

MOAA MUSTER MOAA

Vol XL Issue 2

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

February 2019



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

1LT Frank Mazur, USA

Board member Bob Dickinson passed on January 5th. Our condolences to his family. If anyone is interested in serving the remainder of Bob's term please let me know. According to our by-laws it will be a board appointment. Bob also wrote a Personal Affairs column for our newsletter. Jerry O'Halloran has agreed to accept this position. His first article will appear in the March Muster.

We currently have 151 members in our MOAA chapter. So far 50 percent of members have paid their 2019 dues. Please mail your dues to CHCHOAA, PO Box 511851, Punta Gorda, Fl... 33951 or pay at next Flag Mess.

Our year-end financial statement showed a \$4,478 carryover to our 2019 budget. With the scholarship grant from the Smugglers Foundation and Bingo revenue we raised \$16,700 for scholarships. Note that scholarship recipient awards have now been extended to four years provided students meet certain academic requirements. Thank you to the Smugglers Foundation, Bingo volunteers and to George Chamberlain for chairing this program. We've contacted the Smugglers Foundation requesting continued support for our program.

Charles Evans, a board member, has volunteered to audit our 2018 financial statements and will provide the board his findings.

I attended a county meeting on Mission United which is a trademarked name through United Way. Since the county is receiving state funding to initiate a similar program in Charlotte County and the money is being passed through the Tampa Crisis Center, a name change is in order and will be decided at the first Advisory Committee meeting later this month.

The contract with Tampa Crisis Center is now being reviewed by the state DCF/VA and once approved by the county will be able to initiate hiring staff for this veterans service. Also, the role of the advisory committee was discussed. It will be involved with staffing, outreach, and making suggestions to improve veteran services in the county.

Joyce Henderson, the Director of Veterans Service for Jewish Family Center in Sarasota, and I will co-chair the advisory committee. We expect about 10 members from various service and support groups in the county to participate. I've asked Chris Wolf from our chapter to join because of his career in social work. We're also looking for a person who could advise vets on legal matters to be part of the Advisory Committee.

I've got speaker commitments through April. In February, Capt. James Williams, the Western Michigan University Aviation Director will talk about their Punta Gorda program and the University's strategic plan for their Punta Gorda campus. In March, Sheldon Weeks, who's chair of Economic and Finance at FGCU, will speak about the state of SWFL economy and what the future looks like for this region. In April, Capt. Ray Allen will give us an historical presentation of Charlotte Harbor. I've also invited Congressman Greg Steube to our December, 2019 dinner.

The President, Florida Council of Chapters for MOAA indicated to me that the Venice Area Chapter of MOAA disbanded 12/31/18. He hoped that the Sarasota and our Charlotte Harbor chapter could absorb these members. We were provided a list of 148 members from the Northport and Englewood area and will be sending letters inviting them to join. Your board agreed to waive the first year membership fee to these prospective members.
Best wishes, Frank Mazur

Planning & Benefits for The Surviving Spouse
<http://www.moaaf.org/Chapters/CHCMOAA/SurvivorAssistance.aspx>

NATIONAL MOAA MEMBERSHIP

One of the criteria for Chapter Level of Excellence is the number of national MOAA members in the Chapter. It is recommended, but not required, that regular Chapter members join the National MOAA. There are three levels of membership in MOAA: Premium, Life and Basic membership. Premium member dues are paid annually. Life membership is based on age. For additional information on National MOAA membership you can go online at http://www.moaa.org/join/?utm_source=HP&utm_medium=Red%20HP%20Button for information on membership levels and how to join. Numbers do count (350,000 voting members) to have our voices heard on Capitol Hill.



