

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. 1

MOAA 4-Star Chapter 2003 & 2008; MOAA 5 Star Chapter 2004-2007 & 2009-2015
Best Newsletter 2007 & 2010; 1st Runner Up 2008, 2012 - 2014; 2nd Runner Up 2009

January 2016

DECEMBER PROGRAM: *MOAS 33rd MILITARY GALA & INSTALLATION OF 2016 OFFICERS*

by Len Friedlander

It was a special and wonderfully entertaining evening as MOAS members, spouses, and guests gathered at Michael's on East on Sunday, December 20th for the Chapter's 33rd Annual Military Gala. The ballroom was beautifully decorated; uniforms, tuxedos, military decorations, and beautiful dresses and gowns were everywhere to be seen; and the US Marine Corps Toys for Tots boxes overflowed with dump trucks, dolls, teddy bears and pandas.

The Riverview High School JROTC Color Guard Commanded by SGM Roger Mitchell opened the formal part of the evening by parading and posting the Colors, followed by the playing of the National Anthem and the invocation by Chaplain (Col) Charles Caudill. Traditional toasts were proposed by MOAS members to the President; Uniformed Services; MOAA Members & guests; Allied Nations; Fallen Comrades & POW/MIAs; and Spouses & Families.

After thanking the outgoing Board of Directors and members for their support throughout the year, President Tracy presented MOAA Presidential Awards to Elke Scott and Pat McLain for their outstanding work for MOAS during the past years, and Col John O'Brien & Carol O'Brien were honored with the Martin Hertz Lifetime Community Service Award for their management of the MOAS Support Our Troops (SOT) Program over the past years.

Col Len Friedlander, USAF (Ret), Southwest Area Vice-President of the Florida Council Of Chapters installed the 2016 MOAS Officers and Directors; Past President Troy Scott & President George Tracy attached the 2015 MOAA Five Star Level of Excellence streamer on the chapter flag. President Tracy led the singing of the service songs and God Bless America to end the evening's program. The room was then taken over by the folks dancing to the music of La Croix.

Our thanks to Elke Scott and Pat McLain for their outstanding work on reservations, seating and overall coordination to make the gala a success.

JANUARY PROGRAM: *SARASOTA OPERA SINGERS*

by Margarete Wiltshire

The 2016 luncheon schedule will be opening with a MOAS favorite. We are fortunate to once again have the Sarasota Opera singers entertain us at our January 15th luncheon. Because they are deep in rehearsal for *Aida*, they will be performing from 12:30 to 1:00 o'clock, and we will adjust our luncheon schedule accordingly; planning to seat all attendees by 11:45. Dessert will be served after their performance.

The Opera's schedule for 2016, running from January 30th through March 20th, is very varied, and should have something for all. The opening night for *Aida* will be on Saturday, January 30th, with performances continuing through March 16th. This epic Verdi opera - one of opera's most beloved tales of a tragic love triangle - will be the largest production ever done by the Sarasota Opera Company. Mozart's amusing *Così fan tutte*, meaning "all women are like this," opens on Saturday, February 6th (performances through March 12th). Beethoven's only opera, *Fidelio*, will be performed from Saturday, February 13th through March 11th.

With the final Verdi opera, his seldom-performed *The Battle of Legnano* performed from February 27th through March 18th, the Sarasota Opera will be the only opera company in the world to have performed every note Verdi wrote. Capping this historic achievement will be a Verdi Cycle Grand Finale Celebration on March 20th, a dinner preceding a Verdi Concert and an After-Party. This very special evening will bring many visitors from around the world to Sarasota.

Other Opera events include an Artists' Choice Concert on Wednesday, March 9th and the Young Verdi Concert on March 17th. You will find all details of these and other opera events in the brochures on your table at the luncheon.

Tickets for all events maybe purchased from the Opera Box Office – 328-1300, or on-line at www.sarasotaopera.org.

WHAT'S INSIDE.....

