



**Sandhills Chapter of the
Military Officers Association of America**

**April 2016
NEWSLETTER**



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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Polly Flippo

It is hard to believe that it is April and that the first quarter of the year has come and gone. While many of the Chapter's activities are months away, there still has been a lot of work taking place behind the scenes:

Because of your hard work in 2015, I have submitted the necessary information to MOAA to be considered for the following awards in 2016:

- Communications Award for the newsletter
- Communications Award for our chapter website
- Chapter Level of Excellence Award

○ Chapter awards will be announced around the end of May

○ The golf committee started meeting in March and plans are underway for the tournament in September

○ The new publicity committee is in place and ready to start working towards accomplishment of its goals

○ Planning for VetFest 2016 is ongoing and underway

With a national election in November, as a Chapter, we must remain politically neutral given our status as a nonprofit. However, as individuals, each one of us can be involved and work to influence our legislators at all levels of government. This is particularly true when it comes to the benefits we have earned such as TRICARE and its many components. One way to take action is to contact your legislators in Washington. When you get a request from MOAA asking you to contact your legislators in Washington, you should consider doing so.

The reasons are simple. At almost 400,000 members strong, MOAA is a voice that legislators listen to. Additionally, in the current fiscal environment, DC is looking to cut spending and military benefits. There is no doubt that TRICARE programs, as well as other benefits, will be a continued focus as a cost cutting opportunity. Make your voice heard not just for retirees and former soldiers, but also for those currently serving.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2016 OFFICERS

President	Polly Flippo
1 st Vice President	Scott Greenblatt
2 nd Vice President	Anthony Lopiccolo
Secretary	<i>Vacant</i>
Secretary-elect	William Clemons
Treasurer	Chris Samples
Treasurer-elect	William Taylor

2016 Directors

Jeff Beran	John Boesch
Diana DiStefano	Tom Nesbit

2017 Directors

Alan Marshall	Bruce Osborne
Jim McCaskill	John Regan

Appointed Positions

Chaplain	David Curlin
MOAA Women	Joan Thurman
Surviving Spouse	Margaret Shaw
TOPS Liaison	Scott Greenblatt

Immediate Past President

William Colmer

Contact information for the Board of Directors (BOD) members and committee chairs can be found in the *Membership Directory*

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Sandhills MOAA and MOAA National are bipartisan.



This is your newsletter, the purpose of which is to keep you informed and connected. You are encouraged to submit articles, notices, letters and photographs to the editor Chris Samples electronically at sandhills.moa.treasurer@gmail.com or via snail mail to 105 Isleworth Place, Aberdeen NC 28315. Submissions are typically due the last Monday of the month and may be edited to conform with space constraints.

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Secretary's Report April 2016

Membership:

As of Dec 2015: 303 Reg-247; Aux-49; Honorary-7

As of Mar 2016: 291 Reg-223; Aux-39; Honorary-7; Active Duty-22

Losses:

- 6 - Moved
- 12 - Declined to renew
- 14 - No response to renewal invoice

Member Deaths: 2

Louise Huntley Garris
Malcolm Ware

New Members: 3

Jeff Miller, CWO2 USA
Phillip Sounia, LtCol USA
Katerine Curtin, Capt. USA FM

Annual Golf Outing

This year's **Annual Golf Outing** will be held Wednesday, September 21st, at the [Whispering Pines River course](#). We look forward to seeing you at this wonderful event which supports our JROTC Scholarship and Veterans' Support Funds.

To volunteer or ascertain additional information concerning the event, you can call Jeff Beran at 910-295-4828.

Presidents Comments Continued...

To get notifications on events that affect veterans and military members, go to the [MOAA Website \(www.moaa.org\)](http://www.moaa.org) and at the top you will see a drop down that says "Take Action". Go to the "Legislative Action Center" and on the left, a bit down the page it will say "Stay Informed" and there will be a place for you to sign up for the "action e-list". Many of you are signed up but if you are not or have had an email address change, this is where you can sign up to get the information.

Don't forget our Sandhills MOAA website (www.sandhillsmoaa.com). There are many timely announcements and great information that you can use!

