

SECTION I-

1. **All Elected Chapter Officers for Year 2014** were members of the MOAA or the spouse of a MOAA member. See Attachment 1.
2. **CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP IN MOAA NATIONAL:** Based upon MOAA reconciliation of MOAS Roster as of 12/31/2014, we have 97.5% of Regular and Auxiliary members who are members of MOAA National.
3. **CURRENT MEMBERSHIP ROSTER:** The membership roster was provided electronically to MOAA Council & Chapters on 8 January 2015.
CHAPTER DIRECTORY: MOAS publishes an annual membership directory after our membership renewal drive, listing members by name, address, phone number, and e-mail address, as appropriate. The directory also provides an additional 30 pages of information on chapter programs, history, leadership, committees, and chapter awards recipients. Additionally, information is provided about locally and nationally available veteran's services, contact information for our congressional delegation, the TRICARE program, and nearby military facilities. A copy is forwarded annually to MOAA.
4. **CURRENT CHAPTER OFFICER LIST:** A list of all chapter officers and directors was provided to MOAA on 25 January 2014.
5. **DESIGNATED LEGISLATIVE LIAISON:** The Chapter Legislative Liaison is Colonel Len Friedlander, USAF (Ret.) (lenfriedlander@verizon.net). Colonel Friedlander has held this position for six years and writes an article for each issue of our monthly newsletter, *The Sarasota Breeze*. Please note the Section II description of activities of additional MOAS efforts, which greatly enhanced our liaison with elected officials. Additionally, MOAS was awarded the Best Legislative print column for 2014.
6. **CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:** The Membership Chairperson is our Director, George Tracy, LT, USN (Ret.).
7. **AUXILIARY LIAISON:** Ms. Barbara Hamilton served as the Auxiliary liaison for our chapter. Her email is BAH2762@aol.com
8. **ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER ACCOUNT:** The Chapter has an Electronic Funds Transfer account with national MOAA.
9. **PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:** Our Chapter conducted 12 general membership luncheons with either a guest speaker or entertainment, at the best-known venue in the city, Michael's On East. Included in those meetings, we hosted a Southwest Florida Area luncheon with attendance from 3 other SW FL chapters, a joint meeting with the Navy League to celebrate the Navy's Birthday and a formal Military Gala with installation of our new officers for 2015

Another group that is a vital part of our chapter is the "Yahoos", originally formed in 1998 to provide an event that would allow working members of our chapter who weren't able to attend luncheons to participate in a social evening. A listing of the events is in Attachment 3. 14 events were planned but 2 were cancelled due to the weather effect on our kayaking.

As part of our recruiting effort, we began a Meet & Greet, which has evolved into a monthly event. We have re-created the camaraderie of the O' Club that we enjoyed in our younger days. We encourage bringing prospective new members, and consider this an additional membership get-together. There no cost except for what you eat or drink – and no Reservations.

10. **CHAPTER NEWSLETTER:** The chapter newsletter, *The Sarasota Breeze*, published twelve monthly editions in 2014 (twelve to sixteen pages per issue). The Sarasota Breeze has been recognized as "best in category" in 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007 and 2010. In 2009 it was the 2nd Runner-up in its category, and in 2008, 2012 and 2013 and 2014 it was selected as the 1st Runner-up in its category. In addition to it's mailing, an electronic color version of the newsletter is sent via email to two-thirds of our chapter membership. Finally, the newsletter is posted to our website for members who wish to access the information in that manner, or to make it available to potential MOAA and

chapter members. A significant number of our members do not have the ability to access the Internet, so we will continue to distribute the newsletter in a 'mixed' mode (electronic email and hard-copy mailings). Monthly copies are also sent to MOAA, headquarters, Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) Officers, FCOC Southwest Area Chapter Presidents, local area high school JROTC units, our Senators, and our Congressman

In addition to *The Sarasota Breeze* we publish the Sarasotamoaa.blogspot.com, which was an award winner for Unique Communications in 2014. The blog features pictures of our members at events and also serves as a platform to announce our upcoming events.

SECTION II:

1. LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS PROGRAM: We have a very active Legislative Liaison Program, which has been highly rated by our membership. We publish a Legislative Affairs column monthly in *The Sarasota Breeze*. Information in the column is derived from on-line MOAA information and other printed and on-line publications. Chapter members are regularly encouraged to contact our elected representatives and senators, chairs of committees considering military and budgetary matters, and DoD & VA officials. Contact information is provided in our monthly newsletter, on the chapter website, and in the chapter Membership Directory. Additionally, the Chapter President presents legislative issues at the monthly luncheons and encourages our members to stay informed and contact our representatives about matters before the congress. E-mail updates on legislative matters are also provided to members who have indicated an interest in receiving information in this manner.

