

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

MOAA 4-Star Chapter 2003 & 2008; MOAA 5 Star Chapter 2004-2007, 2009 - 2014
Best Newsletter 2007 & 2010; 1st Runner Up 2008, 2012 & 2013; 2nd Runner Up 2009

April 2015

MARCH PROGRAM: *USF-Sarasota Manatee Veterans Support Programs*

by Christopher White

Our March Luncheon Program offered an informative and encouraging view into Veterans' support programs at the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee (USFSM) campus. Our speaker, Todd Hughes, a 2014 graduate of the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee (USFSM) is the Veteran's Services Administrator at USFSM. His office currently serves about 130 veterans.

Todd specifically highlighted two programs the USFSM operates in support of veterans. The Student Veterans' Society provides all student veterans an opportunity to voice concerns and to access a variety of service organizations that help veterans. In fact, they are hosting a Military Appreciation Day at the USFSM campus on April 16th from 1100 until 1700, followed by a free screening of the movie, *American Sniper*, at 1800 in the Selby Auditorium. The event is free to the public and Todd encouraged MOAS to visit and see the dynamic USFSM veterans' community in action.

The second program Todd presented is under development, but is surely needed: The USFSM Veterans Mentoring Program. This program will match student veterans with experienced veteran mentors to assist with the transition from school to their first job. Mentors help students through networking, interview and resume skills, and articulating military experience into terms understood by civilian employers. They also provide encouragement. Todd will be looking for mentors in Fall 2015. More information may be found at <https://usfmentoring.chronus.com/p/p3/about>

Todd joined the Oklahoma Army National Guard the day after his 17th birthday while still in high school. He went Active Duty Army as soon as he could and spent a total of five years in the military with about two being in the National Guard and three on Active Duty. He deployed to Iraq with the 1st Cavalry Division from March 2004 through March 2005. Todd left the Army after his initial enlistment. He and his wife Jessica, whom he met in the Army, have two children, Bailey and Xavier.

Sadly, Todd and Jessica lost their home to fire about 10 days ago. Undeterred, Todd kept his commitment to present these programs to our membership. During the luncheon, 2nd VP Linda Gould collected over \$1000 to present to Todd and his family. Veterans helping Veterans is what MOAS does best.

APRIL PROGRAM: *Veterans Service Organizations*

by Christopher White

Veterans Service Organizations today range from MOAA (which we all know) to the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, service specific organizations like the Association of the United States Army (my bias) and many more. Unfortunately, these fine organizations do not always appeal to younger veterans, in part because older veterans who may not understand the needs and desires of the newer generation of veterans leaving the services today dominate them.

Our April Speaker, Ryan Simonson, understands that difference. A veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Ryan and his spouse Julie are West Point graduates, OIF veterans and members of MOAS. After leaving the Army, Ryan looked for a different way to bring today's veterans together. Forming *VeteransU*, Ryan developed an organizational formula that pulls a diverse group of today's newest veterans into an organizational force focused on helping each other and actively supporting the community. *VeteransU* is a diverse, mixed grade, under 50 veterans group that looks for community support opportunities, mobilizes and then smothers that opportunity with sheer numbers of veterans and family volunteers.

In addition to his work as an instructor at the Sarasota Military Academy, Ryan is also a consultant to The Patterson Foundation's recent Legacy of Valor veterans project. He emphasizes that "I'm proud of my service and I'm proud of what I did." "Nobody wants to go to war," he adds. "But at the same time, imagine a doctor who goes to med school and does his residency and never sees a patient, a surgeon that never operates, a baseball player who trains his whole life and never plays a game. None of us wanted that stuff, but when push came to shove, it's why we were there."

Todd he had experienced a traumatic brain injury likely related to multiple explosive concussions, and is susceptible to lapses in memory, Ryan was at West Point when the 9/11 terror attacks unfolded, having committed himself to military service while attending Pine View High School.

"Honestly, it sounds cheesy," recalls Ryan, whose family had no real military traditions aside from his grandfather's role in World War II, "but I remember talking to my parents in the 10th grade and telling them I felt like it was all of our responsibility to do something for our country."

West Point is where Ryan met his wife of 12 years. Both were mobilized for the invasion of Iraq after graduation from the U.S. Military Academy. Julie joined the 977th Military Police Company, but never made it out of Kuwait. She was medically evacuated after suffering a debilitating reaction to the anthrax vaccine. Be sure to join us on April 17th to learn more about *VeteransU* and this remarkable young veteran.

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Chapter Officers, Directors and Committees

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President	George Tracy	907-9865
First Vice President	Brian McCarthy	323-1562
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Secretary	Craig Hullinger	309-634-5557
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Asst. Reception Manager	June Moore	388-3118
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	Christa Friedlander	927-0996

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Member	Lee Kichen	355-1227

Auxiliary

Chairperson VACANT (Linda Gould 388-7149)

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

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wonderful resources. So, if any of you have some web expertise and the interest, we would welcome your assistance.

