

## **Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Proposed New River Chapter**

Organizing Committee Members present: CAPT Doug Ehrhardt, MSC, USN (Ret.), Col. Ken Lynn, USAF (Ret.), COL Charles Knapp, MC, USA (Ret.) and LCDR Jim Gee, MSC, USN (Ret.)

Doug Ehrhardt:

Opened the meeting on 25 MAR 2009 at 1845 in the Ashe County Agricultural Service Center, 150 Government Circle in Jefferson, NC.

Introduction of guests:

- Col Vern Pike, COL, USA (Ret.), NC State MOAA Representative
- Capt Nick Friedman, USA (Frm), President, High Country MOAA Chapter
- John Alley, MAJ, USAFR (Ret.), High Country MOAA Chapter

Discussion:

- Council & Chapter Policies and Procedures
- Guidelines to set-up or New River MOAA Chapter
- August 8, 2008 Social meeting with organizing officials held at the Ashe County Arts Council to launch MOAA in Ashe County
- MOAA efforts and benefits at the national level to support military and dependents
- Our goal - to stand-up New River Chapter in support of the national organization

Ken Lynn:

Spoke on medical benefits and goals

- Influence our elected officials: word-of-mouth information from our members and other veterans groups
- Gain support to make Ashe County TRICARE Prime, get of physicians on line
- Fight concurrent receipt: military retirements offset by VA disability

Doug Ehrhardt:

- RADM Scott Sears, USN (Ret.) has volunteered to be our benefits counsel and trainer
- Another goal will be to lobby for efforts so as to stop eroding benefits; we envision a combined assault by MOAA, DAV, VFW, American Legion and the Marine Corps League.

Vern Pike:

- MOAA has more influence in the Washington, DC lobby than any military organization
- MOAA insured that govt. plan to increase TRICARE out-of-pocket payments for retirees was DOA
- 1989 fought to insure military retirement was not taxed by state of NC (also applies to federal civil service, state and local NC govt. pensions)
- Fourth Branch: keeps an eye (watch-dogs) on NC General Assembly to insure retired government pensions are not taxed
- NC MOAA State Convention goes to sea, cruise Norfolk – Bermuda, call MOAA travel agent 1-800-211-5107, a few cabins left

Nick Friedman:

- Invited us to their chapter dinner the evening of 26 MAR 09 in Valley Crucius
- Boone Rotary Club is sponsoring travel for WW II vets to Washington, DC to visit the WW II memorial for \$250.00. These vets are dying off daily at an alarming rate.
- Encourages us not to be stagnant, put out as much publicity as possible

Jim Gee:

- Look for MOAA Chapters in East TN

Doug Ehrhardt:

- Displayed the New River provisional by-laws which are consistent with the National Organization, as provided for in the Council Chapters Policies and Procedures
- At the present time, the New River Chapter is proposing that regular meetings be held on a quarterly basis, but it was recommended by COL Pike and Nick Friedman that bi-monthly meetings are preferable

Charles Knapp:

- Spouse or widows/widowers of officers can also join MOAA
- Encourages us as officers not only in the area of our responsibilities but also as a duty to bring support to the many enlisted AD, retirees and veterans who need support in the fight for benefits
- Connect with the VFW, DAV, American Legion, CPO Associations and the Marine Corps League.

Vern Pike:

- Highly recommends us to seek 501.C19 non-profit organization status in regard to the IRS
- Get bulk mailing postal rates, if feasible

Charles Knapp:

- We plan to publish a date for the New River MOAA Installation Ceremony to insure state and federal government elected officials can attend.
- Made a proposal that all members present and those attending meetings/support the New River Chapter up until the date of the installation ceremony be given 'Charter' member status for the New River Chapter.

Jim Gee:

- Proposed that the New River Chapter invite key members of VFW, American Legion, DAV, Marine Corps League and any other military organization to our stand-up meeting to show our elected officials that we are separate, but well organized veteran groups that are many and diversified and are **a powerful voting force to be reckoned with.**

Doug Ehrhardt:

Adjourned meeting at 2000

List of Attendees at the March 25, 2009 Meeting

Doug Ehrhardt  
Cathy Ehrhardt  
Lee Eldreth  
Mannon Eldreth  
Jim Gee  
Bill Horner  
Ken Lynn  
Monica Lynn  
Lee Q. McMillan  
Thomas Newell  
Ron Schuette  
Betty Schuette  
Karen Strickland  
Dan Strickland  
Bernadette Zimmerman

John Alley, High Country  
Nick Friedman, High Country  
Col and Mrs. Vern Pike (President, NC MOAA)