



THE SHARK'S TOOTH

VENICE AREA CHAPTER - MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

January, 2012 Issue

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was good to see everyone at the Christmas party. I hope you all had a great time. Marjorie and I just returned from a two week trip to New York City and Vermont. The snowbirds are right it really is **COLD** up there! It makes you appreciate Florida all the more. A well done is due to Rocky for conducting the December meeting and to Dallas for recording the minutes, which he sent along to me. It looks to be a challenging year for our chapter. We need to recruit new members which will also increase our revenue. We must also find ways of limiting our expenses. You will note that the Shark's Tooth has a more austere look because we are trying to limit the use of our color print cartridges.

Our next social will be the installation of officers on January 17th at Boca Royale. The installing officer and guest speaker will be Jim Conner, the vice president of the Florida Council of Chapters. While this is a formal event, if you have, like me, outgrown your mess dress, tux or suit then a coat and tie is OK. Boca Royale is a nice venue, and we usually have a memorable experience so I urge everyone to attend.

I wish you all a very happy New Year!

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our next membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 11:30 a.m. at the American Legion Post #159, Venice Avenue and Auburn Road in Venice. All Members and Associates are invited and encouraged to attend. Lunch may be ordered from the menu after the meeting with members responsible for their own tab.

REINSTATEMENT OF DIRECTOR

At the December membership meeting, Win Orben expressed his desire to be reinstated on the Board of Directors. After a vote by the members, he was named a member of the Venice Area Chapter Board of Directors.

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

A meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. in the American Legion Post #159, Venice Avenue and Auburn Road in Venice. All Officers are encouraged to

2012 OFFICERS

Mike Healey, President
(941) 493-3965

Robert H. "Rocky" McCutcheon,
1st Vice President
(941) 375-8197

Dallas L. Jensen,
2nd Vice President
(941) 493-1420

Marjorie Loria Healey
Secretary
Newsletter Editor
Web Master
(941) 493-3965

Gerald Kelly, Treasurer
(941) 412-0242

2012 DIRECTORS

Norman MacLellan, Past President
(941) 493-1726

Alf Kirkeeng, Past President
(941) 468-7753

Ellen MacLellan
(941) 493-1726

Cris Cristofori
(941) 423-9675

George Fritz
(941) 492-5077

Win Orben
(941) 474-4453

CHAPLAINS

Ira E. Ramsey (941) 408-0313
John A. Melendez (941) 485-6469

SOCIAL CHAIR

Denise Kirkeeng (941) 468-6668

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR

Denny Matheney (941) 244-2333

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Jean F. White (941) 497-5906

WEBSITE - www.venicemoaa.com

attend This meeting will consist of discussions regarding the 2012 budget, scholarships and Bylaws.

LAST NEWSLETTER!!!

Unfortunately, this will be your last issue of the Venice Area Chapter Shark's Tooth if you do not pay your dues! If you have not done so, please pay your membership fees this month. Thank you!



JANUARY SOCIAL

The Installation of 2012 Officers and Directors will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 commencing at 5:30 p.m. at the Boca Royale Country Club, State Road 776, Englewood, FL. Gentlemen are asked to wear a dress uniform, tuxedo or business suit. Ladies please wear formal dinner or cocktail evening dress. Our guest speaker will be FCOC Vice President Jim Connor who will preside over the installation.

JANUARY MILESTONES

BIRTHDAYS

Elsie Eldon 01/06; Donna Francisco 01/05; Win Orben 01/05; Jimmie Rondello 01/07; Barbara Mitchell 01/11; Robert Graf 01/14; Gloria Mitchell 01/14; Jim Keitchen 01/18; Thomas Montgomery 01/23; Arthur Estes 01/31;

ANNIVERSARIES

None available.

TAPS

Our sympathies go to John Melendez at the passing of his mother and Joe Beima with the passing of his brother, James.



SUNSHINE REPORT

We wish Inga Fritz a steady and speedy recovery.

FCOC WINTER PRESIDENT'S BOARD MEETING

President Mike Healey will be attending the Florida Council of Chapters President's Board Meeting in West Palm Beach, Florida on January 13 & 14th, 2012. He will report on the pertinent items discussed at our February meeting.



NEW LOOK TO YOUR NEWSLETTER

In an effort to cut our copying costs, I have come up with a different format to our newsletter. Print cartridges are ridiculously expensive these days and the more color I use, the less the color cartridges last. Therefore, I am introducing a more subdued color hue and hopefully have not made it too blah! Hope you like it.

