



DRUMBEAT

June 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS



Board Meeting	May 13, 2020 **
Lunch Meeting	Cancelled*
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

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**Clearwater Chapter
MOAA Membership**

Total Members

Regular	57
Spouses	31
Surviving Spouses	16
Total	104

President's Message



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR MAY 2020 DRUMBEAT

I hope all of you are well. These have certainly been hard times for everyone I am sure. So many different changes in everyone's lives. We are slowly seeing the State try to get back to normal, whatever that might be in the future. I am not sure about you but I am still wearing my mask whenever I go out and will venture out slowly.

The Board and I are still trying to keep you all informed by doing email blast and putting information in our newsletter as we get it in. Even though we are in lock-down the Board is still in communication with each other. The Scholarship Committee Steve Hodges, Dave Mason and Myself, have met by Zoom to discuss the JROTC Scholarships this year. Steve has been in contact with the ROTC instructor for his input. We will have the candidates submit written Bios and then we will interview them by Zoom and make our choices. Steve Hodges and I have also been meeting with Largo City Hall by Zoom for several months to help them plan their Memorial Day celebration at Largo Central Park. Unfortunately, due to COVID 19 the Mayor has called off all live events at the park. I hope you are aware by our Drumbeat articles that both Jim Souders our Newsletter Editor and Rob Risberg our Webmaster have won the 2019 Colonel Marvin J. Harris Communication Awards for their outstanding efforts for your Chapter. Normally the MOAA President would present these awards at the FCOC Annual Convention but since it was canceled this year, I will present the Certificates and Medallions for our banner at our Luncheon in September. Please join me in congratulating them and offer them a heartfelt "Thank you" for all they do to support your chapter.

We are moving ahead to bring the Chapter up-to-date and aligned with the other chapters in FCOC. On 5 May 2020 we were incorporated. Our next step was to file for an Employee Identification Number (EIN), which is needed for banking in FL and to get a 501-c-3 tax status as well as insurance which MOAA National and the FCOC highly recommends. I have tried to file on-line and when that did not work, I called the IRS and after being on hold for 1 1/2 hours was told the system was down. I next faxed the information in and have not received anything back from the IRS and cannot get through to them on the phone because of COVID 19. We may just have to wait until our local office opens up and allows people to go in. The board has been holding email meetings only for the last few months due to COVID-19. We hope to meet in person soon when the state opens up again or hopefully virtually if it does not.

At the May meeting that was canceled, I would have reminded you that we'll have no luncheons in June, July and August and that we will combine the July and August newsletter into a single issue. I hope to see all of you at our September Luncheon. Hope you can enjoy some of the summer months, please stay safe and healthy.

Bob Behm

** Virtual Meeting via phone or video conference.

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

Attendance – No meeting held because of COVID 19

Previous Month Secretary Minutes – Bob Reported that the April 2020 minutes were prepared by Sandy Behm. He hopes everyone had a chance to read them in the May Drumbeat.

Treasurer's Report – Jane Belson reported that there was \$16,607.32 in the **Charitable Account** and \$12,535.74 in the **Checking Account** for a **Total** of \$29,143.06

Changes in the checking account since April Dues Paid \$50.00 - \$35 Whites, \$15 Boltjes.

Debit of \$4.20 postage for mailing – May Drumbeat

Membership Report – Rob Risberg reported that we have had no changes in our membership since the last Board meeting. Total Voting Members = 104, Regular Members = 57 (55%), Surviving Spouse Members = 16 (15%), Spouse Members = 31 (30%).

Dues Report: Currently Paid for 2020 = 85 (82%), Currently Unpaid For 2020 = 19 (18%)

Programs Report – Jane talked to Congressman Gus Bilirakis's office to cancel his appearance at our may luncheon. I will start getting speakers for September thru November Luncheons.

Drumbeat Report – Jim Souders - Nothing to report.

Web Report – Rob Risberg – Nothing new to report

Spouse/Surviving Spouse Report – Louisa Dykstra - No Report.

Members in Distress Report – Thank you all for your expression of sympathy to myself and Bob on the death of my father. I sent a Condolence card from the Chapter to Doris Carroza on the loss of her Son.