Returning to my key message of last week, taking action to advocate for yourselves and for other veterans and their families: As we realized, once again, from Todd Hughes' words at the last MOAS luncheon, the most important source of support for veterans IS VETERANS. So please use the MOAA "Take Action" communication system at http://www.moaa.org/Take_Action.html to add your voice in support of your MOAA team in Washington "storming the hill" to get results on Veteran issue votes that you concern you, such as **TRICARE: Just Do It!** <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=62956216>.

The next Meet and Greet, now at Two Senorita's, Main Street, Sarasota, is scheduled for 5 p.m. on Friday April 10th. The last one was great fun! While we encourage you to bring a prospective member, if you don't have a one, just come yourself and "shoot the breeze" with old friends. We always have a great time!!

Thanks to all of you who attended our March 2015 luncheon, to our Luncheon Support Team for their always-outstanding job, and to our great speaker, Todd Hughes, for helping us better understand the plight and needs of young Veterans in their efforts to support their families and pursue their dreams!!

As a final note, I am sad to report that on March 7th LTC Marvene Gordon, our 1973 Chapter President, passed away at age 97. Donations in his memory may be made to the Sarasota Military Officers Scholarship Fund, PO Box 1016, Sarasota, FL, 34230-1016. He will be missed.

Receive the Breeze in color via email or view it on our [website www.sarasotamoaa.com](http://www.sarasotamoaa.com) or [blog http://sarasotamoaa.us](http://sarasotamoaa.us)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

George Tracy

First, Congratulations to Linda Gould, who is being recognized for her service to Veterans by the Sarasota Jewish Family and Children's Service (JFCS) in their 4th Annual Tribute To Veterans for her "ability to inspire patriotism, provide service to others and offer hope to veterans while demonstrating collaboration, leadership, and integrity." Linda's outreach efforts with The Patterson Foundation, The Legacy of Valor, The Giving Challenge, Patriot Plaza and other local veteran-support programs, have contributed greatly to helping Veterans and their families and to forging related MOAS alliances. The JFCS Tribute To Veterans luncheon honoring Linda will be on Friday, May 29th at Michael's On East. We welcome your attendance there to celebrate Linda!

Also, save the date for Flag Day, June 14th, to enjoy the MOAS "Celebrating The Stars and Stripes" program, being organized under the leadership of Tom Piazzese and his U.S. Flag Protocol Initiative support team, and featuring a Flag Retirement Ceremony, the final lesson in Tom's U.S. Flag education program being taught in Sarasota County Schools. This will be an event you will not want to miss!

By now you know the plight of fellow Veterans, Jessica & Todd Hughes, our **March Luncheon speaker**, and their children, Xavier & Bailey, whose recent house fire destroyed home, pets, property and memories. Todd has given much to help Veterans!! **Time for some payback!** If you can, please help him recover with a contribution to his donation web site at <http://bit.ly/1ECUHWx> or drop off to Allison Zinn in Student Services (C107) on the campus of USF-SM, 8350 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. **Pass The Word!!**

You will be excited to know that Brian McCarthy, Alan Forrester and Jim Connell have completed our new MOAS Brochure, which is headed for the printer and will be available soon.

With the retirement of Barbara Hamilton, as Auxiliary Chair, after so many, great years of service, Linda is looking for a **Volunteer** to pick up this noble responsibility of shepherding a most critical MOAS support resource, our Auxiliary membership.

And I would invite you to consider joining our web site support team. Thanks to Don Cunningham, from whom, after his many years of service, I took over Web Master responsibilities, we currently have two websites, <http://www.sarasotamoaa.com/> and our Support Our Troops website, <http://www.supportourtroopsmoas.com/>, along with our BLOG site, <http://www.sarasotamoaa.blogspot.com/>, maintained by Craig Hullinger. We hope to continue to improve these



SECRETARY'S CORNER

Craig Hullinger

President George Tracy, presiding, called the meeting to order at 4:00PM on Mar 2, 2015 at the Meadows Community Center.

ATTENDANCE: *Board Members Present:* George Tracy (President); Brian McCarthy (1st VP); Linda Gould (2nd VP); Christa Friedlander (Treasurer); Craig Hullinger (Secretary); Alan Forester (Director); Claire Power (Director); Christopher White (Director) and Troy Scott (IPP); *Committee Chairs and Visitors Present:* Pat McLain, Len Friedlander, Tom Piazze & Dennis Hessel.