13 PAYMENTS MAY AFFECT YOUR TAXES <http://www.dfas.mil/>

DFAS has announced that your 1099R tax statement includes 13 payments this year. The pay schedule for retirees was adjusted in mid-2011 to comply with the 2011 National Defense Authorization Act. This means that when the first day of the month falls on a weekend or national holiday, the pay date is moved to the previous business day. Consequently, your payment normally scheduled for January 3, 2012 will be issued on December 30, 2011. As a result of the second payment in December, you will have been issued 13 paychecks during the 2011 tax year, which may increase your tax liability. Contact your tax advisor or the IRS with questions on the subject.

ATTENDANCE AT SOCIALS

It has been noted that only about one quarter of our members attend our monthly socials on a regular basis. We would like your input. Do you prefer lunches, dinners or pot lucks? What is most important to you when deciding whether to attend a social, i.e., cost, restaurant, time of day, distance, etc? You can e-mail either [Denise Kirkeeng](#) or [Marjorie Healey](#) and let us know your thoughts.

MENTION IN MILITARY OFFICER MAGAZINE

Our 2011 Golf Tournament headed by Rocky McCutcheon will be mentioned in the February issue of the Military Officer Magazine. Check it out!

FRIENDS OF SARASOTA VA CEMETERY

On Wednesday, January 4th, Michael and I will be attending the service for a U.S. Navy seaman who served in Korea from 1954 to 1957. This gentleman has no family or friends to attend his memorial, but through the Friends of Sarasota VA Cemetery program he will not be forgotten nor sent off alone. Our Chapter has volunteered to be

on call to attend these types of services during the month of January. If you are interested in participating, please let Norm MacLellan know.

2011 MEMBERS IN MEMORIAM

We remember Martha “Marti” Gorham; John Walker; Martha Bibens; Robert Williams. Of course, we can also not forget the brave men, women and canines who gave the ultimate sacrifice while serving their country in various parts of the world so that we may have our freedom.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE [Lt.Col. E.M. Healey, USMC (Ret.)]

While veterans and active duty personnel are getting accolades for their service from the media and Congress, members of these same institutions think that the benefits career military people receive are too generous. Witness this statement from a New York Times editorial on the 27th of September: “*The men and women who risk their lives to keep us secure deserve decent pay while they serve and ample benefits when they retire. But current military pay, pension systems, and health benefits are unsustainable and ripe for reform*” The editorial went on to describe alterations and cuts that should be made to reform the military pension and health systems. On September 30th, MOAA President Vice Admiral Ryan wrote a stinging rebuke to this editorial which can be found on page 34 of December’s MOAA magazine. The last two paragraphs of Admiral Ryan’s letter are worth repeating: “*Most Americans understand it takes powerful incentives to induce top people to serve decades under conditions of the last 10 years. That great military benefit deal is available to any who meet the entry standards and pay the necessary up-front premium of decades of service and sacrifice. Strangely, few are willing.*” (Emphasis added). While this editorial is not a legislative act, it advocates legislation, and it is undeniably true that members of Congress and the administration read and are influenced by the New York Times.

OBSERVANCES IN JANUARY

01/01 New Year’s Day

01/16 Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Birthday Observed

Wishing Everyone a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

JANUARY INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS DINNER SOCIAL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012

5:30 p.m. Social (Cash Bar)

6:30 p.m. Dinner

BOCA ROYALE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

State Road 776, Englewood Florida

Reservation Forms Must be Received by January 12, 2012

Menu

Entrée Selections:

- ❖ Prime Rib w/red potatoes and vegetables
- ❖ Chicken w/red potatoes and vegetables
- ❖ Salmon w/rice and vegetables

Above served with rolls, ice tea and coffee

Desert: Ice Cream Sundae

(Please advise in advance of any dietary restrictions)

Cost: \$28.00 per person (Tax & Gratuity Included)

Please make your checks payable to "Venice Area – MOAA" and mail to Denise Kirkeeng, 1260 Covey Court, Venice FL 34293. Denise's contact number is (941) 468-6668.

Members with names starting with N to Z are asked to bring a wrapped gift for our raffle. Thank you!!!

Dress Code: Gentlemen are asked to wear a dress uniform, tuxedo or business suit. Ladies please wear formal dinner or cocktail evening dress

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RESERVATION REQUEST FORM FOR JANUARY 17, 2012 INSTALLATION DINNER SOCIAL

Prime Rib _____ Chicken _____ Salmon _____

Member Name: _____ Guest: _____

Number of persons attending _____ @ \$28.00 per person \$ _____

Donation to Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____