



The Council Communiqué

Florida Council of Chapters
Military Officers Association of America

MOAA
Outstanding
Newsletter



2007

2006

2005

2003

2001

1998

1997

Runner-up
Outstanding
Newsletter

2004

2002

2000

1999

Issue No. 92
October 2008



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

COL TROY SCOTT, USAR (RET)

This past weekend your Council conducted a Fall Board Meeting and an Area Vice President's workshop. This was an uplifting experience for me. The enthusiasm and dedication of our Board members is amazing. I am so grateful to be able to work with such a talented group.

Several issues were addressed and I'd like to share some with you. Primarily among those issues were a profound "Thank You" to all those who have accepted the mantle of leadership by serving as President of their Chapter. We are working on ways to assist you with your chapter and are willing to help any way we can. Our AVP training session will help them in getting out and sharing ideas with other chapters. I hope that all AVPs will organize an area meeting to discuss issues,

challenges and successes.

We want to let other chapters know what's going on throughout the state. There are several chapters with outstanding public service projects, such as the Tampa Chapter's "Helping Hands" project with Haley VA center, and the Kingdom of the Sun chapter with their "Stuff the Bus" program. Several chapters are involved in sending packages to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the Toys for Tots program also gets a lot of support. We will be featuring articles on these efforts in our Communiqué in the future. Any chapter that would like to share their story, please email either Mick Cotten or me.

As I stated in our last issue, I know that individual chapters are very active in providing scholarships to high school students. I'd like to ask each chapter to send me an email (entscott@verizon.net) and let me know the scope of their contributions to scholarships. We don't have a statewide visibility of how much we donate toward college scholarships, and it would be a great recruiting tool to be able to say that our chapters contribute several thousands of dollars to future leaders in Florida. I'll share the responses with you.

Our Florida Winter President's meeting is scheduled for 23-24 January 2009 at the Sirata in St Pete Beach, FL. The Sirata is a beach resort with all the amenities, and this will give our Presidents a chance to scope out our Annual Convention site. This is an earlier date than we've scheduled in the past so please note it on your calendars. As we will have several leadership positions changing in December and January, please be sure to pass the info on to your successor.

Also, Elke and I will be attending the Georgia State convention in Columbus, GA, "Home of the Infantry" 16-17 October. Last time I was there (forty-two years ago) I had to jump out of airplanes and crawl through swamps. This will be a much more pleasant visit!

Best Wishes - - Troy & Elke

IMPORTANT DATES/UPCOMING EVENTS - -

- 24DEC2008 - Proposed Resolutions and/Bylaw Changes due to Bylaw/Resolution Committee Chairman.
- 01JAN2009 - Roster Information (Blue Book, Section I, Page 8) (*Up-date as needed*).
- 23-24JAN2009 - Winter President's & Board of Directors Meetings, Sirata, St Pete Beach
- 01FEB2009 - List of Deceased Member and Spouses due to Council Secretary.
- 01MAR2009 - Council Dues due to Council Treasurer.
- 05-07JUN2009 - Convention 2009, Sirata, St Pete Beach.

110th CONGRESS - - FAREWELL!! (And Good Riddance...)

CAPT Owen Englander, USN (Ret)

Chairman, National & Legislative Affairs, PMOAA

This is the time of year when I get sort of bi-polar. Particularly every fourth year... as in Presidential Election Years. I refer, of course, to a tendency to see things in partisan political terms while struggling to maintain MOAA's traditional non-partisan position. As it turns out, the Administration continues to be less than a pal of the Military Community (at least those who have served and do not qualify as current wounded warriors). In the Congress we have had friends in now-acquainted places (like Sen. Nelson, D-FL and Rep Miller R-FL) and, on rare occasions, totally unexpected places (like Sen. Harry Reid's [D-NV] Amendment to S.3001 which essentially would have made Concurrent Receipt universal).

As it turns out, because of running partisan positioning and the conflicting forces attending some major national issues, we have gained little among this year's MOAA priorities. The House had long since passed its version of the Defense Authorization Bill; the Senate was about to deal with proposed Amendments thereto and pass their own version, which would then have gone to Conference in the waning days of the session. A Republican Amendment to block "earmarks" in the Senate's Defense Authorization Bill was met with a Democrat move to save "earmarks" by passing the Senate Bill without further Amendment (except one in which we are interested, stopping the SBC-DIC Offset). And *that* Amendment will not pass eventual House-Senate Conference in all likelihood.

