



The Council Communiqué

Florida Council of Chapters
Military Officers Association of America

February 2021

Issue 162



President's Message

COL Mike Borders, USA., Ret.

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Diana and I hope that you and your loved ones had a wonderful holiday season and that 2021 brings us the relief from a 2020 we will all hope to put in the rear-view mirror, and never look into that mirror!! Even though we are not fully out of the COVID-19 woods, there is reason for optimism: the vaccination program has begun. I know of folks that have already received their second shot!! In the April timeframe, another company is coming on line with a "one-shot" regimen and 100 million more doses. There is definitely reason for hope. We pray for those friends or relatives who have suffered the most with the dread disease. But as Americans, we move forward, even as we lick our wounds.

In spite of, and actually because of COVID, the FCoC has had a never before seen level of coordination and information sharing. The key to this has been a video tele-conferencing (VTC) system called Zoom. Many of you are familiar with FaceTime or other such applications on your smart phones.

Well, Zoom is something like that, but on steroids! There is a separate article on our recent Leadership Forum, in which we had some 100 participants on the screen at once. Over the last several months, we have had board of directors' meetings, Area Vice Presidents' meetings, convention, budget, website and newsletter, and just about anything else you can think of meetings. There have been meetings via Zoom with other states, with MOAA National, and with as few as two people—many between me and our FCoC VP, Pat Kluever. Zoom has allowed for a level and degree of communication that we did not consider likely, even though many of us used VTC systems while still in the military or professional life. And to sweeten the pot, MOAA National has provided funds to help us defray the cost.

A brief note about "Storming the Hill." Due to the COVID crisis, as well as the recent violence at the

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Submit Input to:
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Capitol, MOAA National has decided that we will again do a “virtual” event. And the name Storming will be changed to *Advocacy in Action*. Stand by for news, but always remember to “TAKE ACTION” by going to: <https://takeaction.moaa.org/> .

I want to make special mention of the upcoming 14-16 May FCoC convention hosted by the Sarasota Chapter. Chapter President Troy Scott, a former FCoC President, has marshalled his forces and is doing a great job to put together a wonderful convention. It will follow a familiar format, is in a beautiful hotel right on the Sarasota waterfront, and promises to be a great event. We expect participation by Lt Gen Dana Atkins, President and CEO of MOAA National, along with several of his key leaders. **I ask that you register soon**—we have some “drop dead” dates with the hotel. If you are planning to attend, please register NOW. See the FCoC website: www.moaafl.org for details and registration.

I wish you all the best for 2021. Let’s keep our chins up, and NEVER STOP SERVING!



Vice President’s Message

CDR Patrick R (Pat) Kluever, USN, Ret.

The COVID vaccination rollout is underway, and thanks to the policies here in Florida, the not so young (like me) are given priority - so I have gotten my first shot with my second scheduled for 10 February.

The virtual Leadership Seminar on 8-9 January was a resounding success thanks to the dedicated efforts of President Mike Borders, our Area Vice Presidents, MOAA National’s team, and our FCoC website team. A special thanks to Council Webmaster John Snyder and team mate Tamara Byrd for website training. Many Thanks to all who made this a most successful and informative event.

“Advocacy in Action” (replacing the term “Storming”) will be virtual again this year, calling on a similar team of Florida Council and Chapter leaders. Topics have yet to be selected by big MOAA. The virtual meetings are expected to take place around the original dates of 19-22 April 2021.

I hope to see many of you at the 2021 Convention, 14 to 16 May in Sarasota at the magnificent Westin hotel on the waterfront at 100 Marina View Drive. As a naval aviator I was impressed by the number of hotel bars and the opportunity for activities at the roof top pool, bar and eatery. The list of local attractions is also impressive for spouses and guests. We had hoped to get an update on the new Committee Module platform at the January Leadership Seminar but we plan to get our first look at the new tools at this convention. Chapter leaders

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...“Advocacy in Action” will be virtual again this year...

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remember to support the convention with a Chapter ad in the convention magazine and **please sign up at "moaaf1.org" today**. Contact Len Friedlander for ad information.

All Chapters should have either updated their deceased member list on the FCoC website or emailed the information to Council Secretary Jon Gordon. This is a critical input for the Memorial Service on Sunday morning during the May convention. **Make sure Jon has your input for 2020.**

To gauge Chapter vitality and leadership at the Council level, key indicators are early-year submissions for communications awards, level of excellence award, and MOAA Foundation grants. Throughout the year a Chapter's submissions to the bi-monthly Communiqué communicate a Chapter's level of activity and interest and detail their contribution to their communities. I encourage all these events and offer to help with advice when needed - please feel free to call.

"Planned Events - 12 Month Horizon"

19-22 April 2021: Virtual Meetings with Congressional Members

14-16 May 2021: State Convention, Annual & Board Meetings
(Register on FCoC website "www.moaaf1.org")

26 August 2021: Budget & Finance Committee (2022 budget)

14 October 2021: Quarterly Board Meeting (2022 budget)

7-8 January 2022: Leadership Seminar (Rosen Center, Orlando)
(Register on FCoC website "www.moaaf1.org")

WHAT YOUR FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS DOES

Florida Council of Chapters and its Chapters are chartered by and affiliates of The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).

MOAA and the FCOC are non-partisan, non-profit 501c(19) organizations, and exist to improve the awareness, life style, and overall environment of its affiliate member chapters; support and serve member chapters; influence the political process in matters pertaining to active duty, retired and former military personnel; and enhance the image of America's uniformed services in our local communities.

The Council serves its affiliated Chapters by means of Council officers' in-person and virtual visits, a Council newsletter, a website with Chapter support and training, quarterly Board meetings, annual Leadership Seminar, and annual Convention.



Chaplain's Message

By LCDR Terry Robertson, USN, Ret. terryrobertson49@gmail.com

Terry's Treasure

I received this email from a friend and thought it would be a good one to pass on to you as we begin a new year. Enjoy!

The following is the philosophy of Charles Schultz, the creator of the "Peanuts" comic strip. Try to answer the following questions:

- ✦ Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
- ✦ Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
- ✦ Name the last five winners of the Miss America Pageant.
- ✦ Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
- ✦ Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and best actress.
- ✦ Name the last ten World Series winners.

... "The people who make a difference in your life are... the ones that care..."

How'd you do? The point is: none of us remember the headliners of yesterday. These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Now try these questions:

- ✦ List three teachers who aided your journey through school.
- ✦ Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
- ✦ Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
- ✦ Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
- ✦ Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.

Was this one easier? The lesson: The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They are the ones that care. As the new year begins, let's remember to thank those who mean the most to us and who have guided us on our way.

"Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It's already tomorrow in Australia."

--Charles Schultz

WELCOME TO SARASOTA!
Please Join us for the FCOC 2021 Convention
The Westin, Sarasota, FL
13-15 May 2021

The Military Officers Association of Sarasota Chapter is pleased to serve as the host chapter for the FCOC 2021 Convention. We invite you to come and enjoy our hospitality, cultural treasures, and fantastic dining. Come early and stay longer, the hotel's rates will remain at our low Convention rate for 2 days before and 2 days after the event.

As you may know Sarasota has been the home of the circus for many years and we have an amazing treasure trove of attractions. Our most prominent is the Ringling Museum which includes the Museum of Art with the art collection of circus magnate, John Ringling, the Ringlings' palatial mansion, and the Circus Museum which houses the Tibbals Learning Center. The cornerstone of the Tibbals Learning Center is the world's largest miniature circus: The Howard Bros. Circus Model. This model is a replica of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus from 1919 – 1938. The model was created over a period of more than 50 years by master model builder and philanthropist Howard Tibbals.



In addition to the Ringling Museum, we have the beautiful Marie Selby Botanical Gardens with a myriad of orchids, bromeliads and other beautiful plants. You can take a bay tour on the Sarasota Bay Explorer and see various kinds of plant and animal life or visit Siesta Key Beach, ranked #1 in America.

The members of the Military Officers Association of Sarasota want you to have a great time in Sarasota, and know you will enjoy a very special 2021 FCOC Convention. Troy Scott is the Chair for the convention. With the help of the hospitality committee he will be ready to advise you on many of the other exciting places of interest, including an array of suggestions for restaurants, some offering special promotions for our attendees. You can reach Troy at 941-379-3023 or email him at sarasotamoaa@gmail.com. We are happy to answer any questions. Additional information on the 2021 Convention will be included in upcoming issues of the Communiqué and posted on the FCOC Website.



Legislative Affairs

Lt Col Bob Bienvenue, USAF, Ret., Legislative Chair, rbienven@sprynet.com



Legislative Update February 2021

MOAA Legislative Update:

Read about the latest MOAA Advocacy News and Calls-to-Action here.



