

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

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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

January 2015

DECEMBER PROGRAM: *MOAS' 32nd WINTER GALA & INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS*

by Troy Scott

It was a special and wonderfully entertaining evening as MOAS members, spouses, and guests gathered at Michael's on East on Sunday, December 14th for the Chapter's 32nd Annual Winter 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 Booker High School JROTC Color Guard, under the direction of LTC Ben Weiss, 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 Caudill. Traditional toast were proposed by MOAS members to the President, Uniformed Services, POWs and MIAs, MOAA Members and their guests, Allied Nations, Fallen Comrades and Spouses.

After thanking the outgoing Board of Directors and members for their support throughout the year, President Scott presented MOAA Presidential Awards to Christa Friedlander and Claire Power for their outstanding work for MOAS during the past several years, and Col Len Friedlander was honored with the Martin Hertz Lifetime Community Service Award.

After the Awards presentations Col Len Friedlander, USAF, Southwest Area Vice-President of the Florida Council Of Chapters installed the 2015 MOAS Officers and Directors: LT George Tracy, USN, President; RADM Brian McCarthy, USN, 1st VP; COL Linda Gould, USA, 2nd VP; Col Craig Hullinger, USMC, Secretary; Mrs. Christa Friedlander, Treasurer; Col Christopher White, USA, Director; Mrs. Claire Power, Director; LT Alan Forrester, USN, Director; and COL Troy Scott, USAR, Immediate Past President.

Col Friedlander then presented the 2014 MOAA Five Star Level of Excellence Award to the chapter, and he, COL Scott and LT Tracy attached the award streamer to the Chapter Flag. President George 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, Pat McLain, Carol O'Brien & Christa Friedlander for their outstanding work on decorations, reservations, seating and overall coordination to make the gala a success.



JANUARY PROGRAM: *HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SARASOTA, INC.*

by Linda Gould

Happy New Year from MOAS! We will ring in this New Year at our first luncheon in 2015 with an update from the Habitat for Humanity Sarasota. The mission statement for Habitat for Humanity Sarasota is "To partner with God and community to provide decent, affordable housing for people in need so they may build better lives for their families." Mr. Fred Scheerle, the Family Services Director and Construction Administrator will be our speaker and will bring us the latest information on Habitat and its structure, in addition to the different homes being built in the area.

Fred Scheerle first started as a volunteer with Habitat Sarasota 18 years ago and joined the staff full-time 6 years ago. Fred's background is banking and lending which assisted him in helping families qualify for Habitat homes. Since joining the staff at Habitat, construction administration was added to his responsibilities. This allows him to start with an applicant for a Habitat house, qualify them, schedule and monitor the construction of the home and coordinate the closing of the house to the new home owner.

Fred and his wife Linda have been married for 28 years and they have 2 boys. The oldest, Jeramie, is an Air Force Master Sergeant with 18 years on active duty, currently stationed at Eglin AFB. Fred's younger son, Joey, graduated last year from Florida State University with a Master's Degree in Finance. Fred's hobby is playing golf and enjoying the Florida sunshine.

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

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Recruiting & Retention	Perry Korszen	907-3732

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Member	Lee Kichen	355-1227

Auxiliary

Chairperson	VACANT (Linda Gould 388-7149)
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Social Club YAHOO (Young At Heart Officers Org)

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

Program Co-Chairpersons	John & Carol O'Brien	907-8891
Program Co-Chairpersons	Jim & Joyce Hesson	926-8702
Program Co-Chairpersons	Donald and Rita Cunningham	351-8967

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***George Tracy*

As I receive the Gavel, as your new President, I should emphasize that Troy Scott, as your, now Immediate-Past-President, is not taking Douglas MacArthur's "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away!" option and letting the Navy take over! Troy is indeed a cherished MOAS leader, to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude, for his repeated willingness to accept responsibility and help make MOAS things happen, with, of course, the great support of his wife, Elke. So, Troy, we are grateful for your service and look forward to your continued mentorship.

That said, I trust that those who attended our MOAS Gala last month enjoyed our inauguration and celebration as much as Kay and I did. And, on behalf of your newly elected MOAS officers and directors, I want to thank you for your confidence in our 2015 MOAS leadership team. We look forward to implementing the priorities of our 3-5 year strategic plan and accomplishing the 2015 MOAS mission with, as always, as much of your help as you can muster in finding new MOAS members and supporting MOAS programs!

In last month's newsletter, Troy did a nice job of summarizing what we will strive to do in 2015, which is a continuation of the initiatives of last year: recruiting more members, becoming more active in local veterans affairs, continuing to Support Our Troops, and improving our advocacy for you, our members, and for those currently serving. Notably, we will be leveraging the efforts of Linda Gould, Tom Piazza and our outstanding Board and Staff to enhance MOAS presence locally and nationally through the Flag Initiative, Legacy of Valor, Patriot Plaza and relationship building with other Veteran-support organizations in Sarasota County. Our monthly Meet & Greet and sponsored recruiting events have added a more casual, networking dimension to our visibility that reaches out to a particular audience of prospective members. These programs along with the variety of our monthly luncheons, YAHOO and other social and charitable activities, documented in our award-winning monthly newsletter, edited and produced by Len Friedlander and Patt Staley, will continue to maintain and enhance our standing as a 5 Star MOAA Chapter.

