



Indian River Chapter dues for 2019

Membership applications for National and Chapter may be obtained from **Carroll Oates @ 954-494-8742**

REGULAR MEMBER: \$30 _____
SURVIVING SPOUSE: \$15 - Spouse of a Deceased Regular Member _____
ASSOCIATE MEMBER: \$15 - Spouse of a Regular Member _____

Additional voluntary contributions are encouraged as our Chapter had no major fund-raising events during 2018.

(1) Chip Saunders Scholarship Fund: Contributions help us to accumulate funds for scholarships to deserving youth in Indian River County. _____

(2) Veteran's Assistance Fund: Contributions are donated to the Veterans' Council of Indian River County to support local veterans in need. _____

(3) Honor Flight Fund: Contributions will assist in flight costs for up to three individuals to travel to Washington D.C. as Guardians for three WWII / Korean / Vietnam Veterans. _____

(4) Chapter's General Fund: Contributions to the General Fund help to defray the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter, cards and flowers for ill members, donations in the memory of deceased members are designated, Chapter dues to Florida Council of Chapters, insurance and P.O. Box renewal.

Total _____

____YES____NO: Require acknowledgement in writing if contributing funds in excess of dues. Donations to war veterans' organizations are deductible as charitable contributions on the donor's federal income tax return.

To keep chapter records current, please complete the following. **Thank you!**

Name: _____ Spouse: _____
Address: _____
Rank: _____ Service: _____ Retired or Former Member _____
Telephone Number: _____ National MOAA Membership # _____
E-mail address: _____

Please return completed form and check **payable to IRC-MOAA:**
IRC-MOAA
C/O Treasurer
PO Box 644047
Vero Beach, FL 32964



Indian River Chapter MOAA
P.O. Box 644047
Vero Beach, FL 32964-4047

Indian River Chapter
Since 1983

MEMBERSHIP
Know someone who is a retired or former military officer or widowed spouse of an officer but not a member of our Chapter or MOAA? If so, Ask **THEM TO JOIN** and contact **Carroll Oates @ 954-494-8742**



INDIAN RIVER CHAPTER NEWS
<http://ircmoaa.org>

2019 Officers and Board

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| President | |
| LTC Robert Albrecht, Jr. | 257-6678 |
| 1st Vice President | |
| LTC Carroll Oates | 954-494-8742 |
| Membership Chair | |
| 2nd Vice President | |
| MAJ Terry Treat | 703-304-4935 |
| Program Chair | |
| Secretary | |
| LTC James Blake | 561-791-8467 |
| Treasurer | |
| COL Patricia Ryan | 401-369-1280 |
| Chaplain | |
| LtCol Eric "Rip" Wieler | 794-9719 |
| Immediate Past President | |
| LtCol Jim Rannazzisi | 703-303-3672 |
| Editor | |
| CPT, USA Robert Scheppy | 925-1117 |
| Board of Directors | |
| Col Carlos Halcomb | 696-0094 |
| COL Darryle "Sam" Kouns | 978-6543 |
| CAPT Eric Menger | 532-6132 |
| Surviving Spouse Liaison | |
| Rayma Murray | 231-1935 |
| CDR John Papageorge | 231-4581 |
| LtCol Eric "Rip" Wieler | 234-4111 |

BOB ALBRECHT'S MESSAGE

I want to thank all members for putting their trust in me to become your chapter president. It goes without saying that I follow a long line of past presidents that made the Indian River Chapter such a vibrant organization. This can be seen through our chapter and member participation in such programs as Veterans in the Classroom, MOAA Community Outreach Grants, local scholarships, and leadership and support to the Veterans Council of Indian River.

As president, I am committed to playing the lead role getting our chapter to help all of us in the fight to preserve the entitlements we have earned. To put this in context, there are now over 400 MOAA chapters in the USA and overseas.



FEBRUARY CHAPTER LUNCHEON REGISTRATION

IRC Luncheon meeting: **Friday, 15 February; Vero Beach Yacht Club; Time: 11:30 a.m.**

Our speaker is **Army Captain Paul Taglianetti**, CO of the U.S. Army Recruiting Company in Jupiter, which includes the Recruiting Station in Vero Beach. **CPT Taglianetti** was commissioned in the Field Artillery in 2010 thru ROTC from the University of South Florida. After serving in the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York, he was deployed in 2013 to Afghanistan where he served as an advisor to an Afghan Army field artillery battery. He joined the Army Recruiting Command after commanding a battery at Fort Steward, GA, which included a six month tour in the Republic of Korea. Joined by his First Sergeant, SFC Jimmy Whetstone, he will address "**Recruiting Challenges in Today's Army**". Join us for this insightful and timely presentation.