<http://www.moaa.org>

(800) 234-6622

[Charlotte Harbor Chapter Website](http://chcmoaa.org)

<http://chcmoaa.org>

Chapter Email: chcmoaa@yahoo.com



"Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it." George Santayana

**THE MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Charlotte Harbor Chapter, Inc.
Post Office Box 511851
Punta Gorda, Florida 33951-1851
President**

1LT Frank Mazur, USA

1st Vice President

COL Charles Brox Jr USAR (Ret)

2nd Vice President

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Membership Secretary

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Term Expires 2020

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Col Antonio T Pimentel USAF (Ret)

CAPT George A. Chamberlain Jr USN (Ret)

Term Expires 2019

Vacant

LTC Hugh D. Porter, USAR (Ret)

Lt Col Tom D'Abrosca, USAF (Ret)

Director Emeritus

Lucy Newton

Chapter Committees

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Auditor | Vacant |
| Chaplain | CW2 Charles Meyers |
| Alternate Chaplain | Capt. Jean M. Carr |
| Historian | Vacant |
| Legislative Affairs | Col Antonio Pimentel |
| Nominating Committee | Vacant |
| Publicity | Becky Mingle |
| Military Bands | Lt Col Ennis Bisbano |
| Military Ceremonies | LTC Hugh Porter |
| NJROTC | Naval Science Instructors |
| PCH | CDR Steven Davis USN (Ret) |
| CHS | CAPT Fred Thompson USN (Ret) |
| LBHS | CDR Jon Baca USN (Ret) |
| Handbook | LT James Dundas |
| Newsletter | LTC Hugh Porter |
| Mailing | LT James Dundas |
| Personal Affairs | Lt Col Jerry O'Halloran |
| Surviving Spouse | Vacant |
| TRICARE | CAPT Gene Geronime |
| Scholarships | CAPT Geo. A Chamberlain Jr. |
| Sunshine | Mavis English |
| CC Veterans Council | LT James Dundas |
| CCVC Alternate | Vacant |
| Hospitality | Capt Jean Carr |

FEBRUARY SPEAKER

James Williams, Director of Flight Operations and Safety for Western Michigan University (WMU)...College of Aviation in Punta Gorda, will be our February speaker. Captain Williams will talk about the aviation program in Punta Gorda, what it entails and what he envisions happening to the program in the next decade. I've also asked that he briefly explain the strategic plans WMU has for its Punta Gorda campus. Our Punta Gorda airport is a valuable asset to our community and, with the addition of this aviation program to train new pilots, it could be a magnet to attract more aviation related businesses to our region.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

- **Graphics** — All Muster newsletter graphics contain embedded web links
- **Board Meeting Notice** — The next Board of Directors' meetings are February 14 and March 14 at 1700 hours (5 PM), at the Isles Yacht Club Board Room. Board members and committee chairs are requested to attend. Members are welcome.
- **Membership** — Please pay your 2019 dues. Use the form on page 6. Currently the Chapter has **151 members**. *Know someone who was a military or uniformed service officer but not a member of CHCMOAA and MOAA? **ASK THEM TO JOIN**.* Contact Jim Dundas with their name.
- **CHCMOAA Name Badges** — If you would like a CHCMOAA Name-tag / Badge, you can order it direct from <http://www.badgeworksplus.com/moaa-name-badges> using styles 1-CN, 1-DN, or 3-BN.
- **Military ID Card Information** — MacDill AFB (Site ID 101435), Telephone: (813) 828-6673; **Coast Guard Sector, St. Petersburg** (Site ID 174794), Telephone (727) 824-7560. Use the RAPIDS Site Locator <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsi/appi/site>, or use <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil/>(use Site IDs for online scheduling, address, & directions or call). **APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED.**
- **CHC MOAA Fund** Help us raise funds at Bingo Trail (1700 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte – on US 41 between Cochran and Murdock). Our chapter has earned a significant amount of money for our Scholarship Program. We need volunteers to count cash for game winners 3 times per month. Volunteers can get free nonalcoholic drinks, purchase food for half price during their shift, and return to play Bingo for half price. We need help as shown below and in the following months since this a year round project. If you have not done a turn already, please consider volunteering. Thanks to Tom D'Abrosca, Ken & Janine Schmitt, Larry Orndecker. Contact **George Chamberlain** at gac1982@hotmail.com or (904) 477-4959. **The next few months dates are:**

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Wednesday 1815-2130 | Saturday 1145-1400 |
| March 6 | April 13, 27 |
| April 17, May 15 | May 11, 25 |
| June 12, July 17 | June 8, 22 |

“Evil triumphs when good men do nothing”

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

Our Scholarship program is in full swing, with seven students from three graduating classes participating now. You will recall that we expanded our program to a four-year scholarship for students who maintained at least a 2.5 GPS in their first year, and a 3.0 in their sophomore and subsequent years. There have been a few students who hit a rough patch with grades, but they all managed to recover by retaking classes in the summer and bringing their grades up. I am encouraged to see the grit and determination displayed by all our students as they further their education and pursue their goals. The following students are currently participating in the scholarship program:

Katlynn Holland (CHS '16) – studying health science, concentration in social behavioral healthcare at University of South Florida. She has accelerated her studies by taking additional courses in summer school, and she is slated to graduate early in May 2019 (3 years).