MOAS chapter leaders, including our Legislative Chairperson, attended the MOAA Chapter Leader's Symposium in Jacksonville, FL – attending the legislative seminars presented by Col. Mike Hayden MOAA Director of Government Relations. Subsequently, also participated in the MOAA Legislative Webinar to gain additional expertise in implementing best practices in legislative activities.

MOAS has a permanent seat at the Sarasota County Veterans' Commission and is represented by Auxiliary member Pat McLain, with other chapter members attending on an ad hoc basis, in support of mutual legislative objectives.

Our legislative activities are built on the 2004 establishment of a joint legislative affairs partnership with the Bradenton and Venice Area MOAA chapters (all in FL-13 legislative district). This forum also includes representatives from other veterans support organizations (e.g. Manasota Goodwill, Jewish Family & Childrens' Services, VFW, etc.) throughout Florida Congressional District 13, and fosters an ongoing dialogue. Meetings have been conducted with our Congressman Vern Buchanan, which keep the military members and veterans of our community aware and up-to-date on key local and national military issues.

MOAS chapter officers attended four meetings with congressman Vern Buchanan (R-FL-13) for discussions on military healthcare, TRICARE, veteran's benefits, and DoD budget cuts. We maintain continuing contact with the congressman's local office throughout the year.

This year's annual joint luncheon meeting in September 2014, which included MOAA members from chapters in the FCOC Southwest Area (Sarasota, Venice Area, Charlotte Harbor, Bradenton and Calusa), has also become an important part of our legislative program. We were extremely fortunate this year to have MG Joe Lynch, MOAA General Counsel & Corporate Secretary, as our luncheon speaker. These meetings are well attended, and members return to their chapters with current information and a renewed sense of mission.

Our Annual Directory contains listings of important addresses and contact information for our Congressional representatives and e-mail addresses of important DOD and VA offices,

and military web sites.

Finally, we publish a Veterans Affairs and Items of Interest update randomly throughout the year in the newsletter The Sarasota Breeze. The column is more focused on local issues than the legislative column, but also covers matters in the legislative realm.

2. CHAPTER RECRUITING & RETENTION PROGRAM: We conducted an aggressive renewal campaign including lapsed and resigned former members with follow-up phone campaign yielded 326 of 390 renewal target for a 2014 retention percentage of 83.6%.

The basis of our recruiting campaign was via local member networking, monthly newsletter promotion, awareness initiatives via the Legacy of Valor, Flag Initiative, Giving Partner, Support Our Troops visibility and other interactions with local veteran and charity organizations and funding drives with Patterson and Community Foundations along with website and blog presence yielded a 2014 total of 38 new members. The addition of a monthly Meet & Greet has proven to be very valuable in attracting new members who otherwise would not be able to attend our regular monthly luncheon.

In November, we hosted a Meet & Greet in the Tap Room of the local Budweiser distributorship, a member of our chapter. We mailed 167 postcards invitations to local MOAA members from the MOAA Prospect list. About 20 prospects showed up along with a cadre of our most active members and we have recruited 10 of them so far.

3. CHAPTER'S LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION PLAN: Based on the Strategic Plan developed in 2013, we have been following a leadership succession plan. We will try to involve new members in one of our committees, then move into Director position, make him/her responsible for a major program, membership, programs, etc., and then move them into the chairs, usually Secretary or Treasurer, 2nd Vice, 1st Vice, then President. This progression is appearing to work very well, it means that the new President will have had at least 2 to 3 years experience with the Board before assuming this office. In 2014, we have several likely candidates coming up in the chairs and our leadership is assured for the next several years.

4. PERSONAL AFFAIRS: MOAS has several members who offer assistance during times of personal loss. The chairperson is our Chapter Chaplain, Col. Charles Caudell. In support is Barbara Hamilton, our Auxiliary liaison member and COL Jon Gordon, an attorney very familiar with military benefits and capable of working with widows. Due to the ever-increasing age of our membership, this service has been invaluable to many of our members.

Our Auxiliary Liaison Barbara Hamilton ensures that MOAA brochures and documents relating to personal affairs, financial planning and survivor planning are available at our monthly luncheons. Likewise key developments concerning survivor issues and planning are reported in The Sarasota Breeze newsletter.

