

THE SARASOTA BREEZE



THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF SARASOTA, INC

An Affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America MOAA and The Florida Council of Chapters

Vol. XXVII No. 8

MOAA 4-Star Chapter 2003 & 2008; MOAA 5 Star Chapter 2004-2007 & 2009-2015
Best Newsletter 2007 & 2010; Runner Up 2008, 2009, 2012 - 2014; 5 Star Newsletter 2015

August 2016

JULY PROGRAM: *Lee Dougherty-Ross and Jason Stearns*

by Perry Korszen

Lee Dougherty-Ross and Jason Stearns gave an amazing performance for the membership at this July's luncheon. Jason's powerful vocals were accompanied by Lee's skillful piano performance. They opened with "This is My Country," followed by the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," and the spiritual "Deep River." They continued their performance with "You're a Grand Old Flag" and rolled right into a number of classics including "Old man River" and songs from "Man of La Mancha." Jason also shared interesting stories from his 21 years as a soloist in the U.S. Army Band; and Lee informed the membership about the local Artist Series Concerts she started with her husband in 1996. After closing with "God Bless the USA," the membership gave them a much-deserved standing ovation.



Ms. Dougherty-Ross graduated from Eastman School of Music with Distinction and with a double major in piano and voice. Following a year of studying and performing in Germany on a Fulbright Scholarship, she returned to the states and performed at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, the Broadway stage in New York, Queen Elizabeth Hall in London and the Kennedy White house.



Baritone Jason Stearns hails from Washington, D.C. and has enjoyed a wide-ranging career, singing operatic leading roles at the Metropolitan Opera and many other U.S. opera houses, such as Chicago Lyric, Washington Opera and Los Angeles Opera. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music in Rochester,

NY, Jason and his beautiful wife, Suzanne, have travelled the world on the Royal Viking Line Cruise ships entertaining travelers all over the world. A Grammy Award winner in 1996, he was baritone soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra in John Corigliano's First Symphony, "Of Rage and Remembrance". Together with Lee Dougherty-Ross, Jason sings in many programs of the Artist Series Concerts for various audiences in the Sarasota area. He will return to the Metropolitan Opera next year as Baron Douphol in Verdi's opera, "La Traviata."

AUGUST PROGRAM: *Lyndon Smith: New Dimensions in Residential Fire Safety*

by Perry Korszen

Our guest speaker for the August luncheon is Lyndon W. Smith, who will be presenting a description of the new essentials of fire readiness. He will cover many surprising topics including the reason why crouching is better than crawling when escaping a fire, why newer homes provide less time to escape fires, and why asphyxiation is more fatal than smoke inhalation and the difference between the two.

Mr. Smith introduced this educational program for seniors in 1983, and he and his staff of retired fire chiefs and fire marshals have kept the program current in accordance with changes in public standards and fire detection technology. His advisory staff over the years has included the retired Chiefs of the Atlanta GA and Columbia SC Bureaus of Fire Prevention, the Charlotte NC Fire Chief, the retired State Fire Marshals of Georgia and Florida, the Member Emeritus of the Code Committee of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and others. Mr. Smith has presented the findings of his group to various MOAA chapters in the Southeastern United States.

Lyndon Smith is a former US Army National Guard officer and a graduate of Yale University. He is also the retired President of the Senior Carolina Fire Advisory Company and has over thirty years of experience in residential fire safety.

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Receive the Breeze in color via email or view it on our website www.sarasotamoaa.com or blog <http://sarasotamoaa.us>

Military Officers Association of Sarasota (MOAS) Mission

MOAS, a non-profit 501c(19) organization, exists to improve the awareness, life style, and overall environment of its members; support and serve the citizens of the Sarasota area; 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 community.

Chapter Officers, Directors and Committees

Board of Directors

President	George Tracy	907-9865
1st Vice President (Membership)	Brian McCarthy	323-1562
2nd Vice President	Perry Korszen	907-3732
Treasurer	Christa Friedlander	927-0996
Secretary	George Tracy	907-9865
Director (Scholarships)	Claire M. Power	921-1931
Director (Publicity)	Alan Forrester	504-5759
Past President	John O'Brien	907-8891

Board Staff

Program Planning	Perry Korszen	907-3732
Chaplain	Charles Caudill	751-3810
Legislative Affairs	Len Friedlander	927-0996
	Tony Mowry	480-0333
SCVeterans Commission	Patricia McLain	371-0883
Veterans Task Force	Tom Piazza	761-1278
Historian	George Tracy	907-9865
Awards Board	Jonathan Gordon	923-2302

Membership Committee

Chairperson	Brian McCarthy	323-1562
Recruiting & Retention	Troy Scott	379-3023
Recruiting & Retention	Perry Korszen	907-3732

