

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 & 2009-2016

Best Newsletter 2007 & 2010; Runner Up 2008, 2009, 2012 - 2014; 5 Star 2015; 4 Star 2016

5 Star Website 2015, 2016

Vol. XXVIII No. 12

December 2017

NOVEMBER PROGRAM: Annual Business Meeting & "The Symbols of Service and Sacrifice": Gold Star Mother Toni Gross, Silver Star Mother Donna Kistel, and Blue Star Mother Linda Atkins

by Perry Korszen

Our Annual Business Meeting was conducted at the November luncheon as required by the organization Charter and By-Laws. President Brian McCarthy provided an update of the chapter's progress and achievements during the past year, and then presented the slate of nominees for the MOAS & SMOSF Officers and Directors. The nominee biographies were printed in last month's newsletter: Brian McCarthy - President; Ron Wozniak - 1st VP; Jack Klingensmith - 2nd VP; Peter Dering - Secretary; Christa Friedlander - Treasurer; Claire Power - Director; Mario Fajardo - Director; Kristine Nickel - Director; and George Tracy - Past President. All were elected unanimously. **The Annual Meeting minutes can be found on Page 10 of this newsletter.**

Honor Through Service was the theme of the presentation by the three mothers who have continually served our nation. They spoke about the history behind the different star flags, the Gold, Silver, and Blue Star Mother's organizations, and their personal stories.

Gold Star Mother Toni Gross is the daughter of the late U.S. Navy Lt. Frank Robert Hankey, who served 29 years. Toni became a Gold Star mother when her only son, US Army Cpl. Frank R. Gross, was killed in action in Afghanistan. **Silver Star Mother Donna Kistel** is the daughter of the late US Air Force Captain Jack Cox, a pilot during WWII who received two Distinguished Flying Crosses. Donna became a Silver Star Mother when during her son's fifteen-month deployment to Iraq he experienced three direct IED hits and two suicide bombers. **Blue Star Mother Linda Atkins'** father served as a Signal Corps officer for over 30 years and her husband Rob served as an Infantry officer in the U S Army for over 22 years.



DECEMBER PROGRAM: MOAS 35th MILITARY GALA & INSTALLATION OF 2018 OFFICERS

The *Military Officer's Association of Sarasota* will celebrate its 35th Annual Military Gala at Michael's on East on **Sunday, December 10th** -- our premier formal event of the year, and "Change of Command" for the Chapter as we install our Officers and Directors for 2018.

The social hour begins at 6:00 PM followed by the formal program at 7:00 PM with the Presentation of the Colors by the Sarasota Military Academy JROTC Color Guard and traditional toasts.

Following dinner, LTC Marc Oliveri, President of the Florida Council of Chapters will install the 2018 MOAS & SMOSF Officers and Board of Directors.

Music for your listening and dancing pleasure will be provided by *La Croix*.

We will once again be collecting toys for the **TOYS FOR TOTS** program, so please remember to bring an unwrapped toy (or donation check payable to "Toys for Tots").

Menu selections & reservation forms are on Page 11. **LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!!!!**



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Military Officers Association of Sarasota (MOAS) Mission
 MOAS, a non-profit 501c(19) organization, exists to improve the awareness, life style, and overall environment of its members; support and serve the citizens of the Sarasota area; influence the political process in matters pertaining to active duty, retired and former military personnel; and enhance the image of America's uniformed services in our local community.

Chapter Officers, Directors and Committees

Board of Directors

President	Brian McCarthy	bnmccarthy@gmail.com
1st Vice President	Ron Wozniak	ronwozniak13@gmail.com
2nd Vice President	Perry Korszen	perry.korszen@raymondjames.com
Treasurer	Christa Friedlander	ladyhawk10@verizon.net
Secretary	Peter Dering	slpdering@gmail.com
Director (Scholarships)	Claire M. Power	bcpower@comcast.net
Director (Publicity)	Alan Forrester	forrester.alan@gmail.com
Director (Legislative)	Mario Fajardo	fajma48@gmail.com
Immediate Past President	George Tracy	gtracysr@hotmail.com

Board Staff

Program Planning	Perry Korszen	perry.korszen@raymondjames.com
Chaplain	Charles Caudill	cccvmi@verizon.net
Legislative Affairs	Mario Fajardo	fajma48@gmail.com
	Tony Mowry	tony@mowrylawoffice.com
SC Veterans Commission	Dan Willison	danwillison2@gmail.com
Veterans Task Force	Tom Piazze	tepiazze@gmail.com
Historian	George Tracy	gtracysr@hotmail.com
Awards Board	Jonathan Gordon	gordonlaw@att.net

Membership Committee

Chairperson	George Tracy	gtracysr@hotmail.com
Recruiting & Retention	Troy Scott	
Recruiting & Retention	Ron Wozniak	
Recruiting & Retention	Perry Korszen	

Scholarship Committee

Chairperson	Claire M. Power	bcpower@comcast.net
Member	Kay Tracy	
Member	Mike Staley	
Member	Jean Southworth	
Member	Len Friedlander	
JROTC Liaison	Tony Mowry	

Scheduled Events Committee

Chair/Reservations	Valerie McCarthy	valerie.mccarthy@gotoalwayshome.com
Greeters	Troy Scott	
Reception Manager	Pat McLain	
Asst. Reception Manager	June Moore	
50-50 Managers	Kay Tracy	
	Christa Friedlander	

Personal Affairs Committee

Chairperson	Charles Caudill	cccvmi@verizon.net
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Auxiliary/Surviving Spouses

Chairperson	Peggy Mock	peggymock@michaelsanders.com
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Social Club YAHOO (Young At Heart Officers Org)

Coordinator	Ron Wozniak	ronwozniak13@gmail.com
Coordinator	Linda Wozniak	nauticaleffect@msn.com

