



# DRUMBEAT

August 2020

## UPCOMING EVENTS



Board Meeting	Jun 10, 2020
Lunch Meeting	No Luncheon
Board Meeting	Jul 8, 2020
Lunch Meeting	No Luncheon
Board Meeting	Aug 12, 2020
Lunch Meeting	No Luncheon
Board Meeting	Sept 9, 2020
Lunch Meeting	No Luncheon

### Contents of our latest Newsletter.



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**Clearwater Chapter**  
**MOAA Membership**

Total Members

Regular	51
Spouses	27
Surviving Spouses	12
Total	90

## President's Message

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR July/August 2020 DRUMBEAT



I hope all of you are well during these hard times. So many different changes in everyone's lives not seeing friends, family and grandchildren. Unfortunately, Florida has become one of the hot spots in the country. I am not sure what the new normal will be for all of us. Sandy and I are still in hibernation mode and wearing our mask everywhere. We have been in touch with the Clearwater Country Club and they are not really sure when they will be opening again, so please keep an eye out for emails from your chapter as we will keep you updated.

The Board and I have been holding Board Meetings on Zoom. We are trying to keep you all informed by doing email blasts. Sadly, the Webmaster who keeps tabs on how many of you open the emails has told the Board that less than half of you are opening these emails. Emails are how we try to update you on new information and tips about COVID - 19, updates on the VA and also any new information that we receive from MOAA National and from the Florida Council. **So please open up your emails from MOAA Clearwater** if you don't see them in your emails check your spam box.

If any of you have or know of anyone that is ill or in the Hospital, please let me know so that I can reach out to them. Contact me at my email:

**robert.behm23@gmail.com**

If you read the Secretary minutes for June and July in the AUG Drumbeat you will see that your board has been busy taking care of the business of your chapter. In August the Scholarship Committee will hold a Zoom meeting on planning for the next Annual Golf Tournament in March.

Sadly, for personal reasons our Surviving Spouse Liaison, Louisa Dykstra has had to step down. The board and myself wants to Thank her for stepping up and filling that position. If you know someone who is interested, or you are interested yourself, please let me know by email or phone 401-207-9317. You do not have to be a Surviving Spouse and you can also be male or a female for this position. Once you contact me, I can let you know what the job entails and what your responsibilities will be.

Again, we miss all of you and cannot wait until we get back together again. Hope you can enjoy some of the last summer months, please stay safe and healthy.

**Bob Behm**

**Board Meetings will be via Virtual Phone Meeting or Zoom Conference until further notice.**

The Drumbeat is published by the Clearwater Chapter which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are non-partisan. The advertisements that appear in this publication also do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA.

Location: Meeting was conducted by E-Mail

**Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:** The Zoom Board meeting was called to order at 10 AM by President Bob Behm. Those present stood, faced the Flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Attendance** – Bob Behm, Sandy Behm, Pat Hughes, Jim Souders, Jeff Doll, Rob Risberg

**Previous Month Secretary Minutes** – Bob Reported that the May minutes were prepared by Sandy Behm. He asked if everyone had a chance to read them in the June Drumbeat? A motion was made and seconded to accept the Minutes as written; all approved. The minutes were accepted by the Board.

**Treasurer's Report** Jeff Doll reported the Treasurers report for Jane Belson reported there was \$16,607.32 in the **Charitable Account** and \$12,836.54 in the **Checking Account** for a **Total** of \$29,443.86. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted and was approved by the Board.

**Membership Report** – Rob Risberg reported that there were 90 total members, 51 regular members, 12 Surviving spouse members and 27 spouse members.

**Programs Report** – Bob Behm - See Below

**Drumbeat Report** – Jim Souders reported the next Drumbeat will be in August. Bob will just do one President report for August and the Secretary will have two reports.

**Web Report** – Rob Risberg reported that he will look at the new FCOC website to see if it is something we can use. Rob also reported that on the messages he sends out to the chapter that only 40% are opening the messages.

**Spouse/Surviving Spouse Report** – Louisa Dykstra asked to be taken off of the Board. We will take her off the board and will try to replace her once the Luncheon meetings start up again. Bob reminded us that the replacement can be a man and does not have to be a surviving spouse.

**Members in Distress Report** – Captain Wong sent an email to Bob, stated that he is recovering, it will be awhile before he is fully recovered. Bob sent him a card from the Chapter.

**ROTC Scholarship** – Steve Hodges was not present, Bob and Steve told the scholarship board to submit three names, they have not heard from anyone.

**Legislative Liaison** – Dave APT is sending information to Bob about the VA and also COVID-19.

**Old Business** – Bob Behm stated that we have to pick a meal for the Pearl Harbor event and find a speaker for the event. Jane and Pat will go to Clearwater Country club in August to select the meal if the club is open.