Scholarship Committee

Chairperson	Claire M. Power	921-1931
Member	Kay Tracy	907-9865
Member	Carol O'Brien	907-8891
Member	Mike Staley	752-4086
Member	Jean Southworth	922-5081
Member	Len Friedlander	927-0996
JROTC Liaison	Tony Mowry	(907) 888-8355

Scheduled Events Committee

Chair/Reservations	Elke Scott	379-3023
Greeters	John & Carol O'Brien	907-8891
Reception Manager	Pat McLain	371-0883
Asst. Reception Manager	June Moore	388-3118
50-50 Managers	Kay Tracy	907-9865
	Christa Friedlander	927-0996

Special Programs

Flag Programs & Celebrations	Tom Piazza	761-1278
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Personal Affairs Committee

Chairperson	Charles Caudill	751-3810
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Auxiliary/Surviving Spouses

Chairperson	Peggy Mock	356-3584
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Social Club YAHOO (Young At Heart Officers Org)

Manager	John O'Brien	obrienjc.67@gmail.com	907-8891
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Support Our Troops Program

Program Chairpersons	John & Carol O'Brien	907-8891
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

George Tracy

As we cross the threshold of mid-year 2016, I must advise you, as your MOAS President, that **we need more MOAS Volunteers** to accomplish our MOAA grassroots mission here in Sarasota, **including:**

- **2017 Chapter Officers** (Secretary, 2nd VP)
- **Committee Chairs/Members** (Membership, Programs, Outreach, Funding)
- **Staff Support** (Luncheons, YAHOO, SOT, Vets Commission Liaison)

Throw your hat in the ring or join my **MOAS Nominating Committee** to help me build the MOAS team that we need to serve you!!
Contact Me!!(gtracysr@hotmail.com, 907-9865)

Once again, I want to thank the dedicated and talented members of the Scholarship Committee for the long hours of work that went into the 2016 Scholarship selection process. The Committee includes the Chair, Claire Power, along with Len Friedlander, Mary Gordon, Carol O'Brien, Jean Southworth, Mike Staley and Kay Tracy. Well Done!

As a Giving Partner of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, we are, once again, preparing to participate in the **Giving Challenge from noon-to-noon on 20-21 September**. We will be sending out more on this as the date approaches.

Reminder: Be Alert! Be Aware!! Be Security Sensitive!! Too many of our members are getting hacked!! So this note bears repeating here, since this is one of the ways that the bad guys can get access to your contact lists and do their mischief or damage to you and to others. Make it a point to **change your passwords** and follow these other recommended steps to protect yourself at <https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/tips>.

MOAA Mission Alert: Stop Defense Bill Personnel/ Compensation Cuts!! Military people have a lot to lose as House and Senate negotiators meet to resolve big differences in their respective defense bill drafts. **What's at stake:**

- **Dramatic retiree health care fee increases**
- **Huge erosions to housing allowances**
- **Another pay raise cutback**
- **More force-level cuts**

This legislative action depends heavily on grassroots support, **so please send your legislator a MOAA-suggested message today!** - at <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=73090626>. Your letter awaits your signature!! This simple, free, quick and effective action, is open to all citizens, Veteran and non-Veteran! **Just Do It!!**

Thanks to all of you, who attended our July monthly luncheon and to our Luncheon Support Team for their always-outstanding job. And, of course, we are most grateful to our phenomenal performers, **Baritone, Jason Stearns, and Pianist, Lee Dougherty-Ross**, for putting us all on center stage at the MET, captivating us with the joy and charm of their remarkable musical gifts!!

Finally, please make it a point to go out to our web site, <http://www.sarasotamoaa.com/> and set up your member account.

Remember and live by our MOAA mantras
"Never Stop Serving!" and **"Take Action!"**



SECRETARY'S CORNER

George Tracy

President George Tracy called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM on Tuesday, July 5, 2016 at the Meadows Community Center.

ATTENDANCE: *Board Members Present:* George Tracy (Pres & Sec'y); Brian McCarthy (1VP); Christa Friedlander (Treas); Alan Forester (Dir); John O'Brien (PP). *Board Members Absent:* Perry Korszen (2VP); Claire Power (Dir); *Committee Chairs & Visitors Present:* Pat McLain, Peggy Mock, Len Friedlander, & Howard Crowell.

BOARD MEETINGS AND LUNCHEONS

MONTH	BOARD	LUNCHEON
AUGUST	1	19
SEPTEMBER	6 (Tues)	16
OCTOBER	3	21

PRESIDENTS REPORT: First, another word of meritorious recognition for the determined, outstanding leadership of Tom Piazza, so ably supported by Brian McCarthy and POPS President Jack Barnett, and the many volunteers and sponsors, whom they recruited, motivated and organized to make the 12 June Patriot Plaza Flag Day event, "YOU'RE A GRAND OLD FLAG", so successful, in spite of the threat of rain and the numerous other challenges that they faced and overcame. This impressive accomplishment bodes well for our MOAS outreach effort through future such collaborative Stars & Stripes events, especially the upcoming Veterans Day series in November! Many Thanks to all!