<https://takeaction.moaa.org/>

As we await the new administration's proposals affecting the military community and the legislature's actions with regard to them, this month's Legislative Update takes a look at recent news that informs the tenor for our 2021 advocacy mission.

MOAA Advances its Goals with the New Administration.

Subsequent to their election and in advance of the inauguration MOAA met with the transition teams of then-President-Elect Joe Biden and then-Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris. Based on those meetings it is clear that the new administration is keenly interested in doing all it can to help improve the quality of life and protect service-earned benefits for all our uniformed service members and veterans, their families, retirees, caregivers, and survivors.

On January 20th, MOAA sent letter to the president asking for swift action in many areas. In it, MOAA urges the incoming administration to consider taking up several issues and working with military and veterans' service organizations in a collaborative manner to affect these important changes that were informed during the prior meetings.

This is an unprecedented action by MOAA to communicate directly with the president on our broad array of policy objectives – possibly signaling a welcome change in our relationship with this administration.

The full letter is found in the article at this link: [MOAA - Read MOAA's Letter to President Joe Biden](#)

Day One Message to the Force from Sec-Def Lloyd J. Austin III

I am honored to have this chance to serve again and to do so alongside you and your families. My wife, Charlene, and I know all too well the sacrifices you make to keep this country safe. That safety is job one, and I promise to work as hard as you do at it.

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The way I see it, my job as Secretary of Defense is to make you more effective at doing yours. That means ensuring you have the tools, technology, weapons, and training to deter and defeat our enemies. It means establishing sound policy and strategy and assigning you clear missions. It means putting a premium on cooperation with our allies and partners. And it means living up to our core values, the same ones our fellow citizens expect of us.

Right now, of course, doing my job also means helping our country get control of the pandemic, which has killed more than 400,000 Americans. You have already come to the aid of our Nation's health care professionals. You can expect that mission to continue. But we must help the Federal Government move further and faster to eradicate the devastating effects of the coronavirus. To that end, we will also do everything we can to vaccinate and care for our workforce and to look for meaningful ways to alleviate the pressure this pandemic has exerted on you and your families.

None of us succeeds at this business alone. Defending the country requires teamwork and cooperation. It requires a certain humility, a willingness to learn, and absolute respect for one another. I know you share my devotion to these qualities.

I am proud to be back on your team.

First Lady Jill Biden to Relaunch Military-Focused *Joining Forces* Initiative

The Joining Forces initiative was established to bring together the private sector, nonprofit organizations, and local state and federal programs to support troops, veterans, families and caregivers. The effort focused initially on improving opportunities for and supporting military spouses as well as military personnel and expanded to address transition issues and veteran employment. Military advocacy organizations reacted joyfully to this announcement. MOAA was actively involved with this Initiative in the Obama Administration and continues its advocacy for military families, spouses, and caregivers.

Joint Chiefs of Staff Address the Violent Rioting of January 6th on the US Capitol.

In a powerful message to the Joint Force on January 12, the JCS condemned the actions of those involved as a direct assault on our constitution, inconsistent with the rule of law, and characterized those violent actions as sedition and insurrection.

“The American people have trusted the Armed Forces of the United States to protect them and our Constitution for almost 250 years. As Service Members we must embody the values and ideals of the Nation. We support and defend the Constitution. Any act to disrupt the Constitutional process is not only against our traditions, values and oath, it is against the law.”

Do you know expectations for MOAA members as described in the Resolutions?

Excerpted from MOAA Resolutions as approved at the 2020 Annual Meeting.

The preamble to MOAA's Bylaws, articulates the patriotic values held by the Association which serve as guiding principles for all endeavors. Membership in MOAA comes with the expectation that members exhibit strong personal character, consistent with values in those By-Laws and the

principle of “*officership as a life-long profession.*”

We share a fundamental and continuing responsibility to setting an honorable example of public service, protecting the interests and welfare of our nation and of our fellow citizens.

Through our oath of “office” we swear to support the fundamental tenets of our constitution - the rule of law, justice-for-all, and treating every individual with respect and dignity.

In accepting our commission, we assent to honor the special trust and confidence given to us:

“reposing especial trust and confidence in your patriotism, conduct, and fidelity in defense of American Liberty”

Florida Representative Waltz introduces plan to eliminate Tricare premiums for adult children under 26.

A proposal to allow adult children to remain covered under their parents’ Tricare plan until age 26 — without having to pay an extra premium for a separate Tricare plan — was introduced in Congress by Rep. Michael Waltz, R-Fla. and Rep. Elaine Luria, D-Va. on Jan. 25.

H.R. 475, titled, “**Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act of 2021,**” would eliminate the requirement to pay a separate premium for a young adult. That would save some families \$459 a month. As of Jan. 1, monthly premiums increased by 22 percent, to \$459 for those in Tricare Young Adult Prime; and by 12 percent, to \$257, for those in Tricare Young Adult Select. By law, the Tricare Young Adult programs must be at no cost to the government, under the rules set when it was implemented in 2013. *Consequently, the full cost of the program’s premiums is reflected in the fees charged to families.*

The Bills co-sponsors say this legislation is a matter of equity. Military families using Tricare don’t have the same ability to keep their children on their health care plan until age 26, unlike other health care plans as required by the Affordable Care Act.

Currently, dependent children can remain on their parent’s Tricare plan until age 21, or until age 23 if the child is enrolled in a full course of study, and the sponsor is still providing more than half of their financial support. At age 23, the child may qualify to purchase Tricare Young Adult.

More than 37,000 unmarried, adult children of military sponsors were enrolled in either the Tricare Young Adult Prime or Select programs as of a year ago, according to the Defense Department.

To Maintain Military Dominance, Don't Skimp on our Service Members

Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret), president and CEO of MOAA, stresses the importance of rewarding servicemembers for their performance – not just at the bare minimum as part of efforts to shrink budget figures, but in a way that recognizes their talents and encourages others to join their ranks. The following appeared in the *Hill News* on January 31, 2021:

The defense of our nation depends on the Defense Department's ability to recruit and retain the best our country has to offer. Even under ideal situations, that's a tall order.

And these are not ideal situations. Research puts the total recruiting pool of 17- to 24-year-olds at 20 million individuals but, of those, only 465,000 are fit to serve, mentally and physically, according to Department of Defense (DOD) data. The military needs about 260,000 such Americans each year. Even worse: 55 percent of parents discourage their sons or daughters from military service, the data show.

Retention brings its own concerns. As the saying goes, "You recruit the soldier, but you retain a family." In recent years, that part of military retention has included poor base housing conditions, inadequate programs to battle spouse unemployment, multiple long deployments, and long child care wait lists.

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and other military and veterans advocacy groups have fought for programs to improve both the recruitment and retention prospects of our all-volunteer force. But even those that have taken effect have come at an unfair cost, with resources shifted from an existing program to cover a new priority. In effect, budget-makers are robbing one group to support another by requiring a "pay for" — a proposed source of funds — for any bill requiring new funding.

Some examples:

- Vietnam veterans exposed to toxic defoliants such as Agent Orange while at sea — so-called "Blue Water Navy" vets — received long-sought relief in 2019, but with funds generated by an increase in Veterans Affairs (VA) home loan processing fees.
- When the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) was about to expire, Congress tapped the beneficiaries, via increased pharmacy copays, to fund the provision that spared that allowance.
- Programs designed to trim budgets or find efficiencies regularly do so by passing along the pain points to beneficiaries. The move to public-private housing has resulted in congressional hearings and a series of missteps, all at the expense of military families. Moves to realign the Defense Health Agency may have the well-intentioned purpose of

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an efficient medical system, but they could result in retirees and family members seeking care in an over-stressed civilian health system as dozens of on-base options disappear.

Sadly, these examples aren't the worst-case scenarios. Recent history is replete with budget moves that take from beneficiaries without boosting other DOD or VA programs. One example: MOAA and other groups successfully fought off a 2013 law that would have cut the cost-of-living increase for retirees by 1 percent, with disastrous results: A retiring E-7 would have lost \$83,000 before reaching age 62, and an O-5 would have lost \$124,000 for the same period.

And for three years (2014-2016), the Obama administration undercut the legislated military pay raise by a cumulative total of 2.6 percent to fund other programs. Service members are still feeling the effects of these cuts — and will for decades throughout their retirement. New recruits, meanwhile, often cite pay and benefits as the No. 1 reasons for signing up. ***So these persistent erosion incentives will have strategic consequences that I don't believe our nation is in a position to accept.***

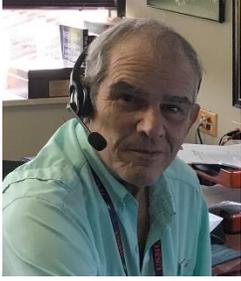
There are many more examples of budget-makers attempting to compensate the personnel who make up our military — not by encouraging or rewarding their service, but by squeezing their benefits to just above the breaking point ... they hope.

