



The Council Communique

Florida Council of Chapters
Military Officers Association of America

Special Edition
March 2022



Convention 2022 Special Edition

SAVE THE DATE
June 9-12
2022
West Palm Beach Marriott

FUN in the SUN
45th ANNUAL CONVENTION
Hosted by the Florida Council of Chapters

The Dinner Detective

Casino Party PLANNERS

Quick Links...

[Convention Video](#)

[Information & Registration](#)

[The MOAA Foundation](#)

A Word from the 2022 Convention Chairman

Marc Oliveri, LTC, USAR, (Ret)
MOAA Membership, Strategic Planning Committees
Former FCoC President



"Behind the Scenes" has brought you closer to how our 2022 convention is shaping up. You have read everything behind every aspect of this convention, but you have not heard from me, the chairman of the 2022 convention. From my perspective, the traditional annual meeting is shaping up to be everything but conventional.

This year's event will have the theme of "Fun in the Sun," which means no PowerPoint presentations, legislative updates, or recruiting videos. Just plain Fun. This convention will be similar to traditional at sea programs without stepping on a floating platform.

From intercoastal tours to wine tasting to casino playing and topping it all off with a dinner/and a show "Murder Mystery." Guests are encouraged to participate.

Marty Brown
Special Edition Editor
n4gl.marty@gmail.com

Continued on next page...

Here's what we have lined up:

- Dining out - Thursday night
- Palm Beach Zoo - Tours on Thursday and Friday
- Flagler Museum - Tours on Thursday and Friday Diva Duck
- Wine tasting at the hotel - Saturday at the Hotel Hospitality Room. Saver wines in their appropriate glass and experience the different tastes.

[Information & Registration](#)

Nick Marotta will go into further detail on each of the tours. What is my favorite? I'll never tell. Just see where I show up.

Another new addition to the annual meeting agenda will be a Fund Raiser Casino Night for the MOAA Foundation. An excellent opportunity to donate to a worthy cause that has assisted many veterans and active-duty personnel. As a long-time supporter of MOAA, a special thank you to Fleet Landing for sponsoring Casino Night. Tom Wagner will have more to say about Casino Night, The Foundation, and Fleet Landing.

The conclusion of the weekend annual meeting will be, as always, the Military Ball; this year, we added a little flair. At the 2012 conventions, the entertainment was Neal Zirconia, where all guests participated in dancing into the night. This year's guest participation will be in theatrical group participation. Guest will have the opportunity to demonstrate if they wish, their acting skills. So, start practicing now for your academy award performance. It will be a Who Done It. My entire staff has worked very hard to make this a memorable event. I need your support to make this a fantastic weekend. Please register for this event early.

If you have any questions regarding this convention, please email me at ltcomarc@gmail.com. Thank you for supporting this convention in advance,

A Word from the FCoC President

Mike Borders, COL, USA, (Ret)

Are you ready for "Fun in the Sun?" That is the theme of this year's FCoC annual convention. We hope to see you there to enjoy the camaraderie, fellowship, and good old-fashioned fun. The convention team, ably led by Marc Oliveri, has put together a fantastic program for us. Lt Gen Dan Atkins, the President/CEO of MOAA National will be our main speaker. We will have info briefs, the Annual Business Meeting, awards presentations, elections/installation of new board members, and more. The big highlights will be the Casino Night and the Murder Mystery dinner. I have personal experience with gambling—over 40 years ago I put all my chips on Diana. I can say that I won...and lost. Regarding the murder mystery dinner, if I am the victim, all I can say is that I think the guilty party's initials are Diana. She still has the urn ready and with my name on it—wanted, dead or alive! We look forward to seeing you there.



[Information & Registration](#)

A Word from the FCoC VP

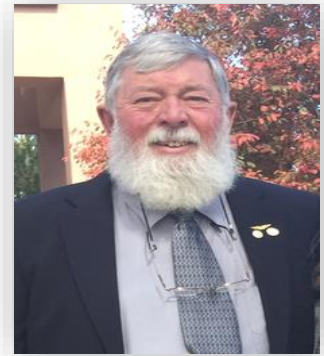
Pat Kluever, CDR, USN, (Ret)

Greetings Florida MOAA Members and Great MOAA Friends from Neighboring States and Headquarters!