BOARD MEETINGS AND LUNCHEONS

MONTH	BOARD	LUNCHEON
APRIL	6	17
MAY	4	15
JUNE	1	19

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: George Tracy asked Board members to contact members who had not responded to renewal requests. The 2015 MOAS Directory is scheduled for April publication. The by laws will be published on the MOAS web site. Troy Scott noted that MOAS will celebrate our 50th anniversary this fall. He suggested that we celebrate the occasion at our September luncheon (joint with other chapters). George concurred and will invite the National MOAA Director Norb Ryan to attend. Troy Scott noted that Linda Gould was selected by the JFCS Federation of Sarasota-Manatee for her contribution to veterans in the Sarasota Area, and will be honored at the JFCS Tribute to Veterans for Community Service luncheon at Michael's on East on May 29th. George and the Board congratulated Linda on this honor. Troy Scott volunteered to prepare the 2015 Level Of Excellence submission due to MOAA by June 1, 2015.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The Feb 2, 2015 Board meeting minutes & newsletter summary were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Balances as of Feb 28, 2015.

MOAS Operating Account:	\$30,263.28
Operating Fund	\$21,810.78
LoV/Flag Initiative	\$ 8,452.50
Scholarship Fund Account:	\$41,422.18
Undesignated Scholarship Fund:	\$ 33,959.00
Schmidt Scholarships	\$ 4,000.00
Support Our Troops:	\$ 3,463.18

We received the State of Florida Solicitation of Donation permit for SMOSF. Our profile has been updated at the Sarasota Community Foundation. Our 2015 insurance premium is \$524.

OLD BUSINESS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Scheduled Events (Elke Scott): The February Luncheon had 130 attending and the 50-50 donated \$116 to scholarships.

Newsletter (Len Friedlander): Printed and mailed 100 copies of the Breeze (B&W). The printing and mailing costs were \$91.00 total. He also noted that we have sold four advertisements to be included in the membership directory.

Scholarships: (Claire Power): Claire will meet with Booker HS students on March 6 to answer their questions with on our scholarship program. Cassandra Holmes of the State College of Florida Foundation has agreed to be the speaker at our Scholarship luncheon. At that time we will present her with a check for \$1,000 for the SCF Veterans Scholarship program.

Mike Staley will deliver veterans scholarship checks to MTI East and West this week. Bill Lafollette will present the MOAS medals, plaques and checks at the JROTC awards nights.

Publicity (Alan Forrester): Alan is assisting Brian and Jim Connell on the new MOAS recruiting brochure.

Programs: (Christopher White): Reviewed the January luncheon survey results. Of the 25+ members who provided input, the consensus was Veteran's support programs over legacy, health or community. Informative speakers preferred over entertaining, historical or academic. Results were mixed on the annual gala. Many said they would come regardless of price or date. Others indicated they didn't care for formal events. There were some recommended speakers/topics. The Board appreciates the membership input.

LUNCHEON PROGRAMS	
MARCH	Todd Hughes-USF-Sarasota Manatee Vet Pgms
APRIL	Ryan Simonson - VeteransU
MAY	Scholarships - Cassandra Holmes SCF

Membership (Brian McCarthy): We are moving forward with using credit cards to pay for membership and luncheons. We are also working on the new MOAS brochure-application. Troy Scott noted that it would be good to include a short membership application as part of every Breeze. Brian will provide the new form. It was further noted that we could email a copy of the Breeze to all of our existing and potential members.

MOAS	2014	2015
REGULAR	277	281
AUXILIARY	82	79
ALLIED	4	4
TOTAL	363	364

Support Our Troops (John O'Brien): Units are moving in and out of Afghanistan and it is difficult to ensure we have current addresses for our SOT effort. John will work to ensure that we have updated addresses. We will distribute boxes at the Memorial Day parade.

Yahoo Events (John O'Brien): O'Brien summarized the events that are being planned. Two tickets left for baseball game on March 27. We also have 24 tickets for Florida Studio Theater Improv on May 1.

NEW BUSINESS:

Flag Protocol Initiative (Tom Piazze): Planning and coordination continues for a Flag Ceremony on Flag Day 2015 (Sunday, 14 June 2015) at Patriot Plaza, Sarasota National Cemetery. Current plans call for the Ceremony to begin at 7:00pm with presenting of the Colors; a one-hour educational performance covering the history and origin of the American Flag (accompanied by the Sarasota Pops Orchestra) and formal Flag Retirement and Retreat ceremonies.

Overall cost estimate for the event, based on an anticipated audience of 2,000 attendees, is still being developed, but appears to be well within existing budget. Help from the MOAS Marketing and Publicity Committee is requested to ensure a wide dissemination of event notification is accomplished in advance of the ceremony and that appropriate news agencies in the local area are invited to provide media coverage both during and after the event. Tom Piazze noted he would like MOAS support and direction. He noted that MOAS received \$20,000 from the Patterson Foundation for our work supporting veterans programs, with \$8,709 remaining. He is still working on the budget for the event but he roughly estimates to the total cost at \$4,123.

George Tracy noted that it appeared that MOAS had already fulfilled their contractual requirements for the work for the Patterson Foundation. Linda Gould noted MOAS had agreed to help develop uses for Patriot Plaza and that this proposal would achieve that effort. This effort is part of the overall education effort about the flag. She noted that MOAS would not lead this effort every year - this is a one-year effort.