Our service members are our No. 1 weapon system. We must, as a nation, come to terms with what it costs to have a dominant defense capability. Continued fiscal maneuvers such as the ones noted here will impact retention — and the word will get out to those who are considering military service.

WHY JOIN A LOCAL MOAA CHAPTER?

Since 1929, MOAA's greatest mission has been to protect your earned military benefits. Through tireless advocacy, we've forged a legacy of success benefiting the entire military community.

At 350,000 members strong MOAA's national organization provides a top-level framework to advocate for military and veteran pay and benefits, but the real impact of the organization happens at local Chapters where members work with and support their local community of military families and veterans. Big MOAA and the Florida Council support local Chapters, so if you want to make a real difference in the lives of your comrades in your local community, please consider joining your local Chapter and be MOAA's boots-on-the-ground to "never stop serving".



Personal Affairs

Col Paul Loschiavo, USMCR (Ret)

In a two week period in 1976, I got commissioned, got married, and got my first USAA auto insurance policy.

Forty-four years later, I'm retired from the Marine Corps, still married, and still sending money to USAA.

Initially, they mailed me a bill and I'd mail them a check. I can't remember if they went online or set up auto pay first, but for probably the last twenty years, USAA would email me a monthly statement, and once or twice a month debit my checking account.

This automatic debit, in which the customer sends a voided check to the vendor is technically called an "Automatic Clearing House" payment or more simply, an "ACH debit."

Odds are very good that you have multiple vendors using ACH debits to collect your monthly bill. As I've got my main property insurance policy with USAA, they debit my checking account for that. I've also got a life insurance policy, for which they debit my checking account monthly, too. Then, I've got a USAA Visa card, which was also set up for ACH debit.

Needless-to-say, the abbreviation "USAA" appears on my checking account statement a lot. A couple years ago, I happened to look at my checking account a little closer than I normally do. It took me a while to figure out that my checking account had an extra debit from USAA. Huh? I pulled out several months of checking account statements, and matched them to my USAA accounts.

Son-of-a-gun... there was definitely an extra payment each month. Sometimes two.

I called USAA. The customer service person did some investigating and one of the payments was going to a USAA checking account, then being transferred to a credit union in Arkansas. Say what?

I had no knowledge of that checking account. It was a scam.

Somebody had set up an account in my name at USAA and was debiting my personal checking account to get cash.

I was soon in contact with the Fraud people at USAA. They shut down the bogus USAA account. I changed all of my passwords, not only with USAA, but with every vendor with whom I have a relationship.

In talking to the USAA Fraud people, they explained that I was a victim of "ACH debit fraud." Somebody got the numbers off the bottom of my checks and started debiting my checking account. Wow.

USAA was great in that they immediately refunded me all of the money that had been fraudulently taken from my checking account.

Amazingly, about two weeks later, I received a call at work from a woman in Oklahoma. She Googled me and found me at my work. A check that I had sent her had bounced. Huh? I explained that whoever gave her that check was a thief. She sent me a copy of the check which had my name printed on it and a totally different signature.

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I connected with USAA Fraud again. They were not particularly interested in pursuing it. I was in Florida. USAA is in Texas. The money was sent to Arkansas, then apparently sent all over. They had already moved on.

I did a little research. ACH debit fraud is a very fast growing form of fraud. The problem is... every time you give a personal check to someone, you give them the routing number for your bank and your banking account number. When you do auto pay (ACH debit), they also have your bank routing number and your bank account number.

A fraudster with those two numbers can easily start debiting your checking account.

It turns out that there's a much safer way. All banks nowadays offer a service called "web-bill-pay" or something to that effect. The big advantage is that the only account number that goes with your payment is the account number with the vendor. In practical terms, when you use web-bill-pay to pay FPL, the people at FPL, get your FPL account number but not... your checking account number.

Actually, for major vendors, such as FPL, Verizon, AT&T, Century Link, or Comcast, the payment is done electronically.... which is even safer. For not-major vendors (think your landscaper), they get a paper check in the mail. The numbers across the bottom of the check they receive are those of your bank, not your personal checking account.

There's an added benefit in web-bill-pay. If you ever decide to fire Verizon and switch to AT&T, you simply turn off your web-bill-pay to Verizon. You... are totally in control. To turn off that ACH debit, you must connect with the vendor and get them to turn it off. It's amazing how hard it can be to terminate ACH debiting once it's started.

At this point, I try extremely hard to not send a check to anyone. The only time I give anyone an actual check is if it's a one-time payment and they are not set up to accept a credit card payment.

And check out this 90 second video: chonday.com/videos/bsutytranpl3



Surviving Spouse Corner

Patricia Green, Surviving Spouse Liaison/Personal Affairs

What are you doing on Valentine Day?

For many couples this day is special. For some singles, this day is dreaded. For the recently widowed, this is a very sad day.

...focus on something fun for February 14th....

I remember my first February 14 alone. What a low point. Then I was surprised by the door bell, a delivery of flowers. What a thrill! The card inside had a note from a friend. The message was "I know how lonesome today can feel. Next year won't seem so sad."

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That was a long time ago for me. For some though this will be their first Valentine's Day alone since their spouse was deployed during active duty. Say a prayer for them. Remember them in some kind way. Holidays can be rough.

For those who are past that grief and sorrow, focus on something fun for February 14th. A sleepover with movies and popcorn with grandchildren works. If no grandchildren or family are nearby, try a remote singles party. In one neighborhood I know, they have a Zoom "Galantine" party. A group of widows play games, have raffles, and exchange gifts. This is all being done remotely this year. Boy are they organized!

If you belong to a mixed singles group, organize a "Palentine" party. On a internet platform or outside at a park, you can share cocktails, conversation, jokes and good memories. I'm not suggesting a Mardi Gras or Spring Break atmosphere, but even now while we are still being careful, uplifting social contact is safely possible.

Sadness and loneliness should not dominate your life for long. You can move past that with a positive focus and "a little help from your friends".

Below is some information about the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter and notes from the January 19 meeting:

- The membership has soared to 149 members.
- General Walter 'Skip' Sharp, the Chairman of the MOAA Board of Directors introduced himself to the Chapter.
- Lt Gen Dana Atkins reviewed his vision for the Chapter. He also recognized CAPT Kathy Prout, USN (Ret) as the recipient of the MOAA Distinguished Service Medal Award for her advocacy in the elimination of the SBP/DIC offset.
- For the 14th time MOAA received the Top Lobbyist Award.
- MOAA pledges to stop the erosion of military service benefits.
- There was a program entitled Scams and Fraud, by Shane Ostrom.

You can join if you are a Surviving Spouse. It's easy.

Go to Moaa.org

Click on the box, I am a Surviving Spouse.

Scroll to Chapter membership.

Scroll to Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter.

Download the application

Fill it out and return it.

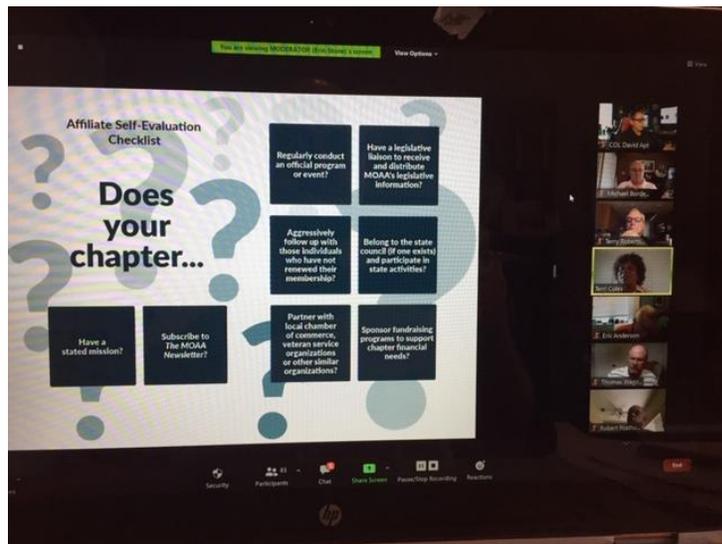
There are no dues.

Contact me if I can help. Deg06@aol.com.

The next Virtual Chapter meeting is March 16, 2021 at 1:00 pm EDT. GET READY NOW.