- (1) Chicken Breast Alfresco**
- (2) Meat Loaf** with wild mushroom sauce
- (3) Chicken Cobb Salad**
- Dessert per Chef.
- Cost \$22.00**

Since we are accountable for each meal reserved, we are unable to accept telephone reservations. **Kelly Menger** can also be contacted by e-mail at: kcemens@hotmail.com

----- Tear Line -----

**Send Reservations and Payment by 5:00 p.m.,
 Friday 8 February
 VERO BEACH YACHT CLUB**

Name(s) _____

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| CHOICES @ \$22.00 per person | |
| Chicken Breast Alfresco | \$ _____ |
| Meat Loaf | \$ _____ |
| Chef Salad | \$ _____ |
| Total Enclosed | \$ _____ |

Please make all payments by check Payable to IRC-MOAA. Mail to:

**Kelly Menger
 PO Box 1392
 Vero Beach, FL 32961**

VETERANS SERVICE

Have any questions or need assistance regarding Veterans Affairs? **contact Joel V. Herman, Veterans Service Manager** for Indian River County at
2525 St. Lucie Avenue
Vero Beach
Telephone: 772-226- 1499
e-mail: jherman@ircgov.com

We need volunteers at the Victory Center Military Store in the Indian River Mall. Do you have two hours a week or a month?



The Veterans Council of Indian River County

Bruce Cady, Director of Operations
2525 St. Lucie Avenue (Vets Service Bldg.) Vero Beach, FL 32960
Phone: 772-410-5820
Email: info@veteranscouncilirc.org

Elected Representatives

President Donald J. Trump (R)
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500
Comments line: 202 456-1111

Senator Marco Rubio (R)
Washington, D.C. Office:
Phone: 202 224-3041
Website: www.rubio.senate.gov

Senator Rick Scott (R)
B3 Russel Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.
Phone: 202-224-5274
Website: www.scott.senate.gov

Representative Bill Posey (R)
Washington, D.C. Office:
Phone: 202 225-3671
Website: www.posey.house.gov

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way Building C
Melbourne, FL 32940 Fax 321-639-8595
Phone: (321) 632-1776
Fax: (321) 639-8595
Indian River County Phone: (772) 226-1701

Please pay your 2019 Chapter dues. Dues payment form is enclosed in this newsletter.

Indian River Chapter News

The Indian River Chapter News is published, except for July and August by the Indian River Chapter FL36 of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Inc., P.O. Box 644047, Vero Beach, Florida 32964-4047. Web page <http://ircmoaa.org>. The chapter is an IRS 501(C) (19) non-profit, tax-exempt organization affiliated with National MOAA and the Florida Council of Chapters, MOAA, but not associated with the Department of Defense. The chapter is non-partisan and the contents of the Indian River Chapter News are the opinions of the authors and are not necessarily those of the National MOAA, Florida Council of Chapters, the Indian River Chapter FL36, or the DOD

National MOAA embraces our chapter Membership, because chapters have shown time and again that they are the “point of the spear” in helping achieve national legislative goals. Chapter members lead the way in responding to MOAA legislative alerts by reminding our elected officials to support legislation that preserves our entitlements.

Congress does respond to pressure at the grass roots level. Members do count!

Respectfully,
Bob Albrecht
President

CALL TO ACTION:

By Carroll Oates, First Vice-President and Membership Chairman

We encourage chapter members to join the national MOAA. Our chapter cannot get credit for your membership until you join national MOAA. It's easy to join and free if you only sign up as a Basic Member:

<http://Go2L.ink/MOAA>

Help MOAA to protect your benefits and those of retired, former, and currently serving members of the armed services, their families, and surviving spouses. MOAA is your “insurance policy” to protect your veteran’s benefits.

The important thing is to be assigned the national MOAA membership number and pass it on to **Carroll Oates** or any **Board of Directors** member. We want to get recognized for every member.

ARTICLE OF INTEREST:

By John Papageorge

National Defense Strategy Commission reports the most uncovered story in Washington these days is the loss of military power – a lesson particularly important in light of recent events; the resignation of Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and North Korea’s announcement it will keep its nuclear weapons after all, and massive computer hacking by the Chinese.

Americans assume no other country matches the U.S. in its military might and tech leadership. In reality, defense modernization has tremendously moved **Russia** and **China** forward, as well as **Iran** and **North Korea**. All of them threaten to leapfrog over U.S. capability.