With regard to what happens next: There will be a House-Senate Conference. I will predict nothing. With the \$700B gorilla in the room, none of this will happen before October first. To sustain operations in Washington: "House and Senate leaders finished work on the FY2009 Defense Appropriations Act to ensure Pentagon needs are fully funded.... [The Appropriations] bill also includes language that would require paying an extra \$500 per month to servicemembers who are involuntarily extended past their service commitments by service "stop-loss" policies, starting Oct. 1, 2009. Legislators also agreed to plus up VA and Homeland Security appropriations to meet the new fiscal year needs. Then they wrapped all three of those initiatives with a broader "continuing resolution" (H.R. 2638) that would keep the rest of the government operating at FY2008 funding levels until next March, when Congress envisions working with the new president to address funding needs for the rest of FY2009" (source of quote: MOAA).

Where we wound up on specifics:

The House-passed bill would bar any increase in TRICARE fees through the end of the next fiscal year. It appears that Congress will approve the House version, but we'll face another battle when that freeze expires next year. As with the "save" from cuts to Medicare payments to practitioners, which is behind us for 2009 but lurks thereafter.

Any further progress to de-Balkanize Concurrent Receipt died with Harry Reid's Amendment.

The Legislature provided a grant to the Agency for Workforce Administration to help veterans returning from Iraq or Afghanistan to find jobs.

The big drive by veterans in most states is to get an exemption from state income tax for veterans but Florida gives that to everybody.

Florida veterans have not always been successful in the Legislature. An attempt for several years to get a law requiring schools to be closed on Veterans Day ran afoul of local school boards who didn't like to have the state telling them what to do.

Sixteen Chapter Health Warning Signals

MOAA Matters in Review

LtCol Fred Edwards, USMC (Ret)

Past President, Florida Council

Chairman, Councils and Chapters Committee

National MOAA Board of Directors



The Florida Council, in concert with MOAA's national board and staff, can conduct a last-ditch effort to save an ailing chapter, but this involves revitalizing a chapter almost from the ground up. It's a lot easier to spot a chapter when it's just beginning to show signs of sickness, and analyze

what can be done to correct the problems. Based upon MOAA's experience with ailing chapters, we have developed a list of signals to watch for.

Sometimes the symptoms appear so slowly that chapter leaders don't even realize what's happening until it's too late. But a visitor from outside the chapter generally can spot the problem easily. By using the warning signals, however, any chapter can self-evaluate and make corrections. One, two, or even three signals won't consign your chapter to the scrap heap, but the more there are, the more reason to be concerned.

We've developed these 16 signals from actual ailing chapters over quite a few years, so you'll note that some symptoms overlap, and that they are not listed in any order of importance. The Councils and Chapters Department at national MOAA is refining the list in order to eliminate those overlaps and to facilitate electronic evaluations at the headquarters.

The corrections needed should be obvious, but how to accomplish them will depend upon the chapter's local situation and its leadership's interest, vision, and drive. Here are the signals:

1. Declining membership.
2. Declining participation in chapter functions.
3. Unfilled chapter offices.

Continued on Page 3 - -

MOAA Matters (Continued From Page 2) - -

4. Officers (especially the president) serving into perpetuity.
5. A few members are doing all the work.
6. Auxiliaries and spouses are excluded as potential office holders.
7. Chapter officers are being recycled.
8. Chapter does not participate in "Give Me 10."
9. Chapter has no membership recruiting effort.
10. Chapter has no community involvement program.
11. Average age of chapter members is over 75.
12. Average age of chapter officers is over 75.
13. Average age of potential members is over 75.
14. Number of potential members in the area is 100 or less.
15. Chapter membership is larger than the pool of potential members.
16. Chapter does not publish a newsletter.

Please note that there's nothing wrong with being more 75 years old. But the statistics for ailing chapters have shown that those whose members, officers, and potential members have average ages of over 75 have met three of the 16 warning signals. They had better do well with the remaining 13.

THE UN-COMFORT ZONE

with ROBERT WILSON

WHAT DRIVES YOUR DESIRE?



It was love at first sight. I was a 15 year old working as a parking lot cashier, when a brand new car pulled up to the booth. I'd never seen anything like it; it was a new model from Toyota called Celica. Approaching the legal driving age, I dreamed of owning a car. Now my dream had a form. For the next two years, I saved all my money and during

that time a Celica couldn't come within my peripheral vision without my noticing it. It was the only car I wanted. I went to the showroom dozens of times to sit in it, feel it, smell it. I talked with every owner of one who passed through my parking lot. I was driven.

Unfortunately, a new one was too expensive, so I looked in the newspaper every day for a used one, but I was always more than \$1,000 short. At 17 and half years old, borrowing my parents car was painful. The desire and the peer pressure to own a car – any car – was nearly overwhelming,

and my dream was wavering. My friends began suggesting cars that I could afford. Then my Dad introduced me to a car wholesaler. When I met with him, I reluctantly gave him a list of cars I thought I could afford. As we talked about them, he seemed to sense my lack of enthusiasm. He pressed me, "Are there any others you're interested in?" "Well... there's the Toyota Celica," I replied, "but I know I can't afford it." He jotted it down and said, "You let me worry about that." My eyes lit up as he asked me about colors and options. Then he drew a big circle around the word Celica. Less than a week later, he phoned me. He found one I could afford. It had a small dent in the fender which I could fix for under \$100. Cha-ching Desire satisfied.

