



Council Communiqué

MOAA Outstanding Newsletter 1997 & 98, 2001, 03, 05 & 06
Runner-up Outstanding Newsletter 1999, 2000, 2002, 2004
Florida Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association of America



Issue No. 87

February, 2008



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

CAPT. BILL MONK, USN (RET)

WHAT'S YOUR CHAPTER UP TO???

As you read this, you're either just about to meet in Cocoa Beach with most of your fellow Presidents in the Florida Leaders Workshop - or you've just come home from the Workshop. Either way, I know it's time well spent, because there is nothing that will do MOAA and the Florida Council more good than to have its Chapter leaders get together for an exchange of ideas. I'm not sure that I can convince Lee Lange and Company to repeat the Workshop on a yearly basis, but you can bet I'm going to try!

As most of you might be aware, this has been my busy season - installations and awards from one end of the state to the other. I always try to leave the folks I talk to with a little more information than they had when I stood up - but I NEVER expected the response I got from one chapter member recently after I spoke! It went something like this:

"I'm sure glad you came and talked to us tonight, because it was the first time I had heard that this Chapter was anything but a social club." - - To say that my jaw hit the floor is an understatement if there ever was one! By the time I could speak coherently, I'm sure the member thought he had uncovered a missing village idiot! I did manage to point out that, if the Chapter wasn't meeting his expectations in furthering MOAA's causes, he, himself, could speak up and prod the Chapter leaders into action!

And then, on the way home, I got to thinking - - how many Chapters function as ONLY social organizations without involving their members in MOAA's legislative support efforts? How many Chapters make a point of encouraging their members to take part in the legislative process by calling and writing their Legislators? How many Chapters publish contact information for both Florida Senators, and their local Representative - AND their State Legislators, as well, in their monthly newsletters? How many Chapter Presidents personally call on their local legislators when they're at home - - and then publish the results of their conversations in their newsletters? If you're a fresh-caught Chapter President, it's the best way I can think of to make sure that MOAA's One Powerful Voice is heard where it does the most good - - at the grass-roots level. And don't forget to ask your members what THEY think MOAA, the Florida Council, and the Chapter should be supporting and feed their answers back up to me and to the National office. Bottom line is - - don't let your Chapter members think that it's only a social club!

Along that line, with the Congress just starting to get up to speed, it's time to start communicating with your Senators and Representatives! Get on their radar early with your support for MOAA's legislative programs, so when MOAA "Storms The Hill" on April 2nd, they will already know that we do have ONE POWERFUL VOICE backing us up.

I hope that those of you who attended enjoyed the Winter Meeting in Cocoa Beach on February 8 and 9 - - and hope to see everyone at the State Convention. In the meantime, please keep our Comrades in the Profession of Arms in your thoughts and prayers.

Cheers, Bill



MOAA MATTERS IN REVIEW

By LtCol Fred Edwards, USMC (Ret)
Past President, Florida Council
Chairman, Councils and Chapters Committee
National MOAA Board of Directors

Feb. 1, 2008 -- On April 2, three Florida teams will be conducting MOAA's annual "Storming the Hill" operation. The issues this year are vital to our national goals, and to troops and families, as well as retirees. The teams will be taking them to the office of every key legislator in Congress. They are:

1. Sustain a defense budget at least amounting to 4 percent of the Gross Domestic Product in the coming years, as urged by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. Compared with the average of 5.7 percent of GDP in the peacetime years between 1940 and 2000, 4 percent in the middle of this war is absolute rock bottom.
2. Reject disproportional TRICARE fee increases proposed by the Department of Defense. MOAA warned several years ago that the administration, along with the Department of Defense and certain members of Congress, will attempt to erase some of the benefits we have gained over the years, and it's happening.
3. Implement the recommendations of the Veterans Disability Benefits Commission. This would eliminate the VA compensation offsets to military retired pay and SBP for all hands, once and for all. It also would

replace the entire disability rating system with a modern schedule that would be administered solely by the VA, thus removing the Department of Defense from assigning disability ratings. Furthermore, it would compensate veterans for loss of quality of life - - and large family financial and emotional strains due to recurring deployments. Military personnel have long paid for their health care in the service and sacrifice they make - - now at an ever increasing pace. Although both the House and Senate rejected these increases for two years in a row, the battle continues.