As Vice President of your Council I've had the good fortune of working with our Florida MOAA Team of leaders from our Council and Chapters across the state as we together "punched our way through" the wall of COVID - and here we are standing together strong and ready to party and have fun at Florida's 45th annual convention at the Marriott in West Palm Beach.

Yes Palm Beach - what a great venue and Marc's team has come up with so many fun things to do we had to compress our business sessions and deconflict with other fun events! We are definitely focused on fun this time!

You will love the West Palm Beach Marriott - Everything you need is right there at the hotel or within walking distance. Our team previewed the hotel last year, so some of us are grounded in the location and the layout. However, when I went to explain the venue to my crew that is attending our convention from Fleet Landing, I found I needed some graphics - maybe that's the naval aviator coming out - I need a chart! ... or at least a knee board card!



Information & Registration

A Word from the FCoC Treasurer

Marilyn Leehan, Registration

In addition to the different, fun-filled event agenda... your welcome registration bag for this year's convention will also be unique. It is important that all attendees (spouses and guests as well) register, to receive this very special welcome bag. We also need everyone's name to receive their name lanyard that will include the aluminum master ticket for all of the events for which you have paid and registered. If anyone has a question after registering or forgets where to mail their check, I can be reached at: mllFCOCtreas@gmail.com (Register early for planning purposes if you can).





Convention Agenda Highlights

Thursday, June 9

- Registration 0800-2200
- Hospitality Room 1000-1700

- Local Tours: Palm Beach Zoo, Flagler Museum
- Dine Around: Local Restaurants

Information & Registration

Friday, June 10

- Registration 0800-2200
- Hospitality Room 1000-1700

- Local Tours: Diva Duck, Flagler Museum, Palm Beach Zoo
- President's Reception at 1800-1900
- Casino Night Fund Raiser for The MOAA Foundation at 1900-2200

Saturday, June 11

- Registration 0800-2200

- All Hands Breakfast at 0730-0830
- Speaker: Lt Gen Dana Atkins, USAF, Retired
- MOAA President and CEO

- Memorial Service at 0845-1000
- FCoC Outgoing Board Meeting at 1000-1130

- Lunch – Deli Style at 1130-1300

- Annual Business Meeting at 1300-1400
- Wine Tasting at 1400-1600

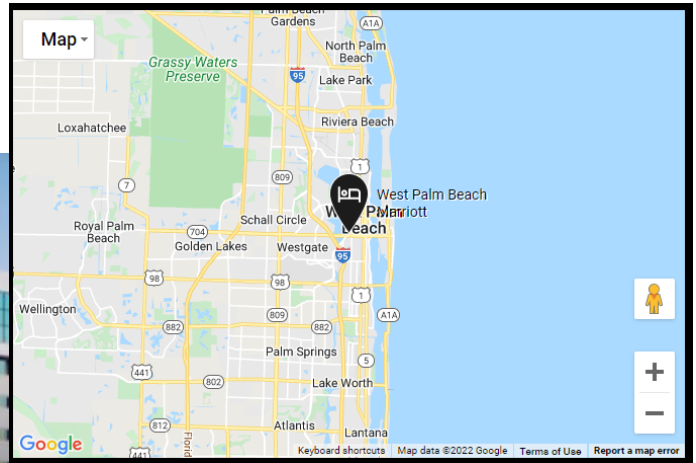
- Cocktails on the Outside Patio at 1730-1830
- Installation of officers at 1845-1900
- Mystery Dinner Show at 1900-2200

Sunday, June 12

- FCoC Incoming Board Meeting 0800-0900

The West Palm Beach Marriott

1001 Okeechobee Boulevard, West Palm Beach



Information & Registration



CONVENTION CENTER LAYOUT (With Events) Last year we walked to a near-by restaurant and back to the hotel for dinner. There are lots of choices and your can exit the hotel property through the terrace and be right on the north side-walk of Okeechobee Blvd - only a couple blocks East to any kind of cuisine you desire. Check out the graphic of restaurant locations on page 8. For those who need transportation, the hotel has a shuttle to local dining venues and events.

