

March 2020



**Indian River Chapter MOAA**

**P.O. Box 644047**

**Vero Beach, FL 32964-4047**

***Indian River Chapter  
Since 1983***

**NEW MEMBERS WELCOME**

Do you 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** at 954-494-8742.

March 2020



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bob Albrecht

The new decade of 2020 has arrived! In the last century they had the Roaring '20s. As an organization, we need to assure that this chapter is still vibrant and thriving. The only way to ensure this happens is to maintain and grow our membership. As Chapter President, I want to challenge all our members to bring in one new member this year. It's an "All Hands on Deck" effort.

At the recently held Florida Council of Chapters Leadership Seminar it was stressed over and over the importance of increasing membership. The larger we are enhances our ability to impact legislatively locally and nationally, provide support to local veterans and active duty personnel, and support to our charitable organizations.

The last membership report showed us with a total of 122 members, which was less than the previous year. This year our goal is to increase our chapter membership to more than 130. So, two objectives need to be met.

(1) **Current members renew your membership if you haven't already done so!!!!** Annual dues for 2020 were due on 1 January. We still have several members that have not renewed as yet.

(2) **Find a new member.** I would bet that each member knows at least one other officer who qualifies for chapter membership, so ask them. If you are enjoying your membership, why would you not invite them?

**Bob Albrecht**  
**President**

**NEVER STOP SERVING**

## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

**TOPIC: ANNUAL DUES**

By Jim Blake

The Board of Directors submits the following Bylaws amendment for vote at the 20 March luncheon business meeting:

Article V - **Dues**, Section 2, of The Bylaws of the Indian River Chapter, Vero Beach, Florida, of The Military Officers Association of America MOAA, Formerly The Retired Officers Association (TROA), Last Revised December 2016, shall be amended to read as follows:

Section 2. The **annual dues** for a calendar year shall become due on 1 January. Any Surviving Spouse Member whose deceased spouse was a Regular Life Member of MOAA and any Member Emeritus will be exempt from paying annual dues.

**Jim**

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## RECRUITMENT AND NEW MEMBERS

By Carroll Oates

At the monthly meeting on February 21, 2020, we had four new members in attendance. There are 6 or 7 pending. This year could be one of the largest in terms of new members, because of all our combined efforts.

Remember, we are all recruiters and should keep our eyes and ears forever diligent and continue to increase our membership numbers with talented and patriotic officers and their spouses.

Thank you all!!

**Carroll**

March 2020

## 2019 OFFICERS AND BOARD

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### Editor

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### Public Relations

COL Mike Di Scipio 217-8112

MAJ Terry Treat 703-304-4935

## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

By Jay Torres

**"A chapter must be politically nonpartisan. However, a legislative committee can and should make a deliberate effort to inform its membership of candidates' positions."**

Florida Senator **Mark Rubio** and Minnesota Senator (and Presidential candidate) **Amy Klobuchar** jointly sponsored the recently signed, **Supporting Veterans in STEM Careers Act**, which will assist veterans re-entering the workforce by directing the National Science Foundation to encourage veterans to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

Citing a November 2018 GAO Report (<https://www.gao.gov/assets/700/695490.pdf>), the VA has released an updated Department of Defense list of locations outside of Vietnam where tactical **herbicides** were used, tested or stored by the United States military. The new sites include Eglin Air Force Base on the Panhandle and Avon Park Bombing Range in south-central Florida.

Veterans who were exposed to **Agent Orange** or other herbicides during service may be eligible for a variety of VA benefits, including an Agent Orange Registry health exam, health care and disability compensation for diseases associated with exposure. Their dependents and survivors also may be eligible for benefits.

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

By Pat Ryan

We will try something new for the next luncheon. Those who have paid in advance will be able to check in and get their meal ticket in one line which should go quite quickly. The other line is for those who have not yet paid for their luncheon, which will understandably move a bit slower. PLEASE get your checks in PRIOR to the luncheon!

Patty



March 2020

**OUR SPEAKER FOR MARCH 20, 2020**

**Commander (USNR) Kag Cagnoni, (SEAL)**  
**By Terry Treat**

**Commander Cagnoni** is the Commanding Officer of SEAL Team 18 NRU. He has 39 years of active duty and reserve service, 20 years enlisted and 19 commissioned.

Kag enlisted in the Navy in June 1980. In 1984, he graduated from Basic Underwater Demolition School (BUD/s) with class 129. In Dec 1985, he checked aboard SEAL Team 4, and was deployed twice to the Middle East during the Iran/Iraq War and at Patilla Airfield in Panama during Operation "Just Cause." Kag left active duty in 1991, converted to the reserve, and became a Federal Agent. In 2000, he was commissioned in the Navy reserve as a SPECWAR (SEAL) Officer.