<i>Officers, Directors & Committees....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>President's Message.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Secretary's Corner.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Legislative Update.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Chaplains Corner.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>For Your Information (FYI).....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Military Gala Photos</i>	<i>6,7,8</i>
<i>YAHOO.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Support Our Troops.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>MOAA "As I See It".....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Membership.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Meet & Greet.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>MOAS Calendar.....</i>	<i>12</i>

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	Jack Bartler	312-6979
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
Veterans Affairs	Patricia McLain	371-0883
Veteran Affairs Support	Mike Adkinson	404-918-3811
Historian	Jack Bartler	312-6979
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 & Projects 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

Survivor Assistance Services Committee

Chairperson	Charles Caudill	751-3810
Member	Lee Kichen	355-1227

Auxiliary

Chairperson	Peggy Mock	356-3584
-------------	------------	----------

Social Club YAHOO (Young At Heart Officers Org)

Manager	John O'Brien obrienjc@aol.com	907-8891
---------	---	----------

Support Our Troops Program

Program Co-Chairpersons	John & Carol O'Brien	907-8891
Program Co-Chairpersons	Jim & Joyce Hesson	926-8702

Newsletter Operations, Sarasota Breeze

Managing Editor	Len Friedlander	lenfriedlander@verizon.net	927-0996
Editor	Patt Staley	staleycp8181@yahoo.com	752-4086
Photographer	Craig Hullinger	craighullinger@gmail.com	309-634-5557
Photo Recorder	Pat McLain	pat_mclain@comcast.net	371-0883

Editorial Policy: "The Breeze" newsletter is published by the Military Officers Association of Sarasota, Inc., an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and the Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are non-partisan."



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

George Tracy

Greetings & Happy New Year, 2016!! The MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) Cruise on Royal Caribbean's Independence of the Seas in early December was an enjoyable opportunity to relax with one another and get to know other Florida chapter members and leaders. The two main events were (1) a spectacular Elvis impersonator and (2) the wonderful, impromptu, spiritual wedding ceremony of Joe Jennings and Denise Barker, beautifully officiated by our own, Chaplain Charles Caudill. Congratulations Denise & Joe!! It was a truly special occasion!!

Well, we are ready to go, again, in 2016, with the hope of doing a better job for you!! Although we have lost the outstanding services of Linda Gould (2nd VP), Craig Hullinger (Sec'y), Chris White (Program Director) and Troy Scott (Immediate Past President) – we are delighted to welcome their volunteer replacements: Perry Korszen (2nd VP, Programs), Jack Bartler & Steve Cork (primary & backup Sec'y), and John O'Brien returning as Past President. We are indeed fortunate in our 2016 MOAS Team!! **Thanks to All!!**

Kay and I will be attending FCOC's 2016 Leadership Conference in Orlando on Jan 8 & 9. This conference affords chapter leaders the opportunity to collaborate with MOAA, FCOC, and Chapter leaders to better focus energies and resources on initiatives and activities that increase membership, local support and mission accomplishment.

Important Reminder!!: We are in the midst of our 2016 Membership Renewal Campaign and have not heard from many of you. You will have received by now my renewal request, either via your email or in last month's (December 2015) mailing of the Breeze. I will simply say, again, "**We really need you to remain an active MOAS member in 2016**" to continue to support your interests and the MOAA fight for Veterans on Capitol Hill. Please submit your dues payment and, if you can, a Scholarship donation, **by 31 December. Thank You!!**

Our January 2016 luncheon will feature our phenomenal **Sarasota Opera** thanks to producers and MOAS members Russ & Margaret Wiltshire. You do not want to miss this entertaining event, same time and place.

Take Action!! You can make a difference!! Please use the MOAA "Take Action" network to connect to your congressman/senators. Add your voice in support of our MOAA team to get positive results on Veterans' issues & legislation! **Just Do It! See the MOAA Alert at: <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=62794996&PROCESS=Take+Action>. Unless current law is changed, sequestration will return in FY 2016 with deep cuts to the Defense Department. Ask your elected officials to set aside partisan politics and repeal sequestration now!!**

Thanks to all who attended our MOAS Winter GALA and contributed to Toys-for-Tots; and, thanks to our GALA Support Team, our Board and our Staff for such outstanding support in 2015! Remember and live by our MOAA mantras, "**Never Stop Serving!**" and "**Take Action!**"

To our MOAS Board, Staff, and to you, Cherished MOAS Member, may this 2016 New Year be the very Best for you and yours!!



SECRETARY'S CORNER

Craig Hullinger

The meeting was called to order at 4:00PM on Monday Nov 30, 2015 at the Meadows Community Center. **ATTENDANCE:** Board Members Present: George Tracy (Pres); Brian McCarthy (1VP); Christa Friedlander (Treas); Craig Hullinger (Sec'y), Christopher White (Dir); Alan Forester (Dir); & Claire Power (Dir). Board Members Absent: Linda Gould (2VP) & Troy Scott (IPP). Committee Chairs & Visitors Present: Pat McLain.

BOARD MEETINGS AND LUNCHEONS

MONTH	BOARD	LUNCHEON
JANUARY	4	15
FEBRUARY	1	19
MARCH	7	18

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: I believe we have had a reasonably successful year, though I would hope we can appeal to the needs of a broader Veteran Officer community in 2016 while finding ways to attract funding beyond our current membership-based and Giving Challenge efforts. I would appreciate your ideas and support.