5. CHAPTER PROGRAMS:

MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION IN STATE COUNCIL. MOAS has been an active member in the Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) for many years and pays annual dues based on total association membership. Our membership is very active in supporting other Florida Chapter Conventions. Past MOAS President, COL Troy Scott, USAR (Ret) has served as the FCOC President, and as the FCOC Immediate Past President. He also serves as the FCOC Liaison to Convention Host Chapters for future conventions. Past MOAS President COL Jon Gordon, serves as the State Council Secretary and Col. Len

Friedlander, another Past President of MOAS, is the FCOC Southwest Area Vice President. All have attended Council meetings throughout the year.

ROTC/JROTC SUPPORT. There are no colleges in the Sarasota area with ROTC programs. However, we support four (4) high school JROTC programs in the Sarasota area. At separate award ceremonies in April and May 2014, chapter officers presented awards to the Outstanding Senior and Junior JROTC Cadets at Booker, Sarasota, Riverview, and the Sarasota Military Academy. Additionally, the "Outstanding Cadet" at each of the four schools was presented a check for \$100 and had their name added to a plaque that hangs at their school in perpetuity. A junior from each program received a ribbon and certificate recognizing their potential and exceptional progress in the JROTC program. MOAS also helped fund a summer "adventure" training program on the Appalachian Trail for cadets at each school, and has provided additional monetary support for JROTC projects as requested by the individual programs. To foster a better understanding of the programs and to involve our members, the JROTC units each wrote an article for the chapter newsletter The Sarasota Breeze describing the goals, objectives and accomplishments of their specific JROTC program. Additionally, the JROTC units at Riverview High School and the Sarasota Military Academy have participated in the chapter's Support our Troops activities, preparing "care package" boxes for shipment to units in Afghanistan.

SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVES. In 2014 the MOAS scholarship program awarded two (2) Merit scholarships and four (4) JROTC scholarships of \$2,000 each plus one (1) memorial scholarship of \$1,500 to graduating Sarasota area high school seniors. Additionally, we began a Veterans Scholarship program in association with the State College of Florida and funded it with \$5,000. The chapter also previously funded a \$25,000 MOAA Designated Scholarship.

NETWORK LIAISON TRANSITION SUPPORT. MOAS Transition Program has been a partner on the FCOC (Nation-wide) web page since 1999, so that anyone looking for assistance electronically will realize that our chapter is here to help. Our current MOAS TOPS coordinator is a past chapter president and the current FCOC Secretary, COL Jon Gordon, USA (Ret.).

CIVIC ACTIVITIES. MOAS supports the Sarasota County High School Academic Olympics Program, open to all county high schools, both public and private, and provides participation awards for all team members. These awards were presented during the final competition in late February (\$1,500 was contributed to the 2014 event). The MOAS Board also participates in a practice competition, pitting our chapter members against the County All-Star Academic Olympic Team, just prior to their competition in the state finals in mid-April.

MOAS has been an official "Partner in Education" with Booker High School since 1997 and supports a variety of their special activities, including support of, and attendance at, many of their Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) presentations. Booker VPA performs annually at one of our luncheons.

The chapter's Winter Gala once again served as a means for members to bring toys to the event and provide holiday gifts for young children as part of the USMC Toys For Tots program.

As a member of the Sarasota County Veterans Commission, we attend monthly meetings to address and foster the goals of veterans' organizations in the community. Many of our members participate in various local charity events, and we make a special effort to inform our members of those functions during our meetings and in the newsletter.

Throughout the year chapter officers and directors have spoken to veterans and local organizations highlighting MOAA and MOAS activities in the community. MOAS members, especially WWII veterans, have spoken of their wartime activities to high school JROTC classes and have been interviewed by the local newspaper.

One member, spoke at Pine View Elementary School on Veterans Day and spoke to a History Class at Pine View High School that was studying the Vietnam War. He spoke on personal experiences during the conflict.

From 2013-2014 The Patterson Foundation conducted their Legacy of Valor Campaign that culminated in 2014 with the community dedication in June and the national level dedication in November of Patriot Plaza at Sarasota National Cemetery. MOAS was the lead veteran organization partner throughout the Legacy of Valor Campaign. MOAS led two separate initiatives during the LOV campaign which included the American Flag Initiative, as well as partnering with numerous organizations in many of the 200 events and activities. In addition, MOAS was one of a small number of organizations asked to participate in the Veterans Legacy Summit-a national level collaboration and partnering summit held in Sarasota Nov 13-15 that gained recognition by the White House and was attended by the Director of Joining Forces, the White House's initiative to support veterans and their families. MOAS was the lead military partner during this campaign. We provided color guards, flag bearers, honor guards, escorts, manned information tables and provided SOT boxes for over 4,000 attendees at the 2 events.

