

## CHAPTER REPORT

This form should be used semi-annually to report important information about your chapter to the NC Council. Please complete and submit to the Council Secretary before each meeting. This is a read-only, downloadable form that can be filled out on-line and then printed. It is recommended that Chapters print two copies and save one for their local files.

**DATE:** 31 December 2020

**2<sup>nd</sup> Half 2020**

**CHAPTER:** SENCLAND. NC-07

**MAILING ADDRESS:** SENCLAND Chapter MOAA, P.O. BOX 10015, Wilmington, NC 28404

**WEBSITE:** [www.SENCLAND.org](http://www.SENCLAND.org)

**FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=SENCLAND%20MOAA>

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** [senclandchapter@gmail.com](mailto:senclandchapter@gmail.com)

**PRESIDENT'S NAME:** Jim Carper, BGEN, USA (Ret)

**MAILING ADDRESS:** 27 Brookwood Ave, Wilmington, NC 28403

**E-MAIL:** [senclandchapter@gmail.com](mailto:senclandchapter@gmail.com)

**PHONE NO.:** 910-262-7101

**MEMBERSHIP:** 204 Regular    34 Surviving Spouse    6 Honorary    7 Active (includes Guard/Reserve)

**MEMBERSHIP CHANGES (JULY TO DEC):** 16 Gains    5 Losses (all were due to death)

**MEMBERSHIP DUES:** \$20 Regular    \$15 Surviving Spouses

### FUND RAISING PROJECTS & SOURCES

Members donations for the Scholarship and Outreach programs  
Grant from the 701<sup>st</sup> Radar Squadron Alumni Reunion Fund (\$695)  
MOAA Retention Incentive for 2020 (not received yet)  
MOAA Recruitment Incentive for 2020 (not received yet)  
NC Council of Chapters Recruitment Incentive

**FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS:** Normally these occur monthly (Except July & August) at the Bluewater Restaurant on Wrightsville Beach and the Island Way restaurant on Oak Island in May. Because of COVID-19 restrictions and concern for the safety of attendees, our monthly meetings were suspended after the March 2020 meeting. The annual picnic was also cancelled. In September we held our first on-line meeting (via ZOOM). We have held three more ZOOM meeting since then, including a special Holiday Program featuring videos of holiday songs by the Service Bands and Choral Groups.

**AVERAGE ZOOM Meeting ATTENDANCE:** 35.

Last year our "in person" luncheon attendance was usually about 75 including guests and spouses. Our four ZOOM meetings have had an average participation rate of 35, but very few spouses have participated.

### SPECIAL MEETINGS:

Although we normally hold special social events, none were held in this period due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

In September 2020 we held a special ZOOM meeting with our new members and prospective members from the MOAA's Near Real Time (NRT) and several Board members. This was an opportunity for them to meet some of the Board members and visit socially with other new and prospective members. Subsequent to that meeting three of the prospective members have joined the Chapter.

**ROTC/JROTC UNITS SUPPORTED:** ROTC: None JROTC: 18

*(Note: SENCLAND has assumed responsibility for Duplin County as recommended by the NC Council of Chapters. Because most activity in this area has been limited due to the Pandemic, the following is a report on the entire year's activity.)*

**HOW DO YOU SUPPORT?** This spring we provided JROTC Leadership awards to a student at each of our 18 schools. Because of the COVID 19 Pandemic we were not able to hand every student their award. All schools were contacted and awards were mailed either to the JROTC instructors or directly to the cadet receiving the award.

#### **SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED?**

**JROTC Scholarships:** We provided a total of eight scholarships to JROTC cadets. These scholarships totaled \$6000. Five different schools received scholarships. Three of the cadets are dependents of active duty enlisted soldiers. Two other recipients have received three-year advanced designee ROTC Scholarships. One highlight of awarding the scholarships is usually meeting all the recipients at our Annual Pig Picking, but COVID-19 restrictions prevented us from holding the picnic at its regular date in June. Each cadet provided their picture and we will be putting an acceptance video by each cadet on our website.

**Veteran Scholarships:** Veteran Scholarships: We continue to work closely with the Veteran representatives at Cape Fear Community College (8 scholarships awarded), Brunswick Community College (2 scholarship awarded), and UNC Wilmington (9 scholarships Awarded). We have increased the budget for Veteran Scholarships to \$11,000 based on unanticipated financial needs due to COVID-19, potential unemployment, family illness, and other extenuating circumstances this population may be experiencing.

#### **OTHER CHAPTER ACTIVITIES:**

**Outreach Program:** This year's entire Outreach budget of \$2,200 has been distributed to Veterans and/or Spouses who have been adversely financially impacted by consequences of the pandemic. Working through the Cape Fear Chapter of MOAA in Fayetteville, a grant of \$400 went to the Armed Services YMCA Fort Bragg and the American Red Cross – Womack Army Medical Center to support military members and spouses. In concert with military affairs officers at Cape Fear Community College and University of North Carolina Wilmington we made grants of \$300 directly to two U.S. Army Veterans, two U.S. Navy Veterans, a widow of a 14-year U.S. Army Iraq War Veteran and the Spouse of a medically retired U.S. Marine Corps Veteran. All of the recipients were experiencing profound financial hardships. Our grants and those made through National MOAA's Covid-19 Relief Grant Program served to lessen financial struggles of highly deserving Veterans and Spouses.

**Support to MOAA's Covid-19 Relief Grant:** Beginning in April and continuing thru October, the Chapter made a commitment to assist MOAA in providing up \$500 grants to serving military members, their spouses, Honorably Discharged Veterans, & Caregivers for Veterans. We sent information on the Grant

availability thru all military and Veterans organizations in our six County area and provided approximately 45 individuals with applications packets. In addition, we processed approximately 60 completed packets to MOAA Relief Committee for review. Of those, we believe 25 were awarded Grants totaling approximately \$10,000.

