



SURFWIND



MID-FLORIDA GULF COAST CHAPTER of MOAA

April 2010

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Mike Piedmont, LCDR, USN

Thanks to all who attended the March luncheon to hear Dr. Richard Sola give a very informative and entertaining talk about heart health.

Three months into the New Year, a majority of members still need to pay their 2010 dues. Please send your dues to our membership chairperson, Phyllis Parcells. Dues are only \$15. We value each member and the more members the greater our clout in Washington. Please take time today and mail your check to Mid-Florida Gulf Coast Chapter, P.O. Box 716, Palm Harbor, FL 34682-0716. Make the check payable to "MFGCC". **THANK YOU!**

Our new membership drive initiative is ongoing. Only about 20% of MOAA members belong to one of the 424 local chapters around the country. In the Navy, that is known as a "target rich environment." Let's all beat the bushes and try to get others to join us. We don't want to get into the "pickle" that we were in at the beginning of this year. If you know of anyone who might have the slightest interest, please let me know.

I plan on attending the St. Petersburg chapter luncheon and listen to MOAA's President, VADM Norb Ryan give a talk. I'll have a report for you at our luncheon on April 14th.

I want to leave you with a short history lesson. The Retired Officers' Association (TROA) was founded in Los Angeles on Feb. 23, 1929. The first leaders hoped that by joining together they could provide assistance and advice to other military officers. This concern for others fostered natural fraternal relations among all members of the uniformed services. When TROA moved to Washington, DC in 1944 the membership was 2,600. By the time TROA changed its name to Military Officers Association of America in 2003, MOAA had grown immensely to its current 370,000 members. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization, members from every branch of service - including active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retired, former officers, and their families - we are a powerful force speaking for a strong national defense and representing the interests of military officers at every stage of their careers.

MOAA's purpose also has grown to include career transition assistance, improved member products, military benefits counseling, educational assistance to children of military families (to include enlisted), and strong involvement in military professionalism activities. MOAA's highest priority is providing first-class service to our members. It is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. We are the leading voice on benefit and compensation matters for all current and former military people, with eight lobbyists in Washington to speak for them.

Mike

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

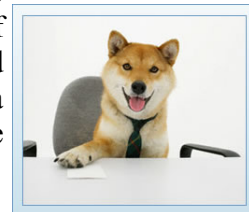
- 28 Mar Palm Sunday
- 29 Mar to 2 Apr School "Spring" Holiday
- 30 Mar Passover
- 1 Apr April Fool's Day
- 1 Apr MFGCC Board Meeting**
10 AM Palm Harbor Library
- 2 Apr Good Friday
- 4 Apr Easter Sunday
- 14 Apr MFGCC Luncheon-11:30**
Dunedin Country Club
Humane Society, Megan Kempshall
- 15 Apr Income Taxes Due
- 19 Apr Surfwind Articles Deadline
- 5 May Cinco de Mayo
- 6 Apr MFGCC Board Meeting**
10 AM Palm Harbor Library



WE'RE GOING TO THE DOGS!

Actually, the dog is coming to us. Ms. Megan Kempshall of the Humane Society of Pinellas County, will be our guest speaker at the April luncheon. She will bring her therapy dog to meet us. Megan has been a Certified Humane Education Specialist for 10 years.

"Humane Education is learning to respect and care for all types of animals within our homes and community. It teaches kindness, respect, and sensitivity for all animals as well as teaches the protection of the environment that we all share. Humane Education strives to establish a sense of responsibility and make the world a better, more humane place for us all."





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OPERATION HELPING HAND, Tampa
Chapter of MOAA: Contact 813-963-1854
 Our NEW Chapter Website:
<http://www.moaafl.org/Chapters/MFGCC/>

THIS ISSUE OF THE SURFWIND WAS SENT BY E-MAIL or by mail (upon request) and mailed to members who do not have E-mail.