Continued on Page 11



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Len Friedlander

SecDef Warns of Pay Cuts

On March 18th SECDEF Ash Carter issued a dire warning to Congress if it fails to repeal sequestration: **the military may start cutting pay.**

The services have already begun to cap pay, providing nominal pay raises that fail to match private sector wage growth, but this is the first time the DoD has talked of actually reducing base pay for service members. "Everything ... is on the table," said Carter. "We could be forced to consider pay cuts, not just cuts in the growth of compensation."

Defense hawks on both sides of the aisle are seeking relief from sequestration budget cuts.

For FY 2016, the administration asked for a \$561 billion base defense budget —\$38 billion over the mandatory sequestration caps. According to Carter, a defense budget that keeps sequester level funding in place will be met with a presidential veto. That statement drew immediate criticism from republicans, many of whom have pushed for ways to boost military spending in 2016 while leaving budget caps in place for non-defense spending.

On March 19th, the House Budget Committee passed its FY 2016 budget, which boosts defense spending by adding money to a wartime funding account to make up for caps on the Pentagon's base budget. The plan would keep defense spending under caps mandated by the 2011 Budget Control Act and provide \$90 billion to the Pentagon's overseas contingency operations (OCO) account, which is not subject to sequestration caps.

Deficit hawks have complained about using budget gimmicks to exceed sequester caps. "The defense department shouldn't have to operate in this kind of uncertain budget environment," said MOAA's Deputy Director of Government Relations, Col. Phil Odom, USAF (Ret). "Defense planners need predictability and a repeal of sequestration. Failure to repeal sequestration puts national security at risk."

Send your elected officials a MOAA-suggested message to end sequestration

Doc Fix Reaches New Milestone

Congress needs to act quickly on Medicare and TRICARE will cut payments to doctors by 21 percent on April 1. Because TRICARE rates are tied to Medicare reimbursements, military beneficiaries of all ages will be affected. This huge cut will deter many doctors from continuing to see Medicare and TRICARE patients.

For 13 years, Congress has acted 18 times to block scheduled cuts with short-term fixes, sometimes for as short as a few months at a time. The main sticking point for Congress has been on how to pay for a permanent fix, but each time Congress passes a short-term fix and kicks the can, the scheduled cuts grow.

Failure to take decisive action has its costs. With passage of the last doc fix, Congress has officially spent more on short-term fixes than actually replacing the flawed formula.

There is movement in the House this week to replace the current Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula by House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), but little details are known. In all likelihood, Congress will offer a short-term fix to meet the impending deadline and take up a full repeal later this year. Congressional leaders from both parties have hammered out a deal that would partially pay for replacing the flawed doc fix formula. For beneficiaries, the deal could involve charging wealthier seniors higher premiums for Medicare Part B and Part D. Providers might see a shift of when payments are made to Medicare Advantage plans.

Details are scarce at this time, but the proposed legislation is rumored to consist of a new pay system for physicians, a consolidation of programs, and paying providers based on

performance. Pay will be based partly on how well physicians coordinate care by introducing clinical care guidelines.

Permanently repealing the doc fix will remove a great source of concern from both providers and TRICARE beneficiaries. Because TRICARE reimbursement rates are tied to Medicare's, the doc fix affects TRICARE beneficiaries of all ages. Additionally a permanent deal is needed to sustain Medicare and TRICARE for Life benefits.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the most recent estimated cost for a permanent fix is \$174 billion. Previous projections estimated the cost at closer to \$300 billion. The massive decline in projected costs has been attributed to slower than projected medical inflation.

Send your elected officials a MOAA-suggested message to stop the 21% Medicare-TRICARE cut.

DoD Wants More Data

Pentagon officials are raising questions about the conclusions reached by a blue-ribbon commission and its proposal to overhaul the military retirement and health care systems. In the DoD's response to recommendations from the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC), the military services are likely to ask for more information about the panel's detailed proposals on retirement, health care and quality-of-life programs. Most DoD officials have had no access to the data that the commission's recommendations are based on, and that lack of background information makes it difficult for the services to provide a firm response to the proposal, Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Bill Moran said, "[The commission] claims they've done all the analysis, but we have not been able to see what's inside that analysis, so I'm anxious to see it. ... We are interested in looking at how the commission came to the conclusion that [its proposed retirement recommendations] would be a better option."

Military officials are receptive to the idea, Moran said, noting that the DoD last year offered its own proposal for military retirement reform that includes some similar features. Still, Moran said he'd like more information about the commission's claim that troops would prefer the proposed system and it would not affect retention. "There are aspects we like and aspects we need more analysis on," Moran said. Top personnel officials have been working around the clock to analyze the controversial proposals. The Pentagon's official views on the proposals will likely have a strong influence on Capitol Hill and on whether any of the changes proposed in January become law. Defense Secretary Ash Carter testified on Capitol Hill in early March about the defense budget, but did not offer an opinion on the commission's report.