Although April 2 might seem pretty far away, it leaves less than two months for you to do your part. First, read and understand the issues as they are described in the Military Officers Magazine and the Affiliate. Then be prepared to discuss the issues with your lawmakers. Also let them know that a MOAA team representing Florida hopes to visit on April 2 to go over the issues. And tell them that you and your chapter fully support what they will be talking about.

Remember that you are not alone. Two weeks after we storm, MOAA lobbyists will start dropping in, either to thank the lawmaker for cosponsoring or to see why the legislator hasn't cosponsored it. Two weeks after that, a letter from the council president should arrive bearing the same information. This chain of events, starting with you, is designed to remind our Senators and representatives that we are all speaking with - -

**"one powerful voice - -
and it's YOURS!"**

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CONVENTION TO HAVE TWO OUTSTANDING SPEAKERS

By Lt Bill Keeney, USN
Chairman, 2008 FCOC State Convention

Two outstanding officers will speak at the Florida Council of Chapters State Convention the first weekend in May. The convention will be held at the Cocoa Beach Hilton Oceanfront Hotel.



VADM Norb Ryan, President of the Military Officers Association of America will kick-off the Saturday activities as the speaker at the Welcoming Breakfast. VADM Ryan is a 1967 graduate of the Naval Academy, a graduate of George Washington University, with a Master of Science in Personnel Administration, and a graduate of the Senior Officials in National Security Program at

Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Admiral Ryan has commanded aviation units at the squadron, wing, and fleet levels, and has directed the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs. He served as the Chief of Naval Personnel before retiring and assuming his position as President of the Military Officers Association of America in 2002. The convention attendees are fortunate to have the national president as the kick-off speaker.



Assistant Secretary of Defense, The Honorable John G. Grimes, will be the keynote speaker at the Military Ball on Saturday evening. Secretary Grimes has extensive experience in communication systems and the command and control fields. His service includes five years on the National Security Council Staff as Director of Defense Command, Control and

Communications, and Senior Director of White House Situation Support Staff.

He held senior technical and staff positions with the Defense Communications Agency and Army Communications Command after his service in the Air Force. He joined Raytheon in 1994, and served a Vice President of Intelligence and Information Systems prior to retiring in 2005. He is a graduate of the University of Arizona, holds a Masters degree from Shippensburg University, and is a graduate of the Army War College.

These are two great speakers. Don't miss them.

Register at www.moafl.org or www.moacc.org.

IMPORTANT DATE - - 2008 - -

MAR 1 - Chapter/Club Dues must be received by Council Treasurer.

MAR 4 - Annual Business Meeting Agenda due to Chapters/Clubs.

MAR 5 - Proposed Resolutions/Bylaw Changes approved at Winter Board Meeting sent to Chapters/Clubs.

MAR 25 - EC, SE, and SW AVP Nominees due to Council Secretary.

MAY 2-4 - Council Convention - - Cocoa Beach - Register NOW! The Registration Form is on Page 5!

WINTER PRESIDENT'S MEETING - -

The February 8 and 9 meeting was very well attended with 40 of 42 Chapters/Clubs represented. MOAA hosted Friday evening and Saturday morning, including accommodations at the Cocoa Beach Hilton - - then FCOC picked up the tab for the luncheon on Saturday - - following an excellent Leadership Workshop on Saturday morning, which featured Leadership advice gained via MOAA Leadership Symposia conducted throughout the country over the past several years.



Col. Lee Lange, USMC (Ret), Director of MOAA's Council & Chapters Division. Served as the MOAA host and led the MOAA team, while CAPT Bill Monk, USN (RET), President, FCOC,

represented the local presence. Both are shown in the above photo, welcoming attendees at dinner on Friday evening.

Subjects covered by MOAA Staff and the Board of Directors' Council & Chapters Committee included:

- ◆ Chapter Organization/Leadership Succession.
- ◆ Recruiting & Retention.
- ◆ Grass Roots Legislative Support.
- ◆ Roles for/of Auxiliary Membership.
- ◆ Chapter Communications.
- ◆ Community Involvement.

Some attendees apparently would have preferred a "symposium" format - - but I believe that everyone profited by the advice offered - - and plenty of room was left for open discussion during the final hour of the workshop.

Mick Cotten, Editor



Something to Consider - - Future MOAA Issues

LtCol John Feldmann, USAF (Ret), Legislative Chairman

The link below gives current names, brief biography, committee assignments, staff contacts, etc. on our two senators and 25 representatives. It is of special interest to chapter activists and Legislative Chairpersons.

