I hope you all are safe and healthy.

In my February President’s Message, I closed the column by mentioning two upcoming scheduled events of importance to the MOAA and to FCOC: the March 25 Storming the Hill in Washington DC and the FCOC Convention in Palm Beach on May 28. Needless to say, the world situation changed radically a few short weeks after the *Communique* was published due to the pandemic spread of the new coronavirus disease, COVID-19, throughout the world and the United States.

On March 10, MOAA cancelled the *Storming the Hill* exercise, and on March 18, MOAA announced that the headquarters staff would begin telework operations and all Council and Chapter visits by MOAA board and staff members were cancelled through the end of June. The MOAA Member Service Center continues to operate from 0800 to 1800 EST on business days.

On March 12, the FCOC Board conducted a teleconference and voted unanimously to cancel this year’s FCOC Convention in light of the pandemic spread of the COVID-19 disease, the declaration of a health emergency in Florida, and the desire to protect our membership.

During the ensuing days, hotel arrangements were cancelled (thanks to Marc Oliveri & Paul Loschiavo), notifications and refunds (thanks to Marilyn Leehan) were made expeditiously to registrants and advertisers. Subsequently, a contingency plan for the required conduct of the Annual FCOC Business Meeting was formulated and is currently being implemented.

To satisfy the FCOC By-law requirement to conduct an Annual Business Meeting and election of state-wide Officers, we will conduct it virtually in the originally scheduled convention time frame.

*Continued on next page*
Additional information on the process to conduct these critical activities will be forthcoming in the next month.

In a bit of good news---- MOAA released the list of this year’s Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award winners, and the FCOC and its affiliated chapters walked away with 39 Five- and Four- Star Awards for websites and print/e-newsletters. Congratulations to the chapter leaders for their submissions – but most importantly – congratulations to the editors, webmasters and the contributors for their continued hard work throughout the year. A list of the chapters and their awards can be found on the following page. As an additional note – the 39 awards were won by only 21 chapters and the FCOC – I hope the other Florida chapters will enter the competition next year.

So, where do we go from here?

In view of the Storming’s cancellation, we will need to engage our legislative representatives with calls to action by ALL of our members in a concerted effort to ensure that our most important agenda items in support of our active duty, retired, veterans and families are not forgotten. The Storming materials will be left on the MOAA website so you can use the information for any engagement you may have with members of Congress and their staffs.

I would be remiss if I didn’t thank the FCOC Convention Coordinator Marc Oliveri, the 2020 Convention Chairperson Paul Loschiavo and the Palm Beach-Martin Counties Chapter volunteers for their outstanding work in preparing for this convention. As you can imagine, cancelling it was not something we wanted to do, but it was thrust upon us.

Finally, my term as your Council President comes to an end with the virtual election to be held on/about May 30, 2020. It has been my great pleasure to serve as your President for the past two years, and I want to thank all the chapters, the FCOC Officers, and the Board members for the work they have done and in continuing the tradition of “Never Stop Serving.” Christa and I enjoyed visiting so many chapters (not as many as we wanted) and making new friends.

Once again, thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as your President.

Len

Congratulations to our 2019 awardees
5-Star Print/E-Newsletter:
Florida Council of Chapters of the MOAA, Inc. (FL00) Communiqué
Cape Canaveral Chapter (FL03) The Intercom
Clearwater Chapter (FL08) Drumbeat
Kingdom of the Sun Chapter (FL14) Sunbeams
Lake and Sumter County Chapter (FL15) Officers’ Call
Northeast Florida Chapter (FL18) The Nor’Easter
Northwest Florida MOA, Inc (FL19) The Defender
Pensacola Chapter, MOAA (FL22) Beacon
St Petersburg Area Chapter (FL23) Officers Call
MOA of Sarasota, Inc (FL24) The Sarasota Breeze
Tampa Chapter, MOAA (FL27) The Retrospect
MOAA Citrus County Chapter, Inc (FL32) The Bugler
Lee Coast Chapter, MOAA (FL33) Lee Coast Chapter News and Views
Halifax Area Chapter (FL39) Officers Call
South Central Florida Chapter of the MOAA (FL40) Heartlander
Sun City Center Chapter (FL42) Military Officers Call Sun City Center Chapter
Historic Mayport Chapter (FL51) Mayport Messenger

4-Star Print/E-Newsletter:
Calusa Chapter (FL04) The Calusa Communicator
Charlotte Harbor Chapter (FL31) Muster

5-Star Website:
Florida Council of Chapters of the MOAA, Inc. (FL00) http://www.moaafl.org
Cape Canaveral Chapter (FL03) http://www.moaacc.org
Calusa Chapter (FL04) http://www.calusamoaa.org
Clearwater Chapter (FL08) http://www.clearwatermoaa.org
Kingdom of the Sun Chapter (FL14) http://moaafl.org/chapters/KOSMOAA/
Lake and Sumter County Chapter (FL15) http://lakesumtermoaa.org
Northeast Florida Chapter (FL18) http://moaafl.org/Chapters/NEFLMOAA/
Northwest Florida MOA, Inc (FL19) http://www.nwfmoa.org
Pensacola Chapter, MOAA (FL22) http://pmoaa.org
St Petersburg Area Chapter (FL23) http://www.moaastpetearea.com
MOA of Sarasota, Inc (FL24) http://www.sarasotamoaa.com
Tampa Chapter, MOAA (FL27) http://www.moaatampa.org
The Military Officers Club of Volusia County (FL30) http://moaafl.org/chapters/volusiamoaa
Charlotte Harbor Chapter (FL31) http://moaafl.org/chapters/CHCMOAA
Lee Coast Chapter, MOAA (FL33) http://www.leebeachmoaa.com
Halifax Area Chapter (FL39) http://www.moaahalifax.org
South Central Florida Chapter of the MOAA (FL40) http://moaafl.org/Chapters/SCFCMOAA
Sun City Center Chapter (FL42) http://moaafl.org/chapters/SunCity
Ancient City Chapter (FL46) http://moaa-acc.org
“Storming the HILL” emphasis shifts to “Storming the Districts”

The March 25th Storming the Hill event was cancelled due to the pandemic spread of the coronavirus disease, COVID-19. And with that the focus of MOAA’s advocacy is now the Chapter and members.

The message that was to be presented in the meetings on Capitol Hill by the FCOC team members is this:

“Beneficiaries seeking mental health treatment, physical or occupational therapy, or other conditions that require regular provider visits face mounting bills - some to the point where they’ve discontinued care. Other beneficiaries are faced with rising TRICARE pharmacy copays that far outpace the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA).

Increased copays have pushed the military community into territory where TRICARE is no longer perceived as a uniquely valuable benefit, and the whittling away of the value of the overall retirement package both have a diminishing impact on recruiting and retention.