This month, on January 16-17, to kick-start our 2015 agenda, Troy, Brian, Len and I will be attending our Annual MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) Leadership Forum in Ocala FL, which will include an essential Recruiting and Retention Workshop to address a critical and ongoing mission priority, Membership. In our absence on this important detail, Linda Gould will serve as Master of Ceremonies at the monthly luncheon, featuring Habitat for Humanity and its role in Veteran assistance.

So what can you do to help us get going? First, if you have not done so, please renew your membership. Second, find that neighboring Veteran officer and encourage MOAS membership. And, finally, let us know what you think and help us to serve you better!!

Thanks again for your service and your support! Enjoy the best of New Years and beyond!!!

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SECRETARY'S CORNER

Brian McCarthy

President Troy Scott, presiding, called the meeting to order at 1600 hours on Dec 1, 2014 at the Meadows Community Center. **ATTENDANCE:** *Board Members Present:* Troy Scott (Pres); Tom Piazza (1VP); Linda Gould (2VP); Christa Friedlander (Treas); Brian McCarthy (Sec'y); George Tracy (Dir); Alan Forester (Dir); Claire Power (Dir) and John O'Brien (IPP). *Members and Visitors Present:* Pat McLain, Chris White, & Craig Hullinger

BOARD MEETINGS AND LUNCHEONS

MONTH	BOARD	LUNCHEON
JANUARY	5	16
FEBRUARY	2	20
MARCH	2	20

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: We had a lot of activity during November; the Meet & Greet at the Sarasota Wine Club, the Legacy Zone table, which I manned with Cherie Zadlo from MOAA National, the recruiting event at Gold Coast Eagle on the 19th, the luncheon on the 21st, our Support Our Troops (SOT) participation at the Veteran's Day Parade on the November 11th and my presentation at Pineview Elementary. Congratulations to COL Linda Gould, USA (Ret) and our Chapter 2nd Vice President for her selection as *Woman Veteran of the Year*. All her hard work in the veteran community is deeply appreciated and a credit to her and her association with MOAS. I hope that everyone had a good Thanksgiving, and you are ready for the upcoming holidays.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The November Board meeting minutes & the newsletter update were unanimously approved. The Secretary thanked the incoming Secretary, Craig Hullinger for his support during his absence at the November meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Balances as of Nov 30, 2014.

MOAS Operating Account:	\$25,137.50
Operating Fund	\$16,427.54
LoV/Flag Initiative	\$ 8,709.96
Scholarship Fund Account:	\$37,296.55
Undesignated Scholarship Fund:	\$31,333.74
Committed Vet/Student Scholarships	\$ 2,000.00
Support Our Troops:	\$ 3,962.81

OLD BUSINESS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Scheduled Events (Elke Scott): The November Luncheon had 139 attending; profit was \$113; 50/50 contributed \$118 to SMOSF.

Newsletter (Len Friedlander): The December issue of the Breeze was published and distributed (180 hardcopies via USPS, and 283 via email). I want to thank Patt Staley for editing and publishing the final copy of the Breeze in my absence, and Craig Hullinger for taking the luncheon photos.

Publicity (Alan Forrester): Luncheon press release was sent to the Tampabay Newswire with the speaker's photo. The release was also sent to 90+ media contacts including MOAA.

Scholarships: (Claire Power): The Schmidt Foundation has awarded \$4,000 to the Scholarship Fund: a \$2,000 Merit

Scholarship and \$2,000 to be earmarked for our Veterans Program. I will be mailing application packages to the schools in January. We will be able to keep the scholarship level at \$2,000 each for 2015. This equates to four JROTC scholarships + two MOAS Merit Scholarships + the Schmidt Merit Scholarship for a total of 7 High School Scholarships. With the Schmidt Foundation monies, our Veterans Program will have \$4,000 to award. The Scholarship Committee will discuss the Veterans Programs to receive the \$4,000 on Jan 26, 2015.

Programs: (Linda Gould):

LUNCHEON PROGRAMS	
DECEMBER	Winter Gala
JANUARY	Habitat for Humanity
FEBRUARY	TBD

Membership (George Tracy): Hosted our scheduled 11/19/2014 "MOAS Meet & Greet" chapter recruiting event at John Saputo's Golden Eagle Distributing Conference Center in Lakewood Ranch. Attendance was relatively low given the number of emails and postcards sent out to local veteran officers, though the impact of the mailings has stimulated additional community awareness that is expected to benefit the recruiting effort and produce an additional 5 members. The MOAS Brochure-Application content continues to undergo modification.

