

HIGH COUNTRY CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



SECRETARY'S REPORT

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Board of Directors Meeting – BOD Meeting

Date: July 7, 2026

Location: South End Brewing, Boone, NC

Next Meeting: August 4, 2026

The Board of Directors of the High Country Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) met at South End Brewing to conduct chapter business and review financial matters, legislative affairs, upcoming chapter events, and opportunities for collaboration with neighboring MOAA chapters.

Participants

Present:

Melanie Trado, MAJ, USAR – President

Frederick “Fred” Schmitt, CAPT, USCG (Ret) – First Vice President

Adam Greene, LTC, USA – Secretary / Legislative Affairs Chair

George Brudzinski, LtCol, USMC (Ret) – Treasurer

Mary “Frankie” Groff – Immediate Past President

David Hollis, LTC, USA (Ret)

James “Jim” Fisher, CAPT, USN (Ret)

Lisa Ninnis, MAJ, USAF (Fmr)

Dinah Pinney, MAJ, USAF (Ret)

Not Present:

Patsy Alley – Surviving Spouse Representative

Guest:

Doug Earhart – New River Chapter, MOAA

Quorum: Yes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1700. Members observed a moment of silence in remembrance of the heroes of D-Day, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and an invocation.

Approval of Secretary's Report

The Secretary's Report from the June 2026 meeting was presented.

Outcome: Approved.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the monthly financial report.

Highlights included:

- Receipt of Joe Lee's final membership dues payment and payment for pancake breakfast tickets.
- Reimbursement for the Blowing Rock pavilion reservation.
- Payment for meals supporting disabled veterans during Blood, Sweat & Gears.

- Review of projected expenditures through January 2027.

The Board discussed renewal of the chapter Certificate of Deposit.

Motion: Renew the chapter Certificate of Deposit through January 2027.

Made by: Fred Schmitt

Seconded by: Frankie Groff

Outcome: Approved unanimously.

Insurance and Risk Management

The Board reviewed the chapter's insurance policy and discussed liability considerations for public events. Because the policy does not specifically address public event liability at locations such as Boone Mall, the Board agreed to continue pursuing written clarification from the insurance carrier.

The Board also discussed formally requesting law enforcement presence at future public ceremonies, including Memorial Day and Veterans Day, and documenting those requests as part of the chapter's event planning process.

Legislative Affairs

The Legislative Affairs Chair presented the July Legislative Affairs Update, highlighting continued congressional consideration of the Major Richard Star Act, military health care reform, caregiver legislation, and North Carolina veteran tax relief initiatives. Members were encouraged to enroll in the MOAA Legislative Action Center and continue communicating with elected officials regarding priority legislation.

Guest Presentation – New River Chapter

Doug Earhart provided an overview of the New River Chapter's operations, scholarship program, and annual activities, including Breakfast on the Mountain and the chapter holiday gathering. Mr. Earhart also discussed membership trends and the challenges associated with sustaining a small rural chapter. The Board discussed the possibility of a future satellite relationship between the New River Chapter and the High Country Chapter and agreed to continue evaluating MOAA guidance and templates regarding satellite chapter operations.

Blood, Sweat & Gears After Action Review

The Board reviewed support provided during the Blood, Sweat & Gears event.

Discussion included:

- Volunteer participation
- Disabled veteran meal support
- Traffic and parking operations
- Participant feedback
- Event attendance

The Board agreed the chapter's volunteer support was successful and expressed appreciation to all members who participated.

July 4 Parade After Action Review

The Board reviewed chapter participation in the Boone Independence Day Parade.

Discussion included observations regarding parade organization, veteran participation, and opportunities for improvement. Members agreed that future parades would benefit from the inclusion of a color guard leading the veteran contingent and directed that feedback be provided to parade organizers as part of the chapter's after-action comments.

General Membership Meeting

Planning continued for the August 13 General Membership Meeting at the Blowing Rock Park pavilion.

Discussion included:

- Catering options
- Save-the-date announcement
- Speaker selection
- Invitations to neighboring MOAA chapters
- Event logistics

Membership and Administration

The Board reviewed:

- Updated membership roster
- National membership module improvements
- Chapter catchment area updates
- Continued member outreach and recruitment

Veterans Memorial

The Board discussed long-term maintenance of the Boone Veterans Memorial, including follow-up with the Town of Boone regarding maintenance funding and consideration of installing a commemorative bench recognizing the collaborative effort that created the memorial.

Action Items

- Obtain written clarification regarding insurance coverage for public events.
- Coordinate law enforcement requests for future public ceremonies.
- Distribute a save-the-date announcement for the August General Membership Meeting.
- Continue discussions with the New River Chapter regarding possible satellite chapter opportunities.
- Follow up with the Town of Boone regarding Veterans Memorial maintenance funding and the commemorative bench proposal.
- Continue updates to the chapter website and membership records.

The meeting concluded following completion of Board business.

Next Meeting

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for **August 4, 2026**.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam K. Greene, LTC, USA

Secretary and Legislative Affairs Chair

High Country Chapter, MOAA