Use the links in this article to send messages and call both their DC and District offices to let them know of the support we seek for the 770,000 currently serving military and their families, retirees and their dependents, and for surviving spouses and children who live in Florida.
We need your help to ensure earned benefits through years of service are protected."

Click on this link to join in the campaign and send messages to the Senators and Representative from Florida:

Tell Congress to Control TRICARE Copays to Protect the Military Health Benefit

To read more about these issues click on the following links for MOAA’s detailed Issue Papers

https://www.moaa.org/uploadedfiles/content/take_action/storming_the_hill/2020_storming_healthcare.pdf
https://www.moaa.org/uploadedfiles/content/take_action/storming_the_hill/2020_storming_recruiting-retention.pdf

Will the pandemic promote more domestic medical technology production?

The COVID-19 outbreak continues to dominate the news, with media outlets mixing coverage of global market impacts alongside the growing fears of how this virus will affect our physical, social, and financial lives. Just below that layer of coverage are concerns about what the response to this virus is doing to the global inventory of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals, and whether U.S.-controlled resources are enough to meet national demand.

The pandemic highlights the need for our nation to have a more reliable, internal source for essential medications.

Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) has introduced legislation to incentivize pharmaceutical manufacturing in the U.S. The time is right – the current conditions and uncertainties set the stage for action now. MOAA calls on all members to write their members of Congress in support of S.3432, the Securing America’s Medicine Cabinet (SAM-C) Act, and the companion House bill (when introduced).

Congress must halt medical billet reductions, MTF restructuring amid COVID-19

With medical capacity in extraordinary flux across the civilian health care system, it becomes increasingly prudent to officially halt all proposals to transition military families and retirees to civilian providers.

Demands related to the uniformed medical mission have also increased due to COVID-19, since the private sector has little incentive to produce and maintain excess patient care capacity. Governors have called on the administration for military medical assistance, and active duty medical units and reserve personnel are on alert or have been deployed to man field hospitals. The military medical
response to the COVID-19 pandemic is destined to inform future operational and medical readiness requirements for the medical force.

Rep. Ross Spano (R-Fla.) has already sent a letter to Secretary of Defense Mark Esper urging him to stop the proposed closure and downsizing of clinics in his district given the strain the coronavirus pandemic could place on local medical services. Proposed changes to the MacDill Air Force Base Clinic and the Sabal Park Clinic in Spano’s district would move approximately 30,000 military beneficiaries to civilian care in the Tampa Bay area.

MOAA has called on the House and Senate Armed Services Committees to halt all military medical billet reductions and any proposed military treatment facility (MTF) downsizing given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Click here to Ask Your Lawmaker to Answer MOAA’s Call

Under fire, the Defense Health Agency announced March 31, that DoD was temporarily suspending the 18,000 medical billet cut and the jetisoning of military retirees to outside providers. According to an April 9 article on military.com:

In response to the DHA's statements, the Military Officers Association of America said the conditions-based policy for implementation of the plan is reassuring, but "MOAA believes simply pausing the current MHS reform strategy is not enough."

"The COVID-19 pandemic will yield many lessons learned for the whole of government and national medical systems [DoD, Department of Veterans Affairs, Medicare and networks] and, potentially, a new vision for DoD's role in any future nationwide medical emergency," Karen Ruedisueli, director of health affairs at MOAA, said in a statement.

"When this crisis has passed, we can't just move ahead with reform designed around pre-COVID evaluations of the MHS and medical readiness requirements," she added. "The current situation demands all plans to reduce medical provider billets and military hospital and clinic capacity be reconsidered once a full evaluation of the COVID-19 national response has been conducted."

The challenges are happening fast – we need to move out fast.

Temporary Waiver of Tricare ExpressScript Co-Pay Sought

MOAA National is asking us to send our elected officials a MOAA-suggested message today:

Please consider a temporary waiver of TRICARE mail order pharmacy copays during the COVID-19 emergency.

Many military beneficiaries cannot access their military treatment facility pharmacies due to installation access restrictions or social distancing measures. Please act now to urge Congress to

Continued on next page
temporarily waive TRICARE mail order pharmacy copays to ensure impacted military families don’t face unexpected costs for medications.

**Tell Congress to Call for Easier Access to Recovery Rebates**

For those who have not filed a tax return in 2018 or 2019 and received a return through direct deposit, bureaucratic hurdles stand in the way of them receiving the $1,200 recovery rebate payment. The federal government already has the necessary information to fast-track payments for those who receive direct deposit through the VA or Social Security Administration. Ask your member of Congress to work with the administration to make it easier to get this stimulus money.

**Burn Pit Exposure Diseases**

In his editorial in the April issue of Military Officer magazine, MOAA President, Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret), puts the focus on the toxic effects of burn pit exposure. Drawing a corollary to the long battle to provide health care and disability coverage for illnesses from the effects of exposure to the toxin Agent Orange, President Atkins states that “MOAA backs a congressional bill saying if service members were deployed near an operational burn pit, they were exposed to toxins.”

MOAA and other VOSs and MSOs advocacy pushed Congress and the VA to provide veterans, who have illnesses associated with Agent Orange exposure, with the health care and other benefits they deserved.

The current battle to gain the same for burn pit exposure will require all hands on deck. Here are three bills in Congress to achieve that end. Call your Representative and Senators to ask for their support and bill co-sponsorship.

- **S. 2950: Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act of 2019** establishes a presumption of exposure as well as continued studies on the effects of burn pits.

- **H.R. 4137: Jennifer Kepner HOPE Act** provides for the eligibility of certain individuals exposed to burn pits for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

- **S. 1680 Service Member’s Occupational and Environmental Transparency Health Act** direct the enhancement for recordkeeping with respect to exposure by members of the Armed Forces to certain occupational and environmental hazards while deployed overseas.

Also in the April issue of Military Officer is a report on a letter sent by seven VSOs (including MOAA) to President Trump requesting expansion of the presumptive diseases from exposure to Agent Orange. **H.R. 5610: Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act** addresses that issue directly. Is your representative one of the co-sponsors?

*Continued on next page*
Bipartisan anger meets more
DoD funds transferred for Border Wall Construction

At a House Armed Services Committee hearing in February with Defense Secretary Mark Esper and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley, the top Democrat and Republican on the committee tore into Pentagon officials over the Trump administration transferring $3.8 billion, mostly from weapons programs in the FY 2020 budget, to build the president’s southern border wall.

In separate opening statements committee Chairman Adam Smith (D-Wash.) and Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-Texas), its ranking member, ripped the funding transfer as an “enormous problem” and a break in “literally decades” of precedent.

Earlier in February the Pentagon notified Congress it would transfer $3.8 billion from various weapons programs to its counter-drug fund to be used to build the wall. Smith and Thornberry then sent the Pentagon a letter rejecting the funding reprogramming. However, in their response the Department of Defense officials said they had already transferred the money as soon as they sent Congress its notice.