When was the last time you were obsessed with something? Desire is a powerful motivator, but unlike Fear it cannot be easily triggered. Oh, sure, I can create a television ad depicting a thick juicy steak sizzling on a grill and make your mouth water. Maybe I can even get you off the couch and into your car to go get one. As a marketer, an employer, or even as a parent, I can plant the seeds of desire, but in order for it to blossom, it must develop from within. Once it takes root, Desire has the amazing ability to drive itself. When it becomes very powerful, we call it Ambition. So few people reach this level that we use the word Hunger to describe it because that is a Desire that everyone can understand.

When you observe the world's most successful people - - in business, sports, or politics - - you see that Desire takes precedence over every other aspect of their lives. As Frank Sinatra sings in *I've Got You Under My Skin*: "I'd sacrifice anything come what might." Most us have many things we are unwilling to sacrifice. Family and friends are two of the most common. Winners give their Desire complete attention, focus and energy. Michael Jordan is an excellent example; he became one of the greatest basketball players by making 2000 practice shots everyday. Are you that dedicated to your dream?

On the other hand, perhaps you gain more satisfaction from your hobbies than your work. In that case, you probably wish you could spend more time pursuing them instead of your job. That is because pleasure is the force that fans the flames of Desire. Marsha Sinetar in her book *Do What You Love the Money Will Follow* writes: "When you study people who are successful...it is abundantly clear that their achievements are directly related to the enjoyment they derive from their work." Are you ready to give up everything for your Desire?

Robert Evans Wilson, Jr. is a motivational speaker and humorist. He works with companies that want to be more competitive and with people who want to think like innovators. For more information on Robert's programs please visit www.jumpstartyourmeeting.com.

IN MEMORIAM

**COL Jere N. Moore, USA (Ret)
"COMRADE & FRIEND"**

May He Rest in The Peace He So Deserves

Jere Neuville Moore Jr., 76, who retired as Associated Press Bureau chief and also a retired Colonel in the United States Army, died Friday, September 12, 2008, in Tallahassee. The service will be at 1 p.m. EDT Tuesday, September 16, at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church in Tallahassee, with burial at Memory Hill Cemetery in Milledgeville, Ga., at 2 p.m., EDT, Wednesday, September 17. The family will receive friends Tuesday at Holy Comforter following the service. Memorial contributions may be made to Moore Family Fund for Teaching English, Georgia Military College Foundation, 201 East Green Street, Milledgeville, GA 31061. Bevis Funeral Home in Tallahassee (850-385-2193) is handling arrangements. He is survived by three daughters, Billee M. Wolff (and Martin) of New Milford, N.J., Sarah M. Stern (and Bob) of Orlando and Carolyn M. Yarbrough (and Thomas) of Tallahassee; six granddaughters, Elisha W. Charles (and Earl) of Bloomingdale, N.J., Diana Joy W. Craffey (and Matthew) of Park Ridge, N.J., Juliet Yarbrough and Kelly Yarbrough, both of Tallahassee, and Jere Stern and Sallie Stern, both of Orlando; four great-grandchildren, Mya and Emma Charles of Bloomingdale, N.J., and James and Madison Craffey of Park Ridge, N.J.; his brother, Powell Moore of Vienna, Austria; and two sisters, Sallie Thorne Peebles of Rome, Ga., and Edwina Simpson of Dearborn, Mich. Mr. Moore was preceded in death by his wife, Kay Moore, who passed away March 27 of this year.

Published in the Tallahassee Democrat on 9/14/2008

A THANK YOU NOTE

Thanks to you and the MOAA for remembering Dad and sending that beautiful floral basket to us. He truly enjoyed His association with MOAA.

With Sincere Gratitude,
Sarah Stern

HOUSEKEEPING

If you have read the foregoing In Memoriam, Obituary, and Thank You Note; you are aware that our long-time Florida Legislative Affairs Chairman and Acting National Legislative Chairman, COL Jere Moore, USA (RET) has departed this world for a better life hereafter.

And, if you will review the data in the Florida Council Of Chapters (FCOC), MOAA box (below), you will note that FCOC is in need of someone to assume those Committee Chairman Positions.

I'll grant that Jere Moore had unique life experiences that enabled him to do an excellent job as our Florida Legislative Affairs Chairman due to his journalist background - - and the fact that he resided in Tallahassee was certainly a plus - - but I'm equally confident that someone somewhere within the Florida MOAA membership has the talent and wherewithall to assume the mantle and and carry the Florida Legislative news banner forward - - to keep us posted as to what is happening in Military/Veterans' Affairs in the state legislature.

