



DRUMBEAT

July 2019



Board Meeting	Jul 10, 2019
Lunch Meeting	None
Board Meeting	Aug 14, 2019
Lunch Meeting	None
Board Meeting	Sept 11, 2019
Lunch Meeting	
Board Meeting	
Lunch Meeting	

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Clearwater Chapter MOAA Membership

	Total Members	
Regular	64	
Spouses	29	
Surviving Spouses	22	
Total	115	

President's Message



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE for July 2019 Drumbeat

I hope that you all are enjoying your summer break and that this message finds you all in good health. For those of you who did not have a chance at the Memorial Day Celebration at Largo Park that Steve Hodges and I helped plan it was a great time and we had a few MOAA Members in attendance. Once again, we were honored to have the ROTC attend our celebration. They provided an Honor Guard and a Rifle Drill Team and received compliments from the Mayor of Largo.

I plan to use our break and my Presidents msg to do my other job which is Personal Affairs Officer and educate you on a topic that no one wants to think about! What are some of the things that we should be doing now to assist your spouse in the event of your death. The things you should start doing now before the death of your spouse.

Personal Data Security:

- Make sure you have:
 - Internet passwords, Bank accounts, credit card accounts etc. Social Security numbers and other important information
 - All Doctor's, Dentist and Pharmacy numbers.
 - Information such as employment info, membership in associations etc.

Records and Locations:

- Social Security Cards
- Military Records, Separation Orders, DD214 Military Pay and Survivor Benefit Plan if applicable
- VA Information, if Benefits are involved
- Birth Certificates, Marriage Cert, Car Titles, Deeds, Mortgages, Loans, Insurance, Safe deposit Boxes, Electronic Transactions Payments etc. Wills power of Attorney, Funeral arrangements /desires
- Investments (stocks, bonds, 401s) and retirement plans, IRS Information Tax Returns

Next Month I will continue with some things we can do after the death of the spouse. If we start doing these things now and ensuring our spouse knows where things are it will greatly alleviate their burden once we pass.

Not sure how many of you have had the opportunity to stay at the Edelweiss Lodge and Resorts' in Garmisch, Germany. It is on a lake overlooking a beautiful, breathtaking mountain range. At one time it was open to all military ID card holders. But this stopped because of the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) which stated that this benefit was only open to retirees or troops who were in Germany for over 30 days. This has changed, and the resort is now open again to retirees, as of June 3rd, on a limited space available basis. Booking well in advance is encouraged. Rules governing retirees use of commissaries or exchanges have not changed however. You still must have been in Germany for 30 days or more to utilize these facilities.

Bob Behm

Get Well

Currently No Members in distress.

Soon Welcome



MOAA BOARD MEETING MINUTES - June 12, 2019

The meeting was called to order @0958 HRS. at the Clearwater Country Club by Rob Risberg., Those present stood, faced the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

In Attendance: Rob Risberg, Norm Belson, Jane Belson, Gerry Walters, Pat Hughes, Violet Smith, Jim Souders and Bob Behm was conferenced in via telephone.

Secretary's Report: Reviewed the May Meeting Minutes prepared by Sandy Behm. A motion was made by Pat Hughes and seconded by Jane Belson to accept the Minutes as written; all approved. The minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Jane Belson presented the Treasurer's report. Checking Account \$21,175.43, Charitable Account \$9,030.39, **TOTAL \$30,205.82.** Violet Smith made a motion to accept the report, Norm Belson seconded the motion, all approved; the Treasurer's report was accepted as submitted.

Drumbeat Report: Jim indicated that the Drumbeat will be a little sparse. He requested that Board members try to dig out some old photos to put into the newsletter again throughout the summer months to act as fillers. He will also pull information from the FCOC Communique and other sources to fill space.

Web Report: Rob Risberg indicated there is nothing new to report. He has not heard back from FL Council and will attempt to contact them again. Bob indicated that he will also try to make contact with them to see if he receives a response back as they hold the "keys" to make changes to the site.

Members in Distress: None that we are aware of.

Surviving Spouse/Spouse Report – Violet advised that she has nothing to report at this time.

Future Speakers: September 25 Luncheon - William Pearson – Update on Veterans Benefits – need photo & bio

Membership Report: 115 Voting Members, increase of 1, Regular Members 64, Surviving Spouse Members 22, and Spouse Members 29.

Old Business: *We have 93 paid and 22 unpaid Dues members. This is subject to change as dues are still being received. However, the Board held a discussion regarding the members who have not paid their dues and we must purge the list and remove them from our roles. They will no longer be receiving a Drumbeat. This was done at the meeting. Should their dues be received their names will be added back onto the active list and all rights of Membership will be restored!*

New Business: *Fran Chancery will be attending the 2019 Annual Convention and will attend the Board Meeting representing the Clearwater Chapter. She will advise the Board of any pertinent information she deems relevant.*

Pearl Harbor will be hosted by the St. Petersburg MOAA Chapter on December 6, 2019 at the Bayou Club. LTC Pauline Mallory will be the point of contact. Cost and Menu yet TBD, cost is to include valet parking.