The latest transfer comes after the Pentagon last year used $2.5 billion from counter-drug funds and $3.6 billion in military construction funding for the wall. Much of the money that was transferred to the counter-drug fund came from Army personnel accounts after the service did not meet its recruitment goals.

To illustrate his consternation regarding this transfer, Smith noted that the Pentagon “recently sent Congress lists with 20 - 30 billions of dollars of so-called unfunded priorities, BUT at the same time, you found $3.8 billion just sitting in a corner that can go to a purpose that was not intended.”

JCS Chairman Milley replied that $3.8 billion would not be “a significant, immediate, strategic negative impact to the overall defense of the United States of America” reportedly stressing the precisely selected words “strategic” and “overall.”

In addition, Lawmakers signaled a harsh fight ahead over the Pentagon’s plans to retire aging aircraft.

The Defense Department’s request looks to retire dozens of USAF aircraft, including KC-10s, KC-135s, A-10s, F-15s, and B-1s. Defense Secretary Esper and CJCS Milley in their testimony attempted to persuade the House Armed Services Committee these decisions are necessary in order for the department to prepare for future conflict. Multiple committee members signaled their intention to block these retirements

Standby for more fireworks.

Continued on next page
IMPORTANT NOTE: Please remember that while MOAA does advocate a strong national defense, it does not, as an association, become involved in matters pertaining to military strategy or individual weapons systems of the various services. However, we should be informed on what the Pentagon proposes to do and how that is received in Congress. Getting to the final FY 2021 National Defense Authorization and Appropriations bills will take several months and there will be many changes. Keep on watch for how this may affect the Military Community including family members, retirees, surviving spouses and children.

Purple Heart Flag

The following was reported by Richard Sisk on Military.com, the premier resource for the military and veteran community.

H.R. 5237: Purple Heart Flag Act was introduced last November that would officially

- Allow for the designation of a flag modeled on the insignia of the Military Order of the Purple Heart,
- Would have the Purple Heart Flag flown at the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, the Vietnam War Memorial, national cemeteries, selected federal buildings and DVA hospitals, and
- Specifies that the flag should fly on holidays including Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day and Veterans Day.

The bill’s sponsor, Congressman Brian Higgins (D-NY 26) said "raising the Purple Heart Flag would provide a visual reminder of the wounds our warriors endured and the soldiers who have laid down their lives to uphold the liberties this nation was founded on and continues to hold dear."

VA expands virtual services to support veterans due to COVID-19 pandemic

Veterans continue to receive benefits and services after VA’s Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) temporarily closed its 56 regional offices to the public March 19 in response to COVID-19.

“The decision to close our offices to the general public, is part of the VA’s effort to limit exposure to vulnerable populations like our older Veterans and those with underlying medical conditions, as identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie.

“VA is expanding existing technologies to remain accessible to Veterans, service members and their families.”

Changes

Many in-person services are already available via the phone or online through virtual options like VA Video Connect. VBA has and continues to adjust to ensure the safety and well-being of its clients and staff. The changes include:

Continued on next page
• **Uninterrupted GI Bill payments** so students continue to receive their benefits unaffected by any change from in-person to online learning.

• Supporting students for educational counseling through online and telephone services.

• Connecting Veterans to Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Services through teleconferencing; providing case management and general counseling virtually through VA Video Connect.

• Informal conference hearings by telephone or video conferencing when needed.

• Collecting information to process fiduciary claims by telephone. When necessary other accommodations will be arranged.

• Collecting information remotely via phone or teleconference when possible, to process grant requests for special adaptive housing.

• Conducting examinations for disability benefits using telecompensation and pension or “tele-C&P” exams. If an in-person examination is required, Veterans will be notified for scheduling.

Effective March 30, VA will discontinue VA...
benefit briefings and services on military installations for transitioning service members and their families through the interagency Transition Assistance Program (TAP) until further notice. However, VA will provide virtual briefings and individualized counseling for transitioning service members where possible. Service members who have not received these briefings, as required by TAP, may access the Joint Knowledge Online (JKO) platform and register for “TGPS-US006: VA Benefits and Services.”

VA Medical Facilities in Florida Taking Additional Precautions for COVID-19

Courtesy of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. – The VA Sunshine Healthcare Network (VISN 8) is taking additional steps to slow the spread of COVID-19 to protect healthcare system’s capabilities, healthcare workers and veterans. Facilities within the VISN 8 Network include the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System, James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital and Clinics, Miami VA Healthcare System, North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System, Orlando VA Healthcare System, VA Caribbean Healthcare System, and the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center.

These actions include:

VISN 8 facilities are transitioning to virtual appointments to the fullest extent to allow veterans to stay at home, avoid exposure to others and reduce their risk; Veterans with appointments will be contacted several days beforehand to discuss virtual appointment options available to them.

- Veterans can help with this transition by visiting the VA Video On-Demand webpage for more information: https://mobile.va.gov/content/getting-started-0.

- Veterans enrolled for care within VISN 8 can continue to use the VISN 8 Clinical Contact Center for 24/7 virtual urgent care by calling 1-877-741-3400 (toll free) or by using the VA Health Chat App. Veterans who are concerned they may have symptoms of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), flu or cold should contact the center first before coming to a VA facility.

VISN 8 facilities will cease non-urgent elective procedures. Any impacted veterans will be contacted directly by their health care team to reschedule. Urgent and emergent elective procedures will continue during this period.

VISN 8 facilities are further restricting visitations. Only one visitor will be permitted per veteran if required to provide assistance moving a patient to and from an appointment, providing support to an inpatient in a palliative or hospice care unit, or for veterans who have major procedures. Visitors who screen positive will not be granted access to the medical centers.

These newly announced actions do not supersede or replace activities announced by VISN 8 last week. All VISN 8 facilities continue to use mandatory and enhanced screening protocols for all patients, employees and visitors, have restricted visitations to certain units, and have taken many other actions to mitigate the infection and spread of the virus. For facility-specific status updates, please visit the appropriate healthcare system website (linked above).
CliffsNotes for the CARES Act

From the MOAA Financial Education Team

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) key individual provisions.

Do not expect any payment prior to mid-April. Processes must be developed.

**Stimulus $$**
- Individuals with adjusted gross income (AGI) less than $75,000
- Couples less than $150,000
- Individuals: $1200 Couples: $2400
- Parents will also receive $500 for each child under 17
- Payments will decrease for AGI above $75K/$150K and will be $0 for AGI above $99/$198K
- Government will use 2019 tax return if already submitted, otherwise it will use 2018 as a reference.**
- Adjusted gross income: In the United States income tax system, adjusted gross income is an individual's total gross income minus specific deductions. Taxable income is adjusted gross income minus allowances for personal exemptions and itemized deductions. For most individual tax purposes, AGI is more relevant than gross income.