[Http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_congressional_directory&docid=110th_txt-10](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_congressional_directory&docid=110th_txt-10)

Similar information, including WEB site links to each senator and representative id found at:

<http://www.visi.com/juam/congress/cgi-bin/newsweek.cgi?site=ctc&state=fl>

Summary contacts are also listed at the bottom of the Legislative link on the Florida Council WEB site.

I request you note major 2008 legislative thrusts for MOAA (See FCOC December 2007 Communiqué). Please prepare your members to act as soon as bill numbers are known.

Detailed topics for legislative action in 2008 are extracted below from our November meeting in Tampa. I will update the "Storming the Hill" suggested letter as soon as the team assignments are known. I anticipate each chapter president will send a tailored version to each representative and both senators during early March.

Selected MOAA Legislative Goals for 2008

- ◆ Fully fund the Defense Health Program
- ◆ Protect against health benefit cuts/avoid disproportional cost-shifting to beneficiaries
- ◆ Upgrade TRICARE to attract more providers and improve beneficiary access
- ◆ Fix Medicare/TRICARE payment rate formula to promote provider participation
- ◆ Ensure a broad TRICARE pharmacy formulary
- ◆ Improve seamless transition between the Defense and VA health care/benefits systems
- ◆ Provide full funding for veterans enrolled in the VA health care system
- ◆ Authorize premium offset Option to reservists' civilian health system

Retirement/Survivor Issues

- ◆ Preserve full-inflation cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs)
- ◆ Eliminate the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) deduction from SBP
- ◆ Authorize full concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA disability compensation
- ◆ Restore VA survivor annuities for qualifying widows who remarry after age 55
- ◆ Oppose military benefit changes that are inconsistent with service career sacrifices
- ◆ Expand permanent ID card eligibility for elderly/disabled beneficiaries
- ◆ Reform the Uniformed Services Spouse Protection Act (USFSPA)
- ◆ Authorize full linal-month retired pay to survivors
- ◆ Implement a more equitable military disability retirement system

Active/Reserve Force Issues

- ◆ Increase active duty, G/R force sizes (end strength) to match mission
- ◆ Restore full military pay comparability with private sector (3.5% gap remains)
- ◆ Upgrade G/R retirement/compensation to reflect "operational reserve" demands
- ◆ Strengthen financial, legal, re-employment protections for mobilized G/R force
- ◆ Protect funding for Commissary, dependent schools and other military benefits
- ◆ Raise relocation payments to cover members' costs for government-related moves
- ◆ Protect members against travel credit card interest/credit risks for late government payments
- ◆ Upgrade GI Bill benefits to cover 4-year public college costs
- ◆ Restore equitable G/R GI Bill benefits and authorize equal post-service eligibility

Veteran, Family, and Other Issues

- ◆ Improve quality, efficiency, and timeliness of VA claims-processing system
- ◆ Authorize pre-tax payment of health, dental, and long-term care premiums
- ◆ Authorize currently serving families to use pre-tax health/dependent care programs
- ◆ Provide incentives for civilian/government employers and contractors to hire military spouses
- ◆ Authorize compensation/support for family member care-givers of severely injured
- ◆ Win congressional approval of Flag anti-desecration amendment
- ◆ Reduce Social Security penalties for certain civil service and state retirees/survivors
- ◆ Prevent disproportional Social Security/medicare penalties for any population segment

**Military Officers Association of America
 Florida Council of Chapters Convention 2008
 Host: Cape Canaveral Chapter
 Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront Hotel – 2 May – 4 May 2008
 Registration Form**

Please Print Clearly

Name: _____ Rank: _____ Svc: _____ Spouse/Guest _____
 First and last names for Badges: _____ / _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____
 Chapter: _____ Chapter Position: _____