Michel Coronite (LBHS '16) – studying business at Florida Gulf Coast University. Recently completed an internship working at City Furniture, selling on the floor and shadowing management to see how the business works.

Joseph Lopez (PCHS '17) – studying nursing at Florida Gulf Coast University. Planning to join the military as a nurse.

Endri Bejte (CHS '17) – study meteorology at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. Endri is participating in USAF ROTC.

Ryan McKenzie Carley (LBHS '17) – studying biology at Florida State University.

Hazen Williams (PCHS '18) – studying international relations at Georgetown University.

Brittany Comrie (CHS '18) – studying business at Florida Southwestern State College, focusing in health insurance. Accelerating her studies and capitalizing on credits earned in high school, she expects to graduate early, in 2020 (3 years).

Our CHCMOAA Scholarship fund is very healthy, thanks to grants in 2017 and 2018 from Smugglers Foundation, our steady income from Bingo Trail, and the generous donations from you, our CHCMOAA members. Special thanks to our Bingo volunteers who give generously of their time, as that supports not only our scholarships but also the regular chapter operations and our other charitable works in the community.

TAPS

COL Robert Dickinson USA (Ret)

Former President and Board member for many years

We offer our sympathy and condolences to Sharyn and his family

" Please note that membership dues are required by January 1st for 2019. Paid dues will be indicated by PD19 in green on the mailing labels. Unpaid 2019 dues will be indicated by PD18 in red on the mailing labels. Please get your 2019 dues in as soon as possible so we can get the 2019 Handbook/Directory out in a timely manner. Your support in getting your dues in by the end of January is greatly appreciated.

Now and Always We'll be There.



1-800-247-2192 • www.moaainsurance.com

Scams & Fraud

State of Florida Scams and Fraud website link is at <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Consumer-Resources/>.

Identity Theft at USA.Gov

<https://www.usa.gov/identity-theft#item-206115>

Or

ID Theft Recovery

<https://www.identitytheft.gov/>

SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS

The chapter would like to thank those members who made donations to the CHC MOAA Scholarship Fund at the last Flag Mess. Your donations allow the chapter to provide scholarships to the Charlotte County High School graduates who are members of JNROTC, a child or grandchild of: (1) an Active Duty, Guard or Reserve military parent; (2) a CHC MOAA member in good standing (or in good standing at time of death), (3) a military veteran parent, or (4) students who aspire to military service. Without your donations we would be unable to provide such generous scholarships to worthy students.

Scholarship Donations

Lee & Rhoda Hammer, Norm & Ann Ashworth,
Tom & AnneMarie D'Abrasca, Ken & Barbara
Moore (& band)

Resolute Support Mission—Afghanistan

<http://www.rs.nato.int/>

Operation Inherent Resolve

http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2014/0814_iraq/

SUNSHINE

Do you know of anyone in need of "Sunshine"?
Please Send Or Call The Information
To Mavis English at (941) 639-3268.



MOAA Legislative Affairs
Col Antonio (Tony) T Pimentel
USAF (Ret)
Article by Col Dan Merry USAF
(Ret) MOAA VP
Government Relations

A new report outlines 121 options to reduce our nation's deficit - could you be affected?

Most likely you would be, if Congress implemented any variation of the options provided by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [in a December report](#). There are many suggestions on the list that would affect servicemembers, military retirees and their families. Among the options are the introduction of TRICARE for Life fees and reductions in basic allowance for housing.

While ideas like these have been pitched before, elected leaders had deemed them untenable as many were based on significant reductions to benefits most Americans and their families value. But Congress is increasingly running out of options.

