



MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

With Governor Cooper lifting the Covid restrictions for the state of North Carolina, the High Country Chapter of the Military Officers Association had their first “In-Person” social event this month. It was sumptuous Italian fare at the Fairway Café with Caesar salad, Chicken Parmesan, Spinach Lasagna with Marinara Sauce, Steamed Vegetables, and no-host drinks. It was a great opportunity to meet and greet at the cocktail hour and afterwards gather at table to share a meal, tell stories, and enjoy each other’s company.

After the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation, Doug May, our chapter president, offered a warm welcome to all attendees, introduced members of the board, and provided a brief update on the state of the chapter. Chapter Treasurer, George Brudzinski, then provided the current status of the chapter’s financial situation. In spite of a year of Covid restrictions, and the inability to hold regular fundraisers, our treasurer was happy to announce that membership dues and a series of in-house, like-kind contributions insured that the High Country Chapter remained in solid and positive fiscal standing. After the Treasurer’s Report, Doug May introduced Fred Schmitt, Immediate Past President and current chair of the Nomination Committee, who addressed the need for members to consider being nominated for next year’s Board of Directors.

The featured speaker for our membership social was Mr. David Jackson, President and CEO, Boone Area Chamber of Commerce since August of 2016. Mr. Jackson came to the chamber after serving 15 years of the Appalachian State Athletic Department staff. He also serves on the Board of Directors of AppalCart, Town of Boone Cultural Resources Department, Watauga Opportunities, Inc., the Watauga County Economic Development Commission, and serves as Chair of the Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee for the High Country Council of Governments.

In addressing local issues going on in the Boone area Mr. Jackson addressed the impact that Covid has had on the community over the past year, the upcoming New River bank reclamation project, renovation improvements of Howard Street, and answered several questions and concerns regarding the newly built/building of student housing apartments and their impact on the local traffic and businesses. On a lighter topic, but special to the MOAA High Country Chapter, Mr. Jackson was effusive in his appreciation and thanks for our organization’s significant influence regarding the fundraising and placement of the Boone Veterans Memorial on King Street. On a final note, Mr. Jackson reminded us that community involvement also includes the necessity to both vote in local elections and to consider the possibility of running for local offices. He reminded us that as military officers, MOAA members possess the skills in leadership, planning, and motivation that are necessary to improve our community. Consider his challenge!!

Keeping Up With MOAA News:

Web Site: Stay informed on local news/events. Google HCCMOAA.ORG for more information regarding Chapter NC-21.