Enjoy the Local Tours

Nick Marotta, Maj, USAF, (Ret) Local Tours

Have you been to a convention, workshop, seminar, conference, workshop, or whatever and found a lot of good information and ideas, but in your mind, was thinking.....boring? Well, time to ensure at the Florida Council of Chapters Annual Convention in West Palm Beach you will NOT be bored. Reason being we have a few tours and activities. The highlight or star event will be a wine tasting, but that's not all!! I don't mean the bowling alley down the street either.

There will be three other tours, one of which will supply its own transportation.

The second Gem on the tour circuit is something called Diva Duck. The Diva tour will be Friday June 10 at around 1130 (11:30 A.M.) with an Amphibious vehicle picking us up at the hotel. No, there's not a dock or pier at the hotel, this is a true amphibious vehicle that will pick us up and drop us off. But, there's more, once inside the boat, room for 49.

Your 75-minute, fully narrated, musical tour begins at the hotel. Experience the thrill of riding up HIGH through Downtown West Palm Beach and across the bridge to the Island of Palm Beach. Roll by sights such as the Society of Four Arts, Bethesda-by-the Sea Episcopal Church, the Breakers Hotel, the Flagler Museum and the Biltmore Estates. Then, "SPLASH" into the crystal clear and always calm waters of the Lake Worth Lagoon and Intercoastal Waterway for a relaxing and entertaining cruise.

View the spectacular waterfront mansions along Billionaires' Row and get an up close look at the Super Yachts harbored at Rybovich Marina, while enjoying the informative narration from our lively tour guide.

Check them out www.divaduck.com. We should be back at the hotel around 1400. All this entertainment paid in advance \$45. As an aside, if you wonder about the time for this event, it's tide dependent so actual water launch should be around 1230.

Again, there's more notably a Wine Tasting in the hotel's Clamatis Room from 1400-1600. Our tasting will be hosted by Mr. Mario Perez of House of Wine Beer and Spirits, HWBS. The tasting will be a continuous event with tastings featuring both red white and sparkling wines. Got a favorite type of wine, let me know maybe get it included. Cost for this event is \$20.



Special pricing has been arranged for these outings. Look for details on the registration page.

Continued on next page...

HWBS has positioned itself as a boutique distributor of alcoholic beverages, specializing in estate produced imports. Not only can you taste, if you find something you like, you can order. We get wholesale pricing! If you want to checkout our tasting host, their web site is: <https://www.houseofwinebeerandspirits.net/>

Need more tours?

There's the Palm Beach Zoo located just 5 miles away. The cost of admission is \$17.25 per person as a group rate. For this event recommend driving. You can visit the zoo any of the days you are there. For more information visit <http://www.palmbeachzoo.org/> Finally there the Flagler Museum located 2.5 miles from the hotel. Again, you can visit the museum any of the days you are there. They do ask that groups limit to 10 per group and I'd recommend driving. The group pre-paid price of admission is \$18 per person.

When it was completed in 1902, the New York Herald proclaimed that Whitehall, Henry Flagler's Gilded Age estate in Palm Beach, was "more wonderful than any palace in Europe, grander and more magnificent than any other private dwelling in the world." Today, Whitehall is a National Historic Landmark and is open to the public as the Flagler Museum, offering self-guided tours, changing exhibitions, and special programs. For more information visit <http://flaglermuseum.us>

Is Your Chapter Participating?

Steve Bond, COL, USA, (Ret), Convention Program

The 2022 **Convention Program** will be information central for the convention. All the venues, maps, lists, and schedules will be included, along with our advertisers.