Support Our Troops Program

Coordinator	Christopher White	white.christopher.f@gmail.com
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brian McCarthy

I was honored this month to speak at the 242nd Marine Corps Birthday Ball at the IMG Academy. I shared with the audience what military service meant to me, and what a unique community we are – *those who have served*. We are part of just 7½ percent of all living Americans who have served in the military, at some point in their lives. *Thank you for your service.*

For anyone who has served in a joint command you know we don't always share a common language. I used the example; "secure the building." The Army will put guards all around the place, the Navy will turn out the lights and lock the doors, the Air Force will take out a five-year lease with an option to purchase and the Marines will kill everyone inside and make it a command post. *Happy Birthday Marines!*

The Sarasota Veterans' Day Parade was a huge success. Chris White loaded up his truck with SOT boxes, Pete Dering and I hopped up in the back, maybe climbed up is closer to the truth, and our SOT team, which included the SMA and Riverview JROTC cadets, passed out 800+ SOT boxes and Veteran's Day concert invitations. Check out Craig Hullinger's Blog posts for pictures of a fun morning on a beautiful Saturday morning in downtown Sarasota.

I hope you all had a chance to attend the Veterans Day concerts at either the Riverview or Neel Performing Arts Center. Robyn Bell, the conductor, allowed me the opportunity to put in a pitch for our Scholarship Fund and our SOT program. As the attendees left we passed out even more SOT boxes. LTC Jack Barnett, MOAS member and POPs President stated; "these were the best attended concert series in our history." Kudos to the Pops Orchestra for donating 100% of the profits from the two concerts to our Scholarship Fund. Claire Power is going to have her hands full this year awarding scholarships and providing veteran assistance.

This month kicks off our membership drive for the 2018 year. You should already have received your renewal notices in the mail. If not, you can go to our web site www.sarasotamoaa.com to renew. Please renew early - so we don't have to follow up. We hope to get 100% renewal before year-end. It's going to be an exciting year. *Let's get onboard early!*

**Hope to see everyone at our
 35th Annual Military Gala December 10th**





SECRETARY'S CORNER

Peter Dering

President Brian McCarthy called the Board meeting to order at 4:02 PM on Monday Nov 6, 2017 at the Meadows Community Center with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
ATTENDANCE: Board Members Present: Brian McCarthy (Pres), Ron Wozniak (1VP); Peter Dering (Sec'y), Claire Power (Dir) & Mario Fajardo (Dir). Board Members Absent: Christa Friedlander (Treas), Alan Forrester (Dir), Perry Korszen (2VP), & George Tracy (IPP). Committee Chairs & Visitors Present: Chris White, Dan Willison, Len Friedlander, Peggy Mock & Toni Borman.

BOARD MEETINGS AND LUNCHEONS

MONTH	BOARD	LUNCHEON
DECEMBER	4	10 (GALA)
JANUARY	2 (TUES)	19
FEBRUARY	5	16

PRESIDENTS REPORT: Don't forget the *Neal Diamond Tribute to America* Veterans concerts being presented by the Sarasota Pops Orchestra this weekend: Sunday, 11/12 at 3:00pm at Riverview Performing Arts Center and Monday, 11/13 at 7:30 pm at the Neel Performing Arts Center. Get the word out. 100% of the profits to be donated to SMOSF for veterans. Sarasota Veterans Day Parade 11/11. MOAS volunteers will meet at Main and Links at 9:30am. Membership renewals are approaching. Please make a donation to the Scholarship Fund.

The Board decided to forgo another printing of "Old Glory" by Sarasota Magazine until next year. We appear to have sufficient quantity on-hand to satisfy the need for one year. Ron Baynes, JROTC, DeSoto County H.S. has requested 200 copies of "Old Glory" for his program. I will deliver to him. MOAS Chamber of Commerce dues are coming up. I will check with Kristine Nickel if she advises renewal. Welcome to our two new MOAS Board nominees: Kristine Nickel for Marketing and Director; Jack Klingensmith for Second Vice President and Director.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The Oct 4, 2017 Board meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer reported balances as of October 31, 2017. The report was approved unanimously.

MOAS Operating Account **\$31,348.71**
Scholarship Fund Account **\$31,865.52**

CD:	\$ 5,000.00 (exp. 3/2018)	
Checking Acc't	\$28,865.52	
Undesignated Available Cash		\$14,292.57
JROTC Scholarships		\$ -0-
Merit Scholarships		\$ -0-
Veterans Scholarships		\$ -0-
JROTC Support		\$ 748.00
Academic Olympics (battery pack sale)		\$ 45.00
SOT Fund		\$ 5,137.76
Outstanding Cadet		\$ 149.50
Veterans Support		\$ 4,122.22
Flag Initiative		\$ 2,370.47

OLD BUSINESS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Scheduled Events: (Valerie McCarthy): The October Luncheon had 68 attendees and had a profit of \$286.50. We had 75

guaranteed reservations and 6 walk-ins. Unclear why members believe they can just – walk in and be accepted. We had 68 attendees and paid for 68 attendees. The 50/50 raffle contributed \$67.00 plus Ralph Scheffert donated \$11.00. Total \$78.00. Starting in January 2018, in an effort to keep luncheon costs to a minimum, we will be deleting salads and soup. The cost will be \$28.50.

Newsletter: (Len Friedlander): The November issue contained an additional 2 pages (total 14 - Military Gala Reservation form & Board of Director nominations). It was emailed to 350 recipients, 75 were printed (70 mailed to members) at a cost of \$105.20.

Publicity & Marketing: (Alan Forrester): Publicized MOAA/Pops Veterans Concerts.

