



THE GALLEON

NEWSLETTER OF THE

Ancient City Chapter, St. Augustine, Florida

May 14, 2022 — Volume 22 - No.05

Monthly Meeting will be held on
Wednesday **May 18th** at the Guy Harvey Resort
ALWAYS check your email for your invite!

Editor: Sarah McLevy, LTC (USA Ret)
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Chapter Officers:

President: Ron Birchall, LTC (USA Ret)
1st Vice President: Rik Erkelens, COL (USA Ret)
2nd Vice President: Jerry Timoney COL (USA Ret)
Past President: Gary List, LTC (USA Ret)
Secretary: Tom Manti, MAJ (USA Ret)
Treasurer: Rick Cozby, LTC (USA Ret)
Chaplain: David Baker, CDR, (USN Ret)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The next will be a Board of Directors Meeting is May 4th, 2022, 4:30-5:30pm at the Guy Harvey Resort.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Military Officers Association - Ancient City Chapter (MOAA-ACC) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(19) organization, dedicated to improving the knowledge, understanding and lifestyle of the general public towards our men and woman who serve in the United States Armed Services. MOAA-ACC, along with MOAA National, advocates through the political process in matters pertaining to active duty, retired and former military personnel, and for a strong national defense, while providing needed support to the St. Augustine and St. Johns County community.

Discover the Treasures of the Ancient City

.....is our theme for Florida Council of Chapters 2023 Convention

The committee chairs have been identified so now we are looking for volunteers to assist on each committee. Take a look below to see where your talents can help us in having a successful convention.

Marketing/Advertising/Fundraising - Bill Dudley, Jerry Hanchett, Butch Burkett

Endorsements – Bill Coleman, Harry Metz, Joe Naftzinger, Bill Dudley

Finance – Rick Cozby

Magazine, Publicity, Programs – Michael Birchall, Sarah McLevy, Joe Naftzinger

Registration/Decorations/Hospitality – Nancy, Arrie, Susan, Gayle, Eileen, Vicky

Tours & Events, Golf – Jim Cargilo, Rick Cozby

President’s Reception – Rik Erkelens, Sarah McLevy, Jerry Timoney

All Hands Breakfast – Ron & Nancy

Deli Lunch – Ron & Nancy

Military Ball/Dining Out – Ron & Nancy, Scott Pearson, Sarah McLevy

Memorial Service – David Baker

Media/Technology - Vacant

Vendors – Tom Manti

Silent Auction – Arrie with LOTS of help

CALENDAR EVENTS

7 May: National Day of Prayer

8 May: Mother's Day



21 May: Armed Forces Day



18 May: General Membership Meeting

30 May: Memorial Day



6 June: D-Day

14 June: Army Birthday / Flag Day



16 June: No General Membership Meeting

4 July: Independence Day



20 July: No General Membership Meeting

4 Aug: Coast Guard Birthday



7 Aug: Purple Heart Day



17 August: No General Membership Meeting

29 August: Marine Forces Reserve Birthday



7 September: Labor Day

11 September: Patriot Day



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Fellow Chapter Members,

It is hard to believe we are in May, with Memorial Day rapidly approaching. The winter and spring have disappeared and summer is on the horizon. Time really does fly, so I truly hope you will all join us for the final General Membership meeting on May 18th until September. State Representative Cindi Stevenson is our guest speaker and will provide an update on the Florida legislative scene.

The Memorial Day Ceremony is back at the National Cemetery on May 30th beginning at 1000 - hope all can attend. Our featured speaker is CSM David Lanham, Florida Army National Guard. St. Johns County has lost many in the veteran community since May of 2021, and we are privileged to honor them.

Though our Ancient City Chapter will not be formally meeting in June, July or August, our 2023 FCoC Convention Committees will. Please standby as we will be calling on you to serve on one of these important teams. May 19 - 21, 2023 at the Renaissance World Golf Village should be on your calendar - save the date. The Convention Committee has met three times and will continue to meet over the summer, as there is much to coordinate.

So far, 2022 has been a wonderful, productive year. I want to thank all of you for your prayers and support. The fall, as well as 2023, will definitely be action packed, so get ready for the journey.

Take good care and stay safe - see you on the 18th.

Ron

Guest Speaker

for our May meeting

Cynthia “Cyndi” Ward Stevenson



Born and raised in North Florida, Cyndi Stevenson earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from Stetson University in 1981. She is a Republican member of the Florida House of Representatives, representing the 17th District, which includes all of northern and central St Johns County and extends south to St Augustine and St Augustine Beach since 2015. She has also served as a Commissioner for St Johns County since 2008.