SURFWIND is the official newsletter of the Mid-Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, published Sept. through May. Questions or comments about any material published in the Surfwind should be directed to:
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 E-mail: mmille31@tampabay.rr.com
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 Mid Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of MOAA
 P. O. Box 716, Palm Harbor, FL 34682

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

by Madelaine Miller

Every Senator and member of the House of Representatives works for us; it is our responsibility to tell them how we want them to vote. Most of us are familiar with the way to contact your elected representatives:

- Their addresses are in your (2010 blue color) *Roll Call Roster*, which was mailed to you this past summer. MOAA has made internet communication very easy. I encourage each of you to exercise your American rights and **express your opinions** about the many legislative actions now under consideration. Telling your friends and neighbors is fine, but they don't vote on the critical legislative matters now in Congress.
- Complete the postcards in the MOAA Officers Call magazine.
- To find your senators' and representative's phone numbers, you may use the MOAA legislative website: <http://capwiz.com/moaa/home> online congressional directory. Entering your zip code locates your Senator or Representative, or you can just select the issue that concerns you and use the suggested message or write your own custom message.
- Call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and ask for your senators' and/or representative's office.

VA Reaches Out to Veterans and Spouses

"Aid and Attendance" an Under-Used Benefit

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is reaching out to inform wartime veterans and surviving spouses of deceased wartime veterans about an under-used, special monthly pension benefit called Aid and Attendance. “Veterans have earned this benefit by their service to our nation,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson. Although this is not a new program, not everyone is aware of his or her potential eligibility. The Aid and Attendance pension benefit may be available to wartime veterans and surviving spouses who have in-home care or who live in nursing-homes or assisted-living facilities.

Many elderly veterans and surviving spouses whose incomes are above the congressionally mandated legal limit for a VA pension may still be eligible for the special monthly Aid and Attendance benefit if they have large medical expenses, including nursing home expenses, for which they do not receive reimbursement.

To qualify, claimants must be incapable of self support and in need of regular personal assistance. The basic criteria for the benefit include the inability to feed oneself, to dress and undress without assistance, or to take care of one's own bodily needs. People who are bedridden or need help to adjust special prosthetic or orthopedic devices may also be eligible, as well as those who have a physical or mental injury or illness that requires regular assistance to protect them from hazards or dangers in their daily environment.

For a wartime veteran or surviving spouse to qualify for this special monthly pension, the veteran must have served at least 90 days of active military service, one day of which was during a period of war, and be discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

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**MID-FLORIDA GULF COAST CHAPTER
OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**



MEMBERSHIP

Our annual membership is \$15.00 and is valid from January 1 through December 31. Now that we have been revived, we are collecting 2010 Dues. **Please pay for dues/name tags by check only**, made payable to MFGCC-MOAA, and **mail to Col Parcels. Do not make your check payable to Col Parcels.**

Roll Call - Members in good standing are listed in our "ROLL CALL" roster. If you want to receive the Surfwind by E-mail, you must provide us with your correct email address. Members who "opt-out" of receiving their Surfwind by E-mail will not have their E-Mail address listed in our roster. If there are corrections to be made in the Roll Call, please contact Col Parcels.

NAME BADGE REQUESTS: Submit form and print name you want it on the badge (Pin \$7.95 or magnetic \$8.95). Make check payable to MFGCC, and mail with this form to Col. Phyllis P. Parcels, 110 Annwood Rd., Palm Harbor, FL 34685.

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 MOAA ID NO.: _____ SPOUSE _____
 PHONE: _____ CELL: _____

VOLUNTEER HOURS/BLOOD DONATIONS

Please report your volunteer hours by completing the yellow card on your luncheon tables or phone your **Volunteer Chairs, LtCol Ralph Moody and Lydia Moody**, 784-3617. The total volunteer hours reported to us this month is 248 and 3,190 for 2009. **Please report all your volunteer hours!!!**

Blood Donation: Assure credit to our chapter when donating, by using our donation number (CO 124). Give the gift of life: Call 800-867-3356 or visit their website at www.fsblood.org.

VOLUNTEER HOURS/ BLOOD DONATIONS		
First Name	Time Donated to:	Hrs
Merryann Brunk	Lutheran Church, HLHOA, MFGCC, ELCOP, Eckerd Hall	53
Fred Haeussler	Greek Orthodox Church & Men's Club, MFGCC	6
Ed Hawkes	Mease Manor, Dunedin CC, Dunedin Safety Comm	40
Ed Hawkes	1 Pint Blood	
Dick Kane	HOA	9
Madelaine Miller	MFGCC, HOA	20
Ralph/Lydia Moody	ELCOP, MFGCC	15
Barbara Nolf	MFGCC	5
Phyllis Parcels	St. Ignatius RC Church, MFGCC, Society of Air Force Nurses	30
June Schnepf	TBPA, Ruth Eckerd Hall, MFGCC	70

LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Please make _____ reservations for me for the luncheon on WEDNESDAY, April 14, 2010 at Dunedin Country Club with the following number of selections: **Each meal costs \$18.00.**

- Pot Roast
- Quiche Lorraine

Entrees include soup, rolls and butter, Carrot Cake, coffee or tea, tax and tip.