MOAS	2013	2014
REGULAR	294	277
AUXILIARY	87	82
ALLIED	4	4
TOTAL	385	363

Web Design (George Tracy): Routine maintenance including adding visit counters to both MOAS websites. Reviewed our ISP (Genesis Domains) available no-cost services to improve search visibility, email exchange and other features. Ongoing exploration of potential enhancements to the MOAS Sarasota website that better assist MOAS Membership management and administration and offer service/interaction features that enhance recruiting appeal.

Support Our Troops (John O'Brien): MOAS support of the 82 CAB began with the Sarasota Veterans Day Parade where we handed out 716 Postal boxes. We had a glitch when on the day of the parade one APO address was closed. We obtained a new APO within 24 hrs and as people called in were able to manually correct the address and get the boxes shipped. Overall with support from Riverview HS, MacAllister's Restaurant, Church of the Palms, a Sarasota Gov't branch office and our members at the November luncheon we distributed 1,052 boxes.

Sarasota County Veterans Commission (Pat McLain): JoAnne Devries -Hearing Loss Association- There will be a Veteran Hearing Awareness Forum on Saturday, Feb 7, 2015 - 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Community Foundation 2635 Fruitville Rd. Call 941-320-8825 or jdv.devries8@gmail.com. Harriet Roberts, Garden of the Heart Yoga Center presents Yoga For Vets at Goodwill, Thursdays at 3:30 PM, 5150 N. Tamiami Trail (South of University Pkwy). FREE OF CHARGE in collaboration with the DoD. Male & Female classes. Pre-Registration required. Email Harriet@gardenoftheheart yoga.com.

Flag Protocol (Tom Piazza): 1) Lesson 10, American Flag Protocol Initiative conducted at the Lamarque Elementary School in North Port on 11/14/14. In total, 125 fourth grade students received the instruction and Certificates of Completion. North Port HS JROTC & Venice Area Chapter supported the activity. 2) Made a presentation about the American Flag Protocol Initiative at the Veterans Legacy Summit.

Continued on Page 6



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Len Friedlander

FY 2015 Spending Bill

The spending bill funds most of the federal government through the next fiscal year (Homeland Security would only be funded until Feb 28, 2015) providing a level of stability we have not seen for the last few years.

The bill includes two year advanced appropriations for VA benefit programs through FY 2016. These accounts include VA compensation and pensions, readjustment benefits such as the GI bill, and insurance and indemnities for survivors. This is in addition to advance funding for VA health care.

The results of the FY2015 Defense spending bill are mixed. DoD's defense budget proposal last March contained recommendations to "slow the growth" of pay and benefits to the military community: cap the active duty pay raise at 1% percent; increase out-of pocket housing costs by 5% percent over 3 years; reduce commissary purchasing power by 66%; radically overhaul TRICARE; increase pharmacy fees, and implement a means-tested TRICARE for Life (TFL) enrollment fee.

Congress either rejected or curtailed the DoD proposals; blocking the TRICARE overhaul and means testing of TFL enrollment fees while limiting the impact of the commissary, housing allowance, and pharmacy fee proposals to one year modifications.

However 2015 marks a second year of pay caps below private sector wage growth. With four additional years of pay caps included in the President's 2014 budget submission, this isn't a statistical anomaly, it's the emergence of a disturbing trend.

Although Congress limited changes in commissary funding, housing allowances, and pharmacy co-pays to one year, this could easily be perceived as support for chipping away at these benefits; and in two obscure sections of a joint explanatory statement of the defense bill, House and Senate Armed Services Committee members stated that they have not yet rejected DoD plans to further erode housing allowances or increase TRICARE pharmacy fees, and will again "commit to consider" these proposals next year.

If sequestration returns, an ugly scenario could be on the horizon. The joint statement goes on to say that if sequestration returns, "DoD will need to make painful cuts and achieve substantial savings across its entire budget in order to avoid an unacceptable reduction in readiness."

Unacceptable readiness can be the result of a variety of shortfalls in either inadequate training or equipment. But we must not lose sight that the erosion of pay and benefits in the past led to poor recruiting and retention, resulting in unacceptable readiness issues. It appears we are heading down that path again. **The bottom line:** MOAA's mission in 2015 will be to remind Congress that pay and benefit erosion led to significant readiness problems in the past.

Base Closures Rejected

The latest National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) legislation rejected DoD's request for a round of base realignment and closures (BRAC) in 2017, something the administration and DoD has been pushing for. In 2004, DoD estimated it had about 25% excess infrastructure and the 2005 BRAC cut roughly 3% of that. The department saves more than \$12 billion a year from the five BRAC rounds (1988 to 2005) and is hoping to save more in a future consolidation.

The legislation also dropped a House bill provision asking DoD to report on its long-range force structure plans and conduct a comprehensive inventory of its facilities and infrastructure. Lawmakers called previous savings estimates of earlier BRAC rounds "outdated" and said the Defense Department already has enough tools to reduce its infrastructure spending.

