

The Summit (SEP 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

As I mentioned in an earlier e-mail, a winner was selected for the design of the Watauga County Veterans Memorial. The winner is a local artist, Suzie Hallier of Banner Elk, with her "Time and Honor" design. The executive committee and artist agreed to add three knee walls surrounding the ellipse which will contain plaques with the dedication to veterans, specific armed conflicts with lives lost and acknowledgement of donors. The local press, Watauga Democrat, Mountain Times and High Country Press had nice articles describing the memorial. We anticipate a spring or summer installation and unveiling. Fund raising activities are ongoing so please contact George Brudzinski or go to our web site to make a donation. Many thanks to Ben Covington and John Ward as co-chairs, George Brudzinski, Nicole Worley, Lindsay Miller and their committees for leading this effort. We still have a lot of work ahead of us but we can now see what the finished memorial will look like. Thanks to all. Several upcoming dates of importance.

- (1) The annual membership meeting will be held on Friday, October 27th at the Fairway Café, Boone Golf Club. Menu details will be published in a flyer next month. All who attended agreed that the last buffet dinner at this venue was excellent and we are expecting a similar experience. We will swear in new Officers and Board Members at this meeting. Please sign up with me or Marv Williamsen.
- (2) Sunday November 5th will be a major fundraising event at the High Country Lanes in Boone. Bob Gibbard is preparing the information to be distributed to all members so stay tuned.

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.

Fred Schmitt
President



King St Monument that won the competition by Artist Sculptor Suzie Hallier. Suzie beat out 19 other applicants for the honor. See more about Suzie Hallier at our Facebook page. The link is listed in Resources section of this newsletter.

CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS/EVENTS INFO

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

8. The 3rd Annual November Strikes for Troops Sunday Nov 5th 2PM "10 High Country Lanes" Mark your calendars now. More information to follow in the next two Weeks. Please watch for it and participate or recruit friends or family members to join us in this fun fund raising event.



The Military Affairs Committee (MAC) at Appalachian State University would like to invite MOAA members and their families to the 2017 Heroes Day football game and tailgate. The November 9th game against Georgia Southern will begin at 7:30pm at Kidd Brewer Stadium. Free tickets for Heroes, including all military-affiliated personnel, and \$20 tickets for family members will be available through the Appalachian University Athletics ticket office (828-262-2079) or at the stadium the day of the game. The MAC and Student Veterans Association (SVA) will be holding our annual tailgate and would like the opportunity to thank the MOAA leadership and members for their continued support of our Student Veterans. It is always a pleasure to see MOAA members there! Great food, great fun, great fans! Please join us!

Veterans Corner.

By Mike Halus

Burial Expenses Reimbursed

VA will pay burial allowances up to \$2,000 if the veteran's death is service-connected. In such cases, the person who bore the veteran's burial expenses may claim reimbursement from VA.

In some cases, VA will pay the cost of transporting the remains of a veteran whose death was service-connected to the nearest National Cemetery with available gravesites. There is no time limit for filing reimbursement claims in service-connected cases.

Burial Allowance

VA will pay \$300 burial and funeral allowances for veterans who, at the time of death, were entitled to receive pension or compensation or would have been entitled if they were not receiving military retirement pay. Eligibility also may be established when death occurs in a VA facility, a VA-contracted nursing home or State Veterans nursing home. In cases in which the veteran's death was not service-connected, claims must be filed within two years after burial or cremation.

Death Pension

VA provides pensions to low-income surviving spouses and unmarried children of deceased veterans with wartime service.

Eligibility depends upon spouse not remarrying and children must be under 18, or under age 23 if attending a VA-approved school, or have become permanently incapable of self-support because of disability before age 18.

A surviving spouse may be entitled to a higher income limit if living in a nursing home, in need of the aid and attendance of another person or permanently housebound.

Veteran Health Registries

Certain veterans can participate in a VA health registry and receive free medical examinations, including laboratory and other diagnostic tests deemed necessary by an examining clinician. VA maintains health registries to provide special health examinations and health-related information. To participate, contact the Environmental Health (EH) Coordinator at a VAMC near you or call 1-800-827-1000 today.

Non-VA Health Care Services

VA may authorize veterans to receive care at a non-VA health care facility when the needed services are not available at a VAMC near the veteran, or if the veteran is unable to travel long distances to a VAMC. Non-VA care must be authorized by VA in advance. Veterans may also obtain services not covered in the benefits package through private health care.

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

Upcoming Events

1. Last Thursday of the Month, SEP 28 Officers Call, 5:15 PM at the Appalachian Brewing Company
2. Board meeting OCT 4th 5pm social, 5:30 meeting commences. Sagebrush Restaurant Boone.
3. Last Thursday of the Month, OCT 26 Officers Call, 5:15 PM at the Appalachian Brewing Company
4. Friday OCT 27th Annual meeting Boone Golf Club. Social starts at 6pm. Installation of officers takes place during this meeting. Please come and support your board and the officers who do the bulk of the work for the chapter.
5. Board meeting NOV 1st 5pm social, 5:30 meeting commences. Sagebrush Restaurant Boone.
6. November 5th 2PM “10 High Country Lanes” Strikes for Troops. Mark your calendars now. More information to follow.
7. Last Thursday of the Month, NOV 30th Officers Call, 5:15 PM at the Appalachian Brewing Company.

Resources

Please copy and paste the following links to your links list on your computer.
e-mail: hccmoaa@gmail.com

High County Chapter Home
<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/>

Page Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/HCCMOAA/>