Programs: (Perry Korszen): Nov - Annual Meeting & Gold Star Mothers; Dec - Military Gala, Jan - TBD; Feb - Naval War College; Mar - Mack Payne - Vietnam Vet. CONCERNS: No one booked for January - Suggestions: Selby Gardens, Bay Pines VA, Ringling School of Design, South Florida Museum

	LUNCHEON PROGRAMS
DECEMBER	Military Gala
JANUARY	TBD
FEBRUARY	Naval War College

Membership: (George Tracy): **MOAS Active Membership as of 10/31/2017 - 319: 2018 Renewal & Recruiting Campaign:** Produced the 2018 MOAS Membership Renewal-Recruiting Mailing, including 319 Active & Dues Exempt Renewals plus 221 Former Chapter Members and a total of 342 MOAA National potential recruits. Hopefully this expanded mailing will pay off!!

MOAS	1/1/2017	9/30/201
REGULAR	264	240
SURVIVING SPOUSES	71	75
ALLIED	4	4
TOTAL	339	319

Support Our Troops (SOT): (Chris White): Prepared 1500 boxes to distribute at the Sarasota Veteran's Day Parade. We will have an SOT table at each of the two Pops concerts on Sunday 11/12 & Monday 11/13. Volunteers are needed.

We received a flag from CSM Brock, of the 16th CAB, that was flown all over Afghanistan for the Sarasota County Ops Center, which filled close to 1,000 SOT boxes over the past year. I'll present the flag and certificate to CPT Steve Thomas (US Army (Ret) on 8 Nov. Contacted by Incarnate Catholic Church. They have mailed over 2000 SOT boxes using our website info. They had 4 boxes returned using a SPMAGTF address posted on our website. The address has since been updated (Oct 2017). She agreed to try the new Marine address. Lesson learned is the Marine addresses are more sensitive and can result in returned packages.

Finally, CSM Brock alerted me that his unit (16th CAB) has begun to redeploy, & the replacement unit (TF Falcon, 3d ID CAB) CSM's info will be posted to our website. CSM Brock assured that boxes sent to him will still be received/distributed to 10 or more remote locations.

Sarasota County Veterans Commission: (Dan Willison): Nothing new to report.

Outreach/Auxiliary/Surviving Spouse: (Peggy Mock): No new information to report.

Secretary's Corner Continued on Page 5



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mario Fajardo

What's in the Defense Bill?

The House and Senate conference on the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act is complete, and the outcome validates the extensive efforts put forward by MOAA and our coalition partners to support the currently serving force. The final legislation recognizes the strain on the all-volunteer force by increasing the troop strength above the president's request by the following amounts: Army +7,500, Marine Corps +1,000, Army Reserve +500, and the Army National Guard +500.

The defense policy legislation also authorizes the full 2.4% pay raise for members of the armed forces in line with the statutory baseline, the Employment Cost Index (ECI) rate. As you might recall, MOAA championed the full pay raise rather than the 2.1% pay raise proposed in the president's budget. While this raise matches the ECI, we still have a lingering, cumulative gap of 2.6% from previous years as compared to the private sector.

For the second year in a row, MOAA successfully advocated on behalf of all those who currently serve to leave housing allowances intact. The Senate's proposal to cut the with-dependent rate for dual-military couples with children would have been a significant financial hit to those families, the majority of whom are enlisted. Our financial impact analysis and engagement with leadership on the Armed Services Committees paid off for those families. We will remain vigilant, knowing these allowances have become a favored target for budgeteers.

What's in Store for TRICARE?

- Fee increases likely will be included in the final version of the NDAA; beneficiaries will see steady increases in their cost shares over the next 12 years through retail pharmacy copayments.
- New fees will be introduced to include mail-order prescriptions;
- Costs are projected to top off with fees for a 30-day supply of a generic medication at a retail pharmacy and a 90-day supply by mail reaching \$14; 30-day supply of a non-generic medication at a retail pharmacy will be \$48, and 90-day supply by mail \$44.

What Should Military Families Know?

- Legislation to allow hospice care for beneficiaries under age 21; means the rule also applies to children using TRICARE. MOAA and the TRICARE for Kids Coalition fought to have this prohibition removed by law and succeeded.
- Reimbursement for spouse licensure.
- Impact Aid increases.
- Military survivors- agreed to permanently extend the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) and index future increases to COLA; MOAA advocated for full repeal of the widow's tax

Congress Presses for More Veteran Health Care Choices

With only a few short weeks left in this session of the 115th Congress, the House Committee on Veterans Affairs continues working to improve VA health care, including reforming veterans' care delivered in the community by private providers. The committee held a hearing on nine bills, including two draft proposals specifically aimed at overhauling the Choice program. One of the draft bills was introduced by Chair Phil Roe

(R-Tenn.), the other by VA Secretary David Shulkin. Both versions seek to streamline and establish a more permanent and improved system for delivering care in the community - one offering more options for veterans accessing care. Central to Roe's proposal is consolidating all VA community care programs, including the existing Choice program, into one single, cohesive program and to create a "seamless, integrated system of care" that brings together VA and private sector systems to function as a network in delivering care to veterans.

Other key elements of the bill include:

- Allowing the VA the "right of first refusal," meaning if a medical facility is reasonably able to provide care to the veteran, care *will* be provided by VA,
- Modernizing the VA's medical claims processing so contractors get paid on time,
- Addressing internal and external capacity and conducting market assessments for system improvements,
- Standardizing provider payment rates, and
- Giving the VA additional flexibility to enter into agreements with providers for care when existing contracts are not available or practical.