**New Business-** We discussed what we want to do for our Income Tax Consideration 501(c)(19) vs. 501(c)(3). We will look into this further.

Bob gave the board information on the MOAA National COVID19 MOAA \$500.00 dollar grants.

Bob attended the MOAA / FCOC Board of Directors Meeting on Zoom. All FCOC new officers were sworn in. Bob shared a letter from the new FCOC President with the board. The new FCOC President stressed that there should be no politics at any of our Luncheons. Bob said he did not think we had a problem with that issue.

Bob went over some Key dates below:

22-26 Mar 20 Storming the Hill

16 Oct 20 FCOC Board Meeting

21-25 Oct 20 MOAA Annual Meeting and LOE Awards Dinner – Kansas City or possibly Washington

8-9 Jan 21 MOAA/FCOC Leadership Forum, Orlando

May 2021 FCOC Convention, Sarasota, FL.

**Any other new business?** Bob asked if there was any other new Business there was none.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Bob called for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn at 11:06 was made by Jim Souders and seconded by Pat Hughes. All approved.

**Upcoming Speakers:**

SEPT- Benny Blackshire – West Central Area VP – Will speak and present Awards.

Location: Meeting was conducted by Zoom

**Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:** Bob Behm called the meeting to order at 10:15am. He led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
**Attendance** – Bob Behm, Sandy Behm, Jane Belson, Norm Belson, Pat Hughes, Jim Souders, Steve Hodges, Jeff Doll, Dave Mason  
**Previous Month Secretary Minutes** – The June minutes were prepared by Sandy Behm. Did everyone have a chance to read them they were sent out by email? One change to the Minutes was noted that Jane and Norm had to leave the meeting early on June 10th. A motion was made by Pat Hughes and seconded by Jim Souders to accept the Minutes as written; and was approved by the Board.

**Treasurer's Report** – Jane Belson presented the Treasurer's report. Checking Account \$12,836.54 Charitable Account \$15,301.59 for a **TOTAL** \$28,138.13. Jane stated that she deposited \$194.27 from the ROTC Golf Tournament proceeds. She sent a check out of the Charitable Account for \$1,500.00 for Noah Evans Scholarship to USF. Jane advised us that she wrote a check for \$4.20 out of the Checking Account for the cost of mailing the Drumbeat. A motion was made by Jim Souders and seconded by Pat Hughes to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted and was approved by the Board.

**Membership Report** – Rob Risberg emailed Bob that there are 90 total voting members a decrease of 3, There are 51 Regular Members decrease of 2, 57% of total, Surviving Spouse Members 12 no change 13% of total, Spouse Members 27 decrease of 1, 30% of total. Losses Bob and Kim Farrer, Mike White moved to Inactive status.

2020 Dues report: Paid = 88 (98%) Unpaid = 2 (2%)

**Programs Report** – Bob Behm stated that he has Speakers lined up for Sept thru Nov but he is hesitant to follow thru with them until we know if we will have a meeting in Sept. Jane stated that the Club does not expect to open anytime soon and that the current chef has passed away.

**Drumbeat Report** – Jim Souders stated that there will be no Drumbeat until August. **Web Report** – Rob Risberg – Nothing new to report.

**Spouse/Surviving Spouse Report** – No Report

**Members in Distress Report** – Nothing reported

**ROTC Scholarship** – Jane advised that Noah Evans scholarship for \$1500.00 from the Charitable Account was paid to USF. The 3 ROTC's candidates for this year have not responded back to the Scholarship Committee so we may not have any candidates this year. Steve stated he wants to set up a team to help with contributions for next year's ROTC Golf Tournament, 3 from MOWW and 3 from MOAA, Bob Behm and Jeff Doll volunteered and Steve is going to check with Rob Risberg. Once he gets everyone in place, he will set up a zoom meeting.

**Legislative Liaison** – Dave APT – sent out an email yesterday to Bob on a VA COVID-19 update.

**Old Business** – Bob Behm stated that he has contacted the Central VP and Several area Presidents for a possible speaker for Pearl Harbor. Steve Hodges stated that he will contact someone from the USF History Dept to speak. Jane and Pat mentioned that with the uncertainty of the Clearwater Country Club not opening anytime soon that maybe we should cancel Pearl Harbor event. A motion was made by Pat Hughes to not have the Pearl Harbor Event and Jane Belson seconded the motion. But upon further discussion both Bob Behm and Steve Hodges thought it was too soon to cancel it. Bob asked them what would be the latest date that the event could be canceled they said Sept. He asked if they would be willing to table the motion to the board meeting in Sept. They agreed and the motion was tabled until Sept. Steve Hodges is going to check with the ROTC and Bugler just in case the event goes on.