As you will see from the information in this issue, the April luncheon is dedicated to recognizing 2016 JROTC Scholarship winners and the JROTC Instructors Of The Year. Sandhills MOAA supports seven JROTC programs in our catchment area. Evidence has shown that JROTC training and discipline stay with students through life. Cadets obtain leadership skills and have a stronger work ethic than many other students. Please join us for lunch at the newly renovated Pinehurst No. 9's Ballroom and show your support for these fine young students who will be our future leaders.

There are still unfilled appointed positions on the board of directors. The most critical vacancy is the position of Chaplain. The person filling this seat does not have to be an active duty military chaplain. A member or the spouse of a member who is a minister, retired minister, church elder or worship leader is also qualified. The other vacancy that needs to be filled is the Personal Affairs Officer. The Personal Affairs Officer offers assistance to next of kin in the event of serious illness or death. Members and spouses of members are eligible to sit on the board of directors. If you are interested in serving or want more information, please contact me.

The 2nd Quarterly Meeting for the North Carolina Council of Chapters will be held on April 1-2 at Nags Head. Tom Nesbit will attend and represent the chapter. On April 14, I will join Jeri Graham (former NCCOC President and Sandhills MOAA member) who is hosting an information session on establishing a satellite chapter in the Sanford area. Other future events include the May luncheon, in which veteran service organizations in Moore County will be presented with donations from the Chapter's veterans support fund. The Memorial Day Ceremony will be held on May 30, 2016, at 3 p.m. at the Village Chapel.

To view other events of interest in the area, go to www.sandhillsmoaa.com, click on news, and on right side of page, click on Moore County Veterans Council minutes.

Sandhills MOAA is the largest chapter in North Carolina and we need everyone's support and participation to accomplish our mission and goals.

April Luncheon

April 19 at 1130 at Pinehurst No. 9 Ballroom

Annual JROTC Scholarship Presentations

Annual JROTC Scholarship Presentations by Glenn Phelps, Col., USA, Ret. and Ted Mataxis, Jr., Lt.Col., USA, Ret. Come and support our local JROTC cadets as we award the 2016 scholarships.

New Payment Method:

You can now pay with your credit card by clicking on the red 'Pay Here' button below. You will be redirected to the Sandhills MOAA website where you can RSVP and pay via the secure method of PayPal. You can either pay with your credit card or PayPal account. We hope that this new payment method will eliminate printing and mailing forms thus saving you time and stamps. Please check it out at http://sandhillsmoaa.com/registration_lunch.html.

You must reserve a seat to attend the luncheon; no walk-ins the day of the luncheon.

Send the attached form & check to: MOAA, P.O. Box 4205, Pinehurst, NC 28374 to arrive not later than Thursday, 14 April 2016.



Legislative Update



By Tom Nesbit

Will You Pay More at the Commissary?

Last year, Congress wrote a requirement into the defense bill for the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to achieve

The money required to keep commissaries operating is small in terms of the overall defense budget, but the desire to use that money elsewhere (approximately \$1.4 billion annually) is high.

The commissary continues to be a favorite benefit for servicemembers, retirees, wounded warriors, and survivors. Yet, every year, we find the program coming under budget scrutiny. The budget-neutrality for the commissary and exchange benefits no later than March 1, 2016. Then, the Department was tasked to begin pilot projects to achieve that goal - while also maintaining current levels of patron savings and satisfaction and product quality.

Recently, Defense Chief Management Officer, Peter Levine, acknowledged budget neutrality couldn't be achieved while still meeting those criteria. But the requirement to proceed with the report remains.

March 1, 2016 has passed, and the report release has been delayed, but is expected later this year. After the report is submitted, DoD will be allowed to begin pilot programs using concepts such as variable pricing.

Commissaries currently are not allowed to sell items for less than cost or more than cost. The variable pricing pilot would allow them to selectively modify product prices, up or down, for up to five years (or more if it works to reduce requirements for tax dollar support).

Although the pilot still requires DoD to meet benchmarks for savings, product quality, and customer satisfaction, variable pricing could change the way commissaries deliver those savings.