FCoC “Virtual” Leadership Forum, 8-9 January 2021

Those of you who normally attend our January Leadership Forum in Orlando got a good dose of Zoom during our Council’s two-day Zoom session from 8 to 9 January. COVID forced us to adjust our gun sights and set up the event as a Video Tele-Conference (VTC) via the Zoom platform. Over 100 folks signed up for the workshop, and at one time we did have 98 folks on the screen. After the invocation and pledge of allegiance, we led off with a “State of MOAA” presentation by Lt Gen Dana Atkins, President/CEO of MOAA National. We followed with a legal briefing by MajGen Joe Lynch, MOAA General Counsel, a Membership update by Kathy Partain, a Surviving Spouse update by Mrs. Gail Joyce, Chapter Management by COL Terri Coles, and Legislative Affairs by Col Dan Merry. We also did presentations of our own on the FCoC website and its tools, as well as a refresher on the Committee Module. We ended with a Board of Directors meeting for the FCoC BOD. I must also make mention of an additional and separate training session specifically for Surviving Spouses and Surviving Spouse chairs.



This was a great event. It took advantage of technology. Lots of information was put out at very low cost. As mentioned in my “President’s Message,” the FCoC is using Zoom all the time. In fact, the week I wrote this, I had a Zoom session with the Southwest Area AVP and chapter presidents, as well as one with our new Communiqué editor. But I want to stress that much is lost by doing an event like this as they might in the “Jetsons.” There is no substitute for the “Human Equation.” Next year we will be back in Orlando at the Rosen Centre Hotel. Mark your calendars for 7-8 January 2022.



Florida Veterans Council Update

MAJ Lorraine Holland, USA (Ret), FCoC Committee Chair, Florida Veterans Council

Make Your Voice Heard on Florida Legislation to Support Your Fellow Veterans!

I would like to introduce your first 2021 State Legislative “homework” assignment to make your voice be heard to support **Senate Bill SB586 SkillBridge Program** to help our military service personnel transitioning to civilian life. Please refer to the last paragraph for detailed instructions on how you can contact your respective legislator.

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Department of Defense (DoD) SkillBridge Program is the best kept secret in the Military! Florida State Senator Tom Wright (R-New Smyrna Beach) chairs the Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security Committee. Sen. Wright filed Senate Bill **SB 586 SkillBridge** which creates a statewide awareness and employment program built on the DoD SkillBridge Program. There is no companion House Bill at present. Sen Wright's office added "SkillBridge will connect transitioning servicemembers to employers and their new career path. During the transition period, the servicemembers' salary and benefits are retained while obtaining any associated industry certifications."

The DoD SkillBridge program is an opportunity for Service members to gain valuable civilian work experience through specific industry training, apprenticeships, or internships during the last 180 days of military service. The program allows service members to gain workforce training at private businesses while on active duty as they are transitioning out of the military. To **apply** for a DoD SkillBridge Career Skills Program, Service Members should go to <https://dodskillbridge.usalearning.gov>

Veterans Florida has been designated as the state's principal SkillBridge assistance organization to employers and transitioning service members and will implement the SkillBridge program throughout the Sunshine State. *Veterans Florida* (www.veteransflorida.org) is a non-profit organization created by the Florida Legislature to help military veterans' transition to civilian life, and to promote Florida's status as the nation's most veteran-friendly state. *Veterans Florida* provides powerful tools for veterans to take advantage of the benefits of living and working in the Sunshine State. The POC is Jeremy Sinnemaki at email address sinnemaki@veteransflorida.org and (850) 296-1553.

Veterans Florida Executive Director Joe Marino wholeheartedly supports this program and said "We thank Senator Wright for his dedication to military families by introducing this important legislation. Veterans Florida is committed to connecting transitioning servicemembers with DOD SkillBridge opportunities throughout Florida."

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA) Deputy Executive Director James S. "Hammer" Hartsell agrees this is a worthwhile program and said "The DoD SkillBridge Program provides a pipeline of veteran workforce talent to Florida's high-tech industries straight from within our 21 Florida military bases. *Veterans Florida* is uniquely qualified to lead the state's efforts creating awareness of the program's opportunities with employers and service members and their families."

You can follow this bill, and other veteran-related legislation that will be introduced in the coming weeks by logging onto the Legislative page of FDVA's website at <https://www.floridavets.org/news/veteran-legislation/> Scroll down the page and you will see a red link titled "**Veteran Related Legislation.**" This pdf file is updated frequently throughout the year. The FDVA list includes bill numbers, title, who introduced the legislation, whether there is a companion bill in the other house, and then lists chronologically from introduction to most recent, the status of the bill.

MOAA Needs You to Support Florida Senate Bill SB586 that will launch statewide SkillBridge initiatives sponsored by Senator Tom Wright. MOAA has been authorized by the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense through official Memorandum of Understanding to work with each of the applicable branches of the military Services and respective installation commanders to develop SkillBridge training programs for their personnel.

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The best way we can continue to serve and protect the rights of our local veterans is to lend our voice when so many aren't able to do so. Please **show your support to SkillBridge Senate Bill SB586** and **Sound-Off** by contacting your Florida State Senator and House of Representative at <https://www.dos.myflorida.com/elections/contacts/elected-officials/>. Click the link "**Contact Your Elected Officials**" and follow the directions to find your appropriate Legislators, usually just typing in your address. To contact the Governor, U.S. Senators or Representatives, or your County Supervisor of Elections, it's all on the same website. Your voice **will** make a difference and collectively we can be a force to be reckoned with!

MOAA National Membership, Recruiting, and Retention Awards

Congratulations are in order for many of our chapters in the membership arena. As we all know, this is a very important area for chapters. Attract folks, get them to join, and then keep them on board. Provide a value-added product and you will be successful. And by the way, there is "free" money involved, courtesy of MOAA National. Again, congratulations to our award winners!!
Cheers, Mike

Alias	Chapter Name	Program Title	Amount
FL02	Broward County Chapter of the MOAA	2020 Chapter Recruitment	\$10
FL03	Cape Canaveral Chapter	2020 Chapter Recruitment	\$1,330
FL04	Cape Coral Chapter of MOAA	2020 Chapter Recruitment	\$40
FL05	MOAA, Central Florida Chapter	2020 Chapter Recruitment	\$10
FL08	Clearwater Chapter	2020 Chapter Recruitment	\$40
FL09	MOA of Southwest Florida	2020 Chapter Recruitment	\$540
FL15	Lake & Sumter Counties Chapter	2020 Chapter Recruitment	\$445
FL15	Lake & Sumter Counties Chapter	2020 Retention Bonus	\$150
FL15	Lake & Sumter Counties Chapter	Category Five Winner	\$250
FL18	Northeast Florida Chapter	2020 Chapter Recruitment	\$150
FL18	Northeast Florida Chapter	2020 Retention Bonus	\$150
FL23	St. Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA	2020 Chapter Recruitment	\$60
FL24	Military Officers Association of Sarasota, Inc.	2020 Chapter Recruitment	\$90
FL27	Tampa Chapter, MOAA	2020 Chapter Recruitment	\$120
FL30	The Military Officers Club of Volusia County	2020 Chapter Recruitment	\$65
FL31	Charlotte Harbor Chapter	2020 Chapter Recruitment	\$210
FL32	MOAA of Citrus County Chapter, Inc.	2020 Chapter Recruitment	\$90
FL32	MOAA of Citrus County Chapter, Inc.	2020 Retention Bonus	\$150
FL33	Lee Coast Chapter, MOAA	2020 Chapter Recruitment	\$80
FL35	Suncoast Chapter, MOAA	2020 Chapter Recruitment	\$10
FL36	Indian River Chapter MOAA	2020 Chapter Recruitment	\$110
FL39	Halifax Area Chapter	2020 Chapter Recruitment	\$10
FL40	South Central Florida Chapter of the MOAA	2020 Chapter Recruitment	\$90
FL40	South Central Florida Chapter of the MOAA	2020 Retention Bonus	\$150
FL41	Flagler County Chapter MOAA	2020 Chapter Recruitment	\$10
FL42	Sun City Center Chapter	2020 Chapter Recruitment	\$150
FL43	West Central Chapter, MOAA	2020 Chapter Recruitment	\$30
FL46	Ancient City Chapter	2020 Chapter Recruitment	\$105
FL46	Ancient City Chapter	2020 Retention Bonus	\$150
FL48	Palm Beach - Martin Counties Chapter of MOAA	2020 Chapter Recruitment	\$20
FL49	Nassau County Florida Chapter	2020 Chapter Recruitment	\$10
FL51	Historic Mayport Chapter	2020 Chapter Recruitment	\$100
FL51	Historic Mayport Chapter	2020 Retention Bonus	\$150



Florida Department of Veterans Affairs Update

Lt Col R. Steven Murray, USAF (Ret.)
Communications Director, Florida Department of Veterans Affairs

Governor Ron DeSantis' Florida Leads Budget Strongly Supports Florida's Veteran Community

TALLAHASSEE – Gov. Ron DeSantis' Florida Leads budget provides critical support to the state's 1.5 million veterans, their families and survivors.

Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs Deputy Executive Director James S. "Hammer" Hartsell said: "I'm very proud of Governor Ron DeSantis' steadfast support of FDVA, ensuring Florida remains the most veteran-friendly state in the nation. Governor DeSantis has committed millions of dollars in funding to Florida's veteran population over the past two years. This year's budget continues our passion of connecting veterans with their earned services, benefits and support."

One of the biggest enterprises within the FDVA is its network of award-winning State Veterans' Homes. The State of Florida boasts six state veterans' nursing homes and one state veterans' domiciliary. Additional state veterans' nursing homes in Port St. Lucie and Orlando are slated to open in calendar year 2021.

Governor DeSantis has proposed funding for the completion and staffing of the additional state veterans' nursing homes in Port St. Lucie and Orlando, and capital improvements and replacement of equipment and furniture for the state's operational veterans' nursing homes and domiciliary.

Other state veterans' home funding includes support for contract services for increased costs and utilization in agency staffing, housekeeping, therapy, medical and pharmacy services.

The Florida Leads budget provides \$350,000 for a veteran suicide prevention outreach program. Florida is a role model and leader in the "Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans and their Families," a national call to action asking state, military and civilian interagency teams to embark on a process of collaborating, planning and implementing suicide prevention best practices and policies for service members, veterans and their families statewide.

The Governor's Florida Leads budget also continues funding for Florida is for Veterans, Inc. (*Veterans Florida*). *Veterans Florida* is a non-profit created by the State of Florida to help military veterans transition to civilian life and to promote Florida's status as the nation's most veteran-friendly state.

Chapter News

Cape Canaveral Chapter

Marilyn M. Sanford, MOAACC Media Relations

MOAACC's 2021 Officers and Board Installation Luncheon

For the sixty-third time since MOAACC founding, the new officers and board members were installed by Col. Jeff Rogers, USA Ret., at the Tides Restaurant on January 16, 2021.



2021 MOAACC Installation: L – R: Larry Jackson, John Murphy, Jack Kerns, Ken Lowe, Jeff Rogers (Installing Officer), Steve Bond, Brian Whalen, Tim Pishdad, Dan McIntyre



Tim Pishdad (L) presents the Distinguished Service Award to Dan McIntyre

And, congratulations to the following MOAACC members who received 2020 awards

Distinguished Service Award: Dan McIntyre

MOAACC Award: Jeanne Weaver

Outstanding Citizen Award: Dean Schaaf

Florida Council of Chapters Awards:

Steve Bond, Bill Muckler, Tim Pishdad, Mike Schroeder, Donn Weaver

MOAACC Certificate of Merit: Don England, Ellie Joy



President Steve Bond and George Rosenfield

Florida Tech ROTC Panther Battalion Conducts Virtual Commissioning for Five Army Second Lieutenants

On December 11th, the Florida Institute of Technology ROTC Panther Battalion held their Winter Commissioning Ceremony for five new Army Second Lieutenants. Due to the pandemic, the Panther Battalion conducted the ceremony with social distancing, with most speakers, friends and families attending remotely. The new Army Officers were sworn-in as Lieutenants, and they pinned on their new rank insignia while their families watched, while other participants live-streamed the ceremony. LTC Jimmy Crook, Florida Tech Professor of Military Science, acknowledged the uniqueness of this ceremony and reminded the new Lieutenants of the responsibilities they were undertaking as Army Officers. The new Lieutenants also heard messages from Army Leaders, including the Secretary and the Chief of Staff of the Army, Commanders of the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) and Cadet Command, while the President of Florida Tech, Dr. T. Dwayne McCay, and the Commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, MG Christopher Donahue, were the guest speakers.

Normally, representatives from the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAACC) attend the commissioning ceremony. They present the new officers with their first “Gold Bars”, the rank insignia of Second Lieutenants, and welcome the new officers into the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). Due to the pandemic, representatives of MOAACC attended remotely and LTC Crook presented the commissioning sets to the new Lieutenants on behalf of the Chapter. “We welcome these new officers into our ranks and congratulate them for their achievements”, said Colonel Steve Bond (USA-Retired) Vice President of MOAACC. “This ceremony was certainly unique and one that none of us will forget.”



New Army Second Lieutenants commissioned from Florida Institute of Technology ROTC on December 11: Top Row L-R: Ivan Chernokolpakov, Diego Gonzalez, Kellie Krygier. Bottom Row L-R: Isiah Mossiah, the Commissioning Set provided by MOAACC, Luke Mullins.

Historic Mayport Chapter

CDR Pat Kluever, USN (Ret)

Rough Weather for No-Dough-Dinner To-Go Feeding Mayport Area Active Duty Enlisted Military Families

Thanks to funds provided by the MOAA Foundation through a Community Outreach Grant, Historic Mayport Chapter teamed with USO Mayport to prepare several hundred “Sloppy Joe” dinners for active duty enlisted military members and families in the Mayport, Florida area.

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A team of USO and Chapter volunteers worked the morning of Tuesday 26 January 2021 and the morning of the next day cooking, chopping, and filling containers to prepare for pre-registered active duty enlisted military members and families to pick up meals in a drive-thru format outside USO Mayport.

Before COVID struck, families would dine at No-Dough-Dinners (NDD) inside the USO Mayport facility. However, with COVID precautions in place the USO / MOAA team have pivoted to an NDD To-Go format, which follows CDC and local guidelines for face coverings and distancing.

On Wednesday 27 January 2021, bags were ready to be packed with complete meals, drinks, deserts and bread or pastry for the number of adults and children in each family. Tags on the bags identified the family, number of meals, and expressed MOAA and USO's appreciation for their service.

As cars arrived at the pre-arranged time slot, service I.D. cards would be verified for the proper name and the checker would confirm the number of meals expected. The pre-bagged food for each family would be delivered with no-contact between the delivery team and the recipient(s).

Historic Mayport Chapter had nine volunteers signed up to help the USO Mayport Team with the delivery and were asked to report at 3:30 pm with the deliveries to start at 4:00 pm on Wednesday 27 January 2021 at USO Mayport.

The Chapter USO liaison had been at USO Mayport since 10:00 am helping and the Chapter President arrived at 2:00 pm.

After 2:30 pm the weather appeared to be worsening and the temperature was noticeably dropping. At 3:00 pm the USO Director expressed concern to the Chapter President about Chapter volunteers working outside for food delivery. At 3:10 the Chapter President began calling volunteers and asked them to please stay at home for safety. At 3:30 pm two volunteers arrived and agreed to help the Chapter President and Chapter USO liaison to work inside to bag and convey family meals to the USO team working outside to deliver the food to the families who could make it to USO Mayport in the storm.

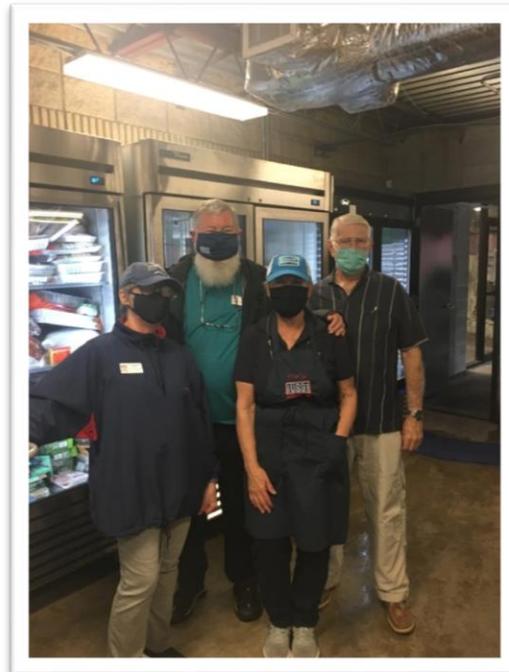


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Just prior to 4:00 pm a down pour started that rivaled what I had experienced during the late summer tropical monsoon season in the Philippine Islands. Heavy rain continued throughout most of the NDD To-Go time slots. Although many arrived, some families could not make it including one family of nine.

USO Mayport had been in contact with a cadre of 200 United States Marines who were in quarantine in the local area in preparation for deploying on a mission. With a large amount of food remaining from the event, USO Mayport contacted the Marines and they were anxious to pick up the leftover food for their troops.

With USO Mayport’s help nothing went to waste and we accomplished our mission of helping feed active duty enlisted military members and families.



The Surviving MOAA’s Historic Mayport Chapter Crew (L-R) Member Pam Hamilton, President Pat Kluever, USO Liaison Mary Kluever, Member Reid Crawshaw

Sun City Center Chapter

CAPT B. Frank Kepley, USN (Ret)

HLAA Member Eloise Schwarz addresses MOAA

Eloise E Schwarz was the keynote speaker for the January 6th, 2021 local Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Membership Zoom meeting.