The VA bill, known as the Veteran Coordinated Access and Rewarding Experiences (CARE) Act, has some notable differences from Roe's bill because it:

- Builds off TRICARE as a model for delivering community care;
- Simplifies eligibility requirements, removing the 30 days/40 miles driving distance requirement, allowing veterans and VA physicians the flexibility to partner in the decision-making process to determine the best avenue for receiving quality care in a timely manner based on clinical need;
- Allows a limited number of walk-in visits from contracted community providers such as CVS or other retail providers for non-emergency or non-urgent medical conditions;
- Establishes access and quality of care standards to measure VA and community care provider outcomes; and
- Recommends paying for the legislation through cost-of-living payment adjustments from veterans' disability payments.

While MOAA generally supports the direction and intent of both bills to consolidate and reform the VA health care system, it is also vital Congress maintains strong oversight to ensure the VA retains existing special-emphasis resources and specialty care expertise such as treatments for spinal cord injury, blind rehabilitation, mental health, access to prosthetics, and similar foundational services.

New Medicare Part B Premiums: Many Will Pay More

Amid all of the changes to TRICARE this year, we have been happy to report that TRICARE For Life (TFL) has remained unaffected and unchanged. While new Medicare Part B rates will be coming out in the next few weeks, the trustees of the Medicare program project the base amount of \$134 a month used in 2017 will remain the same for 2018. However, many beneficiaries who have been paying less than that base amount could see increases in their Part B premiums. Those with higher incomes also will pay more. Social Security is set to rise by 2% at the outset of 2018, in accordance with the COLA. This has some notable implications for Part B premiums.

Recall a bit of recent history: Back in 2016, Social Security received no COLA. A "hold harmless" provision in Medicare law - which prevents any rise in Medicare premiums to exceed the dollar amount increase in their Social Security COLA - locked many Medicare beneficiaries into their then-current premiums (\$105).

Legislative Update Continued on Page 8



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Charles Caudill

Holiday Love

There is no doubt in my mind that the Holiday Season is all about love. Not just giving each other gifts, but giving each other love. One of the best traditions to declare love symbolically is expressed during the marriage ceremony when the ring is given.

We often think gifts of love have to be sacrifices like The Gift of the Magi in which a wife cuts and sells her lustrous, long hair to buy her husband a platinum chain for his pocket watch. The husband in turn has sold his pocket watch to buy her two expensive combs for her hair. The giving of the ring in the wedding ceremony is the greatest gift, which is the declaration of love to each other.

When I officiate at a Christian wedding I hold up the ring (or rings) in my hand before giving them to the couple and say: *"The wedding ring is the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual love, signifying to all the uniting of this*

man and this woman in holy matrimony, ... Bless, O Lord, the giving of this ring, that (he or she) who wears it may abide in thy peace, and continue in thy favor..."

Once the ring is bestowed the groom (and bride in a double ring ceremony) says *"In token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love, with this ring I thee wed..."*

Many other religious faiths have a ring exchange between bride and groom. In the Jewish faith often the giving of rings plays a major role in the matrimonial ceremony, but after the service is over many men don't wear a wedding ring.

Depending on their particular beliefs some Muslims believe wedding rings generate love between the spouses, and not wearing them will have an effect on the marital relationship.

Like many career military members I was often separated from my wife. I remember looking at my wedding ring and feeling that someone really loved me. During our marriage I remember we each lost our wedding bands at the beach, but when we got home we immediately replaced them.

During this season we have various images to celebrate our festivities, but we need to remember the symbols of the initial pledge we made on our wedding day, which began the love in our family.



Secretary's Corner Continued from Page 3

Scholarships: (Claire Power): On Oct 19th the Scholarship Committee met and made some additional changes to the Scholarship Applications. The new versions are now on our website. Additionally, we made a few changes to our scoring system, and we set our post-review meeting for April 19, 2018.

On Nov 8, 2017 I will be meeting at least one of the Veterans who were winners of the scholarships we placed with the State College of Florida. The occasion will be their Annual Scholarship Luncheon. The veterans "thank you" notes/biographies will appear in the next issue of the Breeze.

Brian McCarthy and I will have a breakfast meeting with Mike Small and Chester Schmidt (The Schmidt Foundation) on Nov 16th. Our new Scholarship Fund brochures will be passed out at the Veterans Day Parade and the Veterans Day concerts on Nov 12th & 13th.

Legislative Affairs: (Mario Fajardo) TRICARE fees will be going up.

Pharmacy costs will be going up. The Veterans CHOICE Program for VA users may get replaced by a new program still to be determined.

YAHOO: (Ron & Linda Wozniak): The YAHOO Oktoberfest/Membership Recruiting/Meet & Greet event on Wed, Oct 11 at the Gold Coast Eagle Distributing Taproom had a crowd of 60. A special "Thanks" to John Saputo, owner of Gold Coast Eagle Distributing and his crew, who went above and beyond, to see that everything was done right. We also want to thank Pete & Claudette Dering for organizing this event; Christa & Len Friedlander, and George & Kay Tracy who were instrumental in putting together an enjoyable and successful event. We really appreciate the work everyone put into the event, including everything needed to serve the great food, and provide a German Oktoberfest atmosphere, from the tablecloths and decorations, to the music. A good time was had by all. Thanks again for a job well done!

Wed, Nov 8th 1530-1730 pontoon boat cruise on Sarasota Bay -Ron Wozniak **Wed, Nov 8th** 1800-2000 Meet & Greet, Marina Jack's

Tues, Nov 14th Inshore Fishing Terra Ceia Bay - Ron Wozniak

Sat, Dec 9th Army-Navy Game - Private Residence - POC Tracys

If you have an idea for a future YAHOO outing/event that you would like to see us do, or that you may want to organize, please e-mail at: RonWozniak13@gmail.com. or text Ron & Linda Wozniak at 941-779-5448. **We continue to look for volunteers to organize future YAHOO events.**

NEXT MEETING: Meeting adjourned at 5:16PM. The next Board Meeting is scheduled for 4:00PM on **Monday Dec 4, 2107** at the Meadows Community Center.