Welcomed our former MOAS President and Sarasota Military Academy COB, Howard Crowell, to explore with us how MOAS might enhance its relationship with the SMA Corps of Cadets and vice-versa! The MOAS Board noted that Howard's initiative highlighted other possibilities for SMA and other local JROTC units to participate in MOAS events. Possibilities including: MOAS Luncheons, SOT Memorial/Veteran Day parade support, Flag Day & Veterans Day event support, Flag Initiative teamwork, etc.

While we have not yet identified a speaker for our MOAA Multi-Chapter Luncheon, 16 September Luncheon, I have engaged our FCOC President, Marc Oliveri and his team to assist. I expect to hear their recommendations later this week.

I am polling our MOAS Board, Staff and Committee to determine who can continue MOAS service in 2017. Please let me know your intentions in this regard for next year!! Thanks for your continued support!!

Recruit! Recruit! Recruit!!

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The June 6, 2016 Board meeting minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer reported the following balances as of June 30, 2016 and the report was approved unanimously.

MOAS Operating Account		\$29,922.89
Operating Fund	\$ 27,344.06	
LoV Flag initiative	\$ 2,578.63	
Scholarship Fund Account		\$26,095.15
Undesignated Scholarship Fund	\$19,721.85	
JROTC/Merit Scholarships	\$ 0.00	
2016 Schmidt Scholarships (Merit/Vet)	\$ 0.00	
Veterans Scholarships	\$ 1,000.00	
Academic Olympics	\$ 0.00	

JROTC Support	\$ 1,000.00
Outstanding Cadet	\$ 0.00
SOT Fund	\$ 4,373.30

OLD BUSINESS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Scheduled Events (Elke Scott): The June 17, 2016 Luncheon attendance was 119, with a profit of \$59.50; the 50/50 contribution was \$68 and prize donation \$36 for a total of \$104.

Newsletter: (Len Friedlander): The Breeze Newsletter for July 2016 was sent via email and postal to the MOAS Mailing list on schedule. The 2016 Directory cost of \$865.50 was offset by advertising revenues.

Publicity & Marketing: (Alan Forrester): We have had three articles published by the Herald Tribune and others. A recent H-T issue had three photos that took up one third of the page about the Flag Day celebration at Patriot Plaza on the front page of the Gulf Coast Section. MOAS was prominently featured in the article monthly Press Release.

Programs: (Perry Korszen): We are booked to the end of the year with the exception of September, which is in process.

	LUNCHEON PROGRAMS
JULY	Lee Dougherty Ross & Jason Stearns
AUGUST	Lyndon Smith - Residential Fire Safety
SEPTEMBER	Joint Southwest Area Chapter Luncheon

Membership (Brian McCarthy): I have a MOAS Chapter prospect mailing list of 114 MOAA Life and 92 MOAA Active members for an invitation to join our chapter. The mailing will consist of a "Welcome" letter and an application sent via postal mail. It was recommended that we start preparing for the 2017 renewal campaign in Sep. for an Oct. 1st launch and a Nov. 15th follow-up.

MOAS	2015	1/1/2016	6/30/2016
REGULAR	278	278	256
SURVIVING SPOUSES	74	74	67
ALLIED	4	4	4
TOTAL	356	356	327

Support Our Troops (John O'Brien): We were able to follow up a great Memorial Day performance with 125 boxes being passed out at the Flag Day event. We are adjusting and updating the content of the SOT web page, to ensure its currency and remove any outdated information. Note John O'Brien's new email address: obrienjc.67@gmail.com. The old SOT web site, <http://supportourtroopsmoas.com/> ceased operations last month, replaced by our new web site at <http://www.sarasotamoaa.com/support-us>, containing essentially the same content.

YAHOO (John O'Brien): A YAHOO beach party is planned by Brian and Valerie McCarthy for Wed, Aug 3rd. A YAHOO Oktoberfest sponsored by the Friedlanders is scheduled for Sunday, Sep 25.

Auxiliary/Surviving Spouse: (Peggy Mock): Peggy is meeting with former MOAS Auxiliary Liaison, Barbara Hamilton, next week to review past programs and events for surviving spouses. She plans to schedule a surviving spouse recognition day at an upcoming luncheon and is preparing an outreach message to all surviving spouses for the newsletter.

Continued on Page 9



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Len Friedlander

Commission Proposes Vet Care Changes

After 10 months of intense deliberations, public meetings, testimony, and extensive inputs from a range of experts, including MOAA, the federally directed Commission on Care issued its final report on transforming veterans' health care.

After reports of secret waiting lists at the VA medical center in Phoenix, Arizona, MOAA urged President Obama to establish an independent commission to look at how best to organize and deliver health care in the VA Health Administration (VHA) in the 21st century. This subsequently led to the passage of the Veterans' Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 and the establishment of the Commission on Care.