**Veterans only on VA tax-free disability compensation and/or those on Social Security will also be eligible. The Treasury/IRS will work with the VA and Social Security to identify people on those payment programs.**

**Tax filing extension**
- The federal filing deadline has been extended to July 15.
- The IRS also says that people who have filed or plan can expect to receive a refund if they are owed one.
- **States** must determine their own tax laws and policies. Check with your state for its income tax deadline.

**Retirement Accounts**
- Waives the 10 percent early withdrawal penalty on retirement account distributions for taxpayers facing virus-related challenges.
• Withdrawn amounts are taxable over three years, but taxpayers can recontribute the withdrawn funds into their retirement accounts for three years without affecting retirement account caps.
• Eligible retirement accounts include individual retirement accounts (IRAs), 401Ks and other qualified trusts, certain deferred compensation plans, and qualified annuities.
• Waives **Required Minimum Distribution** rules for certain retirement plans in calendar year 2020.

**Unemployment assistance**
• States will continue to pay unemployment to people who qualify
• CARE bill adds $600 per week from the federal government **on top of** whatever base amount a worker receives from the state.
• This boosted payment will last for four months.
• For example, if an out-of-work person is receiving the national average of about $340 per week, under the new federal program their take-home pay will be $940.
• The legislation also adds 13 weeks of additional unemployment insurance.

**Student loans**
• Employers can provide up to $5,250 in tax-free student loan repayment benefits.
• Employers can contribute to loan payments and workers won't have to include that money as income.
• All loan and interest payments deferred through Sept. 30 without penalty to the borrower for all federally owned student loans.
• Students who drop out of school as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic won't have time away from school deducted from their lifetime limits on subsidized loan and Pell grant eligibility.
• Those students would also not be asked to pay back any grants or other aid they've already received.

**MOAA Educational Assistance**
• Offering a special 6-month hardship deferment for COVID-19 related issues (layoff, reduced work hours, unemployment, etc.) Form will be available on our website on or about 3/30/2020.

**Health Insurance coverage**
• CARE requires all private insurance plans to cover COVID-19 treatments and vaccine and makes all coronavirus tests free.

**Currently Serving members**
• The DOD started a new pay called "Hardship Duty Pay - Restriction of Movement", or HDP-ROM
• Allows Services to pay up to an additional $1500/month for members who are impacted during PCS or must acquire temporary lodging that goes beyond normal TLE limit (which is 14 days) because of COVID-19.
• Each Service will implement their own process and pay.
It goes without saying that these are very interesting times. Very few living today have ever experienced a situation like the pandemic spread of the coronavirus disease, COVID-19. I sincerely hope that all of you are weathering the storm as well as can be expected. In many respects, getting ready for this is kind of like getting ready for a hurricane. Floridians usually have a pretty good stock of supplies in the first place. Time will tell on the current crisis. Let us hope and pray for the best. At the end of the day, we are Americans. We will get through this and come out stronger as a nation.

Before the pandemic crisis developed and forced us all to stay at home, Diana and I did have the opportunity to attend the wonderful gala dinner hosted by the MOASW (Naples) chapter. I have attended several of their galas due to having been the Southwest Area VP. It is always a wonderful event. We also attended a very nice chapter dinner/social sponsored by the Suncoast chapter in New Port Richey. The evening’s guest speaker was MOAA National board member Chaplain Bob Certain. Bob is a great guy. Before becoming a chaplain, he was a B-52 guy. He was shot down over North Vietnam and had the unfortunate luck to have been a “guest” at the Hanoi Hilton. He tells the story with a self-deprecating humor that belies the extreme difficulties of the experience. It was a fascinating evening.

I know that Len has discussed the Storming the Hill event that didn’t happen. He also discussed the unfortunate need to cancel our summer convention. And he touched on the great results of the Colonel Marvin J. Harris Communications Awards. So, I will close with a mention of the Levels of Excellence (LOE) awards process.

In the box below, you will see a recap and the web link for this year’s process. Florida again led the nation with the Communications awards. Let’s not let ourselves down with the LOE awards. I have visited several chapters that are doing such great things. Some of these chapters have not submitted awards packages. This is a process that takes about an hour and a half. It gets your chapter the recognition it deserves. Don’t let your chapter and yourself down by failing to submit your package. Don’t be the guy/gal that says, “oh, I forgot.” Right now, we all have plenty of time on our hands. Deadline is 1 May. Get with it!!
A Survival Tale to Share

Confined in my home, I have been watching the progress of the Covid-19 virus. And now, the situation will extend at least another month. Wondering how to cope, I realized I had the answer and I can share it with you. I had time. Calendars cleared, I found...

Time to Read. The library is closed, so dust off those classics that are on the bookshelf and read. Rereading a book at a different stage of life opens new understanding and the words resonate differently.

Time to Connect. Call that high school friend that you haven't heard from since the last HS Reunion. Send a hand written letter to an aunt or uncle. Become a pro at FaceTime and Zoom. Use these tools to visit with friends and read to grandchildren. Technology is amazing. You can even play bridge with your regulars. There are many apps to explore.

Time to Do. Get out your to do list and begin. That closet, that drawer are small places to start. How about repainting the spare bedroom? If it takes a week, so what, you have the time. And the garage is there, waiting. Oh, and don't forget your taxes.

Time to Smell the Roses (literally). With the spring weather, the weeds await and the flowers beckon. There is something very uplifting about watching buds form, branches leaf and grass green up.

Time for You. Treat yourself well. Pray, a lot. Eat well, and exercise a lot more. Learn some new skill. If you haven't yet joined the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter, do it now. The instructions are on the MOAA website. The next meeting is April 21 at 1 pm EDT. I hope to hear you there.

2020 Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award

Surviving Spouse Liaisons work at the Council and Chapter level to ensure fellow survivors remain connected to the military family and participate in local and national programs and advocacy efforts. Learn more about the position here, and nominate a deserving MOAA member for the 2020 Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award with this form (Deadline is June 1).
Chaplain’s Message
By LCDR Terry Robertson, USN, Ret. terryrobertson49@gmail.com

Winners vs. Losers

Here is how we can tell the difference between winners and losers. Where do you find yourself?

The winner is always a part of the answer;
The loser is always a part of the problem.

The winner always has a program;
The loser always has an excuse.

The winner says, “Let me do it for you;”
The loser says, “That’s not my job.”

The winner sees an answer for every problem;
The loser sees a problem in every answer.

The winner says, “It may be difficult but it’s possible”; The loser says, “It may be possible but it’s too difficult.”

Weirsdale church is full of winners, but if you see yourself in the second part of each of those statements, maybe it’s time to make some changes in your life.

VA Partnering on COVID-19 Testing

U.S. COVID-19 testing capacity is rapidly increasing. When VA identifies patients, who meet the CDC criteria for COVID-19 risk and symptoms, we coordinate that testing with Departments of Health, VA Public Health Laboratory in Palo Alto, CA and commercial labs in Florida/South Georgia and the Caribbean. Learn more about what CDC says about symptoms and testing at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html or follow self-check link at left.
Florida Department of Veterans Affairs Update

LTC R. Steven Murray, USAF (Ret.)
Communications Director, Florida Department of Veterans Affairs

Visitor Access to State Veterans’ Homes Suspended

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs (FDVA) has announced steps to combat the spread of COVID-19 in the state of Florida.