Welcome to all of our 2016 Board Members and Directors, who were approved by the attending membership at our November luncheon and, in particular, to Perry Korszen, taking over for Linda Gould and Chris White as our new 2nd Vice President and Programs Director. I appreciate your help in supporting him with your ideas and suggestions for programs, speakers and outreach. And, too, thanks to a final effort by Steve Cork and our Nominating Committee, we welcome a volunteer for the MOAS Secretary in Jack Bartler for the 2016 in-season months, though he needs backup (Steve Cork) for June-thru-September. Otherwise, we have our core team for 2016. Thank you for your support!!

Kay and I will be attending the MOAA FCOC Winter Leadership Conference in Orlando on 8-9 January to help to get our 2016 agenda off to the best start. As I mentioned in the December newsletter, COL Marc Oliveri, FCOC President, has invited and encouraged all MOAS chapter members to attend the upcoming 2016 FCOC Leadership Conference, Orlando Hilton, January 8 & 9, 2016. Time is of the essence.

Please register NOW at <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eamjdz6b7e53c02&llr=> Our 2016 Membership Renewal Campaign, as of Nov 20th had thus far produced 72 responses - 5 Life member and 67 dues payments with one resignation. We sent out 271 Active dues-paying renewals and 70 Life-Exempt renewals! Emails (290) and letters (51). I expect to receive some more responses today, but I plan to send out our email reminder notifications by end of week! Please Renew NOW!!!!

I wish all of you a wonderful remaining holiday season wrapping up 2015 with your favorite New Year's celebration.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The Nov 4, 2015 Board meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer reported the following balances as of November 30, 2015:

MOAS Operating Account	\$27,259.53
Operating Fund	\$ 23,951.24
LoV Flag initiative	\$ 3,307.49
Scholarship Fund Account	\$ 39,980.92
Undesignated Scholarship Fund	\$ 30,783.62
2016 Schmidt Scholarships (Merit/Vet)	\$ 4,000.00

Veterans Scholarships	\$ 1,000.00
SOT Fund	\$ 4,197.30

**OLD BUSINESS:
COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Scheduled Events (Elke Scott): The November Luncheon paid attendance was 103; profit was \$131.00, and the SMOSF received \$104.00 from the 50/50.

Newsletter (Len Friedlander): The December edition was emailed to 323 recipients; 108 copies were printed and 102 copies were sent by mail to MOAS members. Included in the mailing to members who do not have valid email addresses was their renewal information package that was previously emailed to the other members. The cost was \$131.33.

Scholarships (Claire Power): Bill La Follette, who has been the Scholarship Liaison for five years, is resigning from this position for health reasons. Bill orders the MOAA medals and checks, has the achievement plaques engraved and presents the MOAS achievement awards at the JROTC awards nights. I would like to discuss whom the Board thinks would like to take this position as MOAS rules require that a person who has served in uniform present the awards.

I would like the Board to ratify the following High School Scholarships for 2016: One \$2,000 Schmidt Merit Scholarship; two \$2,000 MOAS Merit Scholarships; and four \$2,000 MOAS JROTC Scholarships. With funds in the bank, monies we taken in from the Giving Challenge, contributions made with renewals, and the Schmidt Foundation money, we have more than enough to support the proposed level of giving.

Presently, there is \$3,000 of uncommitted Funds for our veterans program. These monies are made up of a \$1,000 MOAS contribution for 2015 and \$2,000 from the Schmidt Foundation for 2016.

In the next few weeks I will be discussing the awarding of these monies with my committee and will present our proposal to the Board in January.

Publicity (Alan Forrester): Alan Forrester noted that our current press release and speaker photo has been distributed to our media groups such as The Tampa Bay News Wire, The Sarasota Chamber, MOAA and at least 20 local media contacts that have developed over the last couple of years. The information is also published in the Breeze, and on our blog, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Pinterest, and Google+ pages.

Programs (Chris White): Chris summarized the programs in the pipeline for 2016, highlighting the first quarter. He will pass on the remaining schedule and added leads to the new Programs Director.