**New Business** –

Discuss what we want to do for our Income Tax Consideration 501(c)(19) vs. 501(c)(3). Bob contacted our other Area presidents to see what they did and why? Most of the other chapters in our area are 501 (c) (19) because their primary source of income is dues from the members vs donations from the public as with 501 (3) (c). Bob asked if we could use the MOWW's 501 (3) (c) for our donations for the Golf Tournament and Steve said yes.

Did anyone have any persons for COVID19 MOAA \$500.00 dollar grants. Jeff Doll gave a package out to a Veteran at the Maddy Williams Community Center but has not heard anything back.

Discuss letter and emails sent out to individuals about Free basic Membership. Bob stated that he sent out emails and letters to the 6 individuals who are eligible for the MOAA National Basic Membership but has not heard anything back from anyone, He will follow up again in a month.

Discuss emails and letters sent out for recruiting new members. Bob sent 5 emails or letters out to 5 potential members in our area and will send the list of names to Jane.

Do we need to update our by-laws to reflect our vote to send our 1<sup>st</sup> VP's to the Leadership Conference each year? A motion was made and approved by the board to amend the bylaw to reflect a vote that was taken and approved by the board on November 13, 2019 to send and pay for the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President to attend the FCOC Leadership Conference each year.

Any ideas who might make a good Surviving Spouse Liaison? No one had any suggestions at this time.

**Any other new business?** No other new business.

**Motion to Adjourn:** A motion to Adjourn the meeting was made by Pat Hughes and seconded by Steve Hodges. All approved the meeting was adjourned at 11:13am.

**Upcoming Speakers:** Benny Blackshire – West Central Area VP – Will speak and present Awards.

## CHAPTER NEWS

### VA WARNING ON FRAUDULENT INFORMATION

Dear Veteran,

It has been brought to my attention that inaccurate flyers and other postings have been circulating on the internet and via social media channels regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the use of face masks due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of these notices include the Department of Justice (DOJ) seal and ADA phone number.

If you see these flyers and/or internet and social media posts, **please be aware the information provided is fraudulent.** These flyers and postings were not issued by the DOJ or ADA and are not endorsed by either agency. The public should not rely on the information contained in these flyers and postings.

It is important to know; the ADA does not provide a blanket exemption to people with disabilities from complying with legitimate safety requirements necessary for safe operations.

Your safety and the safety of our team is important to us. VA has mandated that all individuals wear masks in VA medical facilities and clinics. For everyone's protection, please always keep your mask on in our facilities. As cases of coronavirus continue to increase across our area it is extremely important that we work together to slow the spread of this disease.

If you have questions about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), you can visit [ADA.gov](https://www.ada.gov) or contact the ADA Information Line at 800-514-0301 (voice) and 800-514-0383 (TTY) for more information.

For more information about our COVID-19 safety measures and testing procedures, please visit our [Prepare for Your Visit](#) website.

Sincerely,

Paul Russo, MHSA, FACHE, RD  
Director/CEO  
Bay Pines VA Healthcare System

### New ID Renewal Procedures

The Department of Defense announced that all ID cards that recently expired are now valid until September 30, 2020. To renew an ID card that is expired or will expire on September 30th use the following process:

1. No earlier than September 1st, send an email to the DEERS office at MacDill AFB using this address - [6fss.fsmps.deersidcards@us.af.mil](mailto:6fss.fsmps.deersidcards@us.af.mil)
2. Your email should include your name, phone number, email address, and a clear statement that you are requesting a new ID card.
3. Attach the following documents to your email (do not send multiple emails):
  - a picture of yourself (head to shoulders)
  - two forms of identification (a picture of your old military ID, a picture of your driver's license, a copy of your passport photo page, or a copy of your Social Security card)
  - a completed DD Form 1172-2 signed by your sponsor (does not require a notary's signature). Where the form asks for the sponsor's SSN or DOD ID number, use the DOD ID number from your expired ID card.
4. The DEERS ID Card section at MacDill AFB will process your new ID card and mail it to.

If you have any questions about this process, call the MacDill AFB DEERS office at (813) 828-6673 and follow the prompts. The hours are 0730 to 1500, Mon through Fri. Calling earlier in the day has the best response.

## LUNCHEON NEWS

### No Luncheon Until Further Notice

The Chapter Officers continue to monitor all developments in local, state, and national virus response efforts and will make decisions regarding future luncheons/other events as the situation develops. We will keep chapter members informed by Drumbeat, email Blast and Chapter website.