His latest deployment was in 2016 as the Deputy Commander of Special Operations Command Europe, Joint Operations Group (JOG). In 2010, he attended the Naval War College and earned a Master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies.

Kag retired as a Federal Agent in 2017, and lives on Hutchinson Island. He travels monthly to the Joint Expeditionary Base at Little Creek, VA, for his reserve duties. He also serves as the Advisory Chairman to the Board of Directors of the National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce.



**Photo: U.S. Navy SEAL Badge**

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**FACEBOOK \SOCIAL MEDIA:  
COORDINATOR WANTED**

**By Mike Di Scipio**

The chapter is searching for a volunteer willing to establish and maintain a Facebook and possibly other social media for our chapter.

The use of social media is a way to attract and appeal to younger prospects as well as reaching out to our members and the community at large.

If interested in exploring this opportunity please contact Mike Di Scipio [diassoc@att.net](mailto:diassoc@att.net) or Jim Rannazzisi [jimrazz@aol.com](mailto:jimrazz@aol.com).

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**SHIRLEY TOURIGNEY**

**Is in Assisted Living**

**By Patty Ryan**

One of our members, who often helps out with registration, had an unfortunate accident a few weeks ago. **Shirley Tourigny** crashed into a cement wall while going down a flight of stairs at the Vero Beach Museum of Art. She spent a little time at Encompass, and will complete her healing process in an assisted living home prior to returning to her own home. Flowers have been sent on behalf of MOAA-IRC, but please do not hesitate to contact Shirley personally to convey your well wishes.



**March 2020**

## **CHINA: The Corona Virus Paralyzes a Nation**

**By Robert Scheppy in China**

The Corona Virus, known as COVID-19 in mainland China, began in Wuhan City, Hubei Province in December 2019. The virus has spread to all provinces of China and at least 28 countries.



### **2020: Chinese medical personnel treat Corona virus (COVID-19) patients**

I'm in my apartment in Zhu Hai City, Guangdong Province. This coastal city has a population of about 1.5 million. Zhu Hai is known as The Palm Beach of China. It is lovely here.

The entire city is under strict quarantine rules. Everyone, including me, wears a face mask when out side. All schools remain closed. Most businesses are closed. Restaurants are closed, but they can sell take-out meals. Only the supermarkets and grocery stores are open. Each time I enter a supermarket or get on the near-empty bus, someone takes my temperature.

All ferries from Zhu Hai City to Hong Kong are cancelled. There is a bus from Zhu Hai City to Hong Kong Airport, but American Airlines keeps cancelling my return flights.

## **PANDEMICS THAT CHANGED HISTORY**

**Pandemic: a disease that spreads over a whole country or the whole world**

### **11th Century: Leprosy (Hansen's Disease)**

Though it had been around for ages, leprosy grew into a pandemic in Europe in the Middle Ages. A slow-developing bacterial disease that causes sores and de-

formities, leprosy was believed to be a punishment from God. This belief led to moral judgments and ostracization of victims. Now known as Hansen's disease, it still afflicts tens of thousands of people a year and can be fatal if not treated with antibiotics.

### **1350: The Black Death Killed one-third of the world population.**

Responsible for the death of one-third of the world population, this second appearance of the bubonic plague possibly started in Asia and moved west in caravans. Entering through Sicily in 1347 A.D. when plague sufferers arrived in the port of Messina, it spread throughout Europe rapidly. England and France were so incapacitated by the plague that the countries called a truce to their war.

### **1492: The Columbian Exchange probably killed 90% of indigenous people.**

Following the arrival of the Spanish in the Caribbean, diseases such as smallpox, measles and bubonic plague were passed along to the native populations by the Europeans. With no previous exposure, these diseases devastated indigenous people, with as many as 90 percent dying throughout the north and south continents.

Upon arrival on the island of Hispaniola, Christopher Columbus encountered the Taino people, population 60,000. By 1548, the population stood at less than 500. This scenario repeated itself throughout the Americas.

Research in 2019 even concluded that the deaths of some 56 million Native Americans in the 16th and 17th centuries, largely through disease, may have altered Earth's climate as vegetation growth on previously tilled land drew more CO2 from the atmosphere and caused a cooling event.

### **1665: The Great Plague of London killed 20% of London's population.**

In its second recorded appearance, the bubonic plague led to the deaths of 20 percent of London's population. The worst of the outbreak tapered off in the fall of 1666, around the same time as another devastating event—the Great Fire of London.