During The Patterson Foundation's Legacy of Valor Campaign with its overarching goals of honoring veterans, inspiring patriotism and embracing freedom, MOAS created the American Flag Protocol Initiative, a multi-faceted education program that focuses on the origin and history of the American Flag and the proper etiquette and respect that it should be afforded. This initiative has three components to it that include: (1) an academic curriculum developed and implemented within the Sarasota County School System, (2) a community brochure call "Old Glory" that is shared throughout our community and beyond to educate individuals and organizations on the protocol, etiquette and history of the American Flag, and (3) educating the public on the proper Flag Retirement through the production of a video and activities that continue to emphasize the proper retirement of the American Flag.

At the center of the Initiative is an academic curriculum consisting of ten (10) 50-minute lessons, nine of which are currently being presented to 4th and 5th grade students throughout Sarasota County by their assigned teachers at some point during the academic year. Lesson 10, is designed to be presented by a visiting instructional team comprised of a volunteer member of MOAA, JROTC Cadets from either the Sarasota Military Academy, Sarasota, Booker, Riverview, North Port High Schools or Young Marines from Venice Middle School and Senior Level Scouts from the Girl Scouts of Gulf Coast Florida. The lesson is designed to include a brief review and "knowledge check" of the material contained in the first nine lessons, a "Flag Folding" exercise that allows all students to do some "hands-on" training, some comments from the veteran about service to country and a short Graduation Ceremony in which certificates of completion are awarded to all participating students by the MOAA representative.

The academic curriculum was launched in October 2013 with 22 elementary school teachers representing 10 of Sarasota County's 27 elementary schools participating in instructor training. Since then, more than 550 students have received Certificates of Completion, with an additional 300 scheduled to do so in May 2014. It is anticipated that this number will grow significantly over the next several years as more and more teachers from schools in Sarasota County learn of the program and elect to implement it in their classrooms. The entire curriculum was designed to be exportable and available to other MOAA Chapters nationwide for implementation in their local school systems, as is currently being done in Atchison, Kansas; St. Paul, Minnesota; Harford, CT; Fredericksburg, TX; St. Mary's, GA; and Volusia and Highlands Counties, FL.

**ATTACHMENT # 1 MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF SARASOTA
2014 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

President: Troy C. Scott, COL, USAR (Ret)

1st Vice President: Thomas Piazze, LTC USA (Ret) #01564215

2nd Vice President: Linda L. Gould, COL USA (Ret) #01977067

Secretary: Brian McCarthy, RADM, USNR (Ret)

Treasurer: Ms. Christa Friedlander, Spouse of member

Director: Ms. Claire Power, Spouse of member

Director: Alan Forester, LT USN #02897251

Director: George Tracy, LT, USN #02752215

Immediate Past President: John C. O'Brien COL, USA (Ret) #01541704

ATTACHMENT 2: MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR 2014

JANUARY PROGRAM: SARASOTA OPERA SINGERS:

Five Studio Artists from the Sarasota Opera delighted many members and guests at our January 17th luncheon. Richard Russell, the opera company's Executive Director introduced the program and summarized this year's season, which includes performances of Verdi's *Il trovatore*, Rossini's *Barber of Seville*, Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman*, and Verdi's seldom performed *Jerusalem*. All the operas have multiple performances. On March 18th there will be an Artists' Choice Concert and on March 23rd the always popular Verdi Concert.

Soprano Jennifer Root, from San Antonio, TX, began the program with the dramatic aria *Vissi d'arte* from *Tosca*, followed by a delightful duet from the *Elixir of Love*, sung by bass-baritone William Roberts, from Kings Park, NY and soprano Alexandra Batsios, from Granite City, IL. Keith Brown, bass-baritone from Beavercreek, OH, sang the aria *Viravviso*, from *La sonnambula*. He was followed by the duet, *Parigi o cara*, from Verdi's *La traviata*, sung by Ms Batsios and Tenor Jon Jurgens, from Columbus, OH, who sang for us last year. Ms Root followed with a powerful rendition *Climb Every Mountain*, from *The Sound of Music*. In stark contrast, Mr. Roberts followed with *Mephistopheles' evil Le veau d'or* (*The Golden Calf*). As a rousing finale, all five artists concluded the program with the drinking song, *Libiamo* from *La Traviata*.