VA Secretary Bob McDonald, MOAA, and other veteran organizations are pleased the report focuses on reforming and enhancing the specialized and integrated aspects of the VHA, rather than privatizing or dismantling a system so many veterans rely on. Many of the recommendations are in line with McDonald's MyVA transformation efforts currently underway and supported by veterans organizations.

The report cited the quality of VA health care as comparable to, or better than the care in the private sector, though it varies greatly from facility to facility. The report identified a number of deficiencies requiring urgent reform, including staffing, facilities, information systems, health care disparities, and procurement.

Some of the report's recommendations include:

- establishing high-performing, integrated community-based health care networks;
- credentialing community providers to ensure appropriate education, training, and experience;
- allowing veterans to choose primary care providers and/or specialty care providers in the VHA care system;
- retaining existing VA specialty care resources and expertise in fields like spinal cord injury, blind rehabilitation, mental health care, and prosthetics;
- ensuring coordination of care and providing support for veterans;
- improving data collection and management;
- establishing a leadership succession strategy and management system, applying best private sector practices; and
- establishing an expert body to develop recommendations for VA care eligibility and benefit design and simplified eligibility criteria.

The commission strongly recommended the development of a new governance model and an extended term of office for the leader of the VHA care system, believing leadership continuity is essential for real reform to take hold. It also proposed a governing board of directors charged with developing a national strategy for creating the new system, held accountable to the president for oversight and sustaining continuous transformation.

Commissioners said the VA can transform with the

right structure and strategies in place, but it can't do it on its own. It will require the full commitment and support of all stakeholders, most of all the White House and Congress.

"The release of the VA Commission on Care report is a culmination of 10 months of hard work by some of the top authorities in the field. While much more remains to be done, we appreciate the Commission's sincere effort to strike a balance of sustaining and improving VA care delivery while enhancing civilian care opportunities. MOAA is grateful for their selfless dedication in producing this thoughtful and thorough report," said *MOAA President and CEO, Lt Gen Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret)*.

"Along with our veteran service organization partners, we look forward to working with the president and Congress to translate the Commission's recommendations into effective action," Atkins continued. "In the meantime, we urge Congress to pass the VA Secretary's Consolidation of Care in the Community plan and the Veterans First Act (S. 2921) to help ensure our nation's veterans receive the care they need and deserve today and in the future."

It's now up to the president and Congress to make transformation a reality.

House Votes to Bar Female Draft

The Republican-led House backed a measure on July 7th that seeks to bar women from being required to register for a potential military draft. By a vote of 217 to 203, lawmakers approved an amendment that would block the Selective Service System from using any money to alter draft registration requirements that currently apply only to men.

The amendment, sponsored by Rep. Warren Davidson (R-OH) was added to a financial services spending bill. He said much more study is necessary before such a significant, if largely symbolic, change to the draft is made. Davidson said delaying the requirement gives lawmakers time "to talk with our families, talk with young women, and then take a more considered action." The U.S. has not had a military draft since 1973, in the waning years of the Vietnam War era, and the odds for another wide-scale draft are remote. Still, the draft registration requirement remains for men, and many lawmakers believe women should be included.

The House vote comes just a few weeks after the Senate passed an annual defense policy bill that mandates for the first time in history that young women sign up for a draft. That measure calls for women to sign up with the Selective Service within 30 days of turning 18, beginning in January 2018. The push in the Senate to lift the exclusion was triggered by the Pentagon's decision late last year to open all front-line combat jobs to women. After gender restrictions to military service were erased, the top uniformed officers in each of the military branches expressed support during congressional testimony for requiring women to register. At the same time, they said the all-volunteer force is working and they didn't want a return to conscription.

The House didn't include a similar provision in its version of the annual defense policy bill. Instead there's a measure to study whether the Selective Service is even needed at a time when the armed forces get plenty of qualified volunteers, making the possibility of a draft remote. On July 6th the House rejected an amendment to put the Selective Service System out of business by denying the agency's \$23 million annual budget. Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR), who drafted the amendment, said the Selective Service is obsolete and archaic. But other lawmakers pushed back.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Charles Caudill

The Miracle of Faith

My life as a Chaplain has afforded me untold opportunities to spread God's message: *"to love God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might."* Rarely, have I received God's message from someone else, including a lot of ministers, until last week.

Recently, I found two new landscapers to trim my palms. Their first day was bright, sunny and 90 plus degrees. I felt compassion for them working out in the heat so I took them a large pitcher of water. While they took a break I asked about them and shared that I was a retired military Chaplain. One of them opened up to me and said he had experienced a hard life; and, due to his new found faith he has been freed from alcoholism and drug abuse for the last six years.