Surviving Spouse Corner

Peggy Mock

I would like to address the increased need, especially during the holiday season, to keep doors locked, and to be extremely cautious opening doors when someone knocks or rings the bell.

I was very recently burglarized by a woman who was doing outside clean-up work in my neighborhood. She was hired to do some outside clean-up and lanai cleaning. Under the pretense of sitting with me to arrange scheduling, she gained entrance to my home. This was her time to case the inside. A few days later she arrived with a schedule and plan.

I was not home, as she knew I would not be at that time but my brother would be there that day. She rang the bell and told him she was dropping off some papers for me, and asked to use the bathroom. She quickly gathered up the items she identified when she cased the house earlier.

When I arrived home I immediately noticed some items missing, called the sheriff's office and made a report. This is the first and most important thing to do. The detective was able to recover one expensive item from a pawn shop she visited right after leaving my home. She was arrested on a 2nd degree felony and awaits arraignment.

Key here is to keep doors locked, not open doors for anyone you do not know or are not expecting. If burglarized notify sheriff's office or police immediately.

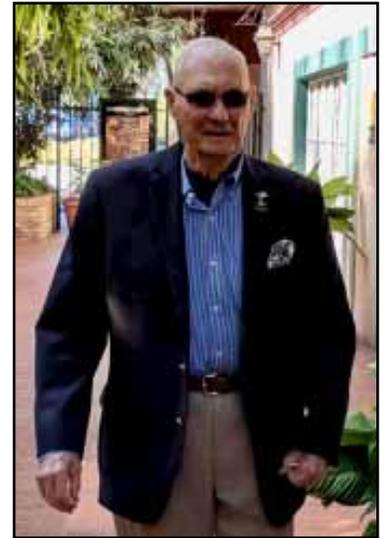
November Luncheon Photos



Vic Reiling



Joe Levine & Mary Zuckerbraun



Bobbie Fernander



Carol & John O'Brien



Pete Dering



Jon & Mary Gordon



Paul & Ilene O'Connell



Sally & Howard Crowell and Beverly Koach (R)



Rene Faessler



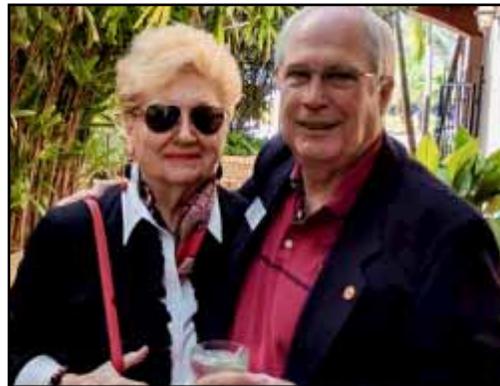
Jan & Charles Caudill



Ray & Jean Day



Pat & Glenn Swindler



Barbara Hamilton & Troy Scott



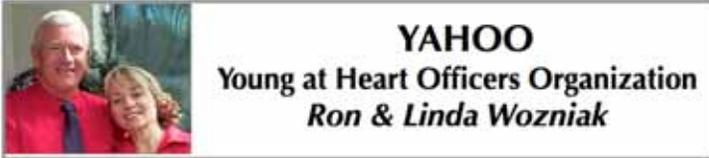
Roberta & Ed Hamilton



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS
(L-R) Ralph Scheffert, Jinny Scheffert, Carol O'Brien,
Craig Hullinger, Linda Wozniak, Carl Morris



Peggy Mock



YAHOO
Young at Heart Officers Organization
Ron & Linda Wozniak

The Nov 8th Meet & Greet at Marina Jack's Palm Room had over 40 attending, and it was preceded by our 2nd pre-Meet & Greet pontoon cruise on Sarasota Bay on a beautiful afternoon with calm waters and perfect temps. We had only one boat and 18 signed up. Unfortunately, we had to turn away 6, since the pontoon capacity was 12. We had 2 late cancellations. Those who made the cruise were: Len & Christa Friedlander, Joe & Mary Levine, Mario & Lynn Fajardo, Duff Smiley, Rene Faessler, Ron & Linda Wozniak. Next time we will try to have two boats.

We had two fishing outings on Nov 14th – AM and PM out of Freedom Boat Club's Dock in Venice. Mario Fajardo fished with Woz in the 0730 slot (Woz caught a 14" Sheepshead); and Brian McCarthy (18" Sheepshead) & Tom Tollette fished the 1300 slot. Weather was

perfect, but the fishing was slow, except for when we had to stop fishing to rotate fishermen. Lucky for Brian, he caught the largest and only fish for the afternoon.



2017 Army-Navy Football Game

Saturday, Dec 9th
@ 2:30PM



George & Kay Tracy will be hosting the YAHOO Army/Navy Game on Dec 9th at their home in

Lakewood Ranch. They will provide a main course, plates, cups, and utensils. Please bring your choice of appetizer or dessert plus your beverage of choice!

Arrival time is 2:30 PM with kickoff at 3:00 PM.

We are limited to 30 people for this very popular event, so please sign-up early (NOW!!)

Contact Kay at kaytracy2@hotmail.com or (941) 907-9865, telling her your appetizer or dessert choice.

Directions: Take I-75 to University Pkwy (Exit 213). Travel East on University 3 Miles, to Lorraine Road. Left on Lorraine, 1.6 miles to Players Drive. Right on Players (gate check-in), 0.9 miles to Ravelston. Right 0.1 miles to Leopard Creek. Right 0.2 miles to Newtonmore Lane. Left 0.2 miles to **14613 Newtonmore Lane** on the right.