Maestro Kristen Kemp, the Studio Artist Program Music Director, who has been with us for many years, expertly accompanied the singers.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM: DR DAVID ZONIES: AVOIDING CARIOLOGISTS:

Bruce Lee taught, "Simplicity is the key to brilliance," and attendees at the February luncheon observed a brilliant man explaining a complex topic using simple visuals, metaphors and humor. The trials and tribulations of the human heart were explained in a most entertaining manner.

Dr. David Zonies is a successful cardiologist who helps his audience to grasp "the electrical system" of the heart by explaining the history of electrocardiograms. He didn't lecture about the bad things we do (or have done) to our hearts, but he helped all to be more aware of the on-going processes of the heart. He explained the multitude of functions going on within this wonderful organ that is "a product of the Celestial Design Committee." New and improved pharmaceutical products are serving to reduce the risk of heart trauma and his review of developments within the world of medical science was a key point of interest. He demonstrated how new smart phone applications are being used to provide heart patients with an easy way to "monitor the numbers" and even to provide data to physicians on a routine basis.

While most attendees were excavating a huge, triple layered, triple icing slice of triple dark fudge chocolate cake, Dr. Zonies reviewed the importance of hanging out in places where at least one person feels good about his/her CPR skills. He didn't provide a list of good places to go but he did say that, "among popular public places, casino's tend to have the best track record." Our thanks to Dr. Zonies for a very informative and welcome introduction to a vital organ.

MARCH PROGRAM: SARASOTA ORCHESTRA: SMILES, LAUGHTER AND HIGH BROW MUSIC

The first hours of spring might have actually begun during the prior afternoon but the 2014 Spring Equinox truly came out-in-the-open during the March meeting of MOA Sarasota. The weather was perfect and attending women insured Spring colors were present, but the most obvious indicator was the clear signal being transmitted by the attendees. Attendance was impressive as over 130 members, mates and guests actually began arriving a few minutes early at Michael's on East. It was interesting to see so many people entering the ballroom in such a pleasant mode as they shared a nice word with those who greeted them. To confirm their upbeat glow, attendees willingly paused and smiled at the request of the welcoming photographers.

Even though all present could see color, smiles and expressions of enthusiasm, there was an even more important ingredient in the room. If you just paused and listened for one moment, the sounds of friendship and laughter were advancing with each new arrival. While it is factually correct that on this day the sun rose precisely in the East and went down precisely in the West, it was more important to this Band of Sarasota Brothers that they were precisely in the best place where they could exchange personal greetings and catch up with each other.

Although the most important component of the event was the camaraderie exchange among this very special group of Veteran citizens, the planned stage program was like icing on the cake. A five-member brass quintet from the Sarasota Orchestra delivered sounds, which were both entertaining and reflective. The contributing musicians were; Michael Dobrinski, Greg Knudsen, Larry Solowey, Brad Williams and Jay Hunsberger.

APRIL PROGRAM: SW FLORIDA HONOR FLIGHT:

Our April luncheon was excellent! Our speaker, MSgt Barbara Miller-Vaughn, USAF (Ret), the SW Florida Honor Flight Coordinator, is truly a gifted speaker and we were delighted to host her for our monthly membership meeting and luncheon!

Based on feedback from our luncheon participants the presentation of the Honor Flight Program, whose sole purpose is To transport WWII Veterans to Washington, DC to be honored at their memorial, was very well received. What an incredibly important organization, and one funded completely on donations. We learned about the program itself and it's impact on veterans here in SW Florida, including many of our own MOAS members who would like to sign up for an Honor Flight. We hope that some of you may offer to serve as a Guardian and accompany the WWII veterans on those flights as well.

To assist and support the Honor Flight Program, MOAS presented a \$250 Honorarium on behalf of our organization. Mrs. Helen Bermann also presented a check after the luncheon for \$1,000 in honor of her husband, Cliff Bermann, who is hoping to go on the September Honor Flight this year! Additional information on the SW Florida Honor Flight Program can be found at www.pchonorflight.org

MAY PROGRAM: SCHOLARSHIPS & KAREN RUSHING, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

The May Scholarship Luncheon featured speaker Karen E. Rushing, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Sarasota County Comptroller, and the six graduating high school seniors who were the recipients of our scholarship awards totaling \$11,500. ADM Brian McCarthy, standing in for MOAS President Troy Scott, presented Sergeant Major Roger Mitchell, the Riverview High School JROTC Senior Military Instructor (SMI) with the MOAS 2014 SMI of the Year Award.