	LUNCHEON PROGRAMS
JANUARY	Sarasota Opera
FEBRUARY	Dr. Zonies - Cardiology
MARCH	Lyndon Smith - Residential Fire Safety

Membership (Brian McCarthy): We have a draft URL of the revised Web site - Brian is looking for review and comments. We are trying to integrate all that we do into the site. Considering how to best integrate the blog into this system. All the articles that we publish will be on the site. We plan to be finished 15 December. All the membership rosters are in the system. We can spotlight sponsors on our Web site and social media. We can also name a scholarship for someone. If you would like to view the PUBLIC portion of our new web site you can so by clicking on: <https://www.ceclients.com/sites/MilitaryOfficersAssociationofSarasota/>

MOAS	2014	1/1/2015	12/31/2015
REGULAR	277	277	277
AUXILIARY	82	82	72
ALLIED	4	4	4
TOTAL	363	363	353

Secretary's Corner Continued on Page 12



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Len Friedlander

Congressional negotiators introduced a sweeping year-end spending and tax-break package Wednesday that bursts through previously agreed budget limits with \$66 billion in new spending for 2016. It also makes permanent an array of tax benefits at a cost of adding more than a half-trillion dollars to the deficit. Under the bill, Congress would permanently extend several tax breaks that have been renewed repeatedly on a temporary basis. These include a popular business tax credit for research expenses, a small but symbolic tax deduction for teachers who spend their own money on books, supplies and computer equipment used in the classroom, and a separate deduction for state and local sales taxes.

The legislation, signed by President Obama, showed Republicans and Democrats reluctantly bowing to the unsatisfying realities of a divided government. In the end, a compromise emerged that allowed all sides to claim some victories. The spending measure, more than \$1.1 trillion, included a provision to end the 40-year ban on exports of crude oil from the United States as well as a large increase in funds for medical research at the National Institutes of Health that received bipartisan support. It also reauthorized and expands federal aid for emergency workers suffering from health ailments related to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York City.

What's Ahead in 2016?

(A message from MOAA Legislative Affairs)

2015 saw the biggest changes to the military retirement system in a generation. While the changes largely will affect only new recruits in 2018 and later years, Congress approved a major overhaul to military retirement in this year's defense bill, cutting their future retired pay by 20% and asking them to help fund their own retirement via Thrift Savings Plan accounts. 2016 is already shaping up to be the year where every military beneficiary - past, present, and future - could see dramatic changes to their health care benefits. Armed Services Committee leaders already tipped their hand in this year's Defense Authorization Act.

FY 2016 Defense Authorization Conference Report

In order to modernize and improve the military healthcare system, the conferees agree that all elements of the current system must be re-evaluated, and that increases to fees and co-pays will be a necessary part of such a comprehensive reform effort.

As the report language indicates, nothing about the current system will be sacrosanct when lawmakers examine TRICARE - and neither will your wallet.

Proposals earlier this year recommended scrapping TRICARE altogether, forcing beneficiaries into plans similar to those of federal civilians, imposing

significantly higher fees, and means-testing TRICARE and TRICARE For Life (TFL) benefits so beneficiaries with higher incomes would pay even more. All of those and others could be on the table again in 2016.

The question is: Are you prepared to protect your and your families' interests?

MOAA members sent 420,000 emails to their elected officials in 2015, and your hard work helped avert even bigger military retirement cutbacks for future troops.

But now it's about you and yours.

Proponents of big TRICARE/TFL fee hikes are hoping you'll get tired of writing your elected officials and just accept the changes proposed by the Pentagon.

But if the responses to the MOAA's recent survey are correct, your priority is on fixing the access and other problems many are having with TRICARE, and defeating proposals for disproportional fee hikes. If that's true, you will need you to be more active than ever on these issues in 2016.

Those who have an interest in deterring your messages to Congress will try to discourage you by saying your MOAA-recommended tear-out letters, postcards, and emails don't count much in legislators' minds....**nothing could be further from the truth.**

We've seen from years of experience - and direct feedback from legislators and their staffs - that volume of correspondence counts. When legislators get tons of mail on a topic, the vast majority aren't going to ignore their constituents.

This isn't just a "defending our rice bowl" issue. Sustaining a top-tier health care benefit for career service members and their families is essential to long-term retention and readiness.

MOAA is going to be asking for a lot of activity from you in the months ahead. We hope you'll stand with us as we continue to stand for you - and that you'll ask your friends and relatives to get active, too.

National and state MOAA leaders will be Storming the Hill on health care and other issues in early April. Their office visits with legislators will be much more effective if legislators have received a barrage of constituent input.