No-Host Sunset Beach Party

Siesta Key Beach (North End)

Wednesday, Dec 13th 4:00 - 6:00 PM (Sunset 5:38PM)

Bring your own food, drink and beach chairs. Meet on the beach by the northern most parking lot off Beach Road. Look for the American and US Marine Corps flags. This will be our **December Meet & Greet** – For more information contact Ron or Linda Wozniak at RonWozniak13@gmail.com or text at (941) 779-5448.

Inshore Fishing Terra Ceia Bay
Tuesday Dec 19th, Two Outings

0730-1200 & 1300-1730

Freedom Boat Club Dock

1st Dock on left - Regatta Pointe Marina

1005 Riverside Drive, Palmetto, FL

4 Fishermen per boat

Limited spaces available 1st COME BASIS.

Only cost is fuel & bait. FL saltwater fishing license required (unless 65+ & FL resident). If you have saltwater light to medium tackle, bring it. If not, we will provide. Wear rubber soled shoes. Bring your own food and drink & sunscreen. Contact Ron Wozniak at RonWozniak13@gmail.com or text at (941) 779-5448.

If you have an idea for a future YAHOO outing/event that you would like to see us do, or that you may want to organize, please e-mail RonWozniak13@gmail.com or text Ron & Linda Wozniak at (941) 779-5448.

Possible Future Events

We are looking for volunteer Points of Contact (POC for Member Suggested events

Tour Sarasota Opera Company

Tour Van Wezel

Ft. Myers Paddle Boat Trip

Marina Jack Lunch or Dinner Cruise

LeBarge Cruise on Sarasota Bay

Siesta Key Rum Distillery Tour

Legislative Update Continued

Last year, there was a small COLA of 0.3%, and premiums protected by the "hold harmless" provision rose - slightly.

The average premium in 2017 was \$109 a month. But with a 2% COLA set for 2018, many Medicare beneficiaries now will pay the full \$134 a month - an overall increase.

Veterans Online Shopping Benefits

Last year, Congress allowed DoD to make two changes in defense resale MOAA has supported: expansion of exchange privileges online and expansion of the use of the MILITARY STAR card.

Beginning Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2017, all veterans with an honorable discharge are eligible to shop at the service exchanges online. Each service exchange - [NEX](#), [AAFES](#), [MCX](#), and [CGX](#) - will have a portal to access the benefit. First, however, veterans who could be eligible must visit VetVerify.org to gain access. The process may require several steps for some, so it is recommended you begin the process as soon as possible. Proof of honorable or general under honorable conditions discharge requires, at least, submission of your full name and Social Security number and some type of discharge form, such as a DD Form 214, DD Form 215, DD Form 256, DD Form 257, or NGB-22. [VetVerify has an FAQ](#) with answers to common questions regarding eligibility. The benefit does not include purchase of uniforms, alcohol, or tobacco products.



SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Christopher White

We are wrapping up our Veteran's Day SOT box push. Nearly 1500 boxes distributed at the Sarasota Vets Day Parade, and at both Pops performances on the 12th and 13th - many thanks to our loyal volunteers and the Booker and Riverview HS JROTC cadets.



Veterans Day Parade Road Warriors

Downrange our units are rotating again. The 16th Combat Aviation Brigade is being replaced by the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, Hunter Army Airfield, GA. Many of the boxes we just distributed still have 16th CAB labels. Not to worry. CSM Mark Brock told me his address will be valid thru mid-December. We have posted the new unit's info on our website.



Colonel (Ret) Christopher White, MOAS SOT Coordinator (left) presents a US flag and certificates to **Jeff Lowdermilk**, Director Sarasota County Operations Center, **Steve Thomas** Materials Manager, and **Adrian Colefield**. This flag was flown over Afghanistan by a UH60 aircrew from the 16th Combat Aviation Brigade and presented to the Sarasota County Operations Center staff for their significant contributions to the Support Our Troops campaign. This year the Sarasota County Operations Center has **distributed more than 500 SOT boxes**.



Scholarship Program Update

Claire Power

Very recently I had the privilege of attending the State College of Florida Manatee-Sarasota Scholarship luncheon where I met Ashley Choiniere and Christopher Davis, two of our veterans scholarship recipients. Ashley and Christopher each received a \$1,000 scholarship from our scholarship fund. Please join me in wishing them well in their academic endeavors and in life. We received the notes on the right from them.

We also received the following Thank You note from McKensie Murray, one of our May 2017 scholarship winners.

Dear Supporters,

I just wanted to take the time to thank you for your contribution towards my education. I am at the end midterm season at Smith College, and a break could not have come sooner.

Since transition into college, I have joined my house council, the Student Advisory Board for the Health and Wellness Center on campus, found resources to pursue research, and met with the admissions faculty to bring the College for Every Student program to Smith College. My academic schedule is full of both sciences and languages, which is a unique part of Smith. I hope to spend a semester abroad in Cuba and pursue medicine. You have given me the opportunity to do both, while I am in the greatest years of my life.

I believe an education is the greatest gift you could have given me. Thank you again for the chance to achieve my dreams.

Regards,

McKensie Murray

Smith College Class of 2021

I am writing to thank you for your generous Military Officers Association of Sarasota Scholarship. I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship.

In 2003, I joined the Navy and I worked as Aviation Electronics Technician (AT). I worked on the F-14 and F-18 fire control radar at NAS Oceana for 8 years. In 2007, I deployed on board the USS Enterprise (CVN 65) and we became the only Carrier for OIF and OEF during the 2007 Surge. I left the Navy as an E5 in 2011.

I am currently working to complete my Associates of Arts degree. I plan to transfer to a one of the Florida Universities and pursue a degree in Electrical Engineering. I am currently a sophomore at the State college of Florida and I am planning on graduating in the fall of 2017. Thanks to you, I am one step closer to that goal.