Oversight Bill to Decrease VA Burial Delays

A bill aimed at decreasing recent delays in veteran burials by giving Congress new VA oversight got a push forward from lawmakers in November. Reports have sprung up around the country that deceased vets are waiting months to be interred in the VA system of national cemeteries.

Sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Dean Heller, R-NV and in the House by Rep. Ed Royce, R-CA the bill would require the VA to track and record any burials not completed within 30 days, and the entities that are responsible for the bodies; medical examiners, funeral directors, and county service groups, etc. Data on the delays would be provided in an annual report to the House and Senate veterans' affairs committees.

VA Appointment Issues Persist

Apparently there are still problems to be resolved at the VA. In a report released Dec 15th the VA IG cited multiple errors and a lack of evidence in a fact sheet released in April to Congress and the press that said 23 veterans died and a total of 76 suffered serious harm throughout the nation while waiting for health care since 1999.

The IG stated that the VA overstated the timeframe of its review by eight years, since the VA said it examined unresolved requests for health care since 1999, but in reality only examined requests dating back to 2007. Moreover, the IG says there may have been "overstatements or understatements" about the number of deaths or illnesses resulting from delays at specific VA hospitals and that the fact sheet contained a number of other errors.

The VA reported that between September 2012 and April 2014, the number of appointments delayed more than 90 days dropped from 2 million to less than 300,000, but the IG found that the VA did not document how staff members were closing these appointments and did not ensure veterans received the care they were waiting for. As a result, the IG could not determine what happened to 1.7 million appointments.

Rep. Jeff Miller, R-FL, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs chairman, described the errors as either intentionally deceitful or grossly incompetent. I think we can expect additional hearings.

Protecting Mustangs

As a retired "mustang" officer, this is an issue that is close to my heart. The Army recently involuntarily separated nearly 1,700 Captains and Majors as part of its ongoing drawdown actions. Many of these officers began their career as enlisted soldiers, and these "mustang" officers with 20 or more years of service are forced to retire. Unfortunately, current statute requires service members to have at least eight years of commissioned officer service to retire as an officer. Otherwise they are retired at their last enlisted rank, and the financial impact is significant.

Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-Penn.) has introduced the Proudly Restoring Officers of Prior Enlistment Retirement (PROPER) Act; legislation strongly encouraged by MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan. The bill would modify existing discharge authority to allow officers appointed from the enlisted ranks with 20 years of service to retire as an officer with only four years as a commissioned officer.

Sens. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.) along with 13 other senators sent a letter to Army Secretary John McHugh requesting he rework the policy to avoid separating these officers until they reach the eight-year service requirement. MOAA will monitor this legislation and push for its passage if the Army doesn't fix the problem.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Charles Caudill

MYSTERY

This glorious time of the year causes me to ponder all of the mysteries that take place in our lives. Saying the word "mystery" brings me comfort because I stop trying to wrestle with what I don't understand.

I recently learned of an unbelievable World War II rescue. A U.S. Army Air Corps pilot was shot down over the ocean. He knew he was not going to be rescued at sea as planes would fly over and not be able to see him alone in the waves. All of a sudden a strong wind took the scarf from around his neck and blew it skyward where a passing plane observed it and rescued him. This is the kind of occurrence no one can explain.

During my military career I encountered lives that were spared which defied logic. I was on an Medevac plane from

Vietnam when a wounded pilot called me over to him. He had been shot down in North Vietnam and was trying to evade the Viet Cong. He was in the jungle for days trying to get back to where he could be rescued. He came upon a village that looked safe and as he started to enter it saw a fellow serviceman being assassinated. He drew back into the jungle and had given



up when he stumbled into one small ray of light coming through the trees. As if by magic a helicopter appeared overhead, spotted him, and rescued him.

In November I performed the wedding of a Marine that should not have survived oral cancer. My first experience with this type of cancer taught me that survival is not good; and those who do are severely disfigured by the removal of the jawbone. This Marine is the leader of a prominent University band and a world-class trumpet player himself. The surgeons didn't cut his lips and go into his jaw from the front as they normally would.

They performed the surgery from behind his jaw and didn't have to remove any bone. He has not only totally recovered but was able to play his trumpet at the wedding as a surprise for his bride and the rest of us.

He told me that prior to the surgery he was afraid he was going to die and lost hope. He finally accepted that everything was in God's hands and he prayed for guidance. All at once, he felt complete peace and all fear left him. He was able to surrender totally which gave him the positive attitude he needed for his surgery and recovery. He is now excited to share his experience and new found faith with others.

After the wedding, his sister told me another miracle about this same Marine. When he was seven years old he was following his older brother as he climbed up the high diving board at a public pool. The lifeguard yelled for him to come down and as he stepped back toward the ladder he fell, landing on his head on the pavement. His skull cracked completely around the circumference of his head. The family called in their priest who administered the last rites to him. He should have died but didn't. God had more for him to do!