CONVENTION EVENTS

	COST	NUMBER	TOTAL
Convention Registration Fee: Required for all attendees	<u>\$35</u>		
1. Naval Ordnance and Test Unit Tour: May 2 nd from 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM. Briefing and tour of the Navy Base that tests the Trident Missile Submarines on the Eastern Test Range.	<u>\$10</u>		
2. President’s Reception: May 2 nd at 6:00 PM	<u>\$20</u>		
3. Memorial Service Breakfast: May 3 rd at 8:00 AM	<u>\$25</u>		
4. Shopping & Lunch Outing: May 3 rd 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM. Transportation to Olde Cocoa Village to enjoy the shops, visit the pier, the art shops, stroll River Front Park and relax over lunch at one of the village’s upscale restaurants.	<u>\$10</u>		
5. Buffet Lunch at hotel: May 3 rd at 12:00 noon. Register for 4, or 5 or none and have lunch on your own at one of Cocoa Beach’s attractive restaurants, but do not sign-up for both 4 and 5.	<u>\$25</u>		
6. Souvenir Convention Shirt High Quality White Polo Ladies: S M L XL 2X Mens: S M L XL 2X	<u>\$40</u>		
7. Signature Card.	<u>\$10</u>		
8. Military Ball: Beef Chicken Vegetarian	<u>\$50</u>		
TOTAL Payable to MOAACC Convention 2008			

CANCELLATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL 18 April 2008

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM WITH CHECK PAYABLE TO: MOAACC CONVENTION 2008
 PO BOX 254186 - PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, FL 32925

HOTEL RESERVATIONS CALL THE HILTON COCOA BEACH HOTEL AT 1-800-526-2609 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS A MEMBER OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA GROUP TO RECEIVE THE SPECIAL RATE OF \$119. THAT RATE IS AVAILABLE FOR 3 DAYS BEFORE THE CONVENTION AND 3 DAYS AFTER THE CONVENTION

RESERVATIONS CAN ALSO BE MADE ON THE INTERNET AT WWW.HILTONCOCOABEACH.COM. GO TO THE RESERVATIONS PAGE AND ENTER THE CODE FCC UNDER THE GROUP/CONVENTION CODE SECTION, WHICH WILL OFFER THE GROUP RATE.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS SOON BECAUSE ONLY 80 ROOMS HAVE BEEN BLOCKED. THE HOTEL HAS LIMITED AVAILABILITY IN SEASON. CALL TODAY – SHOULD YOUR PLANS CHANGE – YOU ONLY NEED TO CALL 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE TO CANCEL. TO BE HONORED, ALL RESERVATIONS ARE TO BE MADE BY APRIL 11, 2008. (June 5, 2007)

♦ **Northeast Florida Chapter** - -is publishing a cook book (hopefully) consisting of the favorite recipes of MOAA members throughout the state of Florida - - and most of you already know about this. The income will be divided up equably. Seems like a worthwhile project, so please send your favorite recipe to Larry Sharpe at 5556 Coastal Lane South, Jacksonville, FL 32258 - - or you can send it to your editor at mpcotten@earthlink.net and I will forward them to Larry. And thanks to the Halifax Chapter for reminding your editor in their newsletter.

w **Military Officers Association of Sarasota Chapter** - - Received #6,355.00 for their Scholarship Fund - - all in conjunction with

Chapter/Club Happenings

“Membership Renewals.” With a total membership of 632, that’s a little over \$10.00 per member - - and all members have not yet renewed. WOW! *How is your Scholarship Fund doing?*

w **St. Pete Area Chapter** - - Had the Admiral Farragot Honor (Color) Guard present the Colors at their Installation of Officers on January 19th. *“Damn the torpedoes - - Full speed ahead!”*

w **Still Looking for an Aggressive Chapter/Club** - - The December 2007 issue of your Council Communiqué offered a challenge - - and an opportunity for an aggressive chapter to step forward with a proposal to host the 2009 Florida

Council of Chapters Convention.. Yes, hosting an FCOC Convention is a lot of work, but it can also be very rewarding - - 55% of the net for the convention is retained by the hosting Chapter/Club. AND, the newly revised Convention Manual (CM) calls for a three-day convention - - much more manageable than the five-day conventions of the past. View the revised CM on- line at www.moaaf.org - - or Google Florida MOAA - - and then click on Convention Manual at the bottom of the Home Page. Then contact FCOC President Bill Monk (see page 2)! *Editor*

The **COUNCIL COMMUNIQUÉ** is the newsletter of the Florida Council of Chapters and is published bimonthly: February, April, June, August, October, and December with a special convention issue published in March. A current issue of the Council Communiqué can be found at the Florida Council of Chapters Web Site: <http://www.moaaf.org/>. Opinions expressed by writers are their own, and may not express the positions of the FCOC or the MOAA



Council Communiqué

FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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Quotable Quotes: We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give. *Winston Churchill*

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