The proposal shrinks the traditional pension by about 20%. It would also create a new retirement benefit for troops who leave before 20 years of service by offering government contributions to a portable 401(k)-style investment account, up to 5% of base pay. And the new plan would give troops a lump-sum retention bonus after 12 years of service.

Important veterans' bills in the 114th Congress

Send your legislators a MOAA-suggested message to support the Bills' passage:

H.R. 333 and S. 271: Full concurrent receipt. Authorize full concurrent receipt for retirees with a service-connected disability rated less than 50%, including Chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 YOS.

H.R. 303: Concurrent receipt. Authorizes full concurrent receipt of military retired pay & veterans' disability compensation for retirees with regular or Guard/Reserve retirements, regardless of disability rating.

H.R. 969 and S. 681: Blue water Navy veterans. Authorizes veterans' benefits to Navy veterans who served onboard ships in the territorial waters of Vietnam, facing possible exposure to Agent Orange.

S. 170 and H.R. 218: CHAMPVA children's protection. Increases the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program to age 26, similar to other TRICARE and insurance provided under the Affordable Care Act.

S. 210: Military spouse job continuity. Provides a \$500 tax credit to military spouses who must pursue new licensing or certification in a different state due to their service member's military ordered relocation.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Charles Caudill

This year I have had the honor and privilege to participate in funeral services within sight of Patriot Plaza in the Sarasota National Cemetery. Two services were for World War II veterans. Both were in their nineties and had landed at Omaha Beach in separate missions. Their families displayed pictures of them in uniform with their units before deployment; and placed beside the pictures were the medals they earned during their military careers. These men had successful civilian lives, but their families chose to honor the memory of their time in the military.

I find Patriot Plaza is not only the perfect environment for services, it is also an inspiring memorial for the living to visit. John Berteau, Chairman of The Patterson Foundation, which funded Patriot Plaza describes it best:



"...Patriot Plaza is a place to recognize the service and sacrifice of the veterans who came before, those to come and the families who stay behind.

The features and art of Patriot Plaza tell a universal story of the military experience. One of conflict and peace across generations. One of distance and time displayed in the vibrant mosaic. One of service and sacrifice captured in carved stone and sculpted metal.

It is a place to remember, honor and inspire. Patriot Plaza is a gift to the nation and future generations."

The Patterson Foundation has accomplished their purpose. Now the National Cemetery is no longer an end; it is alive with blessed memories and hope for the future. As a Chaplain, Patriot Plaza has inspired my own spirit as I put to rest my military heroes who served their country with honor. I am so proud that I take my visitors to experience the majesty of the structure, photographs, legends and art.

Yesterday we took visiting friends to see the Plaza. The husband is a former Marine helicopter pilot who was in Operation Prairie in October 1966. As we were looking at the Witness to Mission section we saw a photograph of that very mission on one of the six-foot tall marble slabs.

While in this area we heard a beautiful soprano voice singing *The Star Spangled Banner* from the stage. Spontaneously, all the visitors stopped what they were doing and stood at attention with military members saluting and others placing their hands over their hearts. This lady from Michigan told me she had sung our National Anthem at thirty different sporting events and was inspired to sing at the Plaza. Then she went back up on the stage and sang *The Lord's Prayer*. The acoustics were perfect for her voice, and we all had tears in our eyes, hearing these two memorable songs performed with such admiration and passion at this fitting memorial for our veterans and their families.

With my love and prayers for all MOAS members, I heartily recommend a visit to Patriot Plaza and the Sarasota National Cemetery. I hope you will take your

family, your guests, friends and neighbors to visit this very special place. I hope our schools will take their students to see this wonderful depiction of respect and honor shown to our military. Our region should be very proud to have such a beautiful site for remembrance and reflection.

Taps

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the families of

Marvene A. Gordon, LTC, USA
President MOAS, 1973

William E. Carter, 1LT, AUS
George T. Dyer, Jr., CAPT, USN

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES New Members

O'Connell, Paul V. (Ilene) COL, USA

Levine, Joseph S. (Mary Zuckerbraun) BG, USA-NG
2111 Harbourside Drive
Longboat Key, FL 34228
(941) 383-6724 jsl140@aol.com

Liftman, Alvin H. CDR, USNR
6009 Winchester Place
Sarasota, FL 34243

Directory Changes/Additions

Rhodes Jr, Henry W. (Sara) 1LT, USA
rhodeshw@gmail.com

Romano, John P. (Mia) Capt, USAF
6218 Red River Cove APT # 208
Bradenton, FL 34202
(941) 320-9423 john.romano767@gmail.com