- Effective March 11, 2020, FDVA is restricting visitor access to its State Veterans’ Nursing Homes and Domiciliary until further notice, with the exception of essential visitors, such as family members of those residents undergoing end-of-life care.

- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has also temporarily restricted access to their nursing and community living center facilities to only essential visitors until further notice.

- All VA Medical Centers in Florida are implementing enhanced screening protocols at their facilities. VA Outpatient Clinics are also implementing enhanced screening protocols. Please plan to arrive at the facility well in advance of your appointment to allow additional time for the screening process.

- Veterans who are concerned they may have symptoms of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) are encouraged to contact the VISN 8 FDVA centers and nursing homes and domiciliary.

Continued on next page
Clinical Contact Center at 1-877-741-3400 (toll free). Clinical staff provide 24/7 virtual care and support, including nurse advice and triage. The service is available at no cost to veterans enrolled for care in the VA Sunshine Healthcare Network (VISN 8).

- All FDVA and VA facilities remain fully operational.

To contact a teleworking FDVA Veterans’ Claims Examiner, call (727) 319-7440 and they’ll return your call within 24 hours. You may also contact them via e-mail at VSO@fdva.state.fl.us.

Find more information on FDVA’s response to COVID-19, visit www.FloridaVets.org.

COVID-19 Project Relief Fund to Help Florida Veterans

TALLAHASSEE – The coronavirus disease, COVID-19, is impacting many Floridians as well as Florida’s veterans, active duty military members and their families. As many businesses and organizations are being forced to close their doors, our veterans are unable to work and provide an income to support their families.

The Florida Veterans Foundation, a 501(C)(3) not-for-profit public charity formed by the Florida Legislature and a direct support group for the FDVA, has teamed up with the American Legion of Florida to create the COVID-19 Project Vet Relief Fund. This will help with emergency assistance for those veterans who are affected by this pandemic around the state of Florida.

“It is anticipated that we will receive a substantial increase in the number of applications requesting assistance over the next few months,” said Lew Wilson, president of the Florida Veterans Foundation. “We are committed to do what we can to support our veterans, but resources are limited.”

Veterans in need of assistance will find the application form, requirements and guidelines listed on the website at www.HelpFLVets.org. Due to limited personnel access, they are not taking phone calls and will accept online/email applications only. Visit www.HelpFLVets.org to donate and learn more.

Capitol Ceremony Honored 16 Inductees into Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame
The Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame recognizes and honors those military veterans who, through their works and lives during or after military service, have made a significant contribution to the State of Florida through civic, business, public service or other pursuits. It is not a traditional military hall of fame, as it focuses on post-military contributions to the State of Florida. The Class of 2019 is the seventh class to enter the Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame.

Class of 2019 Inductees are: John A. Brinkley; Dr. Edward Copeland III; CW4 Donald Courtney; Raymond “Ray” Crallé; The late Col. Michael Flynt; Matt Franz; Irving Friedman; Lt. Col. Ali Frohlich; Kathryn Gates-Skipper; The late Col. Dale M. Leslie; CAPT Norman Olson; Lt. Col. Robert (Pat) Phillips; SFC Juan Santiago; Michael T. Waldrop; Brig. Gen. William Webb; and Dr. Albert Zant.
TAKE THE HELM.
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Cape Canaveral Chapter
By CPT Donn A. Weaver USA (Ret), Chairman Public Relations & Marketing

Remembering A Great Event Before COVID-19

The Last Naval Battle of the Revolutionary War

Just a month ago our country and our world was radically different in many places. The Cape Canaveral Chapter wants to share with FCOC members the story of what has become known in Brevard County as “The Last Veteran Event”, as well as some little known American military history.

On March 7, 2020, more than 180 people came to the Veterans Memorial Center (VMC) on Merritt Island, FL to commemorate a very special and historical event — the 237th Anniversary Commemoration of the Last Naval Battle of the Revolutionary War.

The March 10, 1783 battle lasted less than two hours off the coast of Cape Canaveral. The American victory, with French support, allowed the American vessels to continue their travel onto Philadelphia to deliver their special cargoes of Spanish silver from Havana, Cuba, to meet much needed payment of American soldiers fighting in the last weeks of the Revolution.

Planning for this National Level Ceremony, sponsored by the Brevard Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), which includes six MOAACC members, began last November. As often happens, several MOAACC members were key players for the event’s planning including the special

Continued on next page
guest speaker, Commander of the Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU) at Port Canaveral CAPT Benjamin Shupp, USN; the “cannonier” 1LT Doug Bisset, USA, (Ret); the host, LCDR Dean Schaaf, USN (Ret); key event organizer CW4 Ray Norman, USAR (Ret); and the emcee CPT Donn Weaver, USA (Ret).

More than 30 units from the Sons, Daughters and Children of the American Revolution, The Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU), Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary, Sea Cadets from Courageous Division and many local veteran groups marched in the Parade of Flags and/or laid memorial wreaths to honor the fallen of the American Revolution. As the event concluded the National President General of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), John Manning of Massachusetts and his wife Sheila, used a Navy ceremonial sword to cut cake for the guests, participants, and helpers who made the event memorable.

It was a beautiful day and few imagined the President would order on 29 March that we must now shelter in place through at least 30 April.

No Navy or Marine Ceremony complete without a sword cutting Cake.  L-R: Roger Bennett, President Brevard SAR, Ms. Manning, Mr. Manning, CAPT Benjamin Shupp, USN, Commander of the Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU) at Port Canaveral and Lindsey Brock, Past National SAR President General and member of the Brevard SAR Chapter.

The next week Brevard County schools closed down and 13 major Veteran related events through May on the Space Coast were cancelled or postponed. Like all FCOC Communiqué readers, MOAACC has since been adjusting to a new order of things. But, we look back fondly to that day in early March knowing that the operative word for now was LAST.
Citrus County Chapter
By COL Mark Bodenheim USAR (Ret), Membership Director, Citrus

Get Ready to Vote Smart

Left: CAPT Tim Holme, USN (Ret), presents information on Vote Smart to MOAA chapter members and the public at the March 5, 2020 MOAA sponsored speaker event at the YMCA. Vote Smart’s mission is to provide free, factual, unbiased information on candidates and elected officials to ALL Americans.

