

**FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS, MOAA**  
**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**May 22, 2015**  
**Renaissance World Golf Village Resort, St. Augustine, Florida**

Acting President Oliveri called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. He called upon Chaplain Caudill for the Invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Major Ed Lillich, US Army, Retired, was appointed as Parliamentarian for the meeting. The following Board Members were present. Nine active board members were present, constituting a quorum. Colonel Bob Bachmann, USA, Retired, Northeast Area Vice President was absent (excused for personal reasons).

**Council Board Members:**

LTC John Morrison, USA (Ret), President (currently on leave of absence)  
LTC Marc Oliveri, USAR (Ret), Vice President and Acting President  
COL Jon Gordon, USA (Ret), Secretary  
CWO4 Don Courtney, USA (Ret), Treasurer  
Lt Col Jim Conner, USAF (Ret), Immediate Past President  
Col Scott Berry, USAF (Ret), Area Vice President, Northwest  
CAPT Thomas Holme, Jr., USN (Ret), Area Vice President, West Central  
CAPT Ernie Joy, USN (Ret), Area Vice President, East Central  
Col Len Friedlander, USAF (Ret), Area Vice President, Southwest  
COL Bill Danzeisen, USA (Ret), Area Vice President, Southeast

**Committee Chairs:**

Several Committee Chairs were present, including, but not limited to:  
MAJ Ed Lillich, USA (Ret), Bylaws/Resolutions  
Col Fran Martin, USAF (Ret), National Legislative Affairs  
LTC Marc Oliveri, USAR (Ret), Membership  
LCDR John Snyder, USN (Ret), Webmaster  
Chaplain (Col) Charles Caudill, USAF (Ret), Religious Activities  
LTC Bob LePage, USA (Ret), Florida Veteran's Council and Leadership Forum

**Others in Attendance**

COL Barry Wright, USA (Ret), Director, MOAA Council and Chapter Affairs Department  
Numerous conference attendees

**Acting President Marc Oliveri** welcomed President John Morrison to the meeting and offered him the opportunity to address everyone present. John thanked everyone for their support during his leave of absence for medical reasons. He covered his cancer status, including treatment regimens and prognosis (looking good at the moment). He especially thanked MOAA, who fought for TRICARE FOR LIFE, a program that made his medical treatment possible. He made a point of thanking his wife, Myra, who noticed that something was wrong with the way he was acting and insisted that he seek an evaluation immediately.

**Acting President's Report (Lt Col Marc Oliveri):** Vice President Oliveri reported that since the last meeting he had visited the Ancient City Chapter to review the 2015 Convention Plans and the Imperial Polk County Chapter to discuss the 2016 Convention. Colonel Gary Clark has a different approach to the 2016 Convention and it promises to be one of the most interesting Conventions in Council history. It will be focused around the Sun & Fun Flying Club and will feature events at various venues.

He Stormed the Hill with MOAA in April and was impressed with MOAA's efforts to connect with members of Congress. Three Florida teams contacted all 27 Florida Congressmen and Florida's two senators (or office staff). MOAA representatives were well received and personnel seemed to be genuinely interested in the materials and comments provided by the Storm the Hill teams.

In February he held a meeting with Area Vice Presidents on a loop call. The Family and Friends' Cruise, December 5-10, 2015 has 64 cabins confirmed. The FCOC should receive over \$5,000 from the cruise.

LTC Oliveri has explored the possibility of changing the venue of the Leadership Forum from the Ocala Hilton to the Orlando Hilton. After the last Leadership Forum there were several comments about the quality of service provided by the Ocala Hilton. The Orlando Hilton is slightly more expensive, but if the Council provides \$1,000.00 toward the Leadership Forum, the cost to participants should remain about the same. He will request those funds under new business.

The Santa Rosa Chapter (aka Whiting Field Chapter) may rejoin the Council. If that happens, the Council will have 43 chapters. The Council will present its Level of Excellence submission to MOAA before the June 1 deadline. Finally, he noted that three chapters have not submitted their roster to MOAA. He noted that almost every chapter who submitted their roster received some type of financial reward.

**Secretary's Report (COL Jon Gordon):** Colonel Gordon requested approval of the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on January 16, 2015 at the Hilton Hotel, Ocala, Florida. Minutes were accepted as submitted. Copies were previously distributed by email.