Lynn Gould & Linda Gould

March Luncheon Photos



(L-R) Bettye & John Sarjeant with their guest Jolee Suskovic



New Member Glenn Hadlock (L) with 1st VP RADM Brian McCarthy



Pat McLain (Rear), her guests (L-R) Dorothy & MG George Bauer, and Florence Marino



Nancy & Vic Reiling



President George Tracy presents a token of our appreciation to our speaker Todd Hughes



Barbara Hamilton



HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS!!!
(L-R) Mary Quigley, Pat McLain, Vic Reiling,
Barbara Hamilton, & Dorothy Bauer



Jim Connell (L) & VADM Howard Thorsen



Dianna & Christopher White



(L-R) Kay & George Tracy and Beth Hullinger



James Hesson Jr. & Mom Joyce Hesson aaaand



Debbie Hesson & father-in-law BG Jim Hesson



YAHOO
Young at Heart Officers Organization
John O'Brien

In March the YAHOOs participated in the famous Gordon's St. Patty's Day diet party, and 10 days later, a baseball game with the Baltimore Orioles vs Tampa Bay Rays. Kayaking Sister Keys and lunch at the Mar Vista is planned for April, but we need 6 more paying participants to make a go of it. Please sign up; this is a beautiful kayaking trail and a great restaurant. Friday, May 1st we will be going to the comedy show at the Florida Studio Theatre.

Tuesday, April 14th
Kayaking - Sister Keys

Ray Day is sponsoring another kayak trip with professional guide John Sarkozy on Tuesday, April 14th. Sister Keys are located on the north end of Longboat Key, about 10 miles north of St. Armands Circle. The launch site is next to the Mar Vista Restaurant (760 Broadway St.) on Longboat Key. The Mar Vista will allow us to use the restaurant's parking area while we kayak.



We will meet at the launch point at 8:30 a.m. to have all our kayaks in the water by 9:00 a.m. We will paddle (slow, easy pace - ideal for beginners) around the Sister Keys (with a stretch break mid-way through the outing) until about 1200 p.m.

followed by a YAHOO lunch at the Mar Vista.

The cost for the YAHOO's is still only \$25/person, which includes a kayak and all necessary equipment (paddle, seat, life vest and whistle). If you bring your own

kayak, the cost is \$10. **We must rent at least 10 kayaks** from John Sarkozy to make this trip possible. If you are interested in this kayak outing, please contact Ray Day at dayr22@verizon.net or 927-0398 to make your reservation and send a check to Ray at 5533 Ashley Parkway, Sarasota, FL 34241-9413. Ray will pay John Sarkozy with a single check the day of the trip. Participants are reminded to have adequate head covering, shark repellent, sunglasses, sunscreen, footwear, prayer beads and water. The kayaks have a small storage compartment in the hull that can hold a small container for additional drinks and snacks.

DIRECTIONS: From Sarasota Take the Ringling Bridge to Lido Key and follow FL-789 through St Armand Circle onto Longboat Key. Continue on FL-789 to Broadway Street. Turn right onto Lois Ave for the Launch Point.

Friday, May 1
IMPROV at Florida Studio Theatre

Come join the YAHOO's for a Friday evening of comedy at the new IMPROV program titled *Life's a Beach.* The overview of the program is: "*Life's a Beach*, our new Friday night show, lampoons the happenings and nightlife of our fair city from Snowbirds to Hurricanes and everything in between."

The show will have games, sketches and improvised songs to make the evening a fun-filled night. The show is located in Bowne's Lab in the Gompertz Theatre Complex at 1265 First Street. The doors open at 6:30 PM for people to enjoy a meal and drink before the show begins at 7:30 PM.

The menu is the same as the Green Room Menu. John and Carol have eaten there and the food is very good. Go on the FST web site to view the Green Room menu. We have 24 tickets with a great location "stage front" at \$12 each. To sign up for this event contact Carol O'Brien at cobrienvt@aol.com or call 941-907-8891. Sign up early to assure yourself a seat.

FYI

VA Eases Health Care Rules

This week VA Secretary Robert McDonald announced the VA is changing the way it determines eligibility for health care.

The VA **no longer requires veterans to disclose their net worth**. Net worth is determined by combining a veteran's income and assets. Prior to this decision, a veteran's net worth was used to determine eligibility for health care and cost of copays.

The VA will now consider a veteran's gross household income and deductible expenses as factors for determining health care eligibility and cost responsibility. Eliminating the net worth criteria means lower income, non-service connected veterans will pay less money out of pocket for care.

Last March, the VA eliminated annual requirements for veterans to report financial information. The VA will now verify veteran income automatically through Internal Revenue Service and Social Security Administration records.

This is good news for the VA as it works to rebuild trust with veterans—and great news for veterans because it is one less piece of information they have to remember to provide the VA.

TRICARE Compound Drug Coverage Revised

TRICARE's revised Compound Drug coverage begins effective May 1, 2015.