Violet advised that Traci Randall, CG Station Sand Key is the contact person that we should invite to speak at one our Lunch-eons. Just walk into the Admin Office there and ask to speak with her and let's get her on our schedule.

Underwater Veteran's Dive – we may want to look into the cost of sponsoring a statute.

Norm Belson submitted his resignation as 1st VP of the Chapter. Therefore, it is imperative that we have someone from the Chapter step up to fill the vacancies of both 1st & 2nd VP. Anyone interested can contact any member of the Board to discuss or contact Bob Behm, President.

It was discussed that we designate someone to be responsible for gathering the data to submit for the Level of Excellence Award for our Chapter. Further, these duties could also encompass submitting to the FCOC Communique, on a monthly basis, what activities our Chapter is involved in. This would include submitting a brief synopsis of who our Speaker for the Month is, the Topic Covered and Photos of the Event. May was a perfect example because of the extensive involvement with JROTC, both at the Chapter Level, and with our involvement in the Community with the participation at the Largo Park Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony.

With all business being concluded the meeting adjourned at 1045 HRS.

Chapter News
THANK YOU NORM

A special thanks to Norm Belson for his many years of faithful service to our chapter. Norm is single handedly responsible for our chapter still being active since he volunteered to serve as chapter president when no one else stood up and we were on the verge of having to disband. Norm has submitted his resignation as 1st Vice President, but will remain serving on the Board. Please join us in giving Norm a very well deserved "Thank you for your service".

Members in Distress

Anyone who becomes aware of a chapter member or spouse who is ill or in some sort of distress please notify Bob Behm at: Phone number (401) 207-9317 or Robert Behm <robert.behm23@gmail.com>

Mark Your Calendars

The Pearl Harbor Day luncheon this year will be Friday 6 December 2019 at Bayou Club in Largo:
7979 Bayou Club Boulevard
Largo, FL 33777
Details to be forth coming.

Memorial Day Ceremony-Largo Central Park Military Court of Honor-Monday, May 27, 2019

On Memorial Day 27 May, members of our chapter attended a Memorial Day Ceremony at Largo Central Park. Bob Behm, his wife Sandy, fellow MOAA members Norm and Jane Belson, Rob Risberg,, Rev Fr. Bob Swick along with past MOAA President Steve Hodges and his wife Noreen and Dave Mason were in attendance.



Noreen, Bob, Jane and Norm



Bob, Bob Swick and Steve



Clearwater High School Color Guard with Bob Behm



Wreath of "Remembrance" to honor those departed.

MOAA NEWS

President Trump Signs Bill Allowing Veterans To Seek Care Outside Broken VA System

President Trump signed legislation Wednesday that will dramatically expand a program at the Department of Veterans Affairs that lets patients seek care from private doctors if they want to bypass the troubled VA system.

The Veterans Choice Improvement Act removes barriers that Congress placed around the original "choice" initiative and eliminates an expiration date that would have shuttered the program in August.

Click: [VA Health Care Bill](#)

Bill Could Block Military Medical Cuts

This week the House Armed Services Sub-Committee on Personnel (HASC-P) submitted their portion of the FY2020 National Defense Authorization bill, which outlines their intention to stymie the proposed cuts of nearly 18,000 military medical personnel. This is an encouraging sign, and affirms the concerns MOAA has had all along, including those expressed earlier by the House Appropriations Committee, who went so far as to withhold \$250 million for health care contractors or civilian hires, until DoD can respond adequately to specifics such as the impact these reductions would have on quality and access to care.

Click: [Protect Military Medicine](#)

Widows Tax Bill

Earlier this year, the House changed the rules of how it conducts its business. One of the reforms included the creation of a "consensus calendar" for bills with bipartisan support but have not been reported out of committee. According to the rules change, when a piece of legislation gets 290 cosponsors the bill sponsor may file a motion to place it onto a calendar for a floor vote. After 25 legislative working days, the House is supposed to consider at least one bill a week from the calendar. Based on this change and the overwhelming bi-partisan support from House members (336 co-sponsors as of June 5th) for Cong. Wilson's HR 553 Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act, there may be a vote on it as early as mid-July.

Click: [Widows Tax Bill](#)

URGENT CARE - WHERE AND WHEN YOU NEED IT

The MISSION Act, which expands same-day services in primary care and mental health, as well as expanded telehealth to Veterans in their homes. Under the MISSION Act, urgent care is now a supplemental benefit for eligible Veterans. Urgent care in VA or the community (i.e., non-VA) is for those minor injuries and illnesses that do not require emergency room care. This support for urgent care does not *replace* the important relationship that you have with your VA health care team.