He said he would like to share a poem he had written; then he looked at me with piercing brown eyes and quoted the following:

Remember in Your Heart

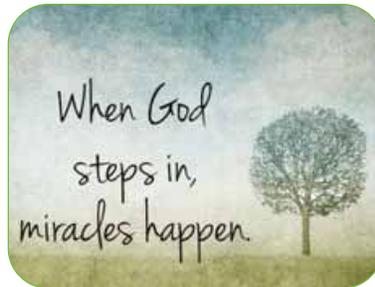
*Do you understand the way you feel
about the life you live?*

*Believe you must now change your life.
In God's name I believe you will.*

*You think about the hurt and pain
you lived for many years.*

*You think about the sadness
and the shame you had to feel.*

*It's time to let what happened
in the years that have passed by,
To let go and to remember
at the least that you must try.*



*So think about the future
and the way you wish to live.
Think about your happiness
and the love you have to give.*

*Remember that you are someone
to the Lord who loves you.
Remember trust and faith in life
will surely see you through.*

*And always walk with your head held high
Be proud of who you are.
For God did make you for a reason
Because he truly loves you.*

- Fidel Armendarez

After he recited the poem he told me his story. He was adopted when he was a baby and his adoptive father very seldom spoke to him. At Christmas the other children always received new gifts and he was given leftover clothes and old toys.

He left home, and at nineteen started drinking heavily, using drugs and living on the streets; which he did for 20 years. One day he finally awakened and knew he could make a better life for himself. He told me, *"With God's help I could beat my problems."* Now he has a place to live and a full time job with a business that does, landscaping, carpentry and painting. He inspired me. He reflects joy, peace and dignity even in the hardest working conditions.

Once again, the lesson of loving and not judging has been placed in front of me. My father often brought homeless people to our house to eat supper with us. In the winter he would come home without his overcoat because he gave it to someone in the streets. Times are different now, but we can still reach out to those less fortunate.

I hope we at MOAS will be reminded to love and not judge.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

(l-r) Kay Tracy,
Carol Lanza,
Janice Sladzinski,
Frank Klauser,
Thea Phillips,
Russ Wiltshire,
Howard Gollnick

July Luncheon Photos



Len Gumley & Frances Robinson



New Members Carl & Carol Lanza



Barbara Hamilton (l) & Jayne Blair



Carol O'Brien (l) & Helen Jonah



Jinny & Ralph Scheffert



President George Tracy (r) and Jason & Suzanne Stearns



(l-r) Christa Friedlander & Kay Tracy sell 50/50 raffle tickets to Sylvia Barber



New member Margaret Romanes



Craig & Beth Hullinger flank Brian McCarthy



Carole & Jere Berkey



John & Carol O'Brien



(l-r) Janice Sladzinski, Frank Klauser & Lee Daugherty-Ross



Doris Grow & Sylvan Tanner



(l-r) Vic Reiling, Russ Wiltshire & George Tracy



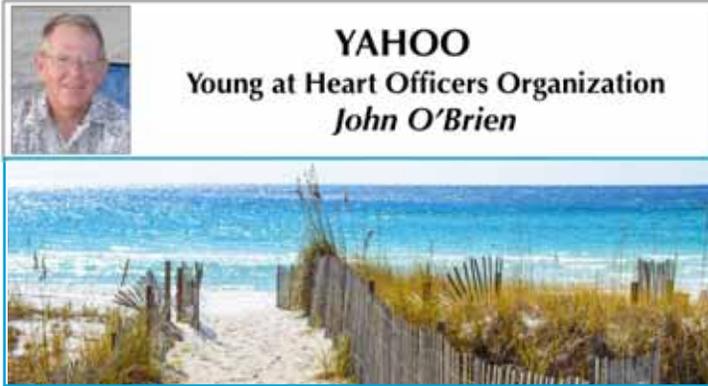
WWII Vet Bill Schlapfer



New members Bill & Barb Lawyer



Joe Cyr & Marion June-Cyr



Sunday September 25th @ 5:00PM
Oktoberfest @ The Friedlanders
(Limited to 36 guests)

Join the Yahoos for the 2016 Oktoberfest!! Christa and Len Friedlander, will host this year's Oktoberfest, and invite you to join the Yahoos for an evening of German food, beer, and wine on Sunday, September 25th.

We will meet at 5:00 PM at 8221 Deerbrook Circle in Turtle Rock. (Please use the Turtle Rock North Gate on Palmer Ranch Parkway.)

Due to space limitations, the Friedlanders have set a limit of 36 guests (first call, first served). Please RSVP to Christa at 927-0996 no later than September 10th.

Contributions of appetizers or desserts will be are welcome.

MOAS "No-Plan" Beach Party Siesta Key Beach
Wednesday August 3, @ 6:30 p.m.

Join the YAHOO crew to celebrate the reason we all live here!

We are gathering on the north end of Siesta Beach Park to watch the sunset at 8:16 p.m. This is a spontaneous event – **no plan whatsoever!** Pack your favorite picnic basket, bring your favorite beverage and don't forget a chair or two.

No need to RSVP – just show up.