I'm also confident that some member is willing and able to assume the duties of (National) Legislative Affairs Chairman, but that individual also needs to step up to the plate and say "YES, I volunteer!"

Mick Cotten, Editor

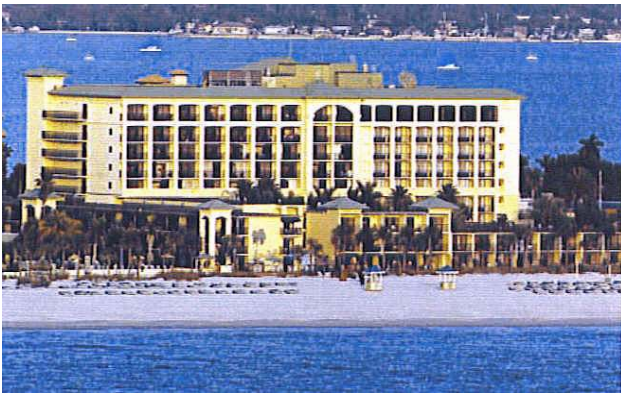
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Florida Council of Chapters

2009 Convention June 5 – 7, 2009

Sirata Beach Resort

St. Petersburg Beach, FL

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), St Petersburg Area Chapter is hosting the 2009 Florida Council of Chapters Annual Convention at the Sirata Beach Resort on St. Pete Beach, FL from June 5-7, 2009. This will be a very special convention since it marks the 80th anniversary of MOAA and the 6th of June marks the 67th anniversary of the Battle of Midway and 65th anniversary of D-Day.

Three seminars are planned; Auxiliary and Spouse by MOAA national committee member Violet Smith, MOAA, Fighting for the Military by CAPT Bud Schneeweis, USCG (Ret) and a National Security Brief by two Retired Air Force General Officers to be identified in December.

We've requested that VADM Ryan (will not know his schedule until December) be the All Hands Breakfast speaker and Lt Gen Allen Peck, USAF Commander, Air University, Maxwell AFB, AL is confirmed as the Military Ball speaker.

We also will invite the CENTCOM, SOCOM and MacDill AFB 6th Air Mobility Wing Commanders, the Commanding Officers of USCG Sector St. Petersburg and Clearwater USCG Air Station as well as the Mayors of St. Petersburg and St. Pete Beach to the All Hands Breakfast.

Perhaps best of all we will have a two room hospitality suite set up with cocktail tables and supplied by us near the beach and pool from noon Friday.

Please sign up and register now! To encourage early hotel reservation and convention registration we originated a "Sign up now; we will bill you in February 2009 program." So it won't cost you a red penny to sign up now. No need to wait until the last minute!

Latest convention information and forms are available at:

<http://www.MOAAStpeteArea.com/Convention%20Overview.html>

or contact:

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CHAPTER/CLUB HAPPENINGS

◆ LAKE AREA CHAPTER sponsored two (2) local JROTC students (out of 40 + 8 chaperones) on a ten day trip to the Washington, DC area - - The Famous Museums, MCB Quantico, the 8th & 1 Evening Parade were visited - - with all meals eaten at Ft. Belvoir.

◆ KINGDOM OF THE SUN CHAPTER's Operation Stuff The Bus collected \$57,946.91 in money and new school materials for homeless and needy children of Marion County. Over 75 volunteers, including members of the Bellview American Legion and the Marine Corps League, participated. The total collected since OSTB started in 2002 is over \$310,000.

◆ FLAGLER COUNTY & HALIFAX CHAPTERS will have a joint meeting on 23OCT08. Joint Chapter Meetings appear to be on the up-swing.

◆ SOUTH DADE CHAPTER reminds us of the importance of getting our Annual Flu Shots - - The elderly, young children and people with chronic illnesses are at the greatest risk for severe illness, but the CDC recommends that a wide variety of people get vaccinated.

◆ FROM THE KOS CHAPTER - - The Social Security Website has provided some interesting information for veterans. Certain Active Duty (AD)

military service is acknowledged by awarding "extra earning credits" (EEC's). Service in 1957 thru 1977 is awarded ECC's of \$300 per quarter of AD. Service in 1978 thru 2001 is awarded \$100 for each \$300 of AD Base Pay - - up to \$1,200 per year, but the veteran must have completed 24 months of AD (or a full tour) to get the benefit. It could well pay our members to check with their local Social Security offices and insure they have received the appropriate credits for their AD service - - it surely won't hurt.

The Council Communiqué is the newsletter of the Florida Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association of America, 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.



The Council Communiqué

FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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In general, the art of government consists of taking as much money as possible from one class of citizens to give to another.
Francois Voltaire (1694-1778)

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