



DRUMBEAT

March 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS



Board Meeting	Mar 11, 2020
Lunch Meeting	Mar 25, 2020
Board Meeting	Apr 8, 2020
Lunch Meeting	Apr 22, 2020
Board Meeting	May 13, 2020
Lunch Meeting	May 27, 2020
Board Meeting	Jun 10, 2020
Lunch Meeting	No Luncheon

Contents of our latest Newsletter.



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Clearwater Chapter
MOAA Membership

Total Members

Regular	57
Spouses	31
Surviving Spouses	17
Total	105

President's Message

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR MARCH 2020 DRUMBEAT

Well another Luncheon has passed, and I hope you all enjoyed our guest speaker Carol Barkalow LTC USA Ret. Not only did she have a fascinating military career being in one of the first female graduating classes of West Point but her life after the Military has been fascinating also. I think we all found it very inspirational that her and her partner Shelia founded Heaven on Earth for Veterans, INC. to help our homeless Veterans by providing a place that they can live and also become a part of a family. Starting by refinancing their own home and purchasing and fixing a home, they are now on their 9th home.

As I mentioned last month at the luncheon and in the Drumbeat those of us on Tricare Prime or Tricare for Life must start paying attention to what is happening to their benefits. The latest change that was just announced is anyone with Tricare for Life will no longer be allowed to go for any shots or medical procedures at MacDill. As of now you can still get prescriptions filled there, but that could change in the future also.

Please join me in welcoming Michael McCormack, LTC USA Ret who joined us for our Luncheon and hopefully will be a new member soon.

For those of you that are not golfing on 7 March and who made either donations or Gift Cards on behalf of our Annual Golf Fund raiser at the luncheon, I thank you! If you were not at the luncheon and you would still like to help you can send a check payable to: MOWW Clearwater Chapter, ICO: Steve Hodges LTC USA Ret, 4556 Great Lakes Dr. So, Clearwater, FL. 33762.

The Valspar Championship Mar 16-22 is proud to honor the men and women who have and are currently serving our great nation by offering two complimentary tickets per day for US Active Duty, and US Military Retirees. Any additional tickets are available at regular prices. U.S. Military Veterans are eligible for discounted tickets at \$25 each with a limit of two per day. Any additional tickets are available at regular prices. You can go on the following website to get your tickets or to verify your military membership. <http://valsparchampionship.com/tickets/military/>

Pinch A Penny Patriots' Outpost at the Valspar Championship

US Military personnel on Active Duty, Retired or Veteran with proper identification will be allowed access, with one guest, to the Pinch A Penny Patriots' Outpost overlooking the 16th hole. The Outpost is open on Thursday and Friday 8:30am until the last group and on Saturday and Sunday 10:30am until last group. The Outpost will serve complimentary lunch and two (2) beverage tickets. No personal chairs or smoking are allowed in the Outpost.

AGAIN, JUST A REMINDER THAT ALL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE BY MAR 31ST.

**Get Well
Soon**

Surviving Spouse and Life Member June Schnepf is recovering in the Palm Garden Rehab Facility in Countryside from a Herniated Disc. Please remember her in your thoughts and prayers.



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.

MOAA BOARD MEETING MINUTES - February 12, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am at the Clearwater Country Club by President Bob Behm. Those present stood, faced the Flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Bob Behm, Sandy Behm, Jane Belson, Norm Belson, Pat Hughes, Jim Souders, Steve Hodges, Jeff Doll, Sonny Wong and Rob Risberg.

Secretary's Report: Reviewed the January minutes prepared by Sandy Behm. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Minutes as read: and was approved by the Board.

Treasurer's Report: Jane Belson presented the Treasurer's report. Checking Account \$ 21,899.45 Charitable Account \$ 7,711.32 for a **TOTAL** \$ 29,610.77. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted and was approved by the Board.

Membership Report: Rob Risberg updated the roster and reported that there were 105 total members. There are 57 regular members, 17 Surviving spouse members and 30 spouse members. Rob also updated the National Roster.

Programs Report: Bob contacted LTC Barkalow and she is all set for the February Luncheon.

Drumbeat Report: Jim Souders reported that he has to get started on next months issue. Jim would like to upload the Drumbeat to the Website, he will work it out with Rob

Web Report: Nothing to Report at this time, there are no changes.

Spouse/Surviving Spouse Report: Louisa Dkystra no report.

Members in Distress Report: Bob Behm sent a get-well card to Norm Belson and a condolence card to the widow of LTC Peter Graubard.

ROTC Scholarship: Steve reported we are shy of the goal to give \$5,000.00 to each ROTC. He is going to a meeting on Monday morning with the instructors to fine tune the tournament. Next year Steve will not be able to do this alone, he will need a committee.

Legislative Liaison: Bob contacted Dave Apt about issues with Tricare prime and MacDill Air Force Base, Dave shared this information with Congressman Gus Bilirakis, the Congressman sent Dave a written response. Bob printed the response and gave a copy to each Board member.

Old Business: Bob sent in the Articles of Incorporation to the state.

New Business: Bob put the chapter in to National for a communication award for both the Newsletter and the Website. Bob gave Rob and Jim information that needed to be included in both the Website and the Newsletter.

We received a request for our 2020 Dues Notice from Marilyn Leehan, the FCOC Treasurer. This is due back on March 1, 2020. The total will be \$77.25. Jane will send a check; it is a requirement.

We have a problem with the publisher of the mailed-out Drumbeat, they do not respond to Rob's emails. Bob has been there twice and we still have the same problem over and over. Bob discussed this issue with Jane and we may have a solution to the problem. There was a motion made to stop using the printer and Jane will print and mail it out, 1st Jane Belson and 2nd Jim Souders, all approved.

We have set the date for the Pearl Harbor event for 6 December 2020, more info to follow.

Upcoming Speakers

JAN – Carol Barkalow, LTC USA Ret – Heaven on Earth for Veterans

MAR – Dan Perkins – Songs and Stories for Soldiers

CHAPTER NEWS

Please Note that 2020 Chapter dues Must be paid by March 31, 2020 (\$20 Regular Members, \$15 Spouses and Surviving Spouses) or you will be removed from our membership rolls and will no longer receive the Drumbeat, email Blasts and other Chapter information. Dues can be paid by check (payable to Clearwater MOAA) at the luncheon or to mailed Jane Belson at:
1824 Northwood Drive, Clearwater, FL 33764

Why Join MOAA National

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military servicemembers and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers. MOAA members proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country: Never Stop Serving. (From MOAA National website)

If you are not presently a member of MOAA National, please consider joining as an annual (Premium) member or as a free Basic member. Remember that to enjoy all of the benefits noted above you must be a Premium or Life Member. Joining MOAA National makes our organization stronger and more capable of successfully lobbying Congress on behalf of Service Members, Service Families, and Veterans. As an additional benefit, all three types of memberships count toward the percentage of our members belonging to National, which is used as one of the criterion for a Five Star Excellence rating each year. For a detailed list of reasons to join MOAA National, **Click on: [Clearwater MOAA](#)**

Online applications are available at the MOAA National website.

Click on: [Join MOAA National \(Premium or Life\)](#) [Click on: Join MOAA Basic Membership](#)"

Encourage Your Eligible Non-member Friends To Join The Chapter

You may have friends who are eligible to join MOAA, but are not a member. They can do so by going to the Chapter website and completing the application found on the Join Us page. **Don't forget to encourage them to join MOAA National if they are not already a member of MOAA National.**

Click on: [Join Clearwater MOAA](#)

Need To Contact A Board Member?

Need to contact a board member, just go to the link below:

Click on: [Our Leaders](#)

Need To Contact Your Senators Or Representative?

12th District Representative Gus Billirakis

<https://billirakis.house.gov/contact>

12th District Representative Charlie Crist

<https://crist.house.gov/contact/>

Senator Marco Rubio

<https://contactsenators.com/florida/marco-rubio>

Senator Rick Scott

<https://contactsenators.com/florida/rick-scott>

In Memory of Peter A. Grubard LTC USAF Ret

Long time Clearwater Chapter member Peter A. Grubard LTC USAF Ret 90 of Palm Harbor, died January 30, 2020. He is survived by his loving family.

Wednesday March 25, 2020 MOAA Monthly Luncheon

Join us for Lunch at the Clearwater Country Club; 525 N Betty Lane, Clearwater. Directions: from Drew Street turn North it'll be the last right turn before the railroad tracks, from Palmetto Street turn South it'll be the first left after the tracks. **COST:** \$20 per person. Please make check payable to Clearwater Chapter MOAA . Meal selections (if reservation is NOT made On-line) are to be made by calling Jane Belson: (727) 535-9151



NLT 12:00 Mar 20, 2020. Cancellations must be in NLT 12:00 Mar 23, 2020.

You are encouraged to use the Chapter Web Site to make reservations and meal

selections: Click: Reservation Note: the link goes hot right after email notification of the luncheon.

Menu:

HOT: House Salad, Beef Burgundy Tips, Egg Noodles, Grilled Vegetables, Chef's Choice of Dessert

COLD: Soup DuJour, Clearwater Country Club Salad (Seasoned Grilled Chicken, draped over mixed greens with walnuts, Mandarin oranges and dried cranberries) served with raspberry vinaigrette dressing, Chef's Choice of Dessert

For Gluten Free other dietary needs, contact Jane Belson.

Speaker Information

Dan Perkins Founder of Songs and Stories for Soldiers, Inc.

Dan Perkins is an author of both thrillers and children's books. He appears on over 1,100 radio stations. Mr. Perkins appears regularly on international TV talk shows, he is current events commentator for seven blogs, and a philanthropist with his foundation for American veterans, Songs and Stories for Soldiers, Inc. More information about him, his writings, and other works are available on his website, DanPerkins.guru.

Songs and Stories for Soldiers is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation dedicated to providing free, customizable electronic entertainment for members of the American Military, both active and retired providing MP3 players, with headsets and USB connection cable or the most recent technology, free to American Military.

Very Interesting Rational Video With Facts About The CORONA VIRUS

The attached video presents information in a rational way to dispel irrational fear of becoming a victim of the Corona Virus, along with useful tips to protect yourself.

Click on: [Corona Virus](#)

Dozens of Military Medical Facilities Will Stop Treating Families, Retirees

[A recent article published by Military.com](#) gives us the first look at the Defense Health Agency's plan to move approximately 200,000 military family members, retirees, and their families and survivors into the TRICARE civilian network.

Click on: [Military Medical Facilities](#)

Troops Get 3% Pay Raise in 2021 Budget Request

The proposed [military pay](#) raise for fiscal 2021 in the Defense Department's budget request, released Monday, is 3%, the second-highest pay raise for troops since 2010.

The 3% raise, following 2020's 3.1% bump, ensures that the troops will be "well compensated" and underlines DoD's recognition that military and civilian personnel "are our most valuable resource" in carrying out the 2018 National Defense Strategy to counter China and Russia, according to the Pentagon's budget overview. The total Pentagon budget request for fiscal 2021 totals \$705.4 billion, part of a defense spending package with a \$740 billion topline.

Click on: [Troops Pay Raise](#)

Trump Praises Military Buildup But Vows Overseas Troop Cuts in State of the Union Address

President Donald Trump hailed the U.S. military as "unmatched anywhere in the world" and vowed to use it to pursue terrorists worldwide in his annual State of the Union speech Tuesday night, but also vowed to end America's wars in the Middle East because of the strain they have put on military families.

Click on: [Praise For Troops](#)

MOAA Advocates for Improvements to Military Family Health Care at House Hearing

Military families with special needs should be notified of actual availability of appointments – not just that special-needs providers exist – before moving to their next duty station, MOAA's director of government relations for health affairs told lawmakers Wednesday during a House Armed Services (HASC) subcommittee hearing.

Click on: [Military Family Health Care](#)

U.S. to pay billions to Marines affected by contaminated drinking water

WASHINGTON — After years of waiting, veterans who were exposed to contaminated drinking water while assigned to Camp Lejeune in North Carolina may now be able to receive a portion of government disability benefits totaling more than \$2 billion. Beginning in March, the cash payouts from the Department of Veterans Affairs may supplement VA health care already being provided to eligible veterans stationed at the Marine base for at least 30 cumulative days between Aug. 1, 1953, and Dec. 31, 1987. Veterans will have to submit evidence of their diagnoses and service information.

Click on: [Contaminated Drinking Water](#)

Act Now to Help Veteran Caregivers

The Transparency and Effective Accountability Measures (TEAM) for Veteran Caregivers Act improves the veterans caregiver program by ensuring all caregivers are included in the veterans' medical records, establishing a minimum standard of information in downgrade notification letters, and extending benefits for at least 90 days after a termination letter is sent for cases where a veteran is deemed "no longer clinically eligible" for the program.

Click on: [Veteran Caregivers](#)

Luncheon Photos



MAJ Jack Rodnite and Ellen, Noreen Hodges



MAJ Norm Belson, LTC Dave Mason, Jane Belson



Elaine Levesque



CPT Tony Adamo



LTC Carol Barkalow, LTC Bob Behm



Doris Carroza



Chapter Members at Keith Kurber's Memorial Service

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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www.clearwatermoaa.org