OPM Data Breach Pentagon Self-Check Site Launched

The Office of Personnel Management announced the official launch of a Pentagon-hosted website that allows visitors to check if their personal data was stolen in the massive breach of sensitive background investigation files. The OPM Verify Site can be found at <https://opmverify.dmdc.osd.mil>

About 21.5 million federal employees, contractors and retirees were affected by the breach, which OPM disclosed last summer. The agency has been mailing letters to hack victims since October. Late last month, OPM said it had mailed over 13 million notification letters and was sending an average of about 800,000 a day. The self-check site is designed to allow potential hack victims who never received a letter from OPM to check if their data was stolen. In addition, the site can help users who received a letter but lost the PIN provided to sign up for free identity-protection services.

OPM is still in the process of notifying all hack victims and expects to finish this month. Anyone who has not received a letter by the middle of December and who believes his or her data may have been taken, should reach out to the verification center to confirm your correct address and have a letter sent. So far, about 1.2 million people have signed up for the free credit monitoring offered by the government.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Charles Caudill

Miracles Remembered

Every New Year people make resolutions to give up various and sundry things. Instead of focusing on selfish desires, why don't we turn our attention to a closer relationship with God? This will open up the channel to receive the power of his love and miracles will follow.

The Old Testament was filled with miracles. We are told of Daniel being thrown into the lion's den because he refused to worship the golden image of the king. God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths and Daniel was spared. Another instance was when Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were put into the fiery furnace but emerged unharmed. The king's counselors reported seeing four men in the fire not three. The king responded, *"Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him..." Daniel 3:28*

You may have seen in the news recently the young medical student going to the rescue of a woman being abducted. He was shot in the stomach by the attacker, who then tried to shoot him in the head twice; but the gun jammed. Subsequently, the student was taken to the hospital, the woman had minor bruises, and the gunman was finally apprehended. The world may think this is luck; I think it's a miracle.

When the Pope visited many people reported phenomenal events. According to NBC Nightly News, one occurrence took place when the Masciantonio family of Philadelphia, devoted Catholics, got a call from a friend in the FBI who was assigned to guard the Pope's route. He had secured passes for them to see the Pope's motorcade. Their 15-month-old daughter had a brain tumor and had undergone eight surgeries and numerous chemotherapy treatments. The doctors told the family she would not likely survive and advised her parents to enjoy the final

months they had with their baby daughter. Due to her condition her father initially resisted going to the rally, but at his wife's - and doctors' - insistence the decision was made to go. Masciantonio held his daughter as high as he could to get the attention of Philadelphia police and FBI agents to wave the motorcade over. When the Pope drove by, his security head brought the baby to the pontiff who kissed her on the head and granted her his blessing. Six weeks after the encounter an MRI showed that the tumor had shrunk significantly. The family says the doctors told them that, although the tumor had not been completely eradicated, the prognosis was life changing: the baby would likely survive.

My wife and I had a moving experience when one of my twin sons contracted spinal meningitis. When we took him to the hospital his doctors told us this case was the most serious they had ever seen. They advised us to go home and come back the next morning. When we got into the car to leave the hospital, we held hands and prayed. We thanked God for giving us this son and asked that He would be with us whatever the outcome. We knew our son might be paralyzed, go into a coma, or die. At the hospital the following morning the doctor told us our son had gotten through the night with no problems and had completely recovered.

Miracles come in different forms and we must be open to be aware of them. A group of MOAS members just returned from a short cruise. Two of our members are Joe and Denise who have been best friends for about five years and told me they are eternally engaged. I offered to perform a spiritual wedding in the ship's chapel. Joe immediately smiled, took Denise's hand and asked if she would become his wife. She instantly said yes. They started looking in the ship's boutiques for wedding bands, which they found. Our last day on board, all the MOAS members gathered for the ceremony and I felt the Spirit of God surround us as Joe and Denise became spiritually married. Love and joy filled the chapel as we celebrated their union.

So this New Year don't give up something; instead, open your hearts to receive something. Miracles abound.

For Your Information

No-Cost Shots at Walgreens for VA Enrolled Vets

Walgreens has joined with the VA to provide enrolled VA patients flu shots at no cost. These flu shots are available through March 31, 2016, while supplies last. However, doctors advise that the sooner you get the flu shot, the better your chances are of protecting yourself throughout the season.

Only veterans enrolled in the VA health-care system are eligible – neither family members nor TRICARE members are eligible. This program makes it easier and more convenient for veterans to avoid the flu, especially those who may live a long distance from the nearest VA facility. Visit your neighborhood Walgreens or go to www.Walgreens.com/FindAStore to find the nearest location. Walgreens will send the record of your flu shot to VA as part of the eHealth exchange.

Once you find a nearby Walgreens, download the form at <https://www.walgreens.com/images/pdfs/IN-2225/>

[WAG VAR Form EDIT 10172013 v1.pdf](#). Then bring it, along with a photo ID and your VA ID card, to Walgreens. Visit www.ehealth.va.gov/Immunization.asp for more information regarding this program.