Throughout my life I have seen and experienced many events that could have had a destructive outcome, but have become blessings instead. When I was a child I contracted a life threatening disease. The doctor told my father that all he could do was vaccinate me with a drug that would either cure the disease or cause my death. My parents made the very difficult decision to have the doctor administer the vaccination. Thankfully it worked.

We at FCOC have our own blessing to be thankful for with the ongoing recovery of our President, John Morrison.

As I reflect on these mysteries, I am reminded of the power of God and his loving care. Seek first God's love then all things will be added to you.

My wish for MOAS, FCOC, and MOAA members is that we share our love and faith with our families this holiday and all year round. May you have a joyful and blessed Holy Season!

Chaplain Caudill was unable to submit an article for this issue of the Breeze due to a family medical emergency and he requested we reprint his December 2014 column in the FCOC Communique newsletter.

Riverview High School US Army JROTC

by SGM Roger Mitchell

The Riverview High School Patriot Battalion has started another busy year! Our new cadets are on board with uniforms issued and beginning their JROTC studies under the guidance of their upper class cadets.

Our biggest news is that the battalion was selected as a "pilot" program for the new US Army Cadet Command JROTC Program for Accreditation. Cadet Command will no longer inspect JROTC units. Instead each unit will undergo a process to review their educational capabilities with more emphasis on the JROTC instructors. Also cadets will no longer conduct a Command Briefing. Instead cadets will select an area for improvement and plan and conduct a Continuous Improvement Project briefing. Our cadet leaders and staff held several meetings this summer to start the process. The cadets' efforts will culminate in an accreditation visit by Sixth Brigade personnel on 12 February 2015. An instructor from each US Army JROTC Program in Manatee and Sarasota Counties will attend the visit to see how the process works. The goal of this year's "pilot" program is to validate the accreditation process and discover any shortfalls that need to be corrected before the new program officially begins. Our cadets have been working hard, and we are confident that their efforts will assist Sixth Brigade in validating the new program.

Some of our former cadets are continuing to pursue careers in the military. Three former Riverview cadets that were fortunate to receive both MOAS and ROTC scholarships are continuing their studies at St. Leo, USF and Embry Riddle Universities. One of them will commission next summer as an Armor Officer. We appreciate the assistance that the MOAS Scholarship Program provided to make these cadets' education goals a reality.

In addition, several cadets from last year's class enlisted. One former cadet has already returned from Basic and AIT as a Florida Guard member. Another former cadet is in AIT and another is completing Boot Camp at Parris Island. We are confident that these former cadets will serve our nation well.



YAHOO
 Young at Heart Officers Organization
John O'Brien

The January Ice Hockey Game (Tampa Bay Lightning vs. Vancouver Canucks) on January 20th has been **sold out**. By now Navy supporters should be recovering from the great Army victory and ready for a February Polo match at Lakewood Ranch. March will find the YAHOOs at the Gordon's St. Paddy Day party, followed on March 27th with the Orioles vs Tampa Bay Rays baseball game at Ed Smith Stadium; details in next Breeze.

Sunday, February 15th - Polo at Lakewood Ranch
Tailgating Theme: President's Day: Red, White & Blue

Patt & Mike Staley and John & Carol O'Brien, are planning on good weather and will sponsor a day at the Polo Field at Lakewood Ranch with the theme being "President's Day: Red, White & Blue." The themes will be judged for "Best Burger," "Best Homemade Dessert," and "Best All American Décor."

The hosts will bring grills with all the necessary supplies, burgers, all the trimmings, baked beans, potato salad, pasta salad and of course, apple pie with whipped cream. We will have 2 canopies and several tables for food, utensils, plates, napkins etc. We are asking everyone to bring an appetizer or dessert keeping in mind the patriotic theme. Bring your choice of drink (BYOB), chairs, hats and sunscreen. And red, white and blue is the uniform of the day.

We suggest you arrive around 1130 hrs so we have plenty of time for socializing, checking out the horses and partaking in good food and drink.

We will be set up with tailgating on the north side of the field, east of the grandstands. Look for a US flag, and our MOAS banner.

DIRECTIONS: from I-75, exit 213, University Parkway east toward Lakewood Ranch. Go about 3.5 miles and turn right onto Lorraine Rd. Enter the second polo field entrance on the right where there will be someone will be collecting money (\$12/adult and children under 12 are free). CASH ONLY. Parking will be on your left. Park anywhere and come join us to the east of the stands. RSVP to John and Carol O'Brien by February 8th at (941) 907-8891 or email cobrienvt@aol.com.

Tuesday, March 17th – St Patrick's Day @ The Gordon's

'Tis time for the wearin' of the green

Celebrate St. Patty's on March 17th

With corned beef and green beer,

Irish pipe tunes to hear,

And trivia for minds that are keen.