## **NDAAs Update: Where We've Been, Where We Are, and What's Next**

The House passed its version of the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) on Tuesday by a strong bipartisan vote of 295-125, and the Senate followed suit Thursday, passing its version by an 86-14 margin. While these votes mark significant steps forward in the NDAA process, it's far from over.

**Click on: [NDAA Update](#)**

### **Key House Committee Moves to Block MTF Restructuring, Medical Billet Cuts**

MOAA's efforts to raise concerns on Capitol Hill regarding military treatment facility (MTF) restructuring and medical billet cuts continue to pay off.

The full House Appropriations Committee report for the FY 2021 House Defense Appropriations bill, released last week, denies DoD's request for funding to replace uniformed medical providers with civilians/contractors. It also restores funding to support MTFs that had been proposed for downsizing and incorporates additional reporting requirements and congressional oversight into the process.

**Click on: [Military Billet Cuts](#)**

### **Don't Delay: Register to Vote in the November Election**

Voter registration deadlines for the 2020 election are approaching sooner than you think.

MOAA is partnering with National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) to get the word out on registration so servicemembers and their families can focus on the mission at hand. MOAA will direct military voters to the resources available through the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP). FVAP provides voting assistance for servicemembers and their families, and all U.S. citizens overseas.

**[FREE DOWNLOAD: MOAA's Absentee Ballot Guide]**

**Click on: [Register to Vote](#)**

### **5 Military Books to Add to Your Summer Reading List**

Whether you are at home, by the pool, or in the great outdoors, the perfect companion to take with you on your summer adventures may be a great book. Our reviewer has handpicked a selection of military reads for you to enjoy, wherever the season takes you. To support MOAA, use Amazon Smile to purchase your new books.

**Click on: [Reading List](#)**

### **DoD Health Officials Must Fix \$15B Worth of Projects for Military Treatment Facilities, IG Says**

Unless the Defense Health Agency takes action to fix issues at military treatment facilities, problems could get worse and affect the overall condition, readiness, use and services provided to patients in the military community, according to a new report from the DoD Inspector General.

Delays in addressing the needs at those installations could worsen the overall condition of those MTFs, auditors stated. And some of the problems are imminent threats and should be fixed immediately, such as replacing an obsolete fire alarm system at the main hospital at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida; and moving an inaccessible emergency oxygen shutoff valve at Fort Riley's Irwin Army Community Hospital, according to the July 10 report.

**Click on: [Fix MTFs](#)**



**UPCOMING ELECTIONS**

There are two important elections during the remainder of 2020.

**Primary election** will be held on Tuesday 18 August 2020

**General election** on Tuesday 3 November 2020.

**Requesting A Mail In Ballot**

Requests can be made by submitting a [Mail Ballot Request Form](#) on our website, calling (727) 464-VOTE (8683), emailing [MailBallotRequests@VotePinellas.com](mailto:MailBallotRequests@VotePinellas.com) or writing the Supervisor of Elections Office.

**NOTE: Be sure to provide your current mailing address: BALLOTS ARE NOT FORWARDABLE.** A request for a ballot to be mailed to an address other than the voter's address on file with the Supervisor of Elections must be made in writing and signed by the voter.

**Returning Your Ballot**

Ballots may be returned by mail or in person. There is no limit to the number of ballots a person may return on behalf of other voters.

**NOTE:** Any person who provides or offers to provide, and any person who accepts, a pecuniary or other benefit in exchange for distributing, ordering, requesting, collecting, delivering or otherwise physically possessing more than two mail ballots per election in addition to his or her own ballot or a ballot belonging to an immediate family member, except as provided in F.S. 101.6105-101.695, commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in F.S. 775.082, 775.083 or 775.084.  
**VOTED MAIL BALLOTS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AT POLLING PLACES**

**THEY MUST BE RECEIVED AT ONE OF THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS OFFICES**

**BY 7 P.M. ON ELECTION DAY.**

**Supervisor of Elections Office**  
Pinellas County Courthouse  
315 Court St Room 117  
Clearwater, FL 33756

**Supervisor of Elections Office**  
501 1st Ave N.  
5th Street North Entrance  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

**Supervisor of Elections Office**  
Election Service Center  
Starkey Lakes Corporate Center  
13001 Starkey Road  
Largo, FL 33773

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*\***

Postal delivery service has changed. Voters are advised to allow at least ONE WEEK for their ballot to be returned by mail to the Supervisor of Elections office.

**YOU MAY DELIVER YOUR BALLOT TO ANY DESIGNATED BALLOT DROP-OFF SITE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY DURING DESIGNATED DATES/TIMES. (See your ballot packet for details)**

## 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](mailto:jim_souders@hotmail.com) to be included in the Drumbeat and show appreciation for their support.



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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