The deceased members list for 2014 was completed in early May, 2015 (deadline for submitting information was 1 February). Several problems were encountered this year with chapters who had not updated their officer rosters. Typical scenario. Email listed president. No response. Try again. No response. On third try receive a response saying I am no longer president. Frankly, a disappointing response. If you are no longer the president but get a message for your chapter, please let the sender know that he has the wrong address. And please provide a POC for your chapter. Ultimately, however, all chapters provided input.

**Treasurer's Report (CWO4 Don Courtney):** Mr. Courtney announced that FCOC accounts had been moved from BMO Harris to Bank of America. The operating balance on May 1, 2015 was \$15,713 with a separate reserve account of \$5,000. The Convention Account has a balance of \$7,000, with a loan to St. Augustine of \$3,000. A financial review of the FCOC has been

completed and the “audit” letter is on file. No deficiencies were noted. The 2016 budget sets income from chapter dues at \$5,300, a more realistic figure than has been used in the past. Income from the Family and Friends has also been included in anticipated income.

**Immediate Past President’s Report (Lt Col Jim Conner):** Jim Conner’s activity for the Florida Council since the last Board meeting included an installation at Bay County, helping start the Community Blue Print in Lee County and participating in Storming the Hill activities.

He is resigning his position on the Florida Council of Chapters Board because he and his family have physically moved to San Antonio Texas. It has been fun and challenging to serve on the Florida Council as Area AVP, Secretary, Convention Chair, Vice President and President. He wishes the Florida Council all the best and thanks everyone for their support. If he can ever be of assistance do not hesitate to call him.

**NE Area VP’s Report (COL Bob Bachmann):** No report (absent)

**NW Area VP’s Report (Col Scott Berry):** Colonel Berry maintained contact with all chapters and provided assistance in various areas of chapter management and recruiting. He provided specifics to the Tallahassee Chapter on MOAA resources for recruiting events. The chapter is growing by leaps and bounds. He continued his dialogue with the Santa Rosa Chapter and coordinated with FCOC on chapter renewal efforts. He promoted MOAA perspectives through interviews appearing on local evening news channel.

**EC Area VP’s Report (CAPT Ernie Joy):** This quarter CAPT Joy attended the first officers' call to be held at Indian River Chapter and installed new officers at Central Florida chapter. The Indian River Chapter mailed post cards to the MOAA potentials list like those used at Palm Beach-Martin Counties chapter. Several potential members and their spouses attended. Board members and spouses welcomed each of the guests. Round table introductions were very effective in demonstrating the camaraderie we enjoy. The chapter gained five new members from this event. Suggestions for improvement: if feasible, sign new members up at the event to enhance success rates. Also, coordinate with Council & Chapters at MOAA at least 60 days in advance for them to email invitations to potentials. Post cards generate a much better response than email from MOAA National.

Captain Joy assisted the Council in coordinating the selection of the December fundraiser cruise and travel agent. Currently there are 64 cabins booked with projected net income of at least \$4K. The income is to be used to reimburse chapters for expenses incurred toward meeting their net member gain recruitment goals established at the January leadership forum. Indian River chapter's reimbursement request for their March officers call has been forwarded for payment. He has encouraged other EC chapter leaders to seek reimbursement for their recruiting efforts.

Again, leader accession is the most significant challenge facing EC chapters, including the larger chapters. Several presidents are serving repeat terms. If net member gains can be achieved this may open some opportunities for additional candidates to come forward. He has

asked chapter presidents to provide mid-year updates on progress toward meeting their end of 2015 net member gain goals.

All seven EC chapters are represented at the 2015 Convention. Finally, the Cape Canaveral chapter will present a proposal to host the 2017 convention at sea during this convention.

**WC Area VP's Report (CAPT Tim Holme):** Following the Leadership meeting in Ocala (16-17 January), CAPT Holme began a search for suitable relief as West Central Area Vice President. Although he contacted each of the nine Chapters in the West Central Area there were no volunteers. The search continued for a candidate until Marc reported that Skip Hartnett had decided to resume his very successful role at this month's State Convention.

During the months that followed the January meeting, he met with three West Central Chapters: Suncoast Chapter in New Port Richey on 26 February, West Central Chapter in Spring Hill on 12 March and Kingdom of the Sun Chapter in Ocala on 02 April. During each of the visits, he had the opportunity to talk with the Chapter leaders about problems they are facing. Common to all three is the difficulty in attracting members to step up and assume leadership positions. The majority of members enjoy the social aspects of Chapter membership. Interestingly, two of the visited chapters have no reservations to attend the State Convention and the third has only one reservation. According to the president of one of the chapters "their members are cheap," which was the explanation for no ad being submitted to the Convention Program.