**(Continued on next page.)**

**March 2020**

**(Continued)**

**1817: First Cholera Pandemic killed one million Russians. And then millions in India.**

The first of seven cholera pandemics over the next 150 years, this wave of the small intestine infection originated in Russia, where one million people died. Spreading through feces-infected water and food, the bacterium was passed along to British soldiers who brought it to India where millions more died. The reach of the British Empire and its navy spread cholera to Spain, Africa, Indonesia, China, Japan, Italy, Germany and America, where it killed 150,000 people. A vaccine was created in 1885, but pandemics continued

**1855: The Third Plague Pandemic claimed 15 million victims. It began in China.**

Starting in China and moving to India and Hong Kong, the bubonic plague claimed 15 million victims. Initially spread by fleas during a mining boom in Yunnan Province, the plague is considered a factor in the Parthay rebellion and the Taiping rebellion. India faced the most substantial casualties, and the epidemic was used as an excuse for repressive policies that sparked some revolt against the British. The pandemic was considered active until 1960 when cases dropped below a couple hundred.

**1889: Russian Flu: 360,000 died**

The first significant flu pandemic started in Siberia and Kazakhstan, traveled to Moscow, and made its way into Finland and then Poland, where it moved into the rest of Europe. By the following year, it had crossed the ocean into North America and Africa. By the end of 1890, 360,000 had died.

**1918: The Spanish Flu likely originated in China: 50 million died.**

The avian-borne flu that resulted in 50 million deaths worldwide, the Spanish flu is theorized to have originated in China and been spread by Chinese laborers being transported by rail across Canada on their way to Europe. In North America, the flu first appeared in Kansas in early 1918 and was visible in Europe by spring. Wire service reports of a flu outbreak in Madrid in the spring of 1918 led to the pandemic being called the "Spanish flu."

By October, hundreds of thousands of Americans died and body storage scarcity hit crisis level. But the flu threat disappeared in the summer of 1919 when most of the infected had either developed immunities or died.



**1918: American Nurses wear masks to guard against the Spanish Flu**

**1957: Asian flu: a vaccine contained the pandemic.**

Starting in Hong Kong and spreading throughout China and then into the United States, the Asian flu became widespread in England where, over six months, 14,000 people died. A second wave followed in early 1958, causing an estimated total of about 1.1 million deaths globally, with 116,000 deaths in the United States alone. A vaccine was developed, effectively containing the pandemic.

**1981: HIV/AIDS is believed to have developed from a chimpanzee virus from West Africa in the 1920s.**

First identified in 1981, AIDS destroys a person's immune system, resulting in eventual death by diseases that the body would usually fight off. Those infected by the HIV virus encounter fever, headache, and enlarged lymph nodes upon infection. When symptoms subside, carriers become highly infectious through blood and genital fluid. The disease destroys t-cells.

AIDS was first observed in American gay communities, but is believed to have developed from a chimpanzee virus from West Africa in the 1920s. The disease, which spreads through certain body fluids, moved to Haiti in the 1960s, and then New York and San Francisco in the 1970s.

Treatments have been developed to slow the progress of the disease, but 35 million people worldwide have died of AIDS since its discovery, and a cure is yet to be found.

**Our thanks to the History Channel.**

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March 2020

**BLUE ANGELS RETURNING TO VERO  
BEACH FOR 2020 AIR SHOW  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Members of the Board of Directors of the Vero Beach Air Show are pleased to announce that the U.S. Navy Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Team will perform at the next Vero Beach Air Show scheduled at the Vero Beach Regional Airport April 25-26, 2020. Our MOAA chapter is proud to be a sponsor of this event. We will also run a **Novelties and Souvenir Concession** at the Air Show.

**Volunteers are need to work:**

**Saturday (4/25) 0800-1300**

**Saturday (4/25) 1230-1730**

**Sunday (4/26) 0800-1300**

**Sunday (4/26) 1230-1930**

If interested **contact Bob Albrecht at (919) 616 3873** or **ralbrecht1702@comcast.net**.

If you are unable to work a full shift we are gladly accepting volunteers to work partial shifts or as a relief person. This should prove to be a great money maker for the chapter as well as a chance to meet and mingle with other chapter members.

**FCOC CONVENTION**

**May 28-May 31, 2020**

*The Florida Council of Chapters of the military Officers Association of America, hosted by the Palm Beach -Martin County chapter, will hold its 35th annual convention May 28-May 31 at the PGA Marriott Hotel in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.*

**This is the weekend after Memorial Day.**

The PGA Marriott Hotel is located next to I-95 and a mile from the Florida Turnpike. It is 20 minutes from Palm Beach International Airport (PBI).