CAPT Terri Harrison, USN (Ret), president of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Citrus County Chapter (right) presents a certificate of appreciation to CAPT Tim Holme, USN (Ret) for his presentation “Get Ready For Primary and General Election Season- How To Know Your Candidates” during the March 5, 2020 MOAA sponsored speaker presentation at the YMCA. CAPT Holme is a former 10 year volunteer, current member and ambassador for Vote Smart, a nationally recognized non-profit, non-partisan research organization providing primary source information on candidates and ballot measures.
Clearwater Chapter
By Maj Robert J. Souders, USAF (Ret), Editor of Drumbeat

2nd Annual Golf Tournament Sponsored by: Military Order of the World Wars, Military Officers Association of America and the Pinellas County Schools JROTC Units. GOLF TOURNAMENT Saturday 3/7/2020

MOAA members (L) Steve Hodges, Dave Mason, visiting guest, Jeff Mason, and Rob Risberg enjoying the tournament.

Dunedin High School, JROTC Honor Guard performed to start the tournament.

Tournament 2nd place winners JROTC Instructors: Jim Facinelli, Eric Pless, Joe Paight, Kirk Kurigaj

The day of the golf tournament, JROTC High School Senior Instructors: (L) Commander, Jim Facinelli, Dunedin High School, LTC Kirk Kurigaj, Clearwater High School, LTC Christopher Tompkins, Gibbs High School and Mr. Michael Vigue, Principal Boca Ciega High School received a check in the amount of $2,000 from the event to further enhance their school's JROTC programs.

The proceeds of the tournament benefited the Pinellas County Schools JROTC Units. Seventy-five golfers participated followed by a luncheon, awards ceremony and silent auction. $10,000 was raised. Each of the following High School JROTC Units received $2,000:

Dunedin High School, Clearwater High School, Boca Ciega High School, Dixie Hollins High School, Gibbs High School
Kingdom of the Sun Chapter
By Arlo Janssen, LTC, USA (Ret), Editor of the Sunbeams, KOS/MOAA

March Meeting Has Some Fun With Science

The March 2020 KOS Luncheon was held on March 5, 2020, in the Ocala, FL, Elks Club dining room. Lt Col Carol Walker, USAF, President of KOS, opened the meeting and welcomed our guests. Dennis Rose, a Social Affiliate of our KOS Chapter and Photo Editor of our KOS Sunbeams, was the guest speaker for the KOS luncheon. His outstanding presentation was titled "Fun with Science," and he used a number of interesting slides and pictures in his presentation.

The KOS/MOAA Past President award was presented to COL Robert Schlegel for his outstanding KOS efforts for the past two years as KOS President. Others receiving Past President plaques at the March Luncheon were LTC Arlo Janssen, USA, Lt Col Sharon Murry, USAF, COL James "Bud" Smith, USA, CPT John Rose, USA, and COL Henry Ince, USA. The special plaques were prepared by COL Frank Rasbury, USA, for this event.

The joint meeting with the Citrus County MOAA Chapter scheduled for April 2, 2020, at Stumpknockers on the River was canceled because of the COVID-19 outbreak. We hope to return next year for our annual "Fishing Trip" and Catfish dinner on the Withlacoochee River in Dunnellon, Fl.
Lee Coast Hosts USCG Academy Cadet Chorale

Like many MOAA Chapters around our state, our Lee Coast Chapter MOAA dinner-meeting season is Nov. thru April. This year the virus stole our last meeting and “Last Roll Call Ceremony” like a thief in the night; and it is re-scheduled for November. So, we now feel doubly blessed to have gone out on a high note, literally and figuratively, with our March 9th program.

Our dinner guests were 19 young men and women of the USCG Academy Cadet Chorale. From the Academy Glee Club, the top 12 females perform as the Fairwinds and the top 12 males perform as the Idlers and together they form the Cadet Chorale. All dinner attendees were impressed with the caliber of these young people. This is not a surprise, considering that the 300 who enter the Academy as 4th class (freshman entry level) cadets each year, represent a 15% acceptance rate. The first question they are asked is: “Do you possess the qualities of mind, body and character to succeed at the Academy and as a Coast Guard Officer?”

Continued on next page.
Most cadets graduated high school with a four point or higher academic score, excel in at least one sport, are talented and already possess service and leadership skills to build upon. The Coast Guard Academy is unique in that a congressional appointment is not required for admission to the service academy, it was the first academy to admit females and currently has the largest percentage of female cadets.

It was a double treat for Chapter President, LCDR Terry Robertson, USN (Ret.) the only former “Coastie” in the Lee Coast Chapter. He graduated from the USCG Academy Class of 1971 and served as a rescue helicopter pilot for 10 years before obtaining a Master of Divinity and serving in the Navy as a chaplain for 13 years before retirement. The Chorale Director, Dr. Robert Newton, was the assistant director when Terry sang with the Glee Club fifty years ago.

It was also an honor to have the Academy Superintendent RADM William Kelly and his wife, Angie, join us for dinner. They were in the area observing the many cadet activities, including spring training week for the baseball and softball teams. The Admiral only spoke briefly and deferred attention to the Chorale who performed a variety of sea shanties and patriotic songs a cappella in beautiful harmony.

As Superintendent, Rear Admiral Kelly oversees the Coast Guard Academy’s recruitment, accession, education, development and graduation of cadets with a Bachelor of Science degree, prepared to serve as officers in the United States Coast Guard. He leads a diverse faculty and staff who carry out a comprehensive 4-year program that combines academics, athletics, leadership and professional development to develop leaders of character ready to serve their country and humanity.
Sarasota Chapter
By Alan Forrester, Director (Marketing/Publicity)

THE MANY FACES OF OLD GLORY

Over 3,000 people joined the February 17 Presidents’ Day Stars & Stripes Celebration at Patriot Plaza in the Sarasota National Cemetery. Entertainment included Vane Scott III; Michael Krebs as Abraham Lincoln; Miss Tampa, Lauren Nielson, singing a cappella the National Anthem and God Bless America; and the Pops Orchestra.

Two days later, the February chapter luncheon attendees were entertained by Vane Scott III with the informative presentation, The Many Faces of Old Glory. Brian McCarty, the event organizer, introduced Vane to the luncheon crowd at the Bird Key Yacht Club. We couldn’t fit the Pops Orchestra in the dining room and Abe was in a heated argument with Fredrick Douglas and couldn’t make our luncheon. So, Vane shed his Revolutionary War garb and performed in his Sarasota beach uniform... polo shirt and shorts. The performance was extraordinary by all accounts. Sue Scott played The Many Faces of Old Glory performance music and Vane gave a one-hour performance on how both the “British Union Jack” and “Old Glory” came to be.

We were introduced to the flag of “The Cross of St George”, “The Kings Colors”, the “British Red Ensign”, the “Cross of St Patrick” before we learned the history of “Old Glory”. The historical narrative started in 1770, when King George was still our occupier. Vane moved us adroitly to 1775 and reminded us how mad we were about the tyranny of “Taxation without representation”. He romanced us about Minutemen, the militia, and the Sons of Liberty. We rode with Paul Revere from the North Church yelling; “the British are coming” and sailed the high seas with Captain Parker and John Paul Jones, while bemoaning the sinking of the Bon Homme Richard. Captain Jones was lucky to make it home with the wrong flag drawn by Benjamin Franklin. It was George Washington that finally resolved the issue of how our flag would look... 13 red & white stripes and a field of 5 white pointed starts against a background of blue.