Ms. Rushing's presentation provided some valuable information about the Florida court system; the responsibilities associated with the "Clerk's" office; the implementation of a systematic approach to strategic planning by the County Comptroller to ensure that Sarasota County is able to control costs and meet its obligations; and enable county residents to be confident that the county has safeguards in place to provide reasonable assurance that assets are protected.

In the military we are accustomed to encountering officers who are dual- or triple-hatted. However, Ms. Rushing actually wears five distinct hats; Clerk of the Circuit & County Court, County Recorder, County Comptroller and Treasurer, Ex-Officio Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners and County Auditor. With a staff of 220 personnel operating on a 'fee-based' budget, the job is a daunting one, but one that has earned Ms. Rushing recognition and kudos from across the state and the country. A major item of interest is her office's responsibility for building the county's annual budget and managing the county's \$270 million investment portfolio, ensuring the county's financial viability. Additional information about Ms. Rushing's organization is at www.sarasotaclerk.com.

JUNE PROGRAM: HERALD-TRIBUNE LEADER SHARES POSITIVE OUTLOOK FOR

SARASOTA

Bill Church, Executive Editor of the local Herald-Tribune felt right at home as he met and engaged with MOAS members at the June monthly luncheon. He was proud of his heritage as “a military brat” and he has fond memories of his experience moving around the USA each time his Air Force dad received a new assignment. His recollection of those days enabled him to step right into a nice comfort zone for himself and his audience.

Within Sarasota, Bill Church is one of the few who reside at the top of the local news pyramid. His local perspective is developed by the mountain of information (maybe here it's called the bayou or inlet of data (smile)) that is constantly available for collection and redistribution to readers. As a key player within the local newspaper industry, he served as a good media spokesperson for the MOAS audience. He likened the newspaper to the trends within the MOAS organization. “We may have been stronger in the past but we are still in good shape and our futures are bright.” □ He pointed out some of the clear advantages of this area and he used them to exemplify why the stock in our local community was going to remain strong. He held a copy of a recent article about MOAS as a good example of the type of change that we will see even more of in the future. His quick survey of smart phone users served as a reminder of how capable citizens are becoming relative to information collection. His examples served to demonstrate the importance of recognizing, accepting and implementing changes within our organizations. “Our processes and methods of the past will need to be altered so to best fit our needs and capabilities of the future.” Bill Church enjoyed his visit with MOAS and his positive reception served to make a strong statement about how much his participation was appreciated by attendees.

JULY PROGRAM: CIRCUS ARTS CONSERVATORY PERFORMANCE

The Military Officers Association of Sarasota was treated to a special presentation given by the Circus Arts Conservatory at their July 18th luncheon. Introduced by Ms Jennifer Mitchell, the Managing Director of the Conservatory, we learned that the organization is focused on giving back to military veterans in partnership with the Patterson Foundation and the Legacy of Valor.

The organization works with youth across Sarasota County in an inter-generational program to connect on a human level with those who served our country. The group does so through educational programs for young people that combine academics, leadership and athletics that is oriented on circus activities. Ms. Mitchell noted that this training translates to performances given at veteran's homes and care facilities.

She said that the program is currently sponsoring the Summer Circus Spectacular (through August 2nd) at the Historic Asolo Theater in collaboration with the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, and a circus summer camp for over 90 children from across the United States.

Ms. Mitchell introduced lunch attendees to students who performed rope tricks, quick change acts, an educational rendition of the Pledge of Allegiance, and the famous 1938 Abbott and Costello routine of ‘Who's on First.’

It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. The performers were given a rousing standing ovation by the audience. Subsequently, President Troy Scott presented the Conservatory with an MOAS honorarium.

AUGUST PROGRAM: SARASOTA MILITARY ACADEMY UPDATE

Luncheon guests were treated to presentations from two representatives of the Sarasota Military Academy this afternoon. SMA Colonel Christina Bowman, Head of School for SMA, presented a status report for the high school, and SMA Colonel Phillip Eddy, Head of School for SMA Prep, provided a similar report for the middle school.