The McCarthy's will have an American flag to mark the gathering spot. We will be on station at 1830 hrs. Be sure and arrive in plenty of time to socialize.

Remember - no glass containers on the beach!

For Your Information (FYI)

YOUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY

MOAA recently (first week in July) asked you about your top priority among the current legislative proposals to:

- Reduce the 2017 military pay raise for a fourth consecutive year
- Impose big Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) cuts for service-members
- Raise TRICARE enrollment fees
- Raise TRICARE deductibles
- Increase pharmacy copays
- Allow variable pricing in commissaries

About 6,000 of you responded, and here's your reported #1 priority.

#1 Retiree Concern:

- Force Cuts 24%
- Rx Copay Hikes 24%
- Pay Raise Cap 22%

#1 Active Duty Concern:

- Pay Raise Cap 23%
- BAH Cut 21%
- Force Cuts 16%

Our take-aways from these results:

All of these issues are important, and it's difficult to choose among them; and Retired members still care deeply about what's happening to today's troops.

We also asked you to rate your level of concern on each issue on a 5-point scale from "not at all concerned" to "very concerned". Here's what you said you're "very concerned" about:

Retirees:

- Force Cuts 72%
- Rx Copays 69%
- Pay Raise Cap 62%
- Deductibles 50%
- Enrollment Fee 47%
- Commissary 31%
- BAH Cut 28%

Active Duty:

- BAH Cut 64%
- Pay Raise Cap 61%
- Deductibles 51%
- Enrollment Fee 46%
- Force Cuts 44%
- Rx Copays 37%
- Commissary 17%



SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

John O'Brien

This past month we have been working with Steve Thomas who is Material Manager for Sarasota County Government. Steve is a retired US Army Captain and a member of the national MOAA organization who served during Desert Storm. While deployed overseas, Mr. Thomas said care packages helped while serving in Desert Storm. "This was chance to give back care packages to our troops with some of the comforts of home and remind our soldiers they're not alone," Mr. Thomas said. A Sarasota Herald newspaper article described Mr. Thomas and the Sarasota County government employees' efforts to support our troops.

Jim & Joyce Hesson attended their neighbor's (Lillian & Glenn Ridgeway) annual July 4th celebration in Heritage Oaks where the hosts asked all attendees to either write a check or pack a box for the troops. Donations varied from \$10-\$100, and a total of \$1,125 was raised for the MOAS Support Our Troops program. In addition, about a dozen residents took a box home to fill with goodies and send to our troops serving in Afghanistan in harm's way.

We recently received a thank you note from CSM Gary Sanders with the unit we are supporting that reads as follows:

"From the Soldiers of Task Force Comanche we all thank you for your support. I have many young Soldiers that this is their first time deployed and your gifts are priceless. Just knowing that we have people like you and your organization thinking of us means more than you may know, and for that you are the true Heroes."



Please pick up a box, with all the mailing instructions and labels, at the next luncheon; or pick up a box at your nearest Post Office and get the instructions and unit addresses on our chapter website.

<http://www.sarasotamoaa.com/support-us>

Secretary's Corner - continued from Page 3

Flag Initiative: (Tom Piazza): Brian McCarthy reported on the very successful Flag Day event in spite of the rain. Flag Day and the upcoming Veterans Day series, 13-14 Nov. The ongoing effort to attract donors and sponsors continues. Two Flag Day videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kY8HFtQL6FI> - News Short

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nV1NBXbbfno> - The Complete Event

Tom Piazza reported "You're a Grand Old Flag" went very well. All objectives were accomplished, extending his thanks and congratulations to all those involved. While well attended, late afternoon rain discouraged many who had originally planned to attend; even so, audience was estimated to be close to 2000. Fund raising leading up to the event resulted in contributions and gifts in kind totaling \$20,907.00; expenses amounted to \$15,522. When gifts in kind are subtracted from total raised, total cash contributions minus costs shows a negative balance of \$122.00. While this is disappointing, it accurately reflects the reality of conducting ceremonies at Patriot Plaza.

Work continues for "A Tribute to America's Veterans" scheduled for November 2016, and will intensify as we move into September. The American Flag Protocol Initiative relies on SMA cadet support for Lesson 10 at four elementary schools during the academic year (Fruitville, Lakeview, Tatum Ridge, and Oak Park). Degree of support is dependent on elementary teachers finding the time to teach the first nine lessons. To date, only one school has requested support. I'm planning to meet with Sarasota County School officials later this summer to determine reasons for non-participation.