Civilian stores use variable pricing to create "loss leaders" - basic products that may be priced at a loss to the store, but attract patrons to buy other products with higher profit margins.

Variable pricing could also lead to varying commissary prices by location. For example, in areas where costs outside the gate are higher, commissaries could adjust pricing upward, so long as the patron experiences the equivalent level of savings compared to local groceries. Accordingly, if the local groceries are typically priced lower than the national average, the commissary would have to adjust their prices downward, potentially at a loss, to provide savings.

Therefore, some assignments may result in higher or lower out of pocket cost to the patron to put the same food on the table.

MOAA hopes these pilots are successful in finding efficiencies without deteriorating the benefit.

The commissary isn't just a store inside the gates of a military installation. It's one of the key mechanisms through which the Defense Department delivers a military benefits package intended to sustain long-term retention and readiness

NC Council of Chapters

JROTC INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR Competition

The Sandhills MOAA Chapter is proud to have two military leaders from the seven JROTC Organizations we support with cadet scholarships and recognition. Each year the NC Council of Chapters conducts a statewide competition among the MOAA Chapters in NC, to nominate one Commissioned Officer and one Enlisted instructor from their supported JROTC Organizations.

We are proud to participate in selecting the best of the best from our seven JROTC organizations in our MOAA Region. The competition is challenging because every one of the seven dedicated officers and unit leaders, seven senior enlisted leaders, and one civilian instructor in our region's seven JROTC units clearly qualify as 'the best of the best!' This year we will nominate Master Gunnery Sergeant Dangerfield, USMC-Retired, the senior enlisted leader at the Naval Junior ROTC Detachment in Union Pines High School; and Lt. Col. Drew Croucher USAF (Ret), the Senior Instructor of the East Montgomery High School US Air Force JROTC unit.

Both of these nominees are outstanding leaders, teachers and role models who provide inspirational leadership to their student cadets and are successful in motivating their cadets to consider military careers, and in providing role model inspiration to other students in their schools. Their professionalism is responsible, each year, not only in many enlistments but also in several applications for military academy appointments.

MOAA Women

By Joan Thurman

Our bi-monthly luncheon meeting is coming up on Tuesday, April 26th at the Members Club in Pinehurst. We gather about 11:15 for a social time and call the meeting to order at noon. We will have an interesting speaker and always delicious food! Our Program chair, VP Lane, tells me that the program isn't firm yet but not to worry, we will enjoy it! Information about the speaker will be published in the Pilot in the Wed edition. Additionally, we will send an email to those of you whose address we have in our roster.

Please send your reservation check to JoEtta Engle at 501 Sandalwood Dr, Southern Pines NC 28387. Cost is \$18.50. Last minute reservations may be made by calling JoEtta at 692-9428 – no later than 22 April.

I hope to see you there! We're a friendly group of women with our military experiences in common! Come and join us!

Call Joan at [910-215-0227](tel:910-215-0227) with your questions!

Sandhills "Vet Fest" 2016 Planning is Underway

By John Boesch

The Sandhills Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) established the Veterans Support Fund (VSF) in 2013 to benefit Moore County disabled and disadvantaged veterans. The VSF is primarily funded by monies raised from "Vet Fest" events surrounding Veterans Day.

"Vet Fest" was initially known as "Veterans Weekend." That first "Veterans Weekend" netted over \$8,600, of which \$6,000 was donated to the MMIA, Old Glory Legacy Foundation, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post John Boyd Post 7318. The remaining \$2,600 was reserved as seed money for the following year's program.

Since inception, Vet Fest activities have netted over \$45,700, with over \$25,200 being donated to the MMIA, VFW, DAV, American Legion, and Vietnam Veterans organizations - all in Moore County. The process of finalizing veteran recipients of monies from the 2015 "Vet Fest" is underway.

Planning is underway for "Vet Fest 2016." The Vet Fest Committee, Parade Committee, and Concert Committee are welcoming volunteers. As other committees ramp up, no doubt there will be opportunities for participation. Contact John Boesch (qbboesch@aol.com) for more information.