A member of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) since 2004, Eloise encourages everyone to join this one-of-a kind organization if they have any difficulty with hearing.

Hard of hearing since birth, she wasn’t aware of it until she turned 50 years old while working for an insurance company. She could hear sound but never understand what was spoken, which is a common occurrence with hearing loss.

Life dealt her harshly because of her hearing loss – she elaborated on why she is passionate on teaching others about preserving their hearing before it’s too late.



Eloise E Schwarz

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She joined the local HLAA chapter in Milwaukee WI, so that she could find others who shared the same difficulties as she experienced daily. She became a leader at the local level and soon joined the WI State HLAA Board of Trustees, serving from 2008 to 2014.

She was appointed by then Governor Doyle to serve on his WI Council of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for three years from 2008 to 2011. Additionally, she was appointed by the Mayor of Wauwatosa to serve on the Committee for Citizens with Disabilities from 2008 to 2011.

A new name was given the Chapter - The Metro Milwaukee Chapter and started in 2013. It continues with a new Board of Directors, after she left in 2019 for Florida to retire.

When she arrived in Sun City Center, the chapter here was nearing closure. The National office was due to take over and close the chapter. Eloise notified the Office in Maryland and worked to start the chapter once again.

The HLAA SCC Chapter has not closed during this pandemic, it has just taken on a new method of doing business.

Eloise discussed ways to communicate if you have hearing problems. In particular commenting on people who can hear the sounds of speech but cannot recognize what is being said. In that regard she emphasized but did not limit her discussion to communication techniques; coping skills; technology improvements; and the laws that have made hearing a disability.

She said there are 48 million people in America with hearing deficiencies and 2.7 million veterans who, not surprisingly, have hearing loss and tinnitus.

MOAA presents donation to 1st Sergeants Council at MacDill Air Force Base

Around the holidays, the Military Family Support Trust collects funds to be donated to the First Sergeants Council at MacDill Air Force Base. The funds are used to purchase vouchers at the base commissary and PX and are distributed to needy base personnel for their use around the holidays. On November 24, in front of the Freedom Plaza Circle, Bob Cochran, MOAA treasurer presented MSgt Mark Brown, a member of the 1st Sergeants Council, a check for \$1000.00.

Operation Warm Heart, is an organization that assists families in all branches of the military in time of need. One of its primary missions is to provide emergency grants to MacDill AFB members. They also provide various types of gift cards and gasoline and in general provide morale, health and welfare assistance to as many needy military families as funds will allow.



(L-R): Lori Germain, MFST Manager; Bob Cochran, MOAA treasurer; M. Sgt. Mark Brown, MacDill AFB; Hugh Howarth, MFST trustee and MOAA member; and Colin Howgill, MFST Chairman and Honorarv MOAA

Sarasota Chapter

LT Alan Forrester, USN (Ret)

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERS TREATED TO A VIOLIN CONCERT BY LAITY AND MUNOZ

The January luncheon attendees were treated to a wide-ranging violin concert by Mia Laity and Jesse Munoz, both doctoral candidates in violin performance, Mia at Indiana University and Jesse at the University of Maryland. The program featured a classical sonata, a salsa tune, and several classic hits.

The program opened with Jean-Marie LeClair's *Sonata for Two Violins in A Major, Op 3 No 2*. The piece allowed the violinists to showcase their virtuosity, while letting the audience know they were in for a special program.

They followed that with Edward Elgar's *Salut d'Amour (Love's Greeting)*, which was probably the audience favorite, although every selection had its fans. Although classical musicians by trade, they devoted the rest of their program to popular tunes. Of particular interest was their rendition of *It had to be You*, written by Isham Jones and Gus Kahn, first published in 1924.

The tune has been used in 15 movies and was the theme song in the movie *When Harry Met Sally*. Other selections included *Tea for Two* from *No, No, Nanette*, *Salsa de La Luna* and Scott Joplin's *Pineapple Rag*. They closed with two George and Ira Gershwin tunes, *The Man I Love* and *Fascinating Rhythm*, the latter providing a fast paced end to the program. The program provided something for everyone, and the audience enjoyed the opportunity to hear live music presented by two talented musicians.



Jesse Munoz and Mia Laity

Clearwater Chapter

Maj Robert J (Jim) Souders, USAF (Ret)

Clearwater Chapter Installs Newly Elected Board

The Clearwater Chapter MOAA installed its newly elected Board members at the January Luncheon. Newly elected Chapter President, Jeff Doll, BGen USA Ret. Presented a certificate of Appreciation to

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outgoing Chapter President Bob Behm, LTC USA Ret. Additionally, after a long process, the chapter received its registration as a 26 U.S. Code § 501C3 nonprofit organization.



*New Clearwater Chapter President
BG Jeff Doll and Chapter First
Vice President Bill Horn*



*BG Jeff Doll Presents A Certificate Of
Appreciation To Outgoing Chapter
President LTC Bob Behm*



*Outgoing Chapter President, LTC Bob
Behm. with MOAA 50th Anniversary
Affiliate Certificate*

Cape Coral Chapter

Carol Peppers, Newsletter Editor

Our Guest Speaker for February Brian Rist of Storm Smart

Brian Rist is the President & founder of Storm Smart Industries and the inventor of the innovative Storm Catcher Wind Abatement Screens as well as the electronic wind pressure calculator program. Since founding Storm Smart in 1996, Brian has dedicated his energies to customer service, product development, and company growth as well as community relations. Rist is also the founder of Storm Smart’s “We Care” program and most recently Go Energy Smart.

Throughout the years Brian’s efforts have led to many personal awards such as; The CEO of the month News-Press (10/2008), Governors’ Award, Corporate Leadership (2008 & 2010) and Small Business Man of the Year, South Florida District 2010.

Brian’s leadership and encouragement has afforded Storm Smart Industries to win many accolades including; INC 500/5000 fastest growing privately held companies 2006-2009, BEST OF Award from the News-Press 2005-2013 in two categories, and the Horizon Council Special Growth award (2008).

Mr. Rist holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Operations Management, University of Lowell, Lowell, Ma. He is also the author of the “Profiting by Disaster Preparation” program and a featured lecturer on Disaster Preparation and Hurricane Mitigation.

Mr. Rist is also involved with Honor Flight, a program that transports WWII Veterans to Washington D.C., to visit the WWII Memorial.



Our guest speakers for January were Ms. Kelly Palmer, Regional Director for Big Brothers and Big Sisters, representing the Suncoast area, and Ms. Jennifer Bice, coordinator for “Beyond School Walls.”



Officers for 2021-2022
 Marilyn Stout, Treasurer, Jean Van House, Secretary,
 Lt Col Gary Peppers, USAF (Ret) Vice President,
 Col Gary Nolan, USAF (Ret)

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Our December guest speaker was Mr. Michael Giallombardo, Florida State Representative, District 77, representing Cape Coral. President Nolan presented Mr. Giallombardo with one of our speakers' gift.

Kingdom of the Sun Chapter

LTC Arlo Janssen, USA (Ret), Editor of the Sunbeams, KOS/MOAA

The Kingdom of the Sun Chapter held their January 7, 2021 meeting at the Braised Onion in Ocala, Florida. Social distancing was the rule of the day, and many of the KOS members attending the meetings wore masks.

The Call to Order was conducted by the Chapter President, Lt Col Carol Walker, USAF Ret. Our Installation Officer was Wayne Brown, Lt Col USAF, Ret. for the installation ceremony held on January 7, 2021. Wayne is the Mid Central Vice President for the Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) and also a member of our KOS Chapter. Wayne conducted the installation of our elected KOS Officers and KOS Directors in two groups. The following Officers were elected to serve in 2021; President: Lt Col Carol Walker, (Air Force), 1st Vice President: COL Gorham Black, (Army), 2nd Vice President Craig Ham, (Army), Secretary, Lt Col Sharon Murry, (Air Force), Treasurer, Mrs Linda Byrd, (SSM). The following KOS members were elected and have agreed to serve as KOS Directors: CDR Tom Dann, (Coast Guard), Mrs. Barbara LaFleur, (SSM), COL Nick Navetta, (Army), LTC Frank Rasbury, (Army), MAJ Joe Voge, (Army), and Capt Tim Williams, (Marine Corps).

Our KOS Treasurer, Ms Linda Byrd, (SSM), received a special Five-Star award for outstanding service and many years of hard work as Treasurer of our KOS Chapter. Thank you Linda and please "Keep on Serving" our KOS Chapter and MOAA.

The next KOS Chapter meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 2021, at the Braised Onion. The February program is hosted by the Ladies of KOS and it is always a great program.