The TRICARE pharmacy contractor, [Express Scripts](#), will conduct an electronic screen (typically taking less than 5 seconds) of all ingredients in the compound drug to ensure: TRICARE covers it, it's safe and effective and it doesn't exceed the cost standard.

Although the use of compound drugs has increased greatly in recent years, some compound drug ingredients have limited or no evidence that they are safe and effective. If your compound drug does not pass the electronic screen test, your pharmacist can remove or substitute the non-covered ingredient with a covered ingredient or contact your doctor to request a different drug to treat your condition. If neither of those options will work, your doctor can also request a Prior Authorization for the compound drug.

TRICARE beneficiaries taking a compound drug likely to be impacted by the change will receive a letter explaining the new process for screening compound drugs and what steps they should follow.



SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

John O'Brien

We received the following note from COL Michael Musiol, US Army, Commander of the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) in Afghanistan. This is the unit that MOAS, and the great volunteers of the Sarasota area, have been supporting with our Support Our Troops Care Packages.



"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and all of the volunteers at Military Officers Association of America for supporting the soldiers of the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade during this deployment to Afghanistan. I can't begin to

tell you how it warms my heart to know how much you have embraced the 82nd CAB. Your support goes well beyond gifts and emphasizes the values of our military service.

Rest assured the Soldiers of the 82nd CAB are doing great things over here. We are in our ninth month and have been doing a lot of hard work during this time. I can speak for every soldier in the 82nd CAB and say "patriots like you truly symbolize volunteerism and community service." Once again "Thank you and Godspeed."

*Michael J Musiol
Col., US Army
Commanding*

Sarasota Military Academy JROTC Program

Sarasota Military Academy, a young charter school in Sarasota County has made leaps and bounds in its mission to "provide high school students the highest quality college preparatory education possible, incorporating the principles of leadership, discipline, patriotism, compassion, and honor in a military environment." As the years have gone by, the Academy has doubled if not tripled in size. Thanks to the generosity of philanthropists such as the Urfer family, the academy has been able to extend its capacity and touch more lives for the better. SMA is known for proficiency in academics, athletics, and community service. Some of SMA's recent athletic achievements are as follows: the Black Knight Raider teams did extremely well - with the females claiming and males tying for first in their respective categories; the female unarmed drill team squad placed first, and the male color guard placed third at the University of Tampa drill meet. Additionally, SMA's newest varsity sport, wrestling, has come a long way; taking 1st in the Tooth Fairy Classic Duals.

In the academic realm, the academy has once again persevered to be the best school in the nation. We have expanded our new chapter of the International Baccalaureate program to our most recent freshman and will continue to expand it starting with our first class of full IB students next



Visual & Performing Arts & Academic Olympics

Pat McLain

Visual Performing Arts

April 15-18 Hairspray (Musical)
7:00PM Tickets Adults \$15; Seniors \$10; Students \$5.

April 18 Matinee @ 2:00 PM

Judy Piercy @ (941)355-2967 Ext.1 or www.vpabooker.com

HAIRSPRAY opened Florida Studio Theatre's 2014 season. It was a big hit, and was held over for a long time. They did a wonderful job with it, and now Booker's season will close with the same show. It will be interesting to see how they perform compared to the pros.

The show takes place in Baltimore in the late 50's/early 60's when Tracy Turnblad, an overweight teenager with big hair, a big heart and an overwhelming desire to dance on the Corny Collins show (based on the real life Buddy Deane Show). This show is much like Dick Clark's American Bandstand that my kids grew up with. Tracy finally gets her chance on the show and becomes an overnight sensation; whereupon she sets out to rectify the social injustices she finds and integrate the show as well as win the heart of heartthrob Link Larkin away from the reigning princess. The songs and dances are great fun and young Tracy will warm your heart.

April 23 Classical Music Concert 7:00 PM
All \$5.00 at the door

ACADEMIC OLYMPICS FINALS

The Academic Olympics Semi-Final & Finals Competition was held at the Sarasota County Technical College Conference Center on Saturday, March 21st, and there were no surprises. The winner was Pine View HS (240 pts) and Riverview HS took second place (125 pts). Cardinal Mooney HS was in third place and Sarasota HS was fourth.

President George Tracy and his wife Kay attended the Semi-Final and Final matches, and assisted in making the presentations to the participants.

Pine View Coach Blake Wiley challenged MOAS to again compete against the Pine View team on Tuesday, April 14th at 3:00 PM at Pine View. George and Kay both have agreed to be part of our team and will be looking for volunteers to fill out the rest of the squad.

year. We continue to be an 'A' ranked school and have instituted The National Assessment of Educational Progress in order to help our rank in the country's educational system.

Even with its Academic and Athletic achievements, Sarasota Military Academy would not be what it is without a passion for community service. This year alone we hosted a book drive, Toys for Tots, gift drive for retirement homes, multiple blood drives and provided Color guards for various events. Community Service is major factor in Sarasota Military Academy's success.