The financial assistance you provided will be of great help to me in paying my educational expenses, and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time for studying.

Thank you for your generosity and support. I promise you I will work very hard and eventually give something back to others.

Very Respectfully

Christopher Davis



I wanted to thank you kindly for this scholarship and also give you a brief background of my Coast Guard military career. I served a little over 3 years activated under Title 10 orders in the United States Coast Guard in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Neptune Shield, and New Dawn as a Second Class Petty Officer, BM2 from June 2009 to September 2012. During this time period, I was a small boat coxswain, tactical crewman, and maritime law enforcement boarding team member, and ensured the safe passage of countless naval ships, submarines, and high capacity passenger vessels in the strategic ports of Port Canaveral and Mayport, FL. I then got off active duty and became a drilling reservist at USCG Station Fort Myers Beach and drilled there for 6.5 years, conducting search and rescue on drill weekends, and law enforcement recreational boat boardings. From there, I became stationed October 2016 at USCG Air Station Clearwater, as a member of Port Security Unit 307, and I now do administrative/finance type of duties. I have been apart of the USCG Since 2007. 3 years active duty, 7 years as a drilling reservist.

I completed my AA degree when SCF was MCC. I am now back in college and enrolled full time at SCF to pursue my B.A.S in International Business and Trade degree. I plan to become a Finance Manager at a car dealership.

Very Respectfully,

Ashley Choiniere





MEMBERSHIP ACTIONS

George Tracy

Dear MOAS Members,

By now you will have received our request that you renew your MOAS membership for 2018. Though we did not achieve our 95% retention target last year, we are encouraged to see, once again, that, with your kind support, we may yet achieve our targeted 95% retention of active MOAS chapter membership for 2018. This year we included in our renewal campaign, an invitation to all former chapter members, that we know, to reactivate their membership and we also added a large number of MOAA National members, who have yet to join our chapter. Even so, your continued support is critical to our continued success. Please let us know if you did not receive your 2018 Renewal Request, and we will get one to you immediately. To cover the possibility that my renewal letter may not have reached you, the following extract covers its content for your consideration:

“First and foremost, I want to Thank You, Again, for your past membership and support of our MOAA Sarasota Chapter (MOAS). Your contributions continue to revitalize our all-volunteer outreach activities, including luncheon programs, newsletters, troop care packages, scholarships, JROTC awards, Academic Olympics, American Flag initiatives and patriotic events that capture local attention and inspire appreciation of Veterans’ service and circumstances. Our volunteer activities serve our broader grassroots and national mission of Veteran Advocacy - motivating Veterans and the non-veteran community, through outreach, service, and education, to actively work with legislators to resolve issues that threaten the rights and benefits of military Veterans and their families - the very heart of our All Volunteer Force and our National Defense!! Please help us to continue to serve you in 2018.”

Please note the 2018 MOAS dues of \$35/year for all members and the \$15/year fee for mailing of printed copies of the MOAS Breeze Newsletter. Also, remember that, if you are an over-90 in 2018 or a MOAS-Awardee or have joined in the last quarter of 2017, you are Dues Exempt!

Your support is vital to our continued, award-winning performance here, keeping you informed, representing your interests, assisting local charities, supporting the troops, awarding scholarships to deserving youth and returning veterans and, otherwise, celebrating and promoting your military service, your veteran’s rights, your camaraderie and your contributions to country and community.

Bottom Line: In spite of the progress that MOAA has made against the odds, the challenges to retired, active and future Military Veterans, economically and politically, have not diminished. If anything, they continue to intensify, such that your MOAS membership and talents continue to be critical to our 2018!! So, we continue to invite you, on your renewal form, to **volunteer your skills, as we enhance MOAS organization and performance.**

And, regardless of whatever else you do, PLEASE!! Add your voice to the ongoing fight for active duty and Veteran legislation at <http://takeaction.moaa.org>. It’s free! It’s quick!! It works!!

A hearty welcome to our new and renewing members.

Thanks for your service and your support of MOAS!!

To you and yours

Enjoy The Best Of The Holiday Season & the New Year!!

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)

TAPS

*Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to
the families and friends of
Richard L. Horvath COL, USA
Mrs. Maxine Lady*

MOAS/SMOSF ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, Nov 17, 2017

The annual meeting of the Military Officers Association of Sarasota, Inc. (MOAS) and the Sarasota Military Officers Scholarship Fund, Inc. (SMOSF) was called to order at **11:40 am**. Present were 76 members of the chapter.

Brian McCarthy [President & Executive Director] stated: Each year we are required by the Articles of Organization and By Laws of MOAS & SMOSF to hold an Annual meeting to elect officers and board members for the following year. We established a Nominating Committee in July of this year, chaired by Troy Scott.

The following Officers & Directors were nominated to both MOAS and SMOSF. Nominee biographies were posted in the November *Sarasota Breeze*.

BRIAN MCCARTHY-MOAS President, Director & SMOSF Executive Director

RON WOZNAK-1st VP & Director

JACK KLINGENSMITH-2nd VP & Director

PETER DERING-Secretary & Director

CHRISTA FRIEDLANDER-Treasurer & Director

MARIO FAJARDO-Director & Legislative Affairs Chair

CLAIRE POWER-Director & SMOSF Chair

KRISTINE NICKEL-Director & Marketing Committee Chair

GEORGE TRACY-Past President & Webmaster

The President requested a motion to accept the nominations. The motion was raised and seconded. **The vote was unanimous to accept all the Nominating Committee recommendations.** For those who have agreed to serve for the 2018 year – the entire membership thanks you and recognizes that you have made a commitment to “*Never Stop Serving*” giving up your valuable time to make a difference in our Chapter. Members were invited to join us in celebrating the induction of these volunteers at our Annual MOAS GALA on December 10th at Michael’s on East.

