, anyone can fill it.

Personal Affairs Officer: Another MOAA-essential position, it has been vacant for over a year, but the duties have been performed by Secretary Ballard.

Transition Liaison Officer: A MOAA-suggested position; been vacant for two years.

Newsletter Editor: Don Gersh has been our Editor for 6 years, four of which he was also the Chapter Secretary; he is overdue for a break.

Webmaster: Juan Chavez has been our Webmaster for 8 years and he also needs a break.

If anyone is interested in volunteering for one or more of the positions listed above, please call our Secretary Sara Ballard (256) 426-7487, or email her at Secretary@cfmoaa.org.

Editorial



**By Retired Army Lt. Col. Don Gersh, Editor,
(910) 624-4597 editor@cfmoaa.org**

I feel like a teenager again

I recently achieved a milestone I never expected to attain, and for good reason. I apparently discovered that my family, unlike that lucky Irishman Murphy with his “Laws,” is blessed with a curse. Yes, the infamous “Gersh Curse.” I could almost fill these pages with examples of just my experiences, but I assure you it exists.

However, every now and then, I win. I beat it. And on July 29th I was fortunate enough to beat it again, for I turned 70.

Growing up my parents never worried about cholesterol, salt, chicken fat, heart disease. You only went to the hospital to die.

I guess they paid the price and I paid attention to the teachers in health classes. When Debbie and I married, she went through my kitchen cabinets and tossed whatever was unhealthy. I have not had salt for almost 50 years.

But back to why I feel like a teenager. In 1959 my dad bought my mom a 1957 yellow and white Nash Metropolitan convertible, America’s first sub-compact economy car. The early models had 1.2 liter-engines and three-speed manual transmissions on the columns, or “three on the tree.”

Well, my mom did not drive, she had debilitating arthritis and did not want her hair “a blowin’ in the wind!”

Dad did not care. He loved that small car. And after the engine blew, he put in the newer, bigger, more powerful 1.5-liter! And he and I would take trips through the Maryland and Virginia countryside with the top down. And I would sit in it, play the radio, and pretend to drive. You see, the radio was always hotwired, so I did not need his car key. I later learned how to hot wire the car.

For six years, at three different houses in three states, I took care of that car. I started it almost every day, drove it back and forth in our driveways, and made sure it was ready for me when I turned 16, just a matter of months away.

I will not go into the why and how that never happened. When it came time for my driving test, our old Chevy wagon broke down on the last turn. The Ohio State Trooper and I walked back to the station where he deducted five points from my 100-point card!

I missed that Metropolitan, Metro, Met. And I guess I must have mentioned it once or twice, because son #3 bought me a 1961 red and white hardtop! It features a trunk and a 1500cc (1.5 liter) four banger British engine!

To hell with you Gersh Curse! ` *Don*



*Do You have a story you would like to share?
Contact Don and pitch it. Pictures are a plus!*

‘THANK YOU’ TO SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONORS

By Ira Watkins

It is my pleasure to report that our ROTC scholarship fund donation campaign was a resounding success, raising more than \$10,200. A great debt of gratitude is owed to all who responded so generously to my special appeal for direct donations this year since our annual fundraising golf tournament could not be held because of COVID-19 considerations.



Special thanks are extended to the following chapter members, sponsors and supporters for their generosity and interest in insuring continuity of our scholarship awards for school year 2020-2021:

Chapter Members	Chapter Members	Chapter Sponsors & Supporters
David Baggett	Carol Ivey	Buie, Norman & Company, P.A.
Eli Ballard	Kirk Johnson	Cape Fear Cardiology
William Bell	Hank Larsen, Jr.	Cape Fear Eye Associates
Dave Beshlin	Dan McNeill	Edward Jones Investments
Bruce Brown	Joe Nagel	Healy Wholesale Company
Juan Chavez	Charles Pimble	Lafayette Ford
David Cheney	William Richardson, Jr.	Carl Meinhardt
Maria Cory	Art Rodriguez	Erika Meinhardt
Gerald Croll	Richard Shereff	Lisa Meinhardt
Addison Davis	Bob Smoot	Rhudy's Inc.
Thomas Delahunty	Nathan Smyth	Sandhills Surgery
Thomas Donnelly, Jr.	Pat Stang	Simon Funeral Home
John Dunigan	Richard Underwood	Superior Bakery
Ronald Elrod	James Volkmann	USAA
Ronnie Foxx	David Vroom	Watson Family Dentistry
George Glann, Jr.	Ira Watkins	
John Hazlett	Marty Williams	
Ralph Hinrichs, Jr.	Gregory Williamson	
George Hutnan	Willie Wright	
Harold Isaacson	Drew Ziegler	

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Our Mission

Promote the policies and objectives of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

Foster fraternal relations among re-tired, active and former officers of the uniformed services and their reserve components

Protect the rights and interests of active duty, retired, veterans and reserve component personnel of the uniformed services and their dependents and survivors

Provide useful services for members and their dependents and survivors

Fund and administer a college ROTC scholarship program, support all junior and senior ROTC programs within our region

Serve the local military community through support of charitable and other service programs

How do I Join?

Download a membership application from web site www.cfmoaa.org; complete the form, and mail it together with your \$20 check to:

Cape Fear Chapter, MOAA

Post Office Box 53621

Fayetteville, NC 28305

Or join online and pay with a credit card at:

www.chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership



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
Facebook and Twitter addresses:
<https://www.facebook.com/capefearchapter>
<https://twitter.com/capefearmoaa>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

- 6 - CAPE FEAR CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS
VIDEOCONFERENCE, 10 A.M.
- 12 - COLUMBUS DAY

NOVEMBER

- 3 - ELECTION DAY
- 4 - CAPE FEAR CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, IRON
MIKE CONFERENCE CENTER OR VIDEOCONFERENCE, 10 A.M.
- 11 - VETERANS DAY
- 21 - ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING, IRON MIKE CONFERENCE
CENTER, 5 P.M.
- 26 - THANKSGIVING DAY

DECEMBER

- 1 - CAPE FEAR CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, IRON
MIKE CONFERENCE CENTER OR VIDEOCONFERENCE, 10 A.M.
- 10 - CHANUKAH BEGINS
- 25 - CHRISTMAS