Today we know about the Many Faces of Old Glory and the Star-Spangled Banner, the only official flag that didn’t have 13 stripes.

Vane closed with a sober admonition:

The soft breezes of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness that caressed their flag that April's day still exist, but unfortunately not for all Americans. Along with all the benefits that we enjoy as Americans, there are also obligations. You may be born an American which is one thing but being an American is quite another. We must continue to build on those same foundations, not only as a nation but as individuals, working together to create that perfect union with liberty and justice for all!
“Victory in Europe” Military Ball a Rousing Success

The Southwest Florida Chapter 53rd Military Ball, “Victory in Europe,” was held on February 22, 2020, at the Vanderbilt Country Club in Naples. The over 150 attendees were treated to a spectacular, stunning, and exuberant Ball. As February 22 was not only our Military Ball, but George Washington’s birthday; “George” greeted everyone at the Ball!

The Guest Speaker was Chef d’escadrons Major Hugues de Lafforest, who is stationed with the French detachment in USCENTCOM at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, FL. He arrived with his newlywed and beautiful wife, Aude.

The cocktail hour featured a magnificent singer and pianist. The after dinner music, Uptown Express, was superb for listening and DANCING! The music was delightful. Accolades to the many volunteers who made this event vivacious! These people are:

Continued on next page
• Military Ball Committee: COL John Granskog (sponsor), LCDR Benny Bennett, Mrs. Susan Farr, CAPT Jack Fulmer, LTJG Neil Frost, COL Tony Peguese, Mrs. Brigitte van den Hove-Smith, Mrs. Cassie Demetsky (decorations).
• Singer and Pianist: Katherine Standish and Cindy Brewer
• George Washington: Nathan Standish
• JROTC Parents: Jesus & Natalie Fernandez, Bernadette LaPaglia, Julie Badour
• JROTC Instructors: MAJ John Sarnecky, MAJ Ruben Gonzalez, COL Ian Falk, CW4 Timothy Ford, and CW4 Michael Harp.
• JROTC Cadets: Each year, the JROTC Instructors and Cadets volunteer their time to this beautiful Gala by setting up in the morning, Color Guard, Saber Line, Drum Corps, Singers, and teardown the following morning. There were over 50 JROTC Cadets who volunteered.

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

A final word: all meetings and events associated with the Southwest Chapter has been canceled or put on hold until further notice. We wish for everyone to be safe and stay healthy.

Below: Program for the Ball. Right: Susan Farr, President of MOASWF, and Major Kenneth C. Hopper enter the Ball under a JROTC arch of sabers.

Left: Nathan "George" Washington and his sister, Katherine Standish who was the singer during Cocktail hour.
Sun City Center Chapter
By CAPT B. Frank Kepley, USN (Ret), Legislative Liaison

Consumer Protection in Hillsborough County

Eric Olsen, Division Director of the Hillsborough County Consumer Protection Services, was the featured speaker at the Sun City Center Military Officers of America Association monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 4th.

Eric Olsen has been employed with the Consumer Protection Services since 2003 and has been Division Director since 2013. The office investigates consumer fraud, operates a wage recovery program, and oversees the settlement of code liens on property.

Eric holds a Master’s degree in Public Administration, a Bachelor’s in Communication, is a licensed private investigator and a state certified county mediator. He is a bilingual speaks Spanish in addition to English and works easily with diverse groups and individuals.

There are 95,000 veterans in Hillsborough County that are served by the Hillsborough Co. Consumer Protection Office. The office is first in Florida from the standpoint of numbers of veterans served. MacDill AFB alone has 12,000 veterans. There is also an office at the Veterans Memorial Park in Sarasota, FL.

Some of the areas the Consumer Protection Services investigates are human trafficking, animal abuse, pain management clinics, gas pump, telephones, taxis, limos, vans, and towing services to name just a few. The office recovered $954,505 last year in illegally obtained dollars. ID theft and other numerous scams were also discussed.

Complaints to the Consumer Protection Service office must be in writing and the service is free for anyone living in Hillsborough County. Everyone is entitled to one free credit check per year from each of the three credit ratings companies and it is strongly recommended that these ratings be checked annually.
Editor’s Note: This article and the piece to the right are part of a series in the local Lake City Reporter which introduce MOAA Suwannee River Valley chapter members to the local community and detail what a military career can entail.

Lieutenant Colonel Aitken, US Army
West Point Graduate
Ranger
Armor Commander
MS Electrical Engineering
Docent
Cattleman

Milt Aitken grew up in Springfield, Ohio. Upon graduation from the United States Military Academy in 1954, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. He completed Ranger training at Fort Benning, Georgia in 1955 and was assigned to the 6th and 11th Armored Cavalry Regiments on the Czechoslovakian border for 2 ½ years. In 1959 he was attended the Advanced Officer Course at Fort Knox, Kentucky. In 1960, he was chosen to attend Georgia Tech and received a Master’s Degree in Electrical Engineering in 1962. Following his graduation, Lieutenant Aitken was assigned to the obligatory ‘utilization tour’ (putting his degree to work for the Army) at the Armor Board at Fort Knox, Kentucky, testing tank fire control systems, components and ammunition.

By 1965, the war in Vietnam was growing, and the Army was augmenting the Military Assistance Command (MACV). Milt spent a year in the Mekong Delta at Can Tho, as an advisor at the headquarters of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) IV Corps. In 1966, following that overseas tour, he went to perhaps his best assignment, in his opinion, to be on the staff of the US/German Main Battle Tank (MBT-70); predecessor to the US Abrams Battle Tank.

The MBT tour in Washington was followed by 18 months commanding a Basic Training Battalion at Fort Knox, and another trip to Vietnam in 1972, this time as Senior Advisor to one of seven ARVN National Training Centers. This assignment was cut short by a couple of months, as President Nixon’s “Vietnamization” program caused a rapid withdrawal of most American troop units and advisors.

Milt’s final assignment was with the Army Concepts Analysis Agency in Bethesda. It was here that he was “retreaded” from Armor-type studies and analysis to Air Defense. Lieutenant Colonel Aitken retired in 1975 with 21 years’ service.
Lieutenant Colonel Aitken’s awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Legion of Merit Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Republic of China Honor Medal and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

Following retirement, the experience gained in Air Defense made him readily employable in Huntsville, Alabama, where he worked for several defense contractors for the next 25 years. As the Veterans Memorial Museum began operation in Huntsville, Milt signed on as the second member of the all-volunteer staff, and was a full-time docent for the next 15 years, from 2000 to 2015.