**National MOAA Membership:** During this period, we continued our efforts to encourage all Chapter members to become national MOAA members. All but one of or 16 new members were also National MOAA members and the one that was not has joined National MOAA. This increased our National MOAA membership percentage to 97.2%.

**Use of MOAA's Near Real Time Recruitment Lists:** Each month the Membership Chair downloads the new list of potential Chapter members living in our catchment area. Board members, especially the Service Directors and the Membership Chair contact these officers and Surviving Spouses by telephone if one is provided, or by USPS or e-mail when a telephone number has not been provided. In spite of the absence of Chapter "in person" events we have gained 15 new Chapter members from the NRT lists.

**Increased Activity on the Chapter's FACEBOOK Page:** The Chapter PAO posts noteworthy information and information about Chapter events with pictures almost daily on our FACEBOOK Page. This increases the public awareness of the Chapter and reaches potential members in a younger demographic set.

**NC Council participation:** The President, Surviving Spouse Liaison, Membership Chair and Programs Chair all attended the Council's 14 November 2020 ZOOM Meeting. The Chapter's Surviving Spouse Liaison also serves as NC Council's Surviving Spouse Liaison. The Chapter's Legislative Chair serves on Council's legislative Action Committee and our Membership Chair serves on the Council's Recruiting and Retention team.

**SENCLAND Embroidered LOGO Apparel:** SENCLAND Chapter Shirts, caps and outerwear are available for sale via an Online Store thru the Queensboro Shirt Company in Wilmington. Members can access the store, select from a variety of shirts, and purchase directly from Queensboro. The Chapter receives a small commission from this source.

**Legislative: Legislative:** SENCLAND's Legislative Affairs Chairman continued to track progress of federal and state legislation of interest to Chapter members and prepared monthly Legislative Notes and updates for the Chapter newsletter, Website and discussion at monthly meetings. These monthly reports included updates on the changing details of the NC and local COVID-19 State of Emergency directives. He periodically provided the membership information on how to contact our Chapter's Representatives in Congress. He continued to support MOAA's national "Virtual Storming the Hill" campaign through the summer months by contacting our Senators and Congressman to discuss the MOAA issue concerning Military Health System (MHS) reforms. Our Legislative Chairman participated in state-level Virtual Storming activities via phone calls and emails to elected State Senators and Representatives in support of recently introduced legislation that would benefit MOAA members. From May through December, he served as a member of a NC Council of Chapters Legislative Working Group (WG) that was chartered to develop a MOAA legislative strategy for engaging with the 2021-22 NC General Assembly Session. The overall strategy was approved by the Council in July. The WG then developed implementing plans and tools for use by the Council and Chapters for advocacy next year. During November and December, he tracked the General Election for both federal and state races, and reported the results to Chapter members via our newsletter. He also updated contact information for all

elected officials in the SENCLAND area and provided that information to Chapter members on our Web site.

**Chaplain:** Our Wellness Committee has a number of duties that support the Chapter and its members. For example; providing the invocation at meetings and contacting members (and families) who are experiencing illness, hospitalization or admittance to Hospice. As a result of COVID-19, visits to hospitals and attending funerals has been halted until further notice. This has not hindered the Chapter's Welfare emphasis. Our Chaplain sends get-well cards and sympathy cards on behalf of the Chapter membership. Our relationship with Lower Cape Fear Life Care remains intact. This program presents to the family a branch of service certificate along with appropriate service branch pin. The Chaplain also monitors obituary notices, keeps records of welfare activities and keeps the Chapter President and Board informed of any membership welfare concerns. During this period the Wellness Committee has responded to nine member or family deaths, one hospitalization and one welfare medical contact.

**Newsletter and Website:** Our Chapter received the Col. Marvin J. Harris Communication award at the 5-Star Level for the third year in a row. This award recognized SENCLAND MOAA for its exemplary communication efforts with the monthly newsletter: the *SENCLAND Sentinel* and the Chapter's website at [www.sencland.org](http://www.sencland.org).

**Chapter Management:** Because we are operating in a "virtual" environment, the Chapter has implemented three initiatives to ensure that we have valid contact information on all 250+ members and are helping them stay in touch.

- (1) We developed a list of Chapter members that were active participants before the Pandemic and had a team of Board members call all of them to make sure they were doing OK and to determine if they needed help in using ZOOM. In that regard, the Chapter President and Webmaster developed a tutorial on how to access and use ZOOM. That tutorial is available on the Chapter's website at: <https://sencland.org/news.php>
- (2) We send e-mails with specific information about each ZOOM meeting in advance to all members. Similar information is included in the Newsletters.
- (3) We have contacted all members by e-mail (or USPS for the small number that do not use e-mail) to verify that we have the most current telephone numbers, physical addresses and e-mail addresses for each Chapter member. This effort revealed that a number of our members have either dropped their land lines or have mad their mobile numbers their preferred way of contact.

#### **MAJOR PRIDE ITEMS:**

##### **Awarded 5-Star LOE Award for 2019**

The ability to continue to recruit new members in spite of the Pandemic restrictions

Four successful ZOOM Chapter Meetings with interesting speakers

Receipt of the Col. Marvin J. Harris Communication award - 5-Star Level (Newsletter and Web Page)

Strong Legislative activity

High number of visits to the Chapter Website

96.2% of our members are also National MOAA Members

Increased use of the Facebook Page

**PROBLEMS:** Operating during the Pandemic conditions