[ACT NOW: While the CBO report covers the next 10 years, it is important for you to connect with your members of Congress now. [Please visit our Legislative Action Center to send a message](#), and be ready for recurring updates; enter your information and click "submit" to see the letter and a list of your legislators.]

The national debt is reaching critical mass and climbing, fueled by continued deficit spending. The CBO report cites the FY 2018 federal budget deficit totaled \$779 billion, raising our nation's debt to 78 percent of our Gross Domestic Product.

Nearly every legislative engagement on Capitol Hill now prompts, "How do you propose to pay for this new spending required in the bill?" Congress has to answer this same question for bills they support. The inherent expectation is for the funding to come from the same department or program the bill supports.

This is how we ended up with TRICARE beneficiaries paying for the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (a DoD example); it is why the bill to support Blue Water Navy veterans includes proposed increases to VA Home Loan fees as the pay-for (a VA example).

MOAA has not supported funding strategies that pit one group of military and veterans against another as a means to pay for service earned benefits - rather we support funding from the treasury so costs could be shared by all.

MOAA's President wrote about the pay-for challenge in his [2018 review](#) and we acknowledge this to be a continuing problem for 2019. This leads to three focus points:

CBO options to reduce the deficit may gain traction as the administration and Congress wrestle with a pay-for mandate.

Military pay, benefits, and healthcare are often seen as funding sources for other programs.

MOAA will continue to oppose putting the pay-for burden on the backs of beneficiaries.

With these points in mind, we draw your attention to seven of the 121 options. These are areas previously eyed for funding, and since they are in the CBO report, we want to address them now. We will provide a more detailed analysis on each of these and others over the coming months leading up to April when we storm Capitol Hill. We will also call on your help to ensure specific benefits do not become targets in the new Congress. The seven options if implemented would:

Cap increases in basic military pay for military service members

Reduce the Basic Allowance for Housing to 80 percent of average housing costs

Introduce enrollment fees under TRICARE For Life

Introduce minimum out-of-pocket requirement under TRICARE For Life

Increase premiums for Medicare Part B

Modify TRICARE enrollment fees and cost sharing for working-age military retirees

End VA's Individual Unemployability payments to disabled veterans at the full retirement age for Social Security

As you can see, servicemembers, veterans and their families would be affected. These benefits must be protected.

1. Legislative Affairs, MOAA 2019 ©

Find Elected Representatives (state & federal) <http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>

MOAA Legislative Action Center: <http://takeaction.moaa.org/>

Senator Rick Scott.

Website: help@rickscott.senate.gov
Washington, D.C. Office:

Phone: (202) 224-5274

Fax: (202) 228-2183

Senator Marco Rubio

Website: <https://www.rubio.senate.gov>

Washington, D.C. Office:

Phone: (202) 224-3041

Fax: (202) 228-0285

Representative Greg Steube

Website: <https://steube.house.gov>

Washington, D.C. Office:

Phone: (202) 225-5792

Fax: (202) 225-3132

THE FLAG MESS
Monday, February 25, 2019

Location
TWIN Isles Country Club
301 Madrid Blvd.
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

MENU
Beef Wellington
Seared Mahi Mahi Tomatillo Jam
Chicken Schnitzel w/Brown Butter

Strawberry Shortcake
Coffee and Tea Service
\$27.00

Dress
Gentlemen and Ladies informal dress.

Times
1800 (6:00 PM) Social
1830 (6:30 PM) Dinner
2000 (8:00 PM) Program

| Useful Internet Links & Phone Numbers |
|---|
| MOAA Blogs at http://www1.moaa.org/blogs/ |
| MOAA Florida Council of Chapters Newsletter: www.moaafl.org/Communique/Default.aspx |
| Florida Department of Veteran Affairs www.floridavets.org/ (727) 518-3202 |
| Veterans Administration: www.va.gov 1-(800) 827-1000 |
| Charlotte County Veterans Services: http://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/services/veteran/ (941) 764-5579 |
| Express Scripts Mail Order Pharmacy: www.express-scripts.com/tricare/ 1-(877) 363-1303 |
| TRICARE: www.tricare.mil (South Region) 1-(800) 444-5445 |
| TRICARE for Life www.tricare4u.com 1-(866) 773-0404 |
| DEERS: www.tricare.mil/deers/ 1-(800) 538-9552 |
| milConnect: https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/ |
| DOD Benefits (Survivor Benefit Plan): http://militarypay.defense.gov/Benefits/SurvivorBenefitProgram.aspx |
| Social Security http://ssa.gov 1-(800) 772-1213 |
| Medicare: www.medicare.gov 1-(800) 633-4227 |
| MacDill AFB: http://www.macdill.af.mil/ (813)828-1110 |
| <i>"Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it." George Santayana</i> |

RESERVATIONS
(RESERVATIONS NEED TO BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2019; PLEASE ALLOW THREE TO FOUR DAYS AFTER MAILING FOR DELIVERY).