SARASOTA CHAPTER

One Association! One Voice! Yours!

MEMBERSHIP ACTIONS

Brian McCarthy

The Membership & Marketing Committees spent last month redesigning our chapter brochure. We are excited about introducing the brochure at our next luncheon. We have focused on the main reasons to join:

Camaraderie with a purpose

If you are missing the camaraderie and core values of military service and want to develop close and lasting friendships with other members with similar backgrounds and interests please join us.

Networking with fellow officers

Our second career members in the workforce and retired members who have contacts in the business community are invaluable to transitioning members.

Make yourself heard

MOAA's chapters provide critical grassroots support for MOAA's national legislative agenda. Our benefits are under attack and MOAA is in the fight to preserve them.

Giving back to the community

We are ambassadors in our community, supporting countless programs that make a difference in the lives of others. These members continue the "officership" service and are giving back in the truest sense.

Staying informed

Our newsletters, website, meetings and events all provide the latest information on local, state and national issues and changes to military benefits.

If you haven't had an opportunity to renew your membership - drop everything and go to our chapter web site and renew http://www.sarasotamoaa.com/membership_application.htm. Nothing could be easier. We value every single member and trust that every member will reach out to their fellow officers and invite them to a luncheon or Meet & Greet venue. You are our best recruiters! I also encourage you to get involved on one of our committees. You will be welcomed with open arms.

MOAS Luncheon
Friday, April 17, 2015
Michael's On East



MENU

SERVED LUNCHEON

Assorted Lettuces with Toasted Almond Slivers, Florida Oranges, Grapefruit, Mango, Bleu Cheese, Sprouts, Grape Tomatoes & Sweet Poppyseed Vinaigrette

Signature Bread Basket

ENTREE:

Honey, Cracked Mustard & Fennel Glazed Salmon

Mango Jasmine Rice with Oven Roasted Asparagus & Baby Red Pepper

SERVED DESSERT

Tartlette Tatin: The classic French Upside-Down Caramelized Apple Tart, Individually Baked & served with Softly Whipped Cream

Served Coffee, Decaf & Tea

NEW LOCATION !!!



MEET & GREET
Friday Apr 10th 5pm - 7pm

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 Mandeville Beer Garden downtown Sarasota at 428 N. Lemon Avenue (between 4th St & 5th St)

MOAS LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

For 4/17/2015 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).

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW PRICE

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.

Continued from Page 3 -

Tom said he is working with many veterans' organizations to line up support. The Girl and Boy scouts may assist. He is also working on getting a donation of the use of golf carts to transport the handicapped. The cemetery will provide tables and chairs and changing rooms. He is working on getting better speakers for the event.

Tom noted that the program is a general education about the flag. David Scott from Ohio will present a program of about 1 hour and 15 minutes. He will be in Revolutionary Army uniform. The Sons of the American Revolution will support the event in uniform.

Tom said that MOAS needs to decide what dignitaries to invite to the event. Linda Gould, Brian McCarthy & Alan Forrester will serve on the Committee chaired by Tom. He noted that parking is a concern if we have rain on the day of the event. We can normally park on the grass parking lot, but not if it is wet.

George Tracy noted that Tom had done a great deal of planning on this effort. He needs to turn this effort into a written plan and budget that the committee can digest and improve and report back to the Board. The Board discussed insurance concerns. Tom will contact our insurance company and get them to tell us how much more the insurance will cost for this event.

NEXT MEETING: Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM. The next Board meeting is scheduled for 4:00PM on Monday April 6, 2015 at the Meadows Community Center.

Sign Up NOW!!!!

Florida Council of Chapters
2015 Convention
 May 22-24, 2015
 Renaissance Resort Hotel World Golf Village
 St Augustine, FL

For more information visit acmoaa.org
 Email rebirch@comcast.net or call 904-794-2883



MOAS CALENDAR		
APRIL - MAY 2015		
DATE	EVENT	TIME
April 6, Monday	MOAS Board Meeting - Meadows Community Center	4:00 p.m.
April 10, Friday	Meet & Greet - Mandeville Beer Garden - Details Page 11	4:00 p.m.
April 14, Tuesday	YAHOO: Kayaking - Sister Keys - Details Page 8	8:30 a.m..
April 15-18, Wed-Sat	VPA: <i>Hairspray</i> - (Musical) - Details Page 9	7:00 p.m.
April 17, Friday	Luncheon - Michaels on East - "VeteransU"	11:30 a.m.
May 1, Friday	YAHOO: IMPROV- Florida Studio Theater - Details Page 8	6:30 p.m.
May 4, Monday	MOAS Board Meeting - Meadows Community Center	4:00 p.m.
May 8, Friday	Meet & Greet - Mandeville Beer Garden - Details Page 11	4:00 p.m.
May 15, Friday	Luncheon - Michaels on East -	11:30a.m.

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 _____