



## Sandhills Chapter Military Officers Association

### *Newsletter*

*May 2020*



Nick Christopher, Chapter President

Dear Sandhills MOAA Members,

The COVID 19 has certainly changed our daily lives. Practically all our conversations begin with "I hope you and your families are well and safe." We have all been inundated with e-mails and printed matter giving us the most current information on how to protect ourselves and families; and the number of lives the pandemic has taken.

The information on COVID 19 is extremely important. However, what we are in need of is information on our membership and how we are aligning ourselves to meeting the commitments to our programs. For this reason I have asked Iggi Husar to restart our Sandhills Chapter newsletter. Our aim is to furnish information on the most current and future status of our activities and to keep the membership informed on regarding MOAA national and state activities.

The newsletter will present the status of actions each elected Officer is charged to perform. This is intended to keep you informed as to how we will execute the requirements of the Sandhills MOAA chapter and how you may be able to assist.

The last page of this Newsletter reviews the most current information we have concerning our schedule for the remaining part of the year. The schedule will undoubtedly change as the health situation changes and we will keep you informed through this newsletter.

Attached is a communique I sent to all members last month reviewing the most current actions that have affected our Chapter. You will find updated information provided by your elected officers in their respective columns.

If you wish to contribute by writing an article for the Newsletter, please forward it to Iggi Husar at: [media@sandhillsmoaa.org](mailto:media@sandhillsmoaa.org). If you wish to bring an issue to the attention of the Board, please contact a board member so that it may be raised at a scheduled Board meeting.

E-Mail previously sent to Membership:

*I hope you and your families are well and following the guidelines that Governor Roy Copper has put in place for our state. We have not been affected as badly as other states, but the potential is there. It is up to us individually to halt the spread of COVID 19.*

*With the concurrence of the Board of Directors, the April JROTC Awards dinner has been cancelled. However, the scholarships will still be awarded to the student nominated by each of the nine high schools participating in the program. Once all schools have responded with their nominations, Iggi Husar will implement the award action and we will inform you and the media of the selectees.*

*At our March Executive Board meeting, conducted via ZOOM video conference, we reviewed the pandemic situation and how it will affect the events we have planned for the rest of this year.*

- *We will conduct our board meetings by Zoom video conferencing rather than in person.*
- *The member meetings that we hold at Pinehurst Country Club (PCC) have been cancelled until further notice. However, the situation will be reviewed monthly by our 1st VP Susan Goodman.*
- *Resumption of our membership meetings will be dependent on what the Governor mandates and the policy in effect by PCC.*
- *While the board cannot meet physically, it continues to meet telephonically and conduct the business of the chapter. We will shortly publish the annual Directory (delayed because of COVID19), and support the Veterans Support Fund as requests are received.*  
*For the immediate planned events:*
- *We will continue to plan for our Memorial Service at the Village Chapel on 25 May. Our 2d VP Jim Slavin is in discussion now with the Chapel as to the possibility of conducting a telecast of the ceremony if gathering restrictions remain in force.*
- *The Golf outing, that our Secretary Bill Colmer has been organizing, will continue to be planned. However, this also will be dependent on the pandemic situation and the restrictions we are under.*

*Our Director, and Communications Officer, Rollie Sampson maintains our Web Page, [www.sandhillsmoaa.com](http://www.sandhillsmoaa.com) and we will post status of all our activities.*

*Stay well and stay safe!*

## **NOTES FROM YOUR OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS**



Susan Goodman, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (Programs & Legislative Action)

As most of you know, our March and April meetings were cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic. Even though our March meeting was cancelled at the last meeting, the club informed us there would be no charge for the last minute cancellation. In April, the Country Club could no longer serve meals there was again no charge due to our cancellation. When we signed our contract with the club, we agreed to spend a certain amount of money over the course of the year. Cancelling these two meetings could have caused a financial drain on our budget if the rest of the year's meetings were not well attended.

However, once again, due to the reasons for cancelling, the total amount required by the club was reduced by the amount that would have been required for the two missed meetings.

I talked with the Club yesterday and they still, as of Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, do not know how soon they will be open for business as usual or what form “usual business” will take. The catering director asked me to call her next week for further information. We will send our regular emails and post cards as soon as we know what will happen. If we are unable to host the meeting, we will also send a message.



Jim Slavin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Memorial Day Ceremony-Sandhills Chapter of Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) to Conduct Memorial Day Service on 25 May at 1:00.

In spite of the health challenges during this pandemic, the Sandhills Chapter of MOAA will conduct this year's Memorial Day Service via internet streaming. Thanks to a gracious and generous team at the Pinehurst Village Chapel, Sandhills MOAA will present the event on 25 May at 1:00. This year's service will be curtailed slightly due to the limitations on assembling. Nevertheless we will have a great program featuring Admiral Leighton W. Smith as our guest speaker.



Bill Taylor, Treasurer

Chapter received a \$250 bonus from NC MOAA Council of Chapters (COC) for membership retention. Chapter has commenced distribution of JROTC scholarships for 2020. Membership dues to NCCOC has been sent.