Cyndi Stevenson’s priority issues include:

- * Careful stewardship of your taxpayer dollars
- * Manage growth based on a long term vision
- * Reduce congestion & improve roadways
- * Strengthen our local job market
- * Protect our precious water resources

Important Announcements

- Memorial Day Ceremony returns to the St Augustine National Cemetery on May 30th at 10:00 am
- Stay tuned to learn about the changes and upgrades to our website at this month's General Membership meeting
- MOAA-ACC noted as Community Sponsor for recent EMMA Guild Luncheon

There is still time to sign up for the Florida Council of Chapters 2022 Convention in West Palm Beach Jun 10-12 at the West Palm Beach Marriott.

This is a great opportunity to see a MOAA convention before we host the 2023 Convention.

ADVOCACY UPDATE

What TRICARE Beneficiaries Need to Know About DoD's Budget Plans

By: Karen Ruedisueli

MAY 04, 2022



Saririn Pamai/EyeEm via Getty Images

MOAA's advocacy efforts have paid off with good news in the recently released Defense Budget Overview for FY 2023 for military families, retirees and their families, and survivors who rely on the military health system for medical care.

The budget narrative announces a one-year strategic pause to all planned medical end strength divestitures to ensure "beneficiaries

continue to have uninterrupted access to high-quality care" and "the Department's military force structure, including military medical end strength, remains optimized to meet the operational requirements of the department."

Defense Health Program budget details also confirm DoD has requested no new TRICARE fee increases, a relief for military families and retirees who experienced sticker shock after military health system (MHS) reforms resulted in multiple out-of-pocket cost hikes starting in 2018.

Continued Vigilance

Since 2019, MOAA has been working to ensure medical billet cuts do not interfere with operational requirements or beneficiary access to care, so we appreciate DoD's commitment to ensuring all MHS changes are conditions-based.

The civilian health care system has changed significantly since MHS reforms were passed into law with the FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). MOAA continues to raise awareness on Capitol Hill regarding instability in the civilian health care workforce and the potential impacts on the MHS.

Most recently, we joined our partners in the TRICARE for Kids Coalition for a series of meetings with member offices to highlight our concerns, including recent research findings from the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) indicating 1 in 5 physicians intend to leave their clinical practice within the next year.

MOAA has also been at the forefront of protecting military families and retirees from TRICARE fee increases and, during MHS reforms, was successful in grandfathering servicemembers and working-age retirees who entered service before Jan. 1, 2018, from the bulk of TRICARE fee hikes. MOAA also successfully blocked five consecutive proposals for a TRICARE For Life enrollment fee.

Addressing and preventing further disproportionate TRICARE fee increases remains a top advocacy priority for MOAA. Reducing mental health copays, which more than doubled as a result of MHS reforms, was one of the key issues of our spring advocacy campaign. Please join our efforts by contacting your lawmakers and urging them to co-sponsor the Stop Copay Overpay Act.

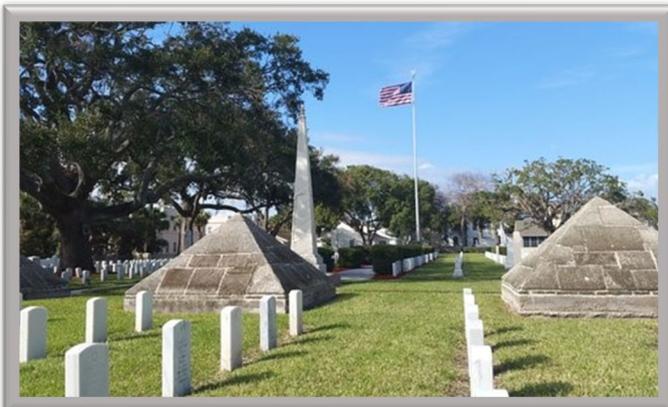
While MOAA is grateful for good news in the FY 2023 DoD budget proposal, we understand the military health care benefit remains a prime target for those seeking funding for other priorities and will continue to monitor potential threats to TRICARE and the MHS.

ST. JOHNS COUNTY 2022 MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE RETURNS TO THE ST. AUGUSTINE NATIONAL CEMETERY



After a Covid induced displacement to the welcoming Anastasia Baptist Church in 2021, we are happy to announce that this year's observance carries on our tradition and will be held in the St. Augustine National Cemetery on Monday, May 30th at 10:00 AM. Command Sergeant Major David Lanham, Senior Enlisted Leader (CSEL) of the Florida National Guard, will keynote the event which begins with appropriate music and the march-on of massed flags from local Veterans organizations. St. Johns County veterans who have died in the past year will be recognized and honored with the traditional wreath laying and "Fallen Comrade Tribute."