There will be a full week of activities, including MOAA's traditional Veteran's Day Observance (Nov. 11 in Pinehurst and Carthage), The Veteran's Parade, (Nov. 12, Southern Pines), The Poker Run (Nov. 12, Moore County), The Veterans' Putting Challenge (Nov. 7) and the Veteran Golfers Association 2nd Annual National Championship (Nov. 6-9) – both at Pinehurst #2, The Colt Ford Concert (Nov. 6, The Fair Barn).

Other activities for the week currently in planning but without dates set include: The Veterans Concert (Pinecrest Auditorium), The BlueVass Concert (Vass).

You can follow the development of "Vet Fest 2016" events on the MOAA website (www.sandhillsmoaa.com), as well as the "Vet Fest" website (www.sandhillsveteransfestival.com). BTW, right now, the 2015 site is what is visible on the "Vet Fest" site. That will change in the next couple of weeks. We welcome you to join us in making the 2016 Sandhills Veterans Festival the best to date.



An application for membership in Sandhills MOAA can be found at <http://sandhillsmoaa.com/join.html> or e-mail sandhills.moaa@gmail.com to have one mailed to you.



APRIL 2016 MOAA LUNCHEON

DATE: Tuesday, April 19, 2016
PLACE: ***** Pinehurst No. 9 Ballroom*****
TIME: 1130 hours
COST: \$17.00 per person
PROGRAM: Annual JROTC Scholarship Presentations by Glenn Phelps, Col.,USA, Ret. and Ted Mataxis, Jr., Lt.Col.,USA, Ret.
MENU: Pinehurst Quiche with Seasonal Melon Salad
 Rolls
 Coffee and tea
 North Carolina Tarheel Pie

Send form & check to MOAA, P.O. Box 4205, Pinehurst, NC 28374

To arrive not later than Thursday, April 14 2016
You must have a confirmed reservation to attend the luncheon.

Your Name: _____

Guest(s): _____

(Optional) Included in my check is \$_____ for the:

- _____ Veterans Support Fund
- _____ Chapter's JROTC Fund
- _____ Chapter's Fisher House Fund

- **Please note that due to the change in venue we WILL not be able to accommodate late reservations and walk-ins the day of the luncheon.**
- **any/all registrants who did not mail their reservation form to arrive by Thursday, April 14 must call or email Bruce Osborne at (910) 420-2272 or boco6@nc.rr.com NLT 1300 hours Sunday April 17.**
- **If you have made arrangements to pay the day of the luncheon, we appreciate a check or exact change**

JROTC is a successful program, making substantial contributions to students, schools, and communities which greatly benefit from its presence. The benefits of JROTC are reflected in the metrics impacting all schools in the U.S.

	Average School	JROTC
Attendance	0.9	0.93
Graduation	0.86	0.98
In-discipline	0.15	0.05
Drop Outs	0.03	0
GPA	2.68	2.9

2016 Program Calendar (Tentative)

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location
19 Apr	Tuesday	1130	Monthly Luncheon	Pinehurst #9 Ballroom
17 May	Tuesday	1130	Monthly Luncheon	TBD
30 May	Monday	TBD	Memorial Day Observation	Village of Pinehurst
21 Jun	Tuesday	1800	Quarterly Dinner	Pinehurst Members Club
19 Jul	Tuesday	1130	Monthly Luncheon	TBD
18 Oct	Tuesday	1800	Quarterly Dinner	Pinehurst Members Club
21 Sep	Wednesday	TBD	Annual Golf Outing	CC of Whispering Pines
Nov	TBD	TBD	Veterans Putting Challenge	TBD
6 Nov	Sunday	TBD	Concert	Pinecrest High School
7-12 Nov			VetFest 2016	Varies
11 Nov	Friday	1100	Veterans Day Observance	Village of Pinehurst
15 Nov	Tuesday	1130	Monthly Luncheon	Belle Meade
13 Dec	Tuesday	1800	Christmas Dinner Dance	Pinehurst Members Club

TBD – to be determined (Belle Meade Dining Area Undergoing Renovation)