

HIGH COUNTRY CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



SECRETARY'S REPORT

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#### Board of Directors Meeting – 5 November 2025

The Board of Directors meeting of the High Country Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) was conducted on **5 November 2025** at **Bocca Bistro Restaurant**, Boone, NC. The meeting was called to order by **President Melanie Trado (MAJ, USAR)** at **1630 hours**.

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#### Directors Attending

Melanie Trado MAJ, USAR (President)  
Frederick (Fred) Schmitt CAPT, USCG (Ret) (1st Vice President) (Chair, Nominating Committee)  
Adam Greene LTC, USA (Secretary and Legislative Affairs / Advocacy Chair)  
George Brudzinski LtCol, USMC (Ret) (Treasurer)  
James (Jim) Fisher CAPT, USN (Ret) (Chaplain) (Personal Affairs) (Newsletter)  
Lisa Ninnis MAJ, USAF (Fmr)  
Mary (Frankie) Groff (Surviving Spouse) (Immediate Past President)  
David Hollis LTC, USA (Ret)

#### Members Not Present:

Dinah Pinney MAJ, USAF (Ret)

**Quorum:** (6 required) – *Yes (8 present)*

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## Opening

The meeting opened with a **prayer offered for Melanie's family** by **Chaplain Jim Fisher**, followed by the **Pledge of Allegiance** led by **Frankie Groff**.

The **agenda**, **Secretary's Report**, and **Treasurer's Report** were distributed electronically prior to the meeting.

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## Approval of Previous Minutes

The **minutes from the 7 October 2025 meeting** were reviewed and approved unanimously without corrections.

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## Treasurer's Report

**George Brudzinski** presented the Treasurer's Report for the period ending **31 October 2025**.

- YTD revenue: \$2,011.60
- YTD expenses: \$1,582.23
- Net income: \$429.37
- Approved annual budget: \$8,616 revenue / \$11,065 expenses.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. **Motion passed unanimously.**

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## General Membership Meeting (GMM) Review

The Board discussed the **9 October General Membership Meeting** held at the **Daniel Boone Inn**.

- **34 RSVPs** were received, with **4 no-shows**.
  - **Meal cost:** \$31.21 per person.
  - Members noted **slow service** and **limited parking**.
  - The Board agreed that **future RSVPs will specify that no-shows will be billed** for meal costs.
  - Potential future venues include **BREMCO** and local churches.
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## Veterans Day Program

Plans for the **19th Annual Veterans Day Ceremony** at **Boone Mall** were finalized.

- **WHS MCJROTC Color Guard** and **Watauga Community Band** confirmed.
  - **Chair rentals, programs, and flyers** coordinated by **George Brudzinski**.
  - **Ann Marie** managing sponsor ads.
  - **Walk-through:** Friday, 7 November at 1000 hours (Mall Center Court).
  - **Guest speaker:** LTC Zach Jones, App State PMS.
  - The event will remain **non-partisan**, with courteous acknowledgment of attending officials and dignitaries.
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## Flags Over the High Country

George Brudzinski provided updates on the **Mount Lawn Cemetery Flag Project**:

- **Flag placement:** Saturday, 8 November 2025, at 1100 hours (arrive by 1045).
  - **Flag removal:** Saturday, 15 November 2025, at 1100 hours.
  - Approximately **650 veteran graves** will be honored.
  - Volunteers include **Girl Scout Troop #10289**, **Cub Scout Pack #100**, and the **App State Blade & Scabbard Club (ROTC)**.
  - Cemetery conditions are good; forecast calls for sunshine and temps in the 50s.
  - About **7 members have committed**; goal is to recruit at least 4 more.
  - Volunteers will be reminded to show **reverence** by silently reading each veteran's name as each flag is placed.
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## Fundraising and Community Engagement

President **Melanie Trado** reported on the upcoming **Spring 2026 Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser**.

- **Proposed venue:** Boone United Methodist Church (pending confirmation).
- **Tentative date:** April 2026 (after Easter).
- **Placemat ad sales** will begin in **January–February 2026**.
- **Prior sponsor lists** from previous years will be used to assist outreach.
- The Board will identify a **fundraising chairperson** at the December meeting.

The Board also discussed developing a **directory of veteran-owned and veteran-supportive businesses**.

- **Action:** *Melanie Trado* will contact **April at the Veterans Services Office** for the most current list.

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## Member Support

**Bob Love (T)** will coordinate **sympathy and get-well cards** on behalf of the Chapter.

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## Legislative and Government Affairs

**Adam Greene** provided the **Legislative Affairs** update:

- The **federal government shutdown** remains unresolved.
  - **North Carolina property tax relief** for 100% disabled veterans and the **state income-tax exemption** for military retirees remain in effect.
  - **Guest speaker programs** at Avery County and Watauga High Schools have been well received, with strong cadet participation.
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## Future Venues and Joint Events

The Board discussed alternative meeting locations for 2026, including the **public library** and local churches/

**Fred Schmitt** will engage the **American Legion** and other veteran organizations to explore a **joint 250th-anniversary event** in 2026.

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## Action Items

- *Melanie Trado* – Contact **April (Veterans Services Office)** for veteran-business list.
  - *Fred Schmitt* – Coordinate with **American Legion** and partners on 250th-anniversary event.
  - *Melanie Trado / Lisa Ninnis* – Compile and distribute **placemat advertiser list** by January 2026.
  - *Lisa Ninnis* – Update and distribute **chapter roster** within one week. Roster is to be updated by George Brudzinski
  - *Jim Fisher* – Maintain **member care and correspondence log**. I believe we were going to ask Bob love
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## **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by **Fred Schmitt** and seconded by **Lisa Ninnis**. Motion passed unanimously.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held at **Bocca Bistro on Tuesday, 2 December 2025, at 1630 hours**.

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**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Adam K. Greene, LTC, USA**  
Secretary and Legislative Affairs Chair