Located at 82 Marine Street, near the Florida Guard's St. Francis Barracks Hqs., the serene National Cemetery is on the nation's Register of Historic Places and one of the oldest military cemeteries in the country. Its tombstones bear witness to veterans from all armed services who fought the nation's wars, from the early republic to current conflicts in the Middle East. The unique monuments are iconic testament to the military service and sacrifice of our fellow citizens. All are invited to join us as we honor them on this special day of remembrance. Public parking is available across from and behind the St. Francis barracks.



Organized by the Ancient City Chapter, Military Officers Association of America, in conjunction with the Veterans Council of St. Johns County and the National Cemetery Administration. Images courtesy of Ted Pappas.

St. Augustine Shrine Club

250 Brainard Dr, St. Augustine, FL 32086

Phone: (904) 794-1555

St. Augustine Shrine Center sits on a bluff overlooking the amazing Moultrie Creek and is available for private parties, weddings & receptions, reunions or that special private event. Full lounge & kitchen available.



StAugustineShrineClub.com

Welcome to the



*Spring
Into
Summer
Luncheon*

April 27, 2022

St. Augustine Shrine Club

Thank You!

Judi and Cary Cowan, Co-presidents of the EMMA Concert Association's Guild, thank the following for their support of this year's luncheon:

Sponsors

In-kind Contribution
St. Augustine Shrine Club
(Come to our Friday Fried Chicken Nights!)

\$100 Sponsors

Council on Aging
Gaye Farris
Gwanda, LLC (Information Technology)
Island Family Pharmacy
Jimmy's Lawn Service
Pinch-a-Penny (pool, patio, spa)
Valley Bank
Linda and Steve Bond

Community Supporters

Cowan Financial Group
Christe' Blue Boutique
Fashion Models: Judy Vance, Madeline Krumenauer,
Beth Morucci, Kayla Morucci, Liz Dolan
Model Escorts: Jim Gajewski and Bill McClure
Morgan Beach Designs
St. Johns County Beekeepers Association
Military Officers Association of America
Bartimus Travel Group, Inc.
St. Johns County Parks and Recreation
Dwight Wilkes
Jim Cargilio
Friends of the Library
Limelight Theatre
St. Augustine Yacht Club Youth Sailing Program

Luncheon Chairs: Linda Bond, Eileen Chrzanowski, Gaye Farris, Marian Patrick
Thanks also to our luncheon guests for coming and to the many Guild members who worked so hard to make our fundraiser luncheon a success.

Program

Welcome	Judi Cowan, Guild Co-president
Spring into Summer	Eileen Chrzanowski, Guild Secretary
Bid on Silent Auction	Take a free book
Buy a 50-50	See about sailing
Buy ocean-inspired art	Join the EMMA Guild
Buy some local honey	Join the Friends of the Library
Join Limelight Guild	Get a drink (cash bar)
Inspirational Words	Gaye Farris, Guild Vice-president
Luncheon	Chef Ken Cowperthwaite
Fashion Show	Christe' Blue Boutique

Auction, 50-50 & Jewelry Winners Announced

Next EMMA Concert: May 7, 8 p.m., *The Gainesville Orchestra* – *Jersey Boys & Girls*, Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College, 14 Granada St., St. Augustine, Fla. emmaconcerts.com

Next Guild Meeting: Aug. 11, 3:30 p.m., Cowan Financial Group, 3275 U.S. Highway 1, S., St. Augustine, Fla.

Through ushering, fundraising and "friendraising," the Guild supports EMMA's mission of bringing quality musical entertainment to St. Augustine and offering student scholarships.

INFORMATION



For the most current information on the Legislative updates that your organization is support for you please visit MOAA's Take Action Center at: <https://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa>



New members will receive a FREE Name Badge, MOAA-ACC Mug, and a MOAA-ACC Collectable Coin. Please email: MOAAACCMembers@gmail.com or call Jim Cargilo, 1st Lt, USMC (FRM) at 904-377-9866.



<https://www.facebook.com/MOAAACC/>



Annual dues are \$30.00 due on December 31st of each year for the following year. You may re-new your membership as follows:

1. Make checks payable to MOAA-ACC and mail to P.O. Box 4571, St. Augustine, Florida 32085.
2. Pay on-line at <https://MOAAFL.org/Chapters/ACCMOAA>
3. Bring your payment to a Chapter meeting.

Please email MOAAACCMembers@gmail.com or call Jim Cargilo at 904-377-9866 with any questions.

To Join go to <https://moaaf.org/Chapters/ACCMOAA/> and click on this icon



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

Please look to our new website to find useful information about chapter activities and other useful information of interest. <https://moaaf.org/Chapters/ACCMOAA/>

MOAA-ACC, under the affiliation of MOAA National, is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.