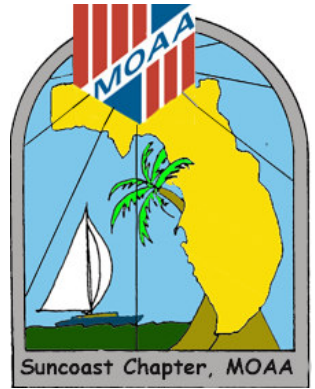




## SUNCOAST CHAPTER, Military Officers Association of America

# ADVISOR

This