SMA Colonel Bowman told us that SMA is continuing on the path of strong academics, leadership development, and discipline in a military environment. She stressed that SMA is ‘A’ rated high school continuing to build recognition as a preparatory school for college bound students. She noted that SMA is offering the International Baccalaureate (IB) program to students to make them

academically competitive within the international educational community. Colonel Bowman also informed the guests that SMA students are offered the opportunity to achieve their Associates degree while attending high school. She reported that SMA had seven of the twelve students within the district that completed that program in 2013. The enrollment at SMA is over 1,000 students making it the largest charter school in the school district.

SMA Colonel Eddy informed attendees that the middle school is also providing the IB academic program to middle school students. Combining uniforms, military structure and IB program, SMA Prep is a one-of-a-kind school in the nation. He noted that the school hosted a symbolic 'raising of the flag' ceremony on August 2nd where over 800 guests attended. The school has approximately 440 students enrolled. He assured the luncheon guests that the new facility located on East Fruitville Road was complete and ready for classes to start on time on Monday, August 18th. His crush at the moment is installation of an internet connection that he expects to complete today.

Both he and Colonel Bowman invited guests to morning formations (SMA at 0715 and SMA Prep at 0915). The presentations were well received by guests who gave the speakers a warm round of applause at hearing of the success of one of the charter school educational stars for the state of Florida.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM: MOAA UPDATE - MAJ GEN JOSEPH LYNCH, USAF (RET.)

This month we again played host to the annual South West Florida Joint Luncheon with attendees from the Bradenton, Venice, and Lee Coast chapters joining us. Additionally, John and Myra Morrison, the President and First Lady of the Florida Council of Chapters joined us from the East Coast.

Our guest speaker was Major General Joe Lynch, MOAA General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, who up-to-dated us on events in Washington DC affecting military issues and veterans. After a decade of winning legislation, including Tricare and Tricare for Life, congress is beginning to look not too favorably on our military benefits. Maj Gen Lynch pointed out that less than 20% of the members of Congress served in the military, and MOAA must continually educate them about the sacrifices endured by our active duty military and veterans. With the issues of budget deficits and sequestration being pushed at DOD, Pentagon planners are proposing measures that will have a serious impact on recruiting, retention and readiness; capping pay increases at 1%, cutting the basic allowance for housing by 5%, increasing Tricare fees, and cutting COLA by 1% per year for new retirees until age 62. All of the proposed reductions are budget driven, without any regard for the world situation and past experiences.

MOAA says that while cuts are necessary, it should not all come out of the hides of our military personnel and should be equally shared by all. MOAA is doing the best that they can to support and lobby for the very best quality of life for active duty military, veterans and their families and we are encouraged to do all we can at the grassroots level to influence our legislators.

Maj Gen Lynch is a dynamic speaker who caught and held our attention as he covered a myriad of topics affecting all of us. The presentation was extremely thorough and informative, and we welcome him and his lovely wife Pat to join us again at any time!

OCTOBER PROGRAM: STATE OF THE UNION- AMERICAN GREATNESS & EXCEPTIONALISM

What a wonderful October luncheon! MOAS was pleased to share their October program with the Navy League and also the Air Force Association. Many of our MOAS members are also members of other service- oriented organizations here in Sarasota and we hope to make this shared program an annual event. We were pleased to have had such a large turnout for this luncheon, 140 attendees! Highlights included the celebration of the US Navy's 239th birthday! It was wonderful to see traditions such as the most senior and the most junior Navy personnel present cut the birthday cake. After a few pictures of the cake cutting, we were treated to a group photo of all personnel present related to the US Navy in some way and hearing them sing the navy song!

Following the birthday festivities, we received a wonderful presentation from Rear Admiral Brian McCarthy, who currently serves as the Secretary on the MOAS Board. With many sobering facts and information that our media is giving us every day, it would be easy to be discouraged. And, as stated by RADM McCarthy, "I'm not going to "guild the lily" here today – we have a lot of tough stuff to deal with. The economy, the international situation, education, immigration, our cities, our privacy, our culture, health care, Congress & the administration, the rule of law and our freedom." and he didn't. However, he went on to say "...friends of freedom the world over look to the United States not only as an ally against tyrants and terrorism but a powerful beacon to all those who strive to be free."