If you need to use the new urgent care benefit, it is important that you go to an urgent care location in your community that is within the newly established VA contracted network. It is also important to know the following details about the prescription component of the benefit:

- If the urgent care provider gives you a prescription, you can fill a 14-day supply of that medication at the VA or in a pharmacy within the VA contracted network.
- If you choose to fill an urgent care prescription at a pharmacy outside of the VA network, you will be required to pay for the prescription at the time of pick up and then file a claim for reimbursement at your local VA medical facility.

If you arrive at an urgent care network location and have any difficulty receiving care, you can call 866-620-2071 to receive assistance

Click: [Urgent Care](#)

ID Cards

The Bill Young Army Reserve Center off Gandy Blvd. in Pinellas Park is no longer Issuing ID cards. They have closed down their ID issuing operation approximately 1 to 2 months ago. You now must go to either USCG Sector St. Petersburg or MacDill. The USCG Sector in St. Petersburg will only do them by appt. only. Their telephone number is 727-824-7534 press 5 for DEERS and press 2 for ID, Then follow the prompts to get the hours etc. Absolutely no walks-ins!

The link below provides the method to make an appointment anywhere ID Cards are issued.

Click: [Rapid Appointment](#)

Inspector General Finds VA Overcharged Disabled Vets on Home Loans

The [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) charged nearly 73,000 veterans improper home loan funding fees adding up \$286 million, an error that could result in refunds for the affected veterans.

The VA Office of Inspector General [released a report June 6](#) saying that, from Jan. 1, 2012, through Dec. 31, 2017, the VA improperly charged disabled veterans loan funding fees that they are not required to pay because of their disability status. To find out if you have been overcharged, click the link below.

Click: [VA Loans](#)

Senate Approves Blue Water Navy Bill

In an historic vote by unanimous consent on Wednesday, Senate lawmakers approved legislation to grant benefits for Agent Orange exposure to Navy veterans who served in the waters off Vietnam – culminating a decades-long fight for the thousands of veterans who have been denied claims of presumptive exposure.

The bill passed without opposition. Last year, similar legislation failed in the Senate when two senators blocked a motion for unanimous consent votes, the furthest it had ever moved.

Click: [Blue Water Bill](#)

Suicide Prevention

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) added two new literature reviews – on opioid use and lethal means and how they relate to suicide risk – to its growing “From Science to Practice” series. Learn how opioid use affects Veterans’ risk for suicide and how improving the safety of lethal means, such as firearms, can prevent suicide.

Click: [Opioid Study](#)

MOAA Backs Congress in Move to Decrease Tax Burden for Military Survivors

MOAA will back a House bill designed to correct a recent tax-code change that has already reduced the survivor benefit for some Gold Star families by thousands of dollars.

The Gold Star Family Tax Relief Act would fix an “unforeseen consequence of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act’s treatment of military survivor benefits,” MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret.), wrote in a letter of support to the bill’s sponsor, Rep. Elaine Luria (D-Va.).

Click: [Tax Burden](#)

MOAA Part of New Coalition Fighting for Vets Sickened by Environmental Hazards

A dozen veterans and health organizations have joined forces to represent sick U.S. troops and veterans whose illnesses may be related to exposure to environmental hazards on the battlefield and aboard U.S. military installations.

The Toxic Exposures in the American Military, or TEAM, Coalition, announced in early June, will review all current resources and available exposure data and press for additional research, medical treatment and disability compensation for thousands of ill service members.

Click: [Environmental Hazards](#)

Military Wife's Prayer

Give me greatness of heart to see,
the difference between duty and his love for me.
Give me understanding so that I may know,
when duty calls him, he must go.
Give me a task to do each day,
to fill the time when he's away.
When he's in a foreign land,
keep him safe in your loving hand.
And when duty is in the field,
please protect him and be his shield.
And Lord, when his deployment seems so long,
please stay with me and keep me strong.

Author: Unknown

Due the summer break and no luncheon, there are no photos this month. They will resume after the September luncheon.

SALUTING OUR FINE PATRIOTIC ADVERTISERS

You are encouraged to patronize our patriotic advertisers and to be sure to mention you are an MOAA member. Please bring a copy of the advertisement and show it to the manager. Also encourage your friends and family to patronize them and to let them know you suggested it. Please send a testimonial about the establishment to the Drumbeat Editor at jim_souders@hotmail.com to be included in the Drumbeat and show appreciation for their support.



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Clearwater Perkins Restaurant welcomes you to come and enjoy a meal, open 24-7. Perkins Restaurant is located at 2626 Gulf-to-Bay Blvd, Clearwater, FL-PH-727-799-2019. Stop by for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Wine and beer available upon request



<https://stores.perkinsrestaurants.com/us/fl/clearwater/2626-gulf-to-bay-blvd.html>



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