Don't miss out on the opportunity for your chapter to support this event. It's a simple process. [Just Click Here](#)

Information & Registration



Special pricing has been arranged for these outings. Look for details on the registration page.



Thursday Dine Around Dinner Locations

Paul Loschiavo, Col., USMC, (Ret)



Information & Registration

Inside Rosemary Square

[The Cheesecake Factory](#)

Their menu is incredible. It will take you twenty minutes to decide. If you have a favorite dish, they have it. Did I mention that they have cheesecake? \$: high teens to mid twenties. 701 Rosemary Avenue, 561-802-3838.

[City Cellar Wine Bar and Grill](#)

Known for its American menu and superior service, you can't go wrong here. Their menu features a daily selection of specials using seasonal and local ingredients. \$: 20s to 30s. 700 South Rosemary Ave. citycellarwpb.com

[Brio Italian Grille](#)

A premiere restaurant destination serving authentic, northern Italian cuisine, including premium quality steaks, chops, seafood, made-for-order pasta and flatbreads prepared in an authentic wood burning oven. \$: high teens to thirties. 550 South Rosemary Ave.

[Barrio](#)

Barrio is a covered outdoor experience with food and drink based on classic Latin street food and a full bar that celebrates craft cocktail elements from your favorite tropical Latin destination. \$: high teens. barriowpb.com

[Burgerfi](#). Slightly casual, Burgerfi is well known for its Angus burgers sourced from leading ranches in the country and always free of hormones, steroids, and antibiotics. If you are a burger kind-of-guy, you need to try Burgerfi. \$: up to \$10. 700 South Rosemary Ave Suite 102.

[City Pizza](#)

Your neighborhood Italian restaurant and pizzeria, serving the best New York style pizza in town. 632 Hibiscus. \$: high teens.

Outside Rosemary Square, but very nearby

[RH Rooftop Restaurant](#)

Located four stories up on the roof of the Restoration Hardware Building, this place is a cut above. It features an ingredient driven menu accompanied by a curated selection of artisanal wines and craft beers. Entrees \$31-50. If RH Rooftop Restaurant is on your target list, you might want to make the reservation weeks in advance. 560 Okeechobee Blvd. 551-804-6826.

[Avacado Grill](#)

A true celebration of flavors, they use world class techniques and the finest local ingredients to create the freshest cocktails and most flavorful small plates. \$: 20s to 30s. 561-623-0882. 125 Datura St.

[E.R. Bradley's Saloon](#)

The landmark bar and restaurant located on the waterfront. Go to Bradley's to experience the city's traditions that have become part of the city's fabric. (I've been here many times.) \$: high teens to 30. 104 South Clematis. 561-833-3520

Thanks to Pat Kluever for the graphic.



Friday Night President's Reception

Dan Hill, LTC, USA, (Ret)

Before we get into the serious business of games of chance, join FCoC President, Mike Borders, at the President's Reception. The cash bar will be open, and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Mike will present the Marvin J. Harris Communication Awards to the winning chapters who are present.

As his term of office comes to an end, this will be a great opportunity to say thanks to Mike for four long years of service as President of the Florida Council of Chapters.

Information & Registration

Friday Casino Night Benefitting The MOAA Foundation

Tom Wagner, COL, USA, (Ret)

**"They Serve the Nation
Help Us Serve Them"**



Of the many events you can experience during this years' convention, the Friday "Casino Night" is the only event that offers the fun and excitement of playing games of chance, and entering a gift drawing, while directly aiding the MOAA Foundation™. All net proceeds will be awarded to the foundation.

