

New River MOAA Board Meeting Minutes  
October 28, 2021  
Held at Riverside Restaurant, Todd, NC

Board Members present for meeting (meets the requirement for a quorum):

President Steve Tucker  
Program Committee Chair Charles Knapp  
Secretary Don Goodhart  
Member at Large Doug Ehrhardt

Topic #1 - Being a 501C3 Organization how best to spent the \$4,000 in grant money we currently have.

- Steve noted that Barbara Sears is attempting to track down a retired Green Beret who is bringing active duty PTSD military and their families to the NC mountains.
- Doug noted that Veteran Affairs has identified two possible local veterans for assistance. Bennie Severt needs financial assistance to replace a leaking roof. Norma Stanberg (spouse of veteran who died in 2020) lost her VA Pension when husband died. Veteran Affairs Officer is working to see if it can be reinstated but in the mean time she needs assistance with debt for car repairs and home repair.
- Doug noted the funds are in the General Fund but can be moved if we need to.
- Steve noted that other local veteran groups may want to participate.
- Don noted that any payments should be made to business providing the services.
- Don suggested \$1,000 as maximum amount with exceptions requiring Board approval.
- Charles suggested inviting local Gold Star Mothers to one of our social meetings and paying for their meal.
- Charles suggested contacting the Ashe County Honor Guard to see if they have any funding needs.

- Action items:

Steve to contact Barbara Sears to ask her to have information on Green Beret by our meeting on Dec 21.

Charles to contact both veterans to schedule home visits and report back to Board.

Steve to contact other local veterans groups to see if they wish to participate.

Charles to discuss Gold Star Mothers proposal with his contact and report back to the Board.

Charles to contact the Honor Guard and report back to the Board.

Doug to see if can use Grant dollars to pay for Gold Star Mothers meals.

Topic #2 - Steve has discovered the Blue Ridge Honor Guard. This is an organization that puts veterans up in a hotel room in Ashville, flies them to Washington DC the next day for a tour,

provides all meals and a return flight at no cost to the veteran. Steve is scheduled to participate and will update us when he returns. The web site to sign up is [www.blueridgehonorflight.com](http://www.blueridgehonorflight.com)

Topic #3 - MOAA National has contacted us requesting to schedule a visit.

Doug noted the last time we met at the Hotel Tavern.

Don suggested we contact the High Country Chapter in Boone to see if they are interested in a combined meeting.

Charles suggested we publicize the meeting and use it to invite potential new members.

Action items -

Steve to contact President of High Country MOAA and report back to the Board.

Topic #4 - Social Activities for remainder of year and 2022.

Last function for 2021 is Dec 21 at the Ashe County Arts Council.

Doug noted that in the past we have met at the Hotel Tavern but they are not able to provide a dedicated room in their new facilities.

Doug suggested we consider meeting upstairs at the Riverside Restaurant Charles noted that there are several members who could not climb the stairs . The owner (Josh) offered he is planning to be closed Monday and Tuesday but would be happy to open for us which would allow us to use the bottom floor.

Doug noted that we start meeting in May and have a picnic , Marathon Jam, and a Holiday function.

Charles noted that the Chamber of Commerce Venue would work and we could have the food catered (suggests Smokey Mountain BBQ).

Doug noted there is a room at the Ashe site of Wilkes Community College.

Don noted there is a new facility across the river from his home.

Action Items -

Charles to contact Chamber of Commerce and report back to the Board.

Don to contact facility and report back to the Board.

Topic #5 - Steve noted there is a writing class for PTSD victims taught by ASU

Topic #6 - Doug noted there is a Council Meeting Nov 12/13. He will attend on the 12th.

Topic #7 - Doug noted Pam Gardner is having another sale. In the past we have provided those proceeds to the Fisher Houses at Ft Bragg.

Action item - Steve to contact Pam Gardner to see if she is willing to donate to other projects.