As expounded upon by RADM McCarthy, we live in the greatest country on earth and need to face challenges together in order to continue to inspire ourselves, and those around us.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM: ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING & DOMESTIC SECURITY IN FLORIDA

In addition to our featured program on domestic security, the November luncheon is our annual Business Meeting where we will be electing our 2015 chapter officers and voting on recommended changes to the Association's Bylaws. We hope each one of you will take the time to attend. We believe that many MOAS members will assess the content of our November luncheon as a most informative and relevant topic. Events and activities, which have recently dominated national and international news, clearly pose realistic threats to our domestic security. Our program speakers will explain the model established for Florida to prepare for and respond to our domestic security needs. □

Our speakers are Special Agent Donna Uzzell, the Homeland Security Advisor for the state of Florida and Special Agent in Charge (SAC) with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), and FDLE Special Agent John Burke, who is in charge of the Fort Myers Region and serves as the Co-Chair of the area's Regional Domestic Security Task Force, will join her in this presentation. □ The FDLE is responsible for coordinating responses to acts of terrorism and other matters related to the domestic security of Florida. Florida Statutes recognize that many public and private partners will need to be involved in the accomplishment of the domestic security mission. The presentation described how those partners are working together for a safer Florida and how the process incorporates needs and solutions at the local and regional level.

Special Agent John Burke provided an interesting overview of the infrastructure for law enforcement in Florida and why it is often different from other states. He provided a fun recount of a couple of incidents where the bad guys tended to weave their own closing web and he provided confidence that the various agencies and law enforcement departments are now working together better than ever before.

DECEMBER PROGRAM: MOAS' 32ND WINTER GALA & INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

It was a special and wonderfully entertaining evening as MOAS members, spouses, and guests gathered at Michael's on East on Sunday, December 14th for the Chapter's 32nd Annual Winter Gala. The ballroom was beautifully decorated; uniforms, tuxedos, military decorations, and beautiful dresses and gowns were everywhere to be seen; and the US Marine Corps Toys for Tots boxes overflowed with dump trucks, dolls, teddy bears and pandas.

The Booker High School JROTC Color Guard, under the direction of LTC Ben Weiss, opened the formal part of the evening by parading and posting the Colors, followed by the playing of the National Anthem and the invocation by Chaplain Caudill. Traditional toast were proposed by MOAS members to the President, Uniformed Services, POWs and MIAs, MOAA Members and their guests, Allied Nations, Fallen Comrades and Spouses.

After thanking the outgoing Board of Directors and members for their support throughout the year, President Scott presented MOAA Presidential Awards to Christa Friedlander and Claire Power for their outstanding work for MOAS during the past several years, and Col Len Friedlander was

honored with the Martin Hertz Lifetime Community Service Award.

After the Awards presentations Col Len Friedlander, USAF, Southwest Area Vice-President of the Florida Council Of Chapters installed the 2015 MOAS Officers and Directors: LT George Tracy, USN, President; RADM Brian McCarthy, USN, 1st VP; COL Linda Gould, USA, 2nd VP; Col Craig Hullinger, USMC, Secretary; Mrs. Christa Friedlander, Treasurer; Col Christopher White, USA, Director; Mrs. Claire Power, Director; LT Alan Forrester, USN, Director; and COL Troy Scott, USAR, Immediate Past President.

Col Friedlander then presented the 2014 MOAA Five Star Level of Excellence Award to the chapter, and he, COL Scott and LT Tracy attached the award streamer to the Chapter Flag. President George Tracy led the singing of the service songs and God Bless America to end the evening's program. The room was then taken over by the folks dancing to the music of La Croix.

ATTACHMENT 3: YOUNG AT HEART OFFICERS ORGANIZATION
2014 Schedule of "YAHOO" Events

(All events hosted/sponsored by individual members)

January 24, 2014:	Tampa Bay Lightning Hockey Game
February 23, 2014:	Sarasota Polo Match
March 15, 2014:	St. Patrick's Day Party @ private home
March 27, 2014:	Baltimore Orioles vs Tampa Bay Rays Baseball Game
April 16, 2014:	Kayaking Nokomis Waterways – canceled due to weather
May 7, 2014	Snook Haven Boat Trip on Myakka River
May 22, 2014:	Rescheduled Kayaking Nokomis Waterways
June 24, 2014:	DaRuMa Japanese Restaurant
July 15, 2014	Tour of Southeast Guide Dog Facility
August 6, 2014:	Siesta Key Sunset Picnic
September 2, 2014:	Lido Key Sunset Beach Party @ private cabana
October 11, 2014:	Oktoberfest Dinner @ private home
November 19, 2014:	Kayaking @Sisters Key – canceled
December 13, 2014:	Army-Navy Game Festivities @ private home