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The elected KOS Officers receiving the oath of office from Lt Col Wayne Brown, USAF. L-R: Wayne Brown, Carol Walker, Gorham Black, Craig Ham, Linda Byrd, and Sharon Murry.

KOS Chapter Directors at the January 7, 2021, Installation luncheon receiving the oath of office from Lt Col Wayne Brown, USAF. L-R: Wayne Brown, Nick Navetta, Frank Rasbury, Tom Dann, Joe Voge, and Barbara LaFleur



Linda Byrd, SSM, Our KOS Chapter Treasurer receiving a special award from KOS Chapter President Carol Walker for her many years of supporting KOS Chapter functions and activities. L-R: Carol Walker, Linda Byrd.



Central Florida Chapter

CDR Randall Fiebrandt, USCG (Ret), Focus Editor/Communications

The Central Florida Chapter has continued to hold luncheon and dinner meetings since May, in spite of the pandemic. The Holiday Inn Orlando East-UCF has provided us a safe and socially distanced meeting place where we are able to spread out in a large room, food is served by staff and the room is cleaned regularly. We always thank the Holiday Inn staff and management for their continued vigilance to maintain wearing PPE and keeping our members as safe as possible. Heather Winkler, the Sales & Catering Manager, an Army veteran, makes it all happen. Our members will be required to wear masks into 2021 until the “all clear” has been given by the Governor.

We had a great turnout at our December event. Our guest speakers were Karen Connors, the Central Florida Chapter President for the Gary Sinese Foundation and COL Pat Connors, USA (Ret) (yes, they are a couple), the Advent Health Executive Director of Simulation. Santa also came early to those who attended! Carol spoke about the formation of the very first active Chapter of the Gary Sinese Foundation and all the good work they are trying to accomplish. Check it out at <https://www.garysinisefoundation.org/central-florida/>. Pat spoke about his work at Advent Health where he is implementing the simulation & modeling techniques he learned in the Army to teaching doctors and nurses how to treat patients in emergency rooms and in the field.

In January, we installed our Officers for 2021. Thanks to all that serve in this important capacity to keep our Chapter up and running.



(L-R): LTC John Peters, USA, (Ret) (VP); LtCol Al Schroeder, USAF, (Ret) (BoD); MAJ Lorraine Holland, USA (Ret) (Pres); LTC Michael Gillett, USA, (Ret) (Officiating); Mrs. Patricia A. Green, (Sec'y & Surviving Spouse Liaison); LtCol John Thomas, USAF (Ret)(BoD); LTC John Bartholomew, USA (Ret)(BoD); Chaplain LCDR Tom Love, USN (Ret)(BoD)
Not in attendance: CDR Randall Fiebrandt, USCG(Ret)(BoD & Focus Editor)

Military Officers Club of Volusia County

1LT Raymond ("Ray") A. Parker, USA (Ret), First Vice President

Currently, in many schools across Volusia County, formal programs do not exist to bring military veterans into the classroom. Accepting and implementing the *VOLUSIA VETERANS IN CLASSROOMS* (VVIC) program enables faculty and students the opportunity to draw upon the broad and deep personal knowledge, skills, and abilities of veterans to supplement and enhance patriotism.

MOCVC performed an informal needs assessment. The MOCVC First Vice President, who has direct experience with such programs, canvassed local school students, selected faculty, veteran organization members and leaders, and the Volusia County Schools Specialist, 6-12 Social Studies, for current status and candid evaluation of such a program's value and success potential. This preliminary due diligence garnered helpful information, and more importantly, demonstrated keen interest in such a program and the value it can bring. Teaching professionals acknowledged the Florida Statute and indicated that value can be derived from utilizing veterans.

VOLUSIA VETERANS IN CLASSROOMS ("VVIC")

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this proposal is twofold: to introduce the Volusia County School Board, other Volusia school leadership, and school personnel to the value of utilizing Volusia County military veterans in classrooms and; to secure approval of a proposal to utilize military veterans to supplement and enhance student patriotism as presented across schools in Volusia County.

ABSTRACT

What

Local veteran groups seek to provide and coordinate appropriate area military veterans to assist instructional staff in encouraging patriotism by furnishing veterans to speak with students on their military experiences and other Americanism programs, as appropriate.

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Why

Florida Statute for required instruction, 233.061, Section 2 (r), encourages patriotism by engaging the assistance of local military veterans in classrooms on or before Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

Who

At the discretion of Volusia County Schools (VCS) and other Volusia schools, enrolled students in grades 6-12, will participate in the program in conjunction with the respective school curriculum, generally in the realm of social studies/history.

Selected and vetted military veterans from local organizations such as the American Legion, AmVets, Disabled American Veterans, Jewish War Veterans, Marine Corps League, Military Officers Association of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America, and others, will serve as a cadre of veteran presenters.

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For 2021-2022, the Military Officers Club of Volusia County (MOCVC) will plan, organize, implement, and oversee the program through the Volusia County Veterans Council (VCVC) for participating veterans. Volusia County Schools, public and private, in coordination with a Volusia County School District 6-12 Curriculum Specialist, will liaise with the VCVC to implement in-classroom presentations. Throughout planning, the MOCVC First Vice President will coordinate with the VCVC Commander. The MOCVC and VCVC will foster the program with Volusia County Schools via the 6-12 Curriculum Specialist.

Military Veteran Lead: Raymond (“Ray”) A. Parker, First Vice President, Military Officers Club of Volusia County, Florida

Volusia County Schools: Curriculum Specialist, 6-12 Social Studies, Volusia County Schools, DeLand, FL

Where

The Volusia Veterans In Classrooms program is intended for use across educational institutions throughout Volusia County. Presentation is for in-class settings, in-person or virtual. MOCVC and VCVC will coordinate programs through a VCS curriculum specialist.

When

Planning shall commence in late 2020. Implementation may begin with Memorial Day and Veterans Day 2021. Veteran presentations will occur in normally scheduled class sessions. Presentations may be in-person and/or via other means, including videoconference.

St. Petersburg Area Chapter

LTC Pauline Mallory, President, SPAC-MOAA

It was the St Petersburg Area Chapter’s privilege to have LTC Benny Blackshire, USA (Ret), the West Coast Area Vice-President, as our guest speaker and installing officer for the installation of our 2021 Officers. Our photo of the group is quite different from previous years! We were so inspired by LTC

Blackshire’s encouraging words, especially during these pandemic times. He also updated us on 2021 goals and “happenings” at the National and State levels. During that meeting, LTC Blackshire presented The Florida Council of Chapters – MOAA Leadership Awards to LTC Pauline Mallory, USA (Ret) and MAJ John Kieffer, USA (Ret) for Exceptional & Meritorious Service. St Petersburg Area Chapter Awards were presented by Maj Peter Dawson, USAF Ret. Mrs. Pauline Edwards received the Life Member Emeritus Award (the highest honor our Chapter can award) and MAJ Lawrence O’Hara, USA Ret, received the Distinguished Member Award for his efforts to keep our Chapter’s communication lines open during 2020.

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St Petersburg Area Chapter Installation of Officers

LTC Mallory and Major Kieffer receiving FCOC Awards



TAKE THE HELM.

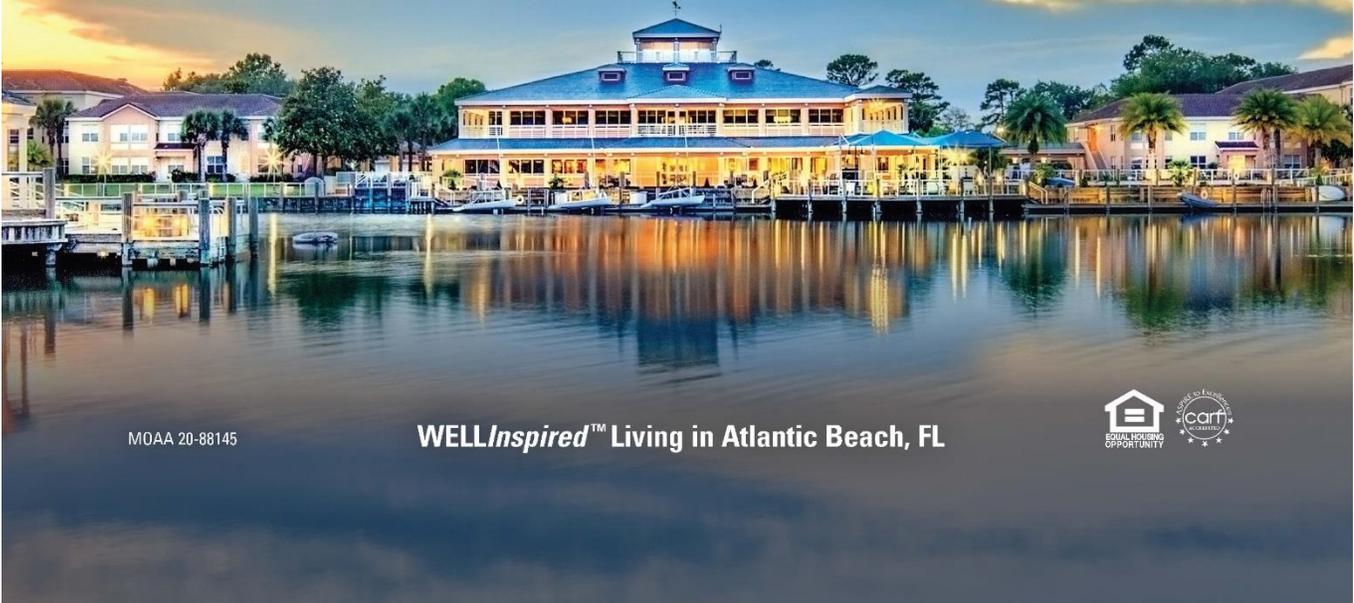
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MOAA
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MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA) FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS (FCOC)

The MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) is comprised of 42 Chapters with nearly 5,000 members and their families. FCOC is one of MOAA's largest Councils. MOAA has a membership of over 380,000 members in all 50 States.

