

The Summit (AUG 2017)

The Summit Newsletter



The High Country Chapter of the MOAA was formed in 2004 and serves Avery, Mitchell, and Watauga counties. The Military Officers Association of America is a non-profit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and to preserving the earned entitlements of members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. Membership is open to those who hold or have ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, or NOAA and their surviving spouses.



Where our battles take place

President's Remarks

The work of the Veterans Memorial Committee is entering the final phases. We have selected a winner and are working out some details prior to an announcement. We anticipate remaining on schedule with installation in the summer of 2018.

HCCMOAA earned the Five Star Level of Excellence Award. This is the highest level for individual Chapters. All chapter members should take great pride in your participation in the many community, military family and ROTC activities which earned us this recognition. The award will be presented at the NC Council of Chapters State Convention, September 7-10.

The Veterans Information Session sponsored by Rep. Foxx's office was held Friday August 11th 2:00-4:00pm at the NCNG Armory in Boone. Our chapter hosted a booth and represented MOAA at this event.

Approximately 40 attended the general membership meeting on Friday, August 25th. The atmosphere, dinner and guest speaker were all excellent. We hope to see even more chapter members attend our next general membership meeting which we hope to host in October. Details will be provided in the near future.

We anticipate some turnover in our Board as some members step down having served for many years. This is a great opportunity for chapter members to ease into the governance of the Chapter. Please contact me or any current board member if you are interested in serving.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank MAJ Dinah Pinney for her years of service as our Treasure and the superb job she did for us all. She is stepping down from that position. I am sure our new Treasure, Ed Groff and his assistant Treasure Frankie Groff who have stepped forward to assume the role appreciate the good position our books are in. Thank you again Dinah.

As many of you know we lost a steadfast member of our board with the passing of David Garvin who recently lost his battle with cancer. I think I speak for all past presidents who would tell you how invaluable David was as our Secretary. He was always on top of quarterly and annual reports that our National Headquarters required. He is a big reason for our chapter receiving the many 4 and 5 star awards over the past years. His presence and valuable input will be greatly missed. David personified the mantra, "Never stop serving".

Fred Schmitt
President

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CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS

President: Capt Fred Schmitt USCG

1st VP: Capt Doug May USMC

2nd VP: CAPT Charles Rhodes USN

Secretary: MAJ Marvin Williamson USA

Treasurer: LTC Ed Groff USA

Past President: MAJ Bob Gibbard USA

BOARD MEMBERS:

LtCol George Brudzinski USMC (PP)

CPT Nick Friedman USA (PP)

LTC Ron Branch USA

COL Ben Covington USA (PP)

MAJ Dinah Pinney USAF

CoL John Alley USA (PP)

LTC Michael Halus USA



Martha Garvin accepts Letter of Appreciation for her husband LTC David Garvin who recently passed away. The award was for service above and beyond expectations as the chapter secretary. At our Aug quarterly meeting



MAJ Dinah Pinney receives a Certificate of Achievement from Chapter President Fred Schmitt for her many years serving as the chapter Treasurer at our Aug quarterly meeting.



Committee for the Boone veterans memorial members COL Ben Covinton and LTC George Brudzinski receive a \$1000 check from David Jackson the President /CEO of the Boone Area Chamber of Commerce after he gave an excellent presentation on the future goals of the Boone CC at our Aug quarterly meeting.

Veterans Corner.

By Mike Halus

DD Form 214 Online

Gaining access to your DD Form 214 has never been easier. This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of the DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents.

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to sign access to their dd-214 online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>

How to Secure Compensation for Dependents

All veterans having a 30% or more service-connected evaluation may be entitled to additional compensation for a spouse, dependent parents, or unmarried children under 18 (or under 23 if attending an approved school) or a child who became permanently incapable of self-support because of mental or physical defect prior to age 18. The additional benefit for a spouse is payable in a higher amount upon receipt of evidence establishing that the spouse is a patient in a nursing home or disabled as to require the aid and attendance of another person.

How to Increase Benefits for Unemployability

If your service-connected disabilities are seriously disabling to the extent that you are unable to secure and hold steady work or employment, you may apply to receive total disability. To apply for this benefit, you should contact the nearest VA Regional Office and complete VA Form 21-8940, "Veteran's Application for Increased Compensation Based on Unemployability." Forms are available on the VA forms.

Compassionate Allowances Conditions Expanded

The Social Security Administration has announced 25 new Compassionate Allowances (CA) conditions. The CA program reduces the time it takes to make decisions on disability applications filed by Americans with the most serious disabilities, so they receive decisions on their claims within days, instead of months or years. The new conditions include a dozen cancers and disorders that affect the digestive, neurological, immune and multiple body systems.

Expedited Social Security Process for Vets

The Social Security Administration has unveiled a new initiative to expedite disability claims by veterans with a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation rating of 100% Permanent & Total (P&T). Under the new process, Social Security will treat these veterans' applications as high priority and issue expedited decisions, similar to the way the agency currently handles disability claims from Wounded Warriors. In order to receive the expedited service, veterans must tell Social Security they have a VA disability compensation rating of 100% P&T and show proof of their disability rating with their VA Notification Letter. Social Security plans to launch the expedited process in mid-March.

- For internet assistance, go to your local county library

- For questions and assistance concerning veteran's benefits, help with VA Claims and to obtain needed forms call Georgia Henry, Avery County Veterans Service Office, at (828) 733-8211

- Comments and suggestions on the Avery Veterans' Corner, questions on Disabled American Veterans, and help with veteran VA and other Claims call Mike Halus at 828 260-0620.

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Upcoming Events

1. Board meeting Sep 6th 5pm social, 5:30 meeting commences. Sagebrush Restaurant Boone.
2. Last Thursday of the Month, SEP 28 Officers Call, 5:15 PM at the Appalachian Brewing Company
3. Board meeting OCT 4th 5pm social, 5:30 meeting commences. Sagebrush Restaurant Boone.
4. Last Thursday of the Month, OCT 26 Officers Call, 5:15 PM at the Appalachian Brewing Company
5. OCT 13 or 14 we are planning our Annual Meeting. Details to follow.
6. Board meeting NOV 1st 5pm social, 5:30 meeting commences. Sagebrush Restaurant Boone.
7. November 5th 2PM “10 High Country Lanes” Strikes for Troops. Mark your calendars now. More information to follow.

Resources

Please copy and paste the following links to your links list on your computer.

e-mail: hccmoaa@gmail.com

High County Chapter Home Page

<http://hccmoaa.org/index.html>

North Carolina Council of Chapters Home Page

<http://www.moaa-nc.org/>

National MOAA Home page

<http://www.moaa.org/>