During his 40 years in the Huntsville Alabama area, Milt and his wife, Martha, operated The Long Grey Line Farm, raising livestock. Facing “old age”, but still active, they moved to Fort White in 2015, to be near their daughter.

There they continued raising meat goats, Belted Galloway Cattle, and Rhodesian Ridgeback dogs. In addition to his daughter in Fort White, Milt has a son in Atlanta. Milt and Martha have six grandchildren, one of whom is a Lake City Police Officer. Milt and Martha have been married for 61 years.

Milt with M48 Patton tank at the outside exhibition area of the Huntsville U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum in 2011.
Back in the *olden days*, MOAA National would occasionally send you a spreadsheet containing the names and contact information of people who are members of MOAA National and live in your area, but *not* members of your chapter.

I remember carefully downloading that list, crafting a nice “join us” email, and launching it to 540 names. More than half bounced as being bad email addresses and... we did not get a single response from the remainder.

Another time, we produced a catchy post card, printed address labels, spent a couple hours putting labels and stamps on those cards, and mailed them. One potential member came to the membership event that we specifically set up for recruiting. Needless to say... I lost enthusiasm for trying to recruit from that list.

It turns out that MOAA National has figured out the same thing. They no longer send out that massive list of names. Now they will regularly tell you who *moved into your area*.

This is much *better* data. A member of MOAA National moves into your area and sends a change-of-address to National. Now, *that*... is valuable data. It’s current and the person took the effort to notify National. They are alive and their contact info is most likely correct.

MOAA National gets this info to you through the “Committee Module” on MOAA.org. Ideally, the chapter presidents and membership chair automatically have access to this data.

I’ve been looking at that list for the last several months. Each month, there’s between one and three names on the report. Not a lot, but what *great targets!* Keep in mind that the names are deleted the following month and replaced by new ones. Even if you don’t do anything with the data, I’d at least collect it and build a potential recruit list until you do try to contact them.

Here’s how to access the list:

1. Log into MOAA.org
2. Top right. Click on “Chapters”
3. Slide down to “Committee Module Resources.” Click on “read more.”
4. Slide down to “Committee Module Login.” Click on it.
5. Hover over “Details for – Palm Beach Martin Counties Chapter of MOAA” or your chapter. It changes blue, then click on it.
6. At the bottom, on the left, there’s a bold title “REPORTS.” Under it, one of the choices is “Monthly Recruiting List” Click on it.
7. Down at the bottom of your screen, you’ll see “RecruitingList.xls.” That’s it!
8. This is a list of folks who moved into your area in the last thirty days. (If there are no names, it just means that nobody has moved in recently. Try again in a week or two.)

If you have difficulty getting to the list, just call 800-234-6622, the MOAA Membership call number. It seems as if every person working in that call center knows how to use the Committee Module. I know. I’ve talked to most of them. It’s there for the taking. Just do it! And, since we’re all under *house arrest* for the time being, it’s a great time to get familiar with it!
The MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) is comprised of 44 Chapters with nearly 8,000 members and their families. FCOC is one of MOAA’s largest Councils. MOAA has a membership of over 380,000 members in all 50 States.

The FCOC’s primary communication vehicles are our bi-monthly publication, The COUNCIL COMMUNIQUÉ and our Website www.MOAAFL.org Ads run for one year.

The COMMUNIQUÉ is distributed electronically to all our chapters, MOAA Headquarters in Virginia, and our influential contacts across the state of Florida.

The COMMUNIQUÉ provides a unique forum for businesses to reach a select segment of the population. The membership is patriotic and professional. We encourage your business to reach out to our members by advertising in The COUNCIL COMMUNIQUÉ.

In appreciation of Businesses that also support the FCOC Annual Convention with Ads in the Convention Souvenir Program Book within the last year the FCOC offers a discount for the same size Ad shown on the following Order Form.

Thank you!

FCOC

Advertise with Us!

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Submitting Articles and Pictures for The Communiqué

Articles can be attached to an email. Microsoft Word works best. You can also type your information into the body of an email where it can be copied and pasted into the newsletter. PDF files can also be used.

Pictures should have a .jpg extension. If you are sending pictures from your chapter, please include the chapter name and the names of those in the picture. A few words on what the event is about will help interest the readers.

If you have questions about your submission, contact

Polly Parks  
pparks@igc.org  
703-338-6881
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Notes: Annual is from Jan-Dec; six (6) issues published electronically on the 10th of the even month. Mid-year placement for a recurring annual placement can be at pro-rated annual rate for remaining issues. Copy due dates for 2020 are: the first day of February, April, June, August, October, and December.

Ad placement in printed Annual Convention Program (June) is handled separately by Convention Committee; POC’s listed under Committee Chairs on last page of Communiqué.

Amount: $_________ (make check out to: Florida Council of Chapters and mail, with this ad form, to: Polly Parks, Communiqué Editor, c/o SCFC of MOAA, PO Box 7841, Sebring, FL 33870.

Business Name: ________________________________
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- Submit PDF or jpeg file to: pparks@igc.org
- Ad copy must be submitted by the first of the month of the month of publication; i.e. Feb 1 for the January-February edition. Please notify the editor in advance if you plan to change the ad copy.

Any further questions, please contact: Polly Parks, pparks@igc.org or 703-338-6881.
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<td>Southeast</td>
<td>[View Website]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imperial Polk County Chapter</td>
<td>Lakeland</td>
<td>Mid Central</td>
<td>[View Website]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake &amp; Sumter Counties Chapter</td>
<td>Lady Lake</td>
<td>Mid Central</td>
<td>[View Website]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Florida Gulf Coast Chapter</td>
<td>Palm Harbor</td>
<td>West Central</td>
<td>[View Website]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Officers Club of Volusia County</td>
<td>Orange City</td>
<td>East Central</td>
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Florida Chapters, Continued

Northwest Florida Military Officers Association
Fort Walton Beach
Area: Northwest
View Website

Pensacola Chapter
Pensacola
Area: Northwest
View Website

St. Petersburg Area Chapter
St. Petersburg
Area: West Central
View Website

Sun City Center Chapter
Sun City Center
Area: West Central
View Website

South Central Florida Chapter
Sebring
Area: South West
View Website

Tallahassee Chapter
Tallahassee
Area: Northwest
View Website

West Central Chapter, Inc
Spring Hill
Area: West Central
View Website

Palm Beach Area Chapter
Boynton Beach
Area: Southeast
View Website

Santa Rosa Chapter
Milton
Area: Northwest

South Central Florida Chapter
Sebring
Area: South West
View Website

Tampa Chapter
MacDill AFB
Area: West Central
View Website

St. John’s River Valley Chapter
Palatka
Area: Mid Central

Suncoast Chapter, MOAA
Port Richey
Area: West Central
View Website

Tallahassee Chapter
Tallahassee
Area: Northwest
View Website

Treasure Coast Chapter
Fort Pierce
Area: East Central
View Website

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