The President thanked Alan Forrester and Perry Korszen, who will be retiring from the board on Dec 31st for their service to the Chapter. It is greatly appreciated.

The President informed the members that financial statements of the organizations are published each month in the *Sarasota Breeze*. Records are available to any member by contacting the Treasurer.

The President pointed out several of the Chapter’s major accomplishments this year:

- The Chapter received the MOAA **5 Star Level of Excellence Award**, the Website received a 5 Star Award, and the newsletter received a 4 Star Award.
- SMOSF received \$16,000 from the **Schmidt Foundation** and a \$4,000 donation from the **Stars & Stripes Foundation**. **Record donations.**
- We will receive 100% of the profits from a sold-out crowd from the **Veterans Day Pops** concerts this month. Will report back when we know the amount;
- **Support Our Troops** – over 4,600 boxes distributed to our deployed troops in Afghanistan this year;
- **Luncheons** – 937 members attended our luncheons so far, this year and contributed over \$700 to our treasury;
- **Membership** – Current we have 319 members – having recruited 21 new members this year.

The Annual Meeting of the Military Officers Association of Sarasota and the Sarasota Military Officers Scholarship Fund was adjourned at **12:00 pm** by unanimous consent.

The Military Officers Association of Sarasota
 Proudly Presents
The 35th Annual Military Gala
Sunday, December 10th 2017
at Michael's on East

6:00 pm – No-Host Cocktails & Social, Easy Music & Dancing
7:00 pm – Toasts, Dinner & Installation of 2018 Officers & Board of Directors
8:40 pm - Group Singing of Service Songs
Music for Dancing & Enjoyment by “La Croix”

DRESS CODE: Dress Uniform or Black Tie for Officers (Dark Suit and Tie acceptable)
Appropriate Evening Attire for Spouses and Guests

MENU

Chardonnay or Merlot Wine for Traditional Toasts

*Cosmopolitan Salad: Seven Leaf Lettuce Tossed with Candied Pecans,
 Shaved Fennel & Goat Cheese Crumbles Finished with an “Absolut” Honey-Red Wine Dressing*

Signature Bread Basket

(PRE-SELECTED ENTRÉE)

Roasted Garlic & Herb Encrusted Chateau of Beef with Roasted Shallot Butter
OR

Mahi Mahi “Saltimbocca Style” with Prosciutto, Sage & White Wine Sauce

Both served with

Gruyere Scalloped Potatoes, Roasted Asparagus, Baby Carrots & Red Pepper

DESSERT

Chocolate Blackout Cake, Chocolate Custard, Chocolate Jimmies & Shaved Chocolate

Served Coffee, Decaf & Tea

A VERY SPECIAL EVENING FOR ONLY \$ 65.00 PER PERSON

(INCLUDES GRATUITY, TAXES, AND BAND)

We are again collecting toys for the US Marine Corps Reserve TOYS FOR TOTS
Please bring an unwrapped toy (or a donation check)

Please return this reservation form with your check made to **MOAS** to:

VALERIE MCCARTHY 7429 STARFISH DRIVE
SARASOTA, FL 34231

Please reserve _____ seats for the GALA

A check for \$ _____ is enclosed @ \$65.00 per person (maximum of 10 people per table)

Name/Rank & Phone # _____ Beef _____ Mahi Mahi _____

Spouse and/or Guests (Use extra sheet if required for more attendees)

Name(Rank) _____ Beef _____ Mahi Mahi _____

Note: Last day for reservations, or cancellations and refunds is

Monday, December 4, 2017 !!



 DECEMBER 2017 - JANUARY 2018 		
DATE	EVENT	TIME
Dec 4, Monday	MOAS Board Meeting - Meadows Community Center	4:00 p.m.
Dec 9, Saturday	YAHOO: Army Navy Game - Details on Page 8	2:30 p.m.
Dec 10, Sunday	Military Gala - Michaels On East - Details Page 11 	6:00 p.m.
Dec 13, Wednesday	YAHOO/Meet & Greet - Siesta Key Beach - Details on Page 8	4:00 p.m.
Dec 19, Tuesday	YAHOO: Inshore Fishing - Terra Ceia Bay - Details on Page 8	7:30 & 1:00
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON		
Jan 2, Tues	MOAS Board Meeting - Meadows Community Center	4:00 p.m.
Jan 10, Wednesday	Meet & Greet - Marina Jack - Sarasota	6:00 p.m.
Jan 19, Friday	MOAS Luncheon - Michaels on East 	11:30 a.m.
Jan 22, Monday	YAHOO: Offshore Fishing Gulf of Mexico - Venice	7:30 a.m.



MEET & GREET
Sarasota MOAA

Meet & Greet/Officer's Call
Wednesday, Dec 13th 4:00 - 6:00pm

Our Officer's Call re-creates the camaraderie we enjoyed at the O' Club back when we were on active duty. We'll have a drink 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
@Siesta Key Beach
See YAHOO column on Page 8 for Details

FCOC Convention

The Lee Coast Chapter is hosting the 2018 FCOC Convention at the **Sanibel Harbor Marriott Resort & Spa** **June 1 to June 3 2018.**

The room rate is \$139 per night to include free parking, no resort fee, and no taxes if you register/pay through FCOC. The same rate applies 3 days prior & 3 days after the convention.

A special event is being planned for the first day, a cruise of Sanibel Harbor aboard the 70-foot yacht, "Sanibel Princess." A buffet dinner and cash bar will be offered aboard, and attendance will be limited to convention attendees.

Get additional information & make your reservations at:
<http://moaaf.org/Convention/Default.aspx>

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 _____