NEW BUSINESS:

SMA Discussion: LTG Crowell discussed the 14-year history of the school and how it has grown to over 1,000 students with a graduation rate and college admittance rate second only to Pineview HS. Many of their students are dependent on the Food Bank on weekends just to eat. SMA is a charter school and does not charge tuition. Uniforms are required for all students, which are provided at the HS level. LTG Crowell was thanked for his initiative in contacting MOAS and on his presentation to the Board. The Board approved the initiation of a strategic relationship with the SMA. The first step will be to invite up to 7 students to seven upcoming luncheons in the following months: September, October, November, January, February, March and April. MOAS will use its best efforts to solicit funds from members to pay for the students' luncheons. **"Take A Cadet to Lunch"** was a proposed marketing theme. Estimated luncheon cost \$1,000 for the year. To start the program the students will sit at their own table. In addition, other relationship initiatives were discussed. Possible MOAS student endorsements, Drum Line performances, logistics support for Stars & Strips Foundation performances. Alan Forrester volunteered to publicize the relationship and requested the school to prepare a one page (200- 300 word) story that can be released through our media channels within 2 - 3 days of the luncheon or event. Another possibility for media exposure is capitalizing on the Flag Initiative already in place.

Stars & Stripes Foundation: In Sep. we will start preparing for the three Veteran's Day performances with the Pops Orchestra of Bradenton and Sarasota. Sponsors are being recruited for the Veteran's Day performances. Brian McCarthy mentioned that ticket sales are critical to the yearend financial results and suggest that members purchase tickets as early as possible. Planning a Luncheon/Reception on Nov. 13 or 14 for Veterans Day sponsors/VIPs/politicos at Michael's On East to forum on Veterans issues and answers as part of the Veterans Day events series. I appreciate your suggestions as to a proposed agenda.

NEXT MEETING: Meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM. The next Board Meeting is scheduled for 4:00PM on Monday August 1, 2016 at



MEMBERSHIP ACTIONS

Brian McCarthy

We are now into the throes of summer and the temperatures are climbing. I hope you will join Valerie and me and the rest of the YAHOO crew at **Siesta Beach Wednesday August 3rd @ 6:30 pm**. One of the



benefits of being member of our Chapter is participating in our events. Help us celebrate the reason we all live here! We are gathering on the north end of Siesta Beach Park to watch the sunset at 2016 (8:16 pm). This is a spontaneous event – no plan whatsoever! Pack up your favorite picnic basket,

bring your favorite beverage and don't forget a chair or two. No need to RSVP – just show up. The McCarthy's will have an American flag to mark the gathering spot. We will be on station at 1830. Be sure and arrive in plenty of time to socialize.

Please be on the lookout for new chapter members from any of our sister services. Recruiting keeps our membership ranks full and our coffers replenished. Invite them to attend one of our **"Meet & Greet" Happy Hours** in Sarasota on the 2nd Friday of the month (see the notice on page 11).



Plans are underway for **Veterans Day** already. Three performances are being planned, two at Riverview Performing Arts Center and one at the Neel Performing Arts Center. If you would like to volunteer your time - please let me know (bnmccarthy@gmail.com). If you haven't already contributed to the Stars & Stripes Foundation, please do. All contributions are gratefully received and acknowledged. If you wish to support this effort, please go to the web site at www.StarsAndStripesCelebration.com and make a donation. Donation brochures are always available at our monthly luncheons.

The Romans thought of themselves as the chosen people, yet they built the greatest army on Earth by recruiting warriors from any background.

Amy Chua

Fair winds and following seas!

Receive the Breeze in color via email or view it on our website www.sarasotamoaa.com or blog <http://sarasotamoaa.us>

Taps

*Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to
the family & friends of
Rolland V. Heiser, LTG, USA (Ret)
Vera C. Condon, ENS, USN
Hope Hertz*

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

New Member

Fajardo, Mario E. (Lynn) CAPT, USPHS
6147 Belina Court
Sarasota, FL 34238
(941) 953-1580 fajma48@gmail.com

Romanes, Margaret A.
671 Emerald Harbor Drive
Longboat Key, FL 34228
(941) 383-6845 maggielon@comcast.net

Directory Changes/Addition

Calhoun, John S. (Charlotte) CDR, USCG
imsudduth@me.com

Fivelson, Bert (Marcia Frankel), CPT, USA
7131 Prestwick Court
University Park, FL 34201
(941) 702-8853 bfivelson@comcast.net

2017 Florida Council of Chapters

Convention at Sea

April 23–30 2017

7 Night Western Caribbean Cruise

Roundtrip Port Canaveral

Royal Caribbean's OASIS OF THE SEAS

hosted by

Cape Canaveral Chapter

For additional information or to reserve a cabin

<http://www.moaafl.org/Convention/Default.aspx>

or call: Cruise Holidays (866) 291-1442

**MOAS Luncheon
Friday, August 19, 2016
Michael's On East**



MENU

SERVED LUNCHEON

Tossed "Cuban Style" Salad with Romaine, Green Olives, Grape Tomatoes, Swiss, Parmesan & Garlic Oregano Dressing

Signature Bread Basket

ENTREE

*Honey, Cracked Mustard & Fennel Glazed Salmon
Mango Jasmine Rice with Oven Roasted Asparagus & Baby Red Pepper*

SERVED DESSERT

*Chocolate Dacquoise
Layers of Rich Chocolate Mousse, Hazelnut Meringue and Cake, Covered in Ganache*

Served Coffee, Decaf & Tea

MOAS LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

For 8/19/2016 at 11:30 AM

Michael's On East

DRESS: Casual

Please reserve _____ places for the Luncheon
A check for \$ _____ is enclosed based on **\$27.00**
for each person attending (Tax & Tip included).