The military plays two essential roles in defending U.S. international goals: to deter aggression against the U.S. and its allies. The fact is our military has taken a downward trajectory. Here are a few quotes from the report. “Russia and China possess precision strike capabilities, integrated air defense, cruise and ballistic missiles, advanced cyber warfare and satellite capabilities. If the United States had to fight Russian expansion in the Baltic or China moved against Taiwan, we could face decisive defeat.

“We can do better by eliminating the numbers from fiscal 2010-2015 defense spending that fell 26%. In truth, the military budget is in quiet competition with welfare programs, such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and other entitlements. All represent 72% of the budget.

“Meanwhile, our adversaries have been expanding their arsenals. The U.S.-China Economic and Security Commission reports China has introduced a new stealth fighter (the J20) and is growing its ballistic and

ARTICLE OF INTEREST (cont.):

cruise missile inventory and can target U.S. bases and surface ships, including our aircraft carriers.

“Similarly, Russia claims to have successfully tested a ship-borne hypersonic missile at eight times the speed of sound (Mach-8) that the U.S. is said to have no defense against.

“We need to stop undercutting the military, especially on research and cyber warfare. We are very close to altering the balance of power that will finish our alliances worldwide.

“War is changing. We must change with it.”

This is but a synopsis of a report that was submitted to the Defense Department and Congress. It’s hard to miss the parallels to World War II in Europe and Pearl Harbor. We all know there will be no catch up if it happens again. This article appeared in, of all places, **The Press Journal**.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS:

By Jay Torres

The State of the Union Address by **President Donald Trump** will not occur until the shutdown is over. MOAA has six issues it’s hoping he will include.

1. Protect pay for all uniformed service members and retirees.
2. Pass the fiscal year 2020 federal appropriations on time.
3. Repeal the “Widow’s tax”.
4. Authorize a full military pay raise.
5. Stabilize TRICARE.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS (cont.):

6. Pass meaningful toxic exposure legislation.

Other key 2019 MOAA legislative goals include ensuring any TRICARE reform sustains access to top quality medical care, preventing disproportional TRICARE fee increases, sustaining military pay increases comparable to the private sector, ending concurrent receipt penalties for military retirees, achieving equity of benefits for Guard/Reserve with active duty personnel, strengthening DOD-VA collaboration and services to support wounded warriors and a growing population of women veterans, ensuring timely access to service-connected VA benefits, and protecting military and veteran family support programs and policies.

Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott are co-sponsors of a bill that would pay all U.S. Coast Guard members during the partial government shutdown.

Senator Marco Rubio submitted a bill to help veterans re-entering the civilian workforce get jobs in STEM related fields. **The Supporting Veterans in STEM Careers Act** will require the Office of Science and Technology Policy to coordinate programs to train and transition veterans for jobs in science, technology, engineering, and math. Veteran advocacy groups say many veterans leave the service with skills and knowledge in STEM fields.

“A chapter must be politically non-partisan. As an organization, a chapter should not support or oppose any candidate for political office. However, a legislative committee can and should make a deliberate effort to inform its membership of candidates’ positions.”

FROM THE EDITOR

Would you like to submit **AN ARTICLE OF INTEREST?** Send it to **Robert Scheppy, Editor**, for inclusion in the Newsletter. **scheppy70@gmail.com**

THE VA PRIMARY CARE CLINIC

After 17 years in China, I came to Vero Beach. My experience with the Veteran’s Clinic in Vero Beach has been good. It’s a small clinic, but they can take blood samples and do annual physicals. They have nurses on duty and several counselors.
372 17th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960
Tel 772-299-4623

VA HOSPITAL IN WEST PALM BEACH

My experiences at the VA Hospital have also been good. I don’t mind driving 75 miles to see a cardiologist. The doctors, nurses, and technicians all have proper education. In 2014, a cardiologist inserted an ICD (Implantable Defibrillator) in my chest. That operation cost the taxpayers \$125,000
VA Medical Center
7305 N. Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL 33410
Tel 561-422-8262



WE CARE
DO YOU KNOW ANYONE
IN NEED OF “SUNSHINE?” PLEASE
CALL PAT CANNON
TELEPHONE 772-567-7727

HOSTED BY THE TAMPA
CHAPTER

Florida Council of Chapters MOAA
Convention 20-23 June 2019

The Tampa Chapter will host the 2019 annual convention at the Safety Harbor Resort & Spa. The Tampa Chapter website **TampaMOAA.org** and council website **MOAAFL.org** have information about the convention and registration options.