Name(s) _____

CHOICES

Beef Wellington _____

Chicken _____

MAHI MAHI _____

_____ @ \$27 per person _____

Scholarship Fund _____

Band Fund _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Mail to:
CHCMOAA Dinner
P.O. Box 511851
Punta Gorda, Florida 33951-1851
Please make all payments by check payable to CHCMOAA.

Note: Food is ordered according to reservations. Without reservations, we may have difficulty in accommodating you. **No guarantees for reservations received after 12:00 PM on Wednesday, February 20, 2019.**

Note: For Late Reservations to the dinner after February 20, 2019 call: **Charles Brox at (941) 505-1944 or email broxtrng@yahoo.com.**

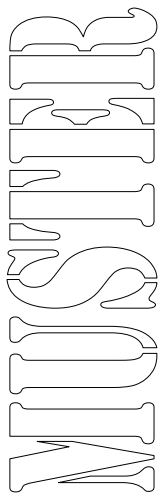
Note: Persons with reservations, who are then **unable to attend, should call Charles Brox at (941) 505-1944 to cancel by Thursday afternoon, February 21, 2019** (thus allowing time for adjustments and possible credit).

The Twin Isles' CC policy is that we will have to pay for the total number of reservations that we call in on Wednesday unless we make any cancellations prior to Friday afternoon.

MUSTER ON LINE
<http://chcmoaa.org>

The Muster is published, except for December, July, and August by the Charlotte Harbor Chapter of the Military Officer's Association of America (MOAA) (FL31) Inc., P.O. Box 511851, Punta Gorda, Florida 33951-1851. Email: chcmoaa@comcast.net The chapter is an IRS 501(C)(19) non-profit, tax-exempt organization affiliated with National MOAA and the Florida Council of Chapters, MOAA, but not associated with the Department of Defense. The chapter is non-partisan and the contents of the Muster articles are the opinions of the authors and are not necessarily those of the National MOAA, Florida Council of Chapters, the Charlotte Harbor Chapter (FL31), or the Department of Defense.

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The
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 Association of
 America**
 Charlotte Harbor Chapter
 P.O. Box 511851
 Punta Gorda, FL 33951-1851



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February 2019

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

_____ **NEW MEMBERSHIP** or _____ **RENEWAL**
CHARLOTTE HARBOR CHAPTER

The Military Officers Association of America

A local organization, comprised of retired, regular, reserve, and former officers of the uniformed services. Dedicated to safeguarding and promoting the best interests of Our Country, its uniformed services, our members, their dependents, and their survivors, in every proper manner. Chapter members are requested to have and maintain a national MOAA membership.

Annual Dues are \$15.00 (\$7.50 for Surviving Spouse/Auxiliary Members).
 Chapter dues are payable in advance. Please enclose your check.
Make Checks payable to: Charlotte Harbor Chapter, MOAA (CHCMOAA)

Please complete the following for our records and mail to :
 (For renewals please indicate any changed information.)

CHCMOAA Membership
P.O. Box 511851
Punta Gorda, Florida 33951-1851

 Last Name First Middle Int. Rank Service Ret(Y/N) Birth Date Spouse's Name

 Number Street Apartment City State Zip Code (9-Digit) Telephone

Chapter Dues (Reg-\$15/Aux-\$7.50) \$ _____

 Signature

Scholarship Donation \$ _____

 National MOAA Number

For Band Fund \$ _____

 Email Address

Total Enclosed \$ _____

PLEASE FILL IN ALL BLANKS. THIS IS HOW WE UPDATE THE MEMBERSHIP ROSTER AND THE CHAPTER HANDBOOK.