Bill Colmer, Secretary

The Chapter currently has 184 members made up of 156 Regular members, 23 Surviving Spouse members and 5 Honorary members.

The Board of Directors is currently reviewing and updating the Chapter's Bylaws and Standing Rules. The Board has approved revisions to the Bylaws and these revisions will be presented to the members for their consideration at the next full membership meeting. This meeting is currently scheduled for 16 June, but may be postponed due to the continuing concerns regarding COVID-19. Since the BOD Standing Rules are driven by the Bylaws, their revision will follow.

In other news, the Board is still considering sponsoring a Golf Tournament in the Fall of this year to raise funds in support of our JROTC Scholarship Program. Eight members have volunteered to be part of the Tournament Committee (Thanks to all) and discussions

with potential venues are on-going. However, due to the impacts of COVID-19, the ability of the venues to support a tournament and the dates available are still uncertain. Now that restrictions are being eased, we anticipate more definition on the planning.



Iggi Husar, Director

JROTC Scholarship and Medal Awards – Sandhills MOAA Chapter had its first virtual Board of Directors (BOD) meeting on 8 April. At that virtual meeting, our Chapter President, COL Nick Christopher, confirmed cancellation of our Scholarship and Awards Dinner scheduled for 21 April. On 22 April, I met with Nick at his home to have him sign scholarship letters/certificates and MOAA JROTC certificates. To recognize JROTC cadet scholarship and JROTC Medal winners, I mailed to each high school’s Principal Instructor the scholarship[ award letters/certificates as well as MOAA and ROA JROTC certificates and medal sets for distribution those awardees.



Rollie Sampson, Director

The Chapter has been notified that we are under consideration for a grant to assist Moore County Schools to identify risk areas for military connected school aged children. Although I have received verbal confirmation from MOAA about the grant, I have not received the official notification. I have attached the original grant application I submitted. I do anticipate a few minor changes to it due to COVID-19 but will not make any adjustments to the plan until we receive the official MOAA guidelines. In the interim, I have been working with the school counselors to finalize a list of resources that they feel best fit our military student needs.



Ron Cherep, Membership. As first year chairman of membership I decided to go back in our past members who no longer renewed and see if they would like to renew their membership. The results were encouraging with multiple past members renewing. I also endeavored to bring more members to join the national chapter with somewhat success.



Karen Iampietro, Surviving Spouse Liaison

Karen Iampietro has joined us as our Surviving Spouse Liaison. She has made calls to many of our surviving spouses members during the lockdown to check-in and make sure they have a contact with in the organization.

**Below are Chapter Directors and Officers who will report on their activities when they information to share.**



Jeff Baren Immediate Past President



Mike Oriet, Director

John Nesbitt, Director

The Chapter has developed an application for Moore County veterans seeking assistance for unexpected financial hardship. The application is posted on our website, and once filled out by the applicant, it should be mailed to our P.O. Box 4205, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

Dan Rossi, Director

## **2020 Calendar of Events**

### **MEMBERSHIP EVENTS**

- 25 May Virtual Memorial Day Service – Pinehurst Village Chapel
- 16 June Member Luncheon-Pinehurst Golf Country Club (*tentative*)
- 4 July Independence Day Parade - Carthage
- XX Aug Member Event TBD
- 13 Sep Veterans Support Fund / JROTC Recognition Dinner-Pinehurst Country Club
- 3 Oct Autumnfest-Southern Pines
- 17 Oct Holly Arts & Crafts Festival-Pinehurst Village
- 7 Nov Veterans Day Parade-Southern Pines
- 11 Nov Veterans Day Ceremony - Location TBD
- 17 Nov Elections & Recognition Luncheon – Pinehurst Country Club
- 9 Dec Officer Elections & Annual Meeting (**Holiday Celebration?**)

## **WORKING EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Chapter President	Nickolas Christopher
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Susan Goodman
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Jim Slavin
Secretary	Bill Colmer
Treasurer	Bill Taylor
Communications	Rollie Sampson
Membership	Ron Cherep
Public Relations/ Newsletter Editor	Iggi Husar

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SCHEDULE**

13 May	Board of Directors Meeting – virtual
16 May	NC Council of Chapters Quarterly Meeting – virtual
10 Jun	Board of Directors Meeting – CARE Cottage
12 Aug	Board of Directors Meeting – CARE Cottage
9 Sep	Board of Directors Meeting – CARE Cottage
14 Oct	Board of Directors Meeting – CARE Cottage
4 Nov	Board of Directors Meeting – CARE Cottage
14 Nov	NC Council of Chapters Quarterly Meeting – location TBD



*Remember & Honor*

*May 25th, 2020 at 3 p.m.*

**Memorial Day Virtual Observance**

**Monday, May 25th, 2020 at 3 p.m.**

The annual Moore County Memorial Day Observance will be live streamed through The Village Chapel's YouTube Channel and the Sandhills MOAA Facebook Page.

*For more information visit [www.http://sandhillsmoaa.org/memorial-day](http://sandhillsmoaa.org/memorial-day)*