In 2021, the MOAA Foundation awarded grants to 35 chapters nationally. Of those, 12 Florida chapters received over \$44,000 based upon defined needs. 100% of the funds were managed by each chapter via community-based programs directly aiding veterans, their families, as well as men and women currently serving our nation. Your donation will ensure continued critical support for Florida's veterans and their families: ↓

The MOAA Foundation

We ask our chapters to support our 2022 Convention through member attendance and via a donation to the MOAA Foundation™ fundraiser from the chapter: ↓

Chapter Support Form

We offer opportunities for local merchants of our chapters to support our MOAA Foundation™ fundraising efforts: ↓

Business Support Form



Saturday All Hands Breakfast

Lorraine, Holland, MAJ, USA, (Ret)

Come One, Come All, to the All-Hands Breakfast on June 11th. As this year’s Mistress of Ceremonies, I’m pleased to announce that we are pulling out all the stops to make sure you get value for money from being served a delicious breakfast (yes, for all you carnivores, there will be protein served!) along with the traditional fixings.

We have a Color Guard lined-up to show off the fine young JROTC cadets from Boca Raton High School, and our FCoC Chaplain COL Tony Clark will give an inspirational Invocation to start our morning on an upbeat note. Our FCoC President COL Mike Borders will highlight the military career and accomplishments of Lt Gen Dana Atkins, the MOAA President, and CEO. This will be one of our last opportunities to hear from Gen Atkins as our outgoing MOAA President, and we can expect him to reflect on the many accomplishments MOAA has achieved in the last few years.

I encourage all of you to sign-up for the breakfast to show our strong bond between our Florida MOAA chapters and MOAA National. It’s no secret that Florida MOAA members are very grounded, and our finger is directly on the pulse of our military community to create a special relationship with MOAA National. This relationship is a two-way street, so I hope you come out to help nurture and show support to “Big MOAA” as one of my East Central Chapters fondly refers to them.

Immediately after the breakfast, a partitioned wall will be removed, and we will have a solemn Memorial Service under the watchful eye of Chaplain Clark. We will honor and read the names of our fine men and women who are no longer with us going into 2022. I can’t think of any better way than to have our members in attendance give them the dignity and respect they have rightly earned. Please sign-up today for what surely will be a morning to remember!



Lt Gen Dana Atkins



Saturday Memorial Service

Tony Clark, COL, USA (Ret)
FCoC Chaplain



This year's Conference will feature a helpful change in our schedule: shifting the Memorial Ceremony from Sunday morning to Saturday morning.

As an Army Chaplain, my three primary or core tasks are Nurturing the Living, Caring for the Wounded, and Honoring the Dead. This trinity of tasks was foremost in my mind in supporting the planning committee's idea of shifting the Memorial Ceremony from Sunday to Saturday.

Yes, the Memorial Ceremony is primarily focused on honoring and remembering the MOAA members who have died during the previous year. And shifting from Sunday to Saturday provides the opportunity for a greater number of conference participants to attend this time to honor and remember without the pressure of Sunday morning check out and travel.

While certainly a time to honor and remember the dead, the Memorial Ceremony is also a time to Nurture the Living and Care for the Wounded. For me, attending a memorial ceremony or memorial service strengthens and encourages me by reminding me of the good examples lived by so many of the women and men we remember at that event. More importantly, perhaps, a memorial service or ceremony can bring healing for those of us who live with the memories of deceased loved ones and friends. Yes, the pleasant and the painful memories often bubble up in unexpected ways, but the company of friends, the sounds of music, and the quiet presence of the Lord can bring us healing and hope.

I think you will find the shift from Sunday to Saturday for our Memorial Ceremony a positive move. I look forward to seeing you there as we Nurture the Living, Care for the Wounded, and Honor the Dead during our Annual Conference.

Saturday Banquet – Mystery Dinner Theater

Ron Birchall, LTC, USA (Ret)



[Information & Registration](#)

Unleash your inner actor with the cast of The Dinner Detective in a real who-done-it!

The 2022 Convention Banquet will be presented Dinner Detective Style!

Since 2004 [The Dinner Detective](#) has offered a hilarious and inscrutable crime drama woven throughout cocktails and dinner. The perpetrator may be someone you know, possibly even you!

You will enjoy a delicious meal carefully choreographed to coincide with the drama.

Dress to Kill! Uniforms admired!