The FCOC's primary communication vehicles are our bi-monthly publication, *The COUNCIL COMMUNIQUÉ* and our Website www.MOAAFL.org Ads run for one year.

The *COMMUNIQUÉ* is distributed electronically to all our chapters, MOAA Headquarters in Virginia, and our influential contacts across the state of Florida.

The *COMMUNIQUÉ* provides a unique forum for businesses to reach a select segment of the population. The membership is patriotic and professional. We encourage your business to reach out to our members by advertising in *The COUNCIL COMMUNIQUÉ*.

In appreciation of Businesses that also support the FCOC Annual Convention with Ads in the Convention Souvenir Program Book within the last year the FCOC offers a discount for the same size Ad shown on the following Order Form.

Thank you!

FCOC

Advertise with Us!

Submitting Articles and Pictures for *The Communiqué*

Articles can be attached to an email. Microsoft Word works best (Ariel 12). You can also type your information into the body of an email where it can be copied and pasted into the newsletter. PDF files can also be used but without photos.

Pictures should have a .jpg extension. If you are sending pictures from your chapter, please include the chapter name and the names of those in the picture. A few words on what the event is about will help interest the readers.

If you have questions about your submission, contact

Randy Fiebrandt
rfebs1953@gmail.com



The Council Communiqué ADVERTISING ORDER FORM



Size of Ad	Per Issue	Annual Placement
QuarterPage (4"Hx3.5"W)	\$ 75	\$ 300 (Save \$150)
Half Page (8" H x 3.5" W) or (4" H x 7.5 W)	\$150	\$ 600 (Save \$300)
Full Page (9.625" x 7.5" W)	\$300	\$1,200 (Save \$600)

Size of Ad: _____ / # of Placements: _____ OR Annual: _____

Notes: Annual is from Jan-Dec; six (6) issues published electronically on the 10th of the even month. Mid-year placement for a recurring annual placement can be at pro-rated annual rate for remaining issues. Copy due dates for 2020 are: the first day of February, April, June, August, October, and December.

(Ad placement in printed Annual Convention Program (June) is handled separately by Convention Committee; POC's listed under Committee Chairs on last page of Communiqué)

Amount: \$_____ (make check out to: Florida Council of Chapters and mail, with this completed ad order form, to: Treasurer - FCoC, P.O. Box 60603, Fort Meyers, Florida 33906

Business Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Business Contact: _____ Email: _____

Tel/Cell #: _____ Fax #: _____

- Submit PDF or jpeg file of ad(s) or ad update via email **with a scanned copy of completed order form** to: vpfcoc@gmail.com
- Ad copy must be submitted by the first of the month of the month of publication; i.e. Feb 1 for the January-February edition. Please notify the Council Vice President in advance if you plan to change the ad copy. Please address questions to Pat Kluever at (540) 775-4955 or at "vpfcoc@gmail.com"

Florida Chapters & Web Sites (if available)

[Ancient City Chapter](#)

St. Augustine
Area: Northeast
[View Website](#)

[Bay County Chapter](#)

PANAMA CITY
Area: Northwest

[Bradenton Chapter](#)

Bradenton
Area: South West
[View Website](#)

[Broward County Chapter](#)

Deerfield Beach
Area: Southeast
[View Website](#)

[Cape Coral Chapter](#)

Cape Coral
Area: South West
[View Website](#)

[Cape Canaveral Chapter](#)

Patrick AFB
Area: East Central
[View Website](#)

[Central Florida Chapter](#)

Orlando
Area: East Central
[View Website](#)

[Charlotte Harbor Chapter](#)

Punta Gorda
Area: South West
[View Website](#)

[Clearwater Chapter](#)

CLEARWATER
Area: West Central
[View Website](#)

[Flagler County Chapter](#)

Palm Coast
Area: Northeast
[View Website](#)

[Florida Gold Coast Chapter](#)

Coral Gables
Area: Southeast

[Florida Keys](#)

Islamorada
Area: Southeast
[View Website](#)

[Gainesville Chapter](#)

Gainesville
Area: Mid Central
[View Website](#)

[Halifax Area Chapter](#)

Daytona Beach
Area: East Central
[View Website](#)

[Imperial Polk County Chapter](#)

Lakeland
Area: Mid Central

[Indian River Chapter](#)

Vero Beach
Area: East Central
[View Website](#)

[KINGDOM OF THE SUN CHAPTER](#)

Ocala
Area: Mid Central
[View Website](#)

[Lake & Sumter Counties Chapter](#)

Lady Lake
Area: Mid Central
[View Website](#)

[LeeCoast Chapter, MOAA](#)

Sanibel Island
Area: South West
[View Website](#)

[Mayport Chapter](#)

Jacksonville
Area: Northeast
[View Website](#)

[Mid-Florida Gulf Coast Chapter](#)

Palm Harbor
Area: West Central
[View Website](#)

[Military Officers Association of Sarasota, Inc.](#)

Sarasota
Area: South West
[View Website](#)

[Military Officers Association of South West Florida](#)

Naples
Area: South West
[View Website](#)

[Military Officers Club of Volusia County](#)

Orange City
Area: East Central
[View Website](#)

[MOAA of Citrus County](#)

Lecanto
Area: Mid Central
[View Website](#)

[Nassau County](#)

Fernandina Beach
Area: Northeast
[View Website](#)

[Northeast Florida Chapter](#)

Jacksonville
Area: Northeast
[View Website](#)

Florida Chapters, Continued

Northwest Florida Military Officers Association

Fort Walton Beach
Area: Northwest
[View Website](#)

Pensacola Chapter

Pensacola
Area: Northwest
[View Website](#)

St. Petersburg Area Chapter

St. Petersburg
Area: West Central
[View Website](#)

Sun City Center Chapter

Sun City Center
Area: West Central
[View Website](#)

Tallahassee Chapter

Tallahassee
Area: Northwest
[View Website](#)

West Central Chapter, Inc

Spring Hill
Area: West Central
[View Website](#)

Palm Beach Area Chapter

Boynton Beach
Area: Southeast
[View Website](#)

Santa Rosa Chapter

Milton
Area: Northwest

South Central Florida Chapter

Sebring
Area: South West
[View Website](#)

Suncoast Chapter, MOAA

Port Richey
Area: West Central
[View Website](#)

Tampa Chapter

MacDill AFB
Area: West Central
[View Website](#)

Palm Beach-Martin Counties Chapter

Jupiter
Area: Southeast
[View Website](#)

St. John's River Valley Chapter

Palatka
Area: Mid Central

South Dade Chapter

Princeton
Area: South East

Suwannee River Valley Chapter

Lake City
Area: Northeast
[View Website](#)

Treasure Coast Chapter

Fort Pierce
Area: East Central
[View Website](#)

Now and Always
We'll be There.



MOAA
Insurance Plans

1-800-247-2192
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Florida Council of Chapters

Military Officers Association of America



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The
Communiqué
is on the web:
<http://moaafi.org/>

The ***Council Communiqué*** is the newsletter of the Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC), Military Officers Association of America, and is published bimonthly: February, April, June, August, October, and December. MOAA, it's Councils and Chapters are non-partisan organizations. The Communiqué is intended for wide distribution within the FCOC including Chapter Leaders and all Chapter Members in Florida.

A current issue of ***The Council Communiqué*** can be found at the Florida Council of Chapters Web Site: <http://www.moaafi.org/>, drop down menu Events/News. Opinions expressed by writers are their own, and may not express the positions of FCOC or the MOAA.