We have put together a fun program that starts with **golf** at the PGA National or a commercial **fishing trip** out of Jupiter. "Officers Call" at the **Square Grouper** will set the tone for a fun, casual weekend. The next day, you can either **kayak** down the pristine Loxahatchee River or climb the **Jupiter Lighthouse**. That night, after a nice President's reception during which we will present the Communications Awards, we'll head to one of the eight outstanding local restaurants.

On Saturday, speakers include **Lt Gen Dana Atkins**, president of MOAA, as well as great presentations by a high-end jewelry expert and the First Sergeant of the **Blackhawk Down** mission.

MOAA National staff will also update us on current support and advocacy issues. Our Military Ball will feature Lt. Gen Atkins serving as Installation Officer. He will be followed by **Congressman Mike Maltz**, a retired Special Forces Officer with many combat deployments, and Neil Zirconia, who does Neil Diamond better than Neil Diamond.

And, if that's not enough, we have a trip to FPL's **Manatee Lagoon** to check out their outstanding facility dedicated to local wildlife, and **The Gardens Mall**, located five miles away, will do its best to destroy your credit cards.

[Click on](#)

[Event Details to start!](#)

[Event details](#)

[Register Now!](#)

Now and Always  
We'll be There.

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March 2020



FEBRUARY CHAPTER LUNCHEON REGISTRATION

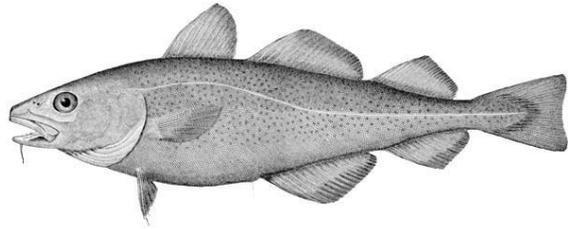
IRC Luncheon, Friday March 20, 2020

Vero Beach Yacht Club, 11:30 AM

Our March 20th speaker is Commander (USNR) "Kag" Cagnoni, USN SEAL. He currently serves as the Commanding Officer of SEAL Team 18, USNR. He has 39 years of combined active duty and USNR service, 20 years enlisted and 19 commissioned. Kag left active duty in 1991, converted to the reserves, and became a Federal Agent, a role from which he retired in 2017. He lives on Hutchinson Island, and serves as the Advisory Chairman to the Board of Directors of the National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce. If you want to hear some good stories, this is a luncheon you don't want to miss.

Menu Choices:

- (1) Baked Ham w/ Rum Raisin Sauce
(2) Panko Fried Cod w/ Tartar Sauce
(3) Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad
Mashed potato and green beans
Desert per chef



For any questions feel free to email Kelly Menger at kcremens@hotmail.com

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

Send reservations and payment by 5:00 PM

Friday March 13, 2020

VERO BEACH YACHT CLUB

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Menu Choices: \$22.00 per person \$

- (1) Baked Ham w/ Rum Raisin Sauce \$ \_\_\_\_\_
(2) Panko Fried Cod w/ Tartar Sauce \$ \_\_\_\_\_
(3) Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad \$ \_\_\_\_\_
TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make the check payable to IRC-MOAA. Mail to:

IRC-MOAA, P.O. Box 644047, Vero Beach, FL 32964

**Save the Date!**

## **Florida Council of Chapters Annual Convention 2020**

**29-30-31 May 2020**

**Host Chapter: Palm Beach – Martin Counties Chapter**

**Location: just refurbished Palm Beach Gardens Marriott**

**Engaging speakers, military ball, cocktail party**

**Also:**

**Climb the Jupiter Lighthouse**

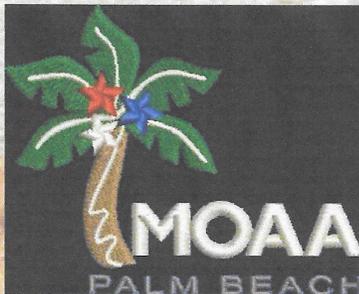
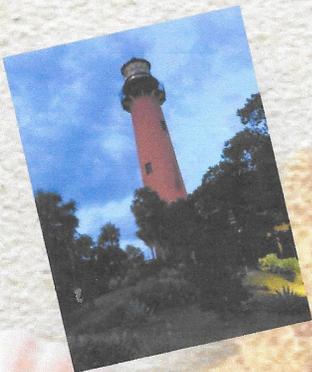
**Kayak on the Loxahatchee River**

**Fishing in the Atlantic**

**Gorgeous beaches**

**Five-star shopping at the Gardens Mall\***

**Golf Tournament**



**You just might have to come early or leave late to get it all in!**

**\*MOAA is not responsible for the destruction of any credit cards at the Gardens Mall...**