Jon and Mary Gordon continue the YAHOO tradition of observing St. Patrick's Day. Since Mary has retired, we will actually celebrate on St. Patrick's Day this year. So put Tuesday, March 17th at 6:00 PM on your calendar and circle it in green. The hosts will provide a traditional Irish meal along with green beer and soft drinks. Guests are asked to bring an appetizer, salad, vegetable dish, or dessert – something Irish, something green, or just something good. If you prefer wine to green beer, the hosts ask that you make it a BYO event. Remember to refresh your memories of Irish lore (it's s-h-i-l-l-e-l-a-g-h!).

Plan to join our annual "wearing of the green" at 8208 Deerbrook Circle; please use the Turtle Rock North Gate on Palmer Ranch Parkway. Please RSVP with your acceptance and your dish preference to Mary by March 10th. Call 923-2302 or email JMKPL@aol.com.



VISUAL & PERFORMING
ARTS
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JANUARY 16-17 Seasons of Disney (Music & DiGiMo)
 7:00PM All Tickets \$10.

Tickets call Judy Piercy at (941) 355-2967
 or <http://www.vpabooker.com>

Secretary's Corner

Continued from Page 3

3) On 11/21/14 a 4th grade teacher at Oak Park Elementary School, conducted a modified Lesson 10, focusing on folding the American Flag. Riverview HS JROTC & COL (Ret) Bob Fernander (MOAS) assisted & awarded 27 Completion Certificates to participating students. 4) MAJ (Ret) Graham Kneale, Fredericksburg, TX, read about the Initiative in MILITARY OFFICER and requested information to implement the program in the elementary schools there. 5) The Teachers' American Flag Protocol Initiative Workshop is scheduled for 2/5/15. Teachers from Manatee County Schools are invited to attend the workshop in preparation to launch the program in their classrooms. MOAS member, Don Courtney, in his role as Chairman, Manatee County Veterans Council, and COL (Ret) Gil Ruederman are taking action lead on this action. 6) Planning for a formal Flag Retirement Ceremony at Patriot Plaza on Flag Day 2015 continues. With the help of Sandy Beckley and John Rosentrater, Cemetery Director, most of the logistical challenges...and associated costs...can be overcome with some creative planning. Rosentrater clarified that while the need for liability insurance covering the ceremony is not a requirement, the sponsoring organization(s) will be required to state that it (they) assume all liability for actions and events that are directly related to the ceremony or special event and will hold VA harmless for any damage to property and/or injuries that directly relate to the ceremony. Is MOAS willing to make such a statement? Next planning committee meeting is scheduled for 12/4/14.

NEW BUSINESS: 1) We are actively recruiting Auxiliary and Personal Affairs Representatives. 2) The Board affirmed continued support of the Academic Olympics (\$1,500 earmarked). 3) A baseball event is being planned for March. 4) Tom Piazze presented an opportunity for us to participate on Flag Day by organizing a Flag retirement ceremony. A discussion ensued concerning how best to handle the liability insurance issues for the event. Tom agreed to continue investigating insurance coverage under MOAS' current liability policy. 5) The Navy League is taking lead in Spirit of "45" (2nd weekend in August). Linda will get more information. A discussion ensued regarding our participation in the event with a Flag retirement ceremony. 6) George Tracy, Troy Scott and Brian McCarthy will be attending the Florida Council of Chapters Leadership Forum January 16 – 17th in Ocala, Florida. Linda Gould will MC the luncheon.

NEXT MEETING: Meeting adjourned at 5:00PM. The next Board meeting is scheduled for 4:00PM on Monday Jan 5, 2015 at the Meadows Community Center.

Winter Gala Photos







SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

John O'Brien

Our support of the 82 Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) from Ft Bragg, NC in Afghanistan was a huge success with 716 APO/FPO postal boxes distributed at the Sarasota Veterans Day Parade; 175 at the Church of the Palms and 47 taken by our chapter members at the November luncheon. Adding various phone requests for boxes, the total was 1,052.

A major glitch occurred when we learned that on the day of the parade the Military Post Office in Afghanistan closed one of the four APO/FPO addresses we were assigned. Due to quick action by Jim Hesson we obtained a new APO address within 24 hours so at least we could correct the address when people called; which was usually from a Post Office where they were trying to mail their care package to the Troops. In every case, these Americans were determined their package was going to get overseas, and they were thanking Carol and me when it was these citizens whose care and respect for our service men and women that show they support our Troops.

This was emphasized by COL Mele, Commander, Task Force Raptor, 16th CAB, wrote in a note to Jim Hesson thanking our Chapter for its efforts of involving our citizens, which "truly helps maintain the bonds (and Trust) between the American Public and the Nation's fighting men and women. Thanks for all you have done in and out of uniform."



Academic Olympics

Pat McLain

There are many changes to the Academic Olympics this year. SMA has decided to drop out of the competition, and there will now be two groups: North County and South County, as it was getting difficult for students arrive on time when traveling across the county without leaving class early.