TRICARE Maintenance Drug Rule

This December, TRICARE beneficiaries can take action to avoid paying more for some prescription drugs mandated by the new rules. If you fill a prescription for a select brand name maintenance drug (refer to <http://www.health.mil/selectdruglist>) at a retail pharmacy, you may need to move your prescription to either a military pharmacy or TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery. If not, you may have to pay full cost of your prescription. Beneficiaries can move their prescriptions by contacting the TRICARE pharmacy contactor, Express Scripts (ESI) at 1-877-363-1303 or <https://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/index.shtml>).

Military Gala Photos







Riverview High School JROTC Color Guard



MOAA 5 Star Level of Excellence Streamer



Elke Scott receive the MOAA President's Award



Carol & COL John O'Brien receive the Lifetime Community Service Award



Pat McLain receives the MOAA President's Award



YAHOO
 Young at Heart Officers Organization
John O'Brien

Hopefully the Army/Navy games ended in a tie, although all bets are off given Navy's great success this year (Ed note: Navy won 21-17). Navy will play the University of Pittsburgh on Dec 28th (2:30 pm) in the Military Bowl, and Air Force will play the University of California on Dec 29th (2:00pm) in the Armed Forces Bowl. Both games will be televised nationally on ESPN.

Thanks to Troy Scott for arranging the tickets for YAHOOs to attend the Tampa Bay Lightning Bolts vs. the Florida Panthers hockey game on January 17th, with the pregame activities of unlimited grog, wine, hot dogs and hamburgers with all the fixings. Cookies have been requested by Troy. It is the best deal in town for a hockey game.

Mark your calendar!! Mary & Jon Gordon are stepping up to host a St. Patrick's Day party on March 17th. Details/directions will be in the February 2016 Breeze.

**January 17th @ 4:00PM - Ice Hockey Game
 Tampa Bay Lightning Bolts vs Florida Panthers**

Troy Scott has procured 30 tickets in Section 312 for the YAHOOs to attend the Lightning vs. Panthers game on Sunday, January 17th. We have a reserved spot, our famous Thunder Dome on the 3rd level for pre-game activities of food and grog. As in the past there will be unlimited beer, wine, hot dogs and hamburgers with all the fixings. For dessert, there will be cookies requested by Troy. The Thunder Dome area will be open at 4:00 PM for the feast to start,



and the game will begin at 5:00 PM.

Cost will be \$57.00/person (prices went up) but it's the best deal in town for a hockey game. All tickets must be sold by Jan 1st so they can be distributed in a timely fashion. **Four (4) Tickets are still available!!** Email Troy at entscott@verizon.net or call (941)379-3023. Send your check to Troy Scott, 841 Forestview Ct., Sarasota, FL 34232-2455



SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

John O'Brien

The units we have supported in Afghanistan since April 2015, the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) are preparing to rotate back to Fort Campbell, KY, and are being replaced by another CAB. These aviation units are critical to the overall mission in Afghanistan. BG Hesson is working to obtain the new certified SOT addresses for the new unit and we will post the new addresses on our SOT web site. We are removing the addresses of the leaving unit on December 15th while we ensure the validity of the replacement



addresses. We do hope these homeward bound soldiers that we have supported so well will be home with their families for the New Year. We have asked those shipping SOT Care Packages check the SOT addresses on the site before mailing to be sure the addresses are still valid. The calls Carol and I have received so far are all using the valid addresses. These Americans are serious in supporting our soldiers, and are very emotional in shipping their Care Packages. Thanks to all these Americans for supporting our soldiers.

We recently received a donation without a contact address from someone who wanted to send a package but wished to remain unknown. In respect to this individual we are setting up a box from an American citizen to American soldiers with SOT funds - a Care Package of thanks from a concerned citizen to American soldiers.

Our thanks to all our MOAS members and to the citizens of Sarasota who have so diligently supported the SOT program throughout 2015.

YOUR PERSONAL COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

As I See It

by Steve Strowbridge

MOAA Director of Government Relations

One way or another, it always ends up being about the money.

For years, Pentagon leaders have complained about personnel costs "spiraling out of control." MOAA's rebuttal showed personnel and health care costs have been stable at a relatively constant 30 to 32% of the budget for the past 30 years.

Now the comeback from Capitol Hill is, "OK, it's true the percentage of the budget has been constant, but the cost per person is well beyond where it used to be. What's your answer to that?"