ROTC Scholarship – Steve reported that the Scholarship committee, Bob Behm, Steve Hodges and Dave Mason met on Zoom on 13 May to discuss the upcoming Scholarship Award procedures. They will have the ROTC students write an informational letter about themselves and submit them to the Scholarship Committee and then the committee will interview each candidate by Zoom and determine who should get the scholarships. Steve also reported that Dunedin HS JR ROTC has about 4000 left in their account and since they award 1000 a year, they should be good for another 4 yrs.

Legislative Liaison – Dave APT reported that he is keeping the chapter updated on any new information coming from Congressman Gus Bilirakis's office. He is also keeping the Congressman updated on all of MOAA Nationals hot Issues pertaining to Veterans.

Old Business – Bob Behm stated that we must pick a meal for the Pearl Harbor event and find a speaker for the event.

New Business –

Bob Behm submitted the IRS SS4 form to get an Employee Identification Number, still waiting for the IRS to send it back to him. We need that to apply for the 501-c-3 tax status and insurance. Still have not received anything back from the IRS and you cannot get through to them by phone. He may have to wait until their local offices open up again for business to get it.

Bob Behm spoke to Len Friedlander and since the MOAA Convention was cancelled, the Medallions and Certificates for this year's COL Marvin Harris Communication Award will be mailed out to him. Bob Behm has received the certificates and will award them and put the medallions on our banner at our Sept. Luncheon.

Steve Hodges and Bob Behm have been Zooming with Largo City Hall unfortunately this year because of COVID 19 there will only be an abbreviated Video presentation vs a Live ceremony. If Bob Behm gets a copy of the presentation, he will put it in the MOAA Clearwater Facebook site.

Bob Behm received an email from Len Friedlander that stated the following individuals will be voted on May 29, 2020 at the virtual zoom Annual Business meeting: President- Mike Borders, VP-Pat Kluever, all of the AVP's except the central which is us are up for nominations, I have the names if you want them.

Bob Behm received an email stating that Chapter would receive an electronic funds transfer for the amount of \$250 for the 2019 Retention Bonus.

Bob Behm ordered the new security enhanced Pro-version of Zoom for our May Board Meeting. Bob Behm stated that he will cancel the service since several members of the board do not feel comfortable utilizing it.

Bob Behm has submitted per request by Benny Blackshire our West Central VP a report on our achievements and milestones that have been completed by our chapter during this last quarter.

Jeff Dole our 1st VP sat in for Bob Behm who was having his infusion, at the Zoom FCOC Board Meeting the 4 most important things to come out of the meeting were:

140 people attended the leadership seminar in January.

All chapters have been refunded for the cancelation of the FCOC Conference.

Annual Report of Chapters extended to 30 June.

Strong plug for insurance recommended by several chapters, strongly recommended.

Any other new business? None

CHAPTER NEWS

Condolences to Doris Carroza

We are sad to have to report the death of Doris Carroza's son William "Bill" who passed away last week. Bill was a two year Navy Veteran and will be buried at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL. Please keep his family in your prayers.

Retiree Account Statement (RAS)

When was the last time you reviewed your Retiree Account Statement (RAS)?

Your RAS lists important information about your pay account and your SBP coverage and beneficiary. Under the SBP category on your RAS, it lists the type of coverage you have and the birthdate of your primary beneficiary and/or the youngest child as of your retirement date. Please confirm your coverage and the beneficiary birthdate is correct.

While you're at it, please check that your mailing address at the top is your current address, and your Arrears of Pay (AOP) Beneficiary Information on the second page is up to date.

Please note that updating your information in DEERS will NOT update your account information for DFAS.

Click on: [RAS](#)

CDC CORONA Virus Guidelines

The CDC provides guidelines for protecting yourself and your loved ones from the Corona Virus at its website. To learn more visit the site often for updated information.

Click on: [CDC Website](#)

Pinellas County Reopening information

Pinellas County has a website dedicated to providing the latest news and information pertaining to Corona Virus and the reopening of the county. Check it out for information that impacts you and your family.

Click on: [Pinellas County Info](#)

There will be no Drumbeat for July

The next issue of the Drumbeat will be in August; however, any necessary information that must be provided to our members will be provided via an email Blast. Be sure to open and read them. Data show that only 40-50% of member actually open a Blast!

LUNCHEON NEWS

No June Luncheon

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.



Will Next Year's Government Funding Fall Victim to COVID-19?