The North County Group includes Booker, Cardinal Mooney, Riverview and Sarasota; and the South County Group consists of Imagine School North Port, North Port HS, Venice HS, Pine View School, and Suncoast Polytechnical HS.

All matches are at 3:00 PM on Tuesday Jan 27, 2015.

MATCH

Sarasota v Booker
Cardinal Mooney v Riverview
Venice v Imagine School NP
Suncoast Poly v North Port
Pine View has a Bye

LOCATION

@Booker - TBA
@Cardinal Mooney-Media Ctr
@ Venice-Bldg#4 TEL Lab
@ Suncoast Poly-10th Grade Q

(Please remember that you are welcome at any of these matches and they are fun to watch. You can also feel proud if you know some of the answers just don't say them out loud.)

Herald Tribune Interviews MOAS Member

LTC Mike Adkinson was interviewed by Abby Weingarten and published in the Sarasota Herald Tribune last month. An Army pilot, Mike is a Sarasota resident and member of MOAS. He served three back-to-back tours of duty in Vietnam in helicopter gunships, and the interview article details some of his experiences while serving in Vietnam.

A recipient of the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Purple Heart, Mike has become an active force in veteran activities in our area.

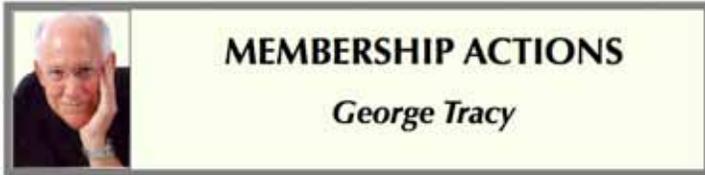
You can read the entire interview at:

<http://veterans.heraldtribune.com/2014/11/20/helicopter-pilot-flew-three-tours-vietnam/>

2015 MOAS Officers & Board of Directors



(L-R) George Tracy, LT USN,
President
Brian McCarthy, RADM USN,
1st Vice President
Linda Gould, COL USA,
2nd Vice President
Craig Hullinger, Col USMC,
Secretary
Christa Friedlander,
Treasurer;
Alan Forrester, LT USN,
Director;
Claire Power, Director;
Christopher White, COL USA,
Director;
Troy Scott, COL USAR,
Immediate Past President



MEMBERSHIP ACTIONS

George Tracy

Dear MOAS Members,

As you know we are in the midst of our 2015 MOAS Membership Renewal Campaign! At this writing, this critical effort to retain your support, through 2015 renewal dues and scholarship donations, has thus far returned a modest 37.2% of our 2015 renewal funding-target with 16% of active members contributing scholarship support. **Thank You!! But, our renewal goal is still 100% by January 2015!**

So, if, for some reason, you have not received our renewal request letter and form, you may use the MOAS application (and renewal) form available on our MOAS website at http://www.sarasotamoaa.com/membership_application.htm. And, if you have not already responded, please do so at your next opportunity!

As we enter 2015, we recommit ourselves to deserving your membership support through our continued award-winning performance here; keeping you informed via our newsletter and luncheon meetings, representing your interests, assisting local charities, supporting the troops, awarding scholarships to deserving youth and, now, returning veterans and, otherwise, to celebrating and promoting your military service, your veterans rights, your camaraderie and your contributions to country and community. Our expanded efforts collaborating with other local charities to support the needs of veterans and their families, has created greater visibility, awareness and appreciation of the voice and visibility that MOAS gives to veterans at local, state and national levels!

The Bottom Line has not changed!! Given today's political and economic challenges for Military Veterans, **MOAS needs you more than ever in 2015!!** So, please fill out and submit your MOAS renewal form with your 2014 dues check at your earliest convenience

Although, as an active MOAS member, your information on file may be current, this is the time when we make sure of that with our annual validation and update of your record, as necessary. We appreciate your helping us to ensure the accuracy of your birthday, email and other contact information so we can, at least, keep you informed!! And, as our recent survey indicated, we want to know what you think! We do welcome your input and your efforts to help us better accomplish the MOAS mission and recruit MOAS members!

Finally, in 2015 our recruiting efforts will re-emphasize, not just our Regular and Auxiliary MOAS memberships for military officers and spouses, but also our Associate, Honorary and Allied Officer memberships (see Page 43 of your 2014 MOAS Directory). So, in addition to your efforts to recruit veterans, if you become aware of local, Allied veterans or non-military supporters, who wish to join MOAS or who deserve the recognition of honorary membership for distinguished service, please advise myself or any other Board member, and we will make it happen!!