In fairness, the date selected for this year's Convention may be partly to blame. Memorial Day weekend creates conflicts. It is possible that some potential attendees are expecting family to come to Florida for the long weekend and this weekend is easier for families with school age children who want to visit grandparents.

Captain Holme has been privileged to fill in for Skip during the past year and looks forward to the opportunity, when his plate is less full, to serving the Council again in the future.

**SE Area VP's Report (COL Bill Danzeisen):** Colonel Danzeisen reported that five of the six chapters in the SE Area are functioning well. The sixth, however, the Florida Gold Coast Chapter is a problem. On the good side, our new chapter in the Keys is doing much better than expected. They have recruited a number of young Coast Guard officers in the Marathon area and have a good mixture of younger and older members. Col Harry Lloyd, the chapter president, is aggressive and has his staff working well in his absence. Harry is a "snow bird," but is in the process of relocating full time to Florida. In the past few weeks the chapter discovered a NJROTC unit at Key West HS and is in the process of obtaining MOAA medals and certificates for the honor cadets. Their next task is to determine if any other Keys High schools have JROTC units. Col Lloyd was nominated for the first FCOC leadership award for the SEA.

The Palm Beach-Martin County liaison with the Pahokee HS AFJROTC recently arranged a series of orientation flights for the cadets. This was quite an experience for these cadets from a very remote and depressed area.

Colonel Danzeisen is looking to get National MOAA's help in arranging a recruiting Officer's Call for the South Dade Chapter at the Homestead USAF Reserve Base in late July or August.

The Southeast Area's problem chapter, Florida Gold Coast, is hurting for the lack of leadership. Nick Lamis, the Chapter President, is burned out and looking to possibly relocate to Panama. He has had little response in trying to recruit new leadership. Too many want to be Indians but no chiefs.

**SW Area VP's Report (Col Len Friedlander):** Colonel Friedlander visited the South Central Chapter on January 15 and found the chapter to be on the move. They had 15-20 members in November 2014. They have increased their membership to around 40 now. They are looking at introducing the "Flag Initiative" into the local school system.

The Sarasota Chapter, in conjunction with the Sarasota-Manatee Pops Orchestra will be presenting a Flag Day Program at the Sarasota National Cemetery. The program will include patriotic music, a presentation on the history of the US flag, and a demonstration of how to retire a flag that can now longer be displayed. Information is available on the Sarasota Chapter website, [www.sarasotamoaa.com](http://www.sarasotamoaa.com).

The Sarasota Chapter will again host an all-Area luncheon, to be held on September 18, 2015 at Michael's on East in Sarasota. Past events have featured a national MOAA speaker and drawn attendees from almost all Area chapters.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Marc Oliveri moved to add \$1,000.00 to the proposed 2016 Budget expenses for the purpose of supporting the change in the Leadership Forum location from the Ocala Hilton to the Orlando Hilton. Motion was seconded and discussion held. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Len Friedlander moved that the Council authorize the purchase of new flagpoles. The current flagpoles are hard to put together and many are unstable. Motion was seconded. Discussion held. **Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Marc Oliveri discussed the possibility of creating a General Council position. One reason for creating the position would be to have someone who is familiar with contracts available to review the contracts entered into by local chapters on behalf of the FCOC. A General Council could also assist the council in matters pertaining to not-for-profit corporations. Discussion revolved around whether it required an amendment to the bylaws or simply an addition to the Council Administration and Activities section of the Blue Book. After discussion it was decided that the position could be created under the Administrative section of the Blue Book. It was moved and seconded to create a position to be known as the FCOC General Council. **Motion passed unanimously.** Marc Oliveri then stated that Jon Gordon had volunteered to fill the

position. Colonel Gordon noted that although he had indicated that he was interested in the position, and had actually performed some of the envisioned duties while serving as Secretary, the actual job description had yet to be developed. There may be other individuals interested in the position as well. The next step appears to be the development of an actual job description.

Marc Oliveri moved that John Morrison be reinstated as President effective May 24, 2015. Motion was seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**Meeting adjourned by Acting President Oliveri at 4:12 pm, May 22, 2015.**

Jonathan C. Gordon, Colonel, US Army (Ret)  
Secretary, Florida Council of Chapters