It is nearly impossible to have a discussion regarding policies, budgets, or appropriations without the pandemic 5-meter target eclipsing all other subjects. But we must find a way past that target to address significant challenges that lie beyond – specifically, funding our government to avoid another shutdown. And the window of opportunity to act is narrowing. MOAA needs your help to engage your members of Congress to look over the near horizon toward what could be the next crisis – funding the government while simultaneously responding to COVID-19.

Click on: [Funding](#)

Update: President to Extend Reserve Component Orders Beyond 89 Days

There are 53,000 members of the reserve component on the front line of the COVID-19 fight. These servicemembers are filling essential roles for the states like supporting [testing](#), assisting at [long-term care facilities](#), and [distributing food](#).

In addition to battling the virus, until today, many of these servicemembers were uncertain as to whether they would receive federal credit for their service.

Click on: [Reserve Component](#)

ACT NOW: Urge Your Lawmaker to Sign a Bipartisan Letter Aimed at Ending Military Medical Cuts

MOAA's [Virtual Storming the Hill](#) efforts are gaining traction within the House of Representatives.

Reps. Bill Posey (R-Fla.) and Kathy Castor (D-Fla.) are circulating a congressional letter urging House Armed Services Committee Chairman Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.) and Ranking Member Mac Thornberry (R-Texas) to ensure the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) includes language to stop planned cuts to military medical capacity.

Click on: [Military Medical Cuts](#)

MOAA Heads to the Supreme Court to Protect Servicemembers and Their Families

MOAA has partnered with immigrant advocacy groups and other military and veteran organizations to champion a major immigration issue pending before the Supreme Court that may impact servicemembers and their families.

MOAA, along with seven other groups and individuals, signed on to an [amicus brief](#) which accompanied a petition for the Supreme Court to hear the case of *Jiahao Kuang v. Department of Defense*. Plaintiffs in the case are challenging a DoD policy that prevents legal permanent residents (LPRs) from entering basic training until their background checks are completed. While the 2017 policy has been replaced with a temporary alternative, DoD reserves the right to reinstate it – and unfairly delay the military careers of LPR enlistees.

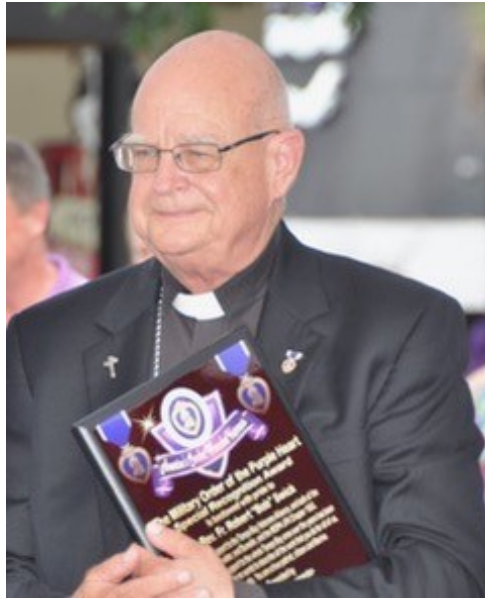
Click on [MOAA and Supreme Court](#)

Donate to The MOAA Foundation's COVID-19 Relief Fund.

To meet the current and emerging needs of this community, and to get ahead of the demand, MOAA has established [the COVID-19 Relief Fund](#). As the nation endures the effects of the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), The MOAA Foundation is focused on providing enhanced levels of support and services to those currently serving, veterans, and their families. **NOTE:** Select either "The MOAA Foundation" or "both the MOAA Scholarship Fund and The MOAA Foundation" from the list of donation options, and you'll be offered the opportunity to direct all or a portion of your donation to the COVID-19 Relief Fund.

Click on: [COVID-19 Relief Fund](#)

Chapter President Photos



Top Row L to R

Skip Harnett Major USMC Ret
2004 – 2006 2008 – 2009

Father Bob Swick 1LT USMCR
2009 – 2010

Steve Hodges LTC USA Ret
2011– 2012

Second Row L to R

Keith Kurber LT USMC
2012 – 2014

Dave Apt Col USA Ret
2014 – 2016

Third Row L to R

Norm Belson Major USA Ret
2016 – 2018

Bob Behm LTC USA Ret
2019 – Present

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.



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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