A hearty welcome to our new members, enjoy the best and safest of the holiday seasons and the New Year, 2015, and, as always,....**Thanks for your support of MOAS!!**

New Members

Bills, Mark M (Sandie) CPT, USA
1309 Guilford Drive
Venice, FL 34292
(941) 484-7033 mmbdmd@comcast.net

Geer, Alan B (Ann) Maj, USAF
7520 Rigby Court
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202-2453
(239) 410-0039 aageer48@gmail.com

Rainey, Michael R (Kathleen) 1LT, USA
4633 Forest Wood Trail
Sarasota, FL 34241
(941) 379-5603 raineymk@msn.com

Wozniak, Ronald S (Linda) LtCol, USMC
207 68th Street NW
Bradenton, FL 34209-2227
(941) 761-1313 NauticalEffect@msn.com

Directory Changes/Additions

Bain, Clarence (Oneida) Lt Col, USAF
PO Box 51295
Sarasota FL 34232
(941) 363-4530

Conyne, Dorothy
4540 Bee Ridge Road Apt 327
Sarasota, FL 34233
(941) 342-5327 CarolR50@aol.com

Guthrie, John S (Elaine) MG, USA
One Beach Drive Unit 2303
St Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 498-7808 cjgut3@aol.com

DeCaprio, Alice LTJG, USN
decaprio2@verizon.net

Gordon, Milton (Shirley) 1LT, USA
(941) 918-8439 miltgordon@verizon.net

Quigley, Thomas K (Mary) Lt Col, USAF
808quig@live.com

Thompson, Rita
7333 Scotland Way #2307
Sarasota FL 34238

Elder, Howard K LTC, AUS
henme2@comcast.net

Hirschberg, Edith
(941) 921-2514

Mennicke, Victor O (Cindy) LTC, USA
3435 Fox Run Road Ulnit #207
Sarasota, FL 34231-7385
(941) 923-7525

Sarasota County Veterans Commission

by Mike Adkinson

Just over 40 people were in attendance at the December meeting of the Sarasota County Veterans Commission (SCVC). Many were reviewing progress made during their busiest month of the year (November), while others were commenting on their plans for an even greater year in 2015. The personal and organizational connections created by the two dozen organizations within this group provides "the secret sauce" for how Sarasota county has developed such a positive image for veteran-related activities and support. The *Breeze* will continue to spotlight key programs as they are announced.

MOAS Luncheon
Friday, January 16, 2015
Michael's On East



MENU

SERVED LUNCHEON

Black Bean Soup with Lime Wedge & a Dash of Sherry

Signature Bread Basket

ENTREE:

Brie Chicken: Boneless Breast of Chicken
 Topped with a fan of Sliced Apple
 and Melted Brie napped with Choice of Pink
 Peppercorn Sauce
 Dried Fruit & Wild Rice Blend,
 Asparagus & Roasted Red Pepper

SERVED DESSERT

German Chocolate Cake
 Moist Chocolate Cake Sandwiched with
 Luxurious Caramel-Pecan Coconut Icing

Served Coffee, Decaf & Tea

MOAS LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

For 1/16/2015 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 72 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.

REMINDER

As discussed at the November Business Meeting this will be the last *Sarasota Breeze* newsletter to be mailed via US Postal Service in this form due to the cost of printing and postage.

Beginning with the February 2015 issue the primary method of distribution will be electronically via email, and we urge all members having access to email to ensure their correct email address is on file with MOAS. The easiest way to validate your personal contact information is during the membership renewal process that is currently ongoing – check the information on the renewal form and make any required corrections. You can also correct your information by contacting any of the officers listed on Page 2 of this newsletter.

If you wish to continue receiving a printed copy of the newsletter -- albeit in a less formal format -- by US Postal Service, there will be a charge of \$12.00 for the coming year to defray expenses. We sincerely hope this does not inconvenience the membership



MEET & GREET

Friday Jan 9th 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 Sarasota Wine Club (SWC)
 (formerly Sarasota Vineyards)

downtown Sarasota at 1528 Main Street
 (between Lemon Ave & Orange Ave)



MOAS Calendar

January - February - March 2015



DATE	EVENT	TIME
January 5, Monday	MOAS Board Meeting - Meadows Community Association	4:00 p.m.
January 9, Friday	Meet & Greet - Sarasota Wine Club - Details Page 11	5:00 p.m.
January 16, Friday	Luncheon - Michaels on East - Habitat for Humanity 	11:30 a.m.
Jan 16 -17, Fri - Sat	VPA - Seasons of Disney - Details Page 6	7:00 p.m.
January 20, Tuesday	YAHOO: Tampa Bay Lightning Hockey	6:30 p.m.
January 27, Tuesday	Academic Olympics - Details Page 9	3:00 p.m.
February 2, Monday	MOAS Board Meeting - Meadows Community Association	4:00 p.m.
February 13, Friday	Meet & Greet - Sarasota Wine Club	5:00 p.m.
February 15, Sunday	YAHOO: Polo @ Lakewood Ranch - Details Page 6	11:30 a.m.
February 20, Friday	Luncheon - Michaels on East - TBD 	11:30 a.m.
March 2, Monday	MOAS Board Meeting - Meadows Community Association	4:00 p.m.
March 13, Friday	Meet & Greet - Sarasota Wine Club	5:00 p.m.