Cash bar cocktails available from servers.

NAME: _____
 PHONE#: _____
 GUEST: _____

(Guests are welcome, attendance is not restricted to houseguests or prospective members)

Please clip out form, Enclose check payable to MFGCC—MOAA and mail for receipt by Monday before luncheon to:

**Mrs. Ann Brunk — MFGCC
1472 Dundee Drive
Palm Harbor, FL 34684**

_____ I NEED A RIDE, PLEASE CONTACT ME.

LUNCHEON INFORMATION

PLACE: Dunedin Country Club—Tel: 733-6043
1050 Palm Blvd., Dunedin

Day & TIME: April 14, 2009

11:30—Attitude Adjustment — 12:00—Luncheon
Luncheon is a 3 course meal. Indicate your entrée choice on the Reservation Form to the right and mail with your check.

PROGRAM: Humane Society of Pinellas County, Certified Humane Education Specialist, Megan Kempshall, and her therapy dog.

Make reservation by mailing the reservation form with a check, (\$18 per lunch) payable to MFGCC-MOAA.

If paying at lunch, please bring a check - we do not usually have change for cash.

For cancellations or questions, call Ann Brunk-727-785-5183. Cancellations must be made by Monday prior to the luncheon, to be entitled to a refund. Reservations are required prior to arrival at lunch; advance payment is strongly requested.

This will be the best security for maintaining our liberties. A nation of well-informed men who have been taught to know and prize the rights which God has given them cannot be enslaved. It is in the religion of ignorance that tyranny begins.

Benjamin Franklin



Mid-Florida Gulf Coast Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
PO Box 716
Palm Harbor, FL 34682-0716

"Serving Those Who Serve America."
<http://www.moaafl.org/chapters/MFGCC>

Florida Council 2010 Convention



**Host: Calusa Chapter
Fort Myers, Florida**

Co-Chairs:

Jim & Dottie Connor

Email: dcalusa@comcast.net
or jmcf1@comcast.net.

Crowne Plaza Hotel - <http://www.cpfortmyers.com/>
hotel phone number is (239) 482-2900.

For reservations, visit the Florida Council website:
<http://www.moaafl.org/Convention/Default.aspx>

Golf outing -The Dunes on Sanibel Island-To sign up contact John Frymoyer at 239-472-9396; tofrys@aol.com

Day's fishing trip with Captain Tony Stout in his 31' cabin cruiser, 5/21 or 5/23, \$75.00; 239-549-5629 to sign up.

Friday - 21 May 2010 - President's Reception 1800

Saturday - 22 May 2010 - All Hands Breakfast Fort Myers Ballroom 0730 - 0830

Memorial Service Fort Myers Ballroom 0845 - 0915

FCOC Business Meeting Fort Myers Ballroom 0930 - 1030

Buffet Lunch Shoeless Joe's Café 1215 - 1315

Military Ball Fort Myers Ballroom 1730 on Patio

1800 Banquet Hall opens for seating - 1840 Guests seated

Sunday - 23 May 2010

Checkout Lobby No Later Than 1200

"Aid and Attendance" Con'd.

Wartime veterans who entered active duty on or after September 8, 1980, (October 16, 1981, for officers) must have completed at least 24 continuous months of military service.

VA determines eligibility for the Aid and Attendance benefit by adjusting for un-reimbursed medical expenses from the veteran's or surviving spouse's total household income. If the remaining income amount falls below \$18,234, VA pays the difference between the claimant's household income and the Aid and Attendance threshold. The threshold is adjusted for dependents and for a surviving spouse alone is \$11,715, increasing for dependent children.

Additional information and assistance in applying for the Aid and Attendance benefit may be obtained by calling 1-800-827-1000. Applications may be submitted on-line at <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>. Information is also available on the Internet at www.va.gov or from any local veterans service organization.

GROW YOUR CHAPTER! Take a potential new member to the April Luncheon - you'll be doggone glad you did!~