NAME, RANK, & PHONE # of Requesting Member.

Please print names of additional persons attending.
(Use an extra sheet of paper if necessary)

New or First Time Attending Member _____

Is this your birthday month? _____

Is this your spouse's birthday month? _____

Please return the above form with check made out to

MOAS

Mail to:

Elke Scott

**841 Forestview Court
Sarasota FL 34232-2455
Elke's Phone # 379-3023**

NOTICE:

We must provide the restaurant with an exact number of reservations at least 48 hours in advance of event. No additional requests or refunds will be honored after that time.

Requests for menu changes due to dietary restrictions should be provided at the time of reservation. Please do not contact Michael's on East directly. Thank you.



**MEET & GREET
Friday, August 12th, 5:00pm - 7:00pm**

Sarasota MOAA has a monthly
Happy Hour/Meet & Greet/Officer's Call
on the

second Friday of each month from 5pm to 7pm

Our Happy Hour re-creates the camaraderie we enjoyed at the O' Club back when we were on active duty. We'll have a few drinks and swap some stories. Members and prospective members can get to know each other in an informal setting.

We hope you can make the next Meet & Greet

**at the Sarasota Vineyard
downtown Sarasota at 1528 Main Street
between Lemon Ave & Orange Ave**

*Save The Date
January 27 & 28 2017*

*Florida Council of Chapters
Leadership Forum*

and

*MOAA Council and Chapter
Leadership Training*

at the

Rosen Hotel, Orlando, Florida



Calendar



August - September 2016

DATE	EVENT	TIME
Aug 1, Monday	MOAS Board Meeting - Meadows Community Center	4:00 p.m.
Aug 3, Wednesday	YAHOO: "No-Plan" Siesta Key Beach Party - Details Page 8	6:30 p.m.
Aug 12, Friday	Meet & Greet - Sarasota Vineyard - Details Page 11	5:00 p.m.
Aug 19, Friday	Luncheon - Michaels on East - Lyndon Smith - Fire Safety 	11:30 a.m.
Sep 5, Monday	<i>LABOR DAY</i>	
Sep 6, Tuesday	MOAS Board Meeting - Meadows Community Center	4:00 p.m.
Sep 9, Friday	Meet & Greet - Sarasota Vineyard - Details Page 11	5:00 p.m.
Sep 16, Friday	Luncheon - Michaels on East - Joint Multi Chapter Luncheon 	11:30 a.m.
Sep 25, Sunday	YAHOO: Oktoberfest - Details Page 8	5:00 p.m.

For Your Information (FYI)

Exchange Online Shopping Plan for All Veterans In the Works

A DoD plan to open online shopping at the exchange systems to all honorably discharged veterans has no timeline for completion, officials said. "The Army and Air Force Exchange Service proposal to extend exchange online shopping benefits to honorably discharged veterans is being worked and continues to make progress through the DoD. However, we are unable to specify a date when the department will make a decision on the proposal."

The proposal, originally submitted to the DoD by AAFES in spring 2014, and supported by the Marine Corps and Navy Exchange services, would allow all honorably discharged veterans to make purchases on the exchanges websites. It would not grant access to brick-and-mortar exchange stores, gas stations or Class Six locations. Exchange officials have said there is a strong business case for opening online shopping to the about 18 million honorably discharged U.S. veterans. Giving them online shopping access could produce between \$226 million to \$1.13 billion in annual sales, the 2014 proposal says. The result could be as much as \$108 million annually in support for MWR programs, which rely on exchange dividends for the bulk of their funding across the services, it says.

The proposal does not include opening commissary shopping to honorably discharged veterans since, unlike the exchanges, the Defense Commissary Agency relies on a \$1.4 billion annual taxpayer subsidy to operate.

Military Officers Association of Sarasota, INC. P.O. Box 1016, Sarasota, FL 34230-1016

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual Membership Dues: Regular Auxiliary Associate

Mail registration with your check for \$35, made payable to MOAS. If email is unavailable, newsletters may be sent by UPS - Add \$12

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____ Rank _____ Spouse Name _____

Street Address (Include Apt#) _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ E-Mail Address _____ Birthday mm/dd/yy _____

Status: Active Retired Former Officer Regular Reserve Surviving Spouse Foreign _____ Country _____

Service Component: Army Navy Air Force Marine Corps Coast Guard NOAA USPHS National Guard

Please do not publish my personal information in the Directory Who told you about the Association? _____

Signature _____ Date _____ National MOAA Member Number _____