Yes, the cost per person has risen. But so has the cost of doing everything else. In particular, the cost per ship, cost per bomber, cost per personnel carrier... and cost per whatever unit of nut, bolt, service, and equipment...is what truly has skyrocketed; e.g. an aircraft carrier cost \$6 billion in 2009, but the cost has now shot past \$13 billion - a 117% increase in six years.

The big problems with the defense budget are contract inflation, gross oversight failures, and stunning accounting lapses on the part of those charged with managing defense programs of all kinds.

For decades, dozens of Government Accountability Office, Inspector General, and other reports have documented that DoD cost accounting

systems are so flawed they're unauditible, with billions having gone unaccounted for. Massive cost overruns have been the rule rather than the exception. But the system goes unfixed.

So the bang for the procurement buck gets smaller quickly. But because the defense industry has built-in lobbyists with deep pockets, and because legislators with plants and jobs in their districts have vested interests in keeping even wasteful contracts alive, the target gets shifted to people programs.

There aren't any big campaign contributions supporting people programs, so they're easy to attack. And DoD leaders have shown little hesitation in using numbers selectively to make it look like people are the problem.

One popular way has been to use the year 2000 as a starting point to measure cost growth - conveniently forgetting that was a retention low point brought on by more than a decade of pay, health care, retirement, and other cutbacks. The funding increases in subsequent years were needed to restore career retention incentives and improve readiness and quality of life.

Another favorite stratagem has been to pile every possible nickel into the calculation of "cost per troop" to drive that figure as high as possible. For example, many such calculations include a present value for all future expected VA disability and health care costs for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans — as if the troops were at fault for exposing themselves to combat.

They almost universally include a figure for PCS costs — as if there's a benefit value in being required to move across the country periodically and be reimbursed less than it costs you and your family (without even counting issues like lost spousal income) to make the move.

The bottom line here is that many of the figures attributed as personnel benefit costs have nothing to do with compensation value for military people. An amputee would rather have his or her leg back than a monthly check from the VA. Military families would be far better off financially if the government never required them to move.

Military people understand the facts of life inherent in a military career. But they don't expect to be handed a bill for their sacrifices. There's a massive difference between benefit value to the troops and the government's inherent cost of doing military business.

Economists and budgeteers want to count every penny of what they see as your cost to the government. What those exercises consistently fail to do is split out the government's cost of readiness, or acknowledge the flip side of the issue - the costs your service imposed on you and your family.



MEMBERSHIP ACTIONS

Brian McCarthy

I want to thank everyone who has already renewed their membership for 2016. While I know it's a busy time of year your membership renewal is important to your Chapter, it funds our operations and allows us to have a fulfilling and exciting program throughout 2016.

Please take a minute and drop a check for \$35 in the mail along with your renewal application. You may download a renewal application on our web site www.sarasotamoaa.com or email me at bnmccarthy@gmail.com and I will be pleased to send you another application. If you have a few extra dollars - please consider donating to our scholarship fund.

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new Military Officers Association of Sarasota web site (www.sarasotamoaa.com). The site is now active and we encourage you to familiarize yourself with the new design and all that it has to offer.

The site launch is the culmination of months of work and represents a ground-up refresh of our old site with emphasis on design, intuitive navigation, information accessibility and integration with the Chapter's management system. There is both a public and private facing content available for guest and member access. As a member you will be sent a user name and password by email so you can enjoy the full site experience.



MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

New Members

Walsh, James C. (Ruth) LT, USN
8311 Nice Way
Sarasota FL 34238
(941) 926-2536 ruthawalsh@verizon.net

Robertson, William E. (Linda)
240 S. Pineapple Ave 6th Floor
Sarasota FL 34236
(941) 264-2400 wrobertson@kirkpinkerton.com

Post, Charles A. Lt Col, USAF

Roth, Robert W. (Irene) CPT, USA
207 Laurel Hollow Drive
Nokomis FL 34275
(941) 480-9169 BobRo59@gmail.com

Directory Changes/Additions

Miller, Mae S
5125 Grebel Lane
Sarasota, FL 34232
(941) 371-2750 ext125

Glasser, Eugenia K
700 John Ringling Blvd Apt # E205
Sarasota, FL 34236-1586

O'Brien, Shawn M (Reena) LTC, USA
1445A 5th Ave
Ft Knox, KY 40121
(941) 592-9471 shawn.m.obrien4.mil@mail.mil

Settle, Tracy L (Sheri) COL, USAR
3440 Wild Oak Bay Blvd Apt 130
Bradenton, FL 34210-4339
(605) 391-0122

Hilton, Casiana
casihilton1@gmail.com

Krebs, Mary Jo
maryjoedk@comcast.net

Neff, Charles L (Robin) Col, USAF
cneff@comcast.net

Clay, Michael A (Gail) COL, USA
(941) 351-1493

Moulton, Judson D (Mary-Lou) LCDR, USN
4008 Jardin Lane
Sarasota, FL 34238-4503
(941) 924-5558 jdonaldmoulton@msn.com

MOAA
Military Officers Association of America

Our Chapter | Join | Activities | Events | Guest Information | Donate | Take Action

Join Us
Please consider joining our chapter of active, reserve and retired military officers and their spouses. Enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow officers and staying abreast of current events.

Contribute
Contribute your time by giving a committee, existing in community events or becoming a member of the leadership team. Donations are welcome by our Chapter, the Military Officers' Scholarship Foundation and the Sears & Roebuck Foundation.

Take Action
MOAA is the strongest voice in Washington for military legislation on such topics as health care, compensation & benefits and veteran issues. Click here to make your voice heard.



MOAS Luncheon
Friday, January 15, 2016
Michael's On East



MENU

SERVED LUNCHEON

*Black Bean Soup with Lime Wedge
 & a Dash of Sherry*

Signature Bread Basket

ENTREE

*Parmesan Crusted
 Boneless Breast of Chicken
 Topped with Spiced Tomato Compote
 Artisanal Sardinian Fregola,
 Haricot Verts & Roasted Red Pepper*

SERVED DESSERT

*Boston Cream Pie:
 Moist Vanilla Sponge Cake
 & Pastry Cream Filling,
 Iced with Semi-Sweet Ganache*

Served Coffee, Decaf & Tea



**MOAS chapter members on the December
 Florida Council of Chapters Caribbean Cruise**

MOAS LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

For 1/15/2016 at 11:30 AM

Michael's On East

DRESS: Coat (Tie Optional)

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.



MOAA

MEET & GREET

Friday, Jan 8th, 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



CALENDAR

JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH 2016



DATE	EVENT	TIME
Jan 4, Monday	MOAS Board Meeting - Meadows Community Center	4:00 p.m.
Jan 8, Friday	Meet & Greet - Sarasota Vineyard - Details Page 11	5:00 p.m.
Jan 15, Friday	Luncheon - Michaels on East - Sarasota Opera	11:30 a.m.
Jan 17, Sunday	YAHOO: Ice Hockey Lightning v. Panthers - Details Page 8	4:00 p.m.
Feb 1, Monday	MOAS Board Meeting - Meadows Community Center	4:00 p.m.
Feb 12, Friday	Meet & Greet - Sarasota Vineyard - Details Page 11	5:00 p.m.
Feb 19, Friday	Luncheon - Michaels on East - Dr. Zonies, Cardiologist	11:30 a.m.
Mar 7, Monday	MOAS Board Meeting - Meadows Community Center	4:00 p.m.
Mar 11, Friday	Meet & Greet - Sarasota Vineyard - Details Page 11	5:00 p.m.
Mar 17, Thursday	YAHOO: St. Patricks Day Party	TBD

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 _____

VIETNAM WAR 50TH COMMEMORATION DID YOU KNOW? DRAFTEES v. VOLUNTEERS

- 25% (648,500) of total forces in country were draftees.
- (66% of U.S. forces were draftees during WWII)
- Draftees accounted for 30.4% (17,725) of combat deaths
- Reservists killed: 5,977
- National Guard: 6,140 served: 101 died
- Total draftees (1965 - 73): 1,728,344
- Actually served in Vietnam: 38%
- Marine Corps Draft: 42,633
- Last man drafted: June 30, 1973

Secretary's Corner Continued from Page 3

Support Our Troops (John O'Brien): John O'Brien has reported that we did well at the Veterans Parade and distributed a large number of boxes for people to mail to servicemen and women in Afghanistan.

Sarasota County Veterans Commission (Pat McLain): Plt was announced that the 2015 Veteran of the year Awards were awarded to Andy Hooker (Male), C.J. Bannister (Female) and Jean Catsakis as Auxiliary person of the year. Terry Acton, Veterans Services Officer, discussed the Veterans Day parade and John Rosentrater, Cemetery Director, said that the Wreaths Across America will be placed on December 12th. Deb Kehoe and Kathi Skelton (Rosedale Golf and County Club) provided information about the Annual Homes for Our Troops Charity Classic on January 30, 2016 where the donations will go to the building of a home for Army CPT Wither.

NEXT MEETING: Meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM. The next Board meeting is scheduled for 4:00PM on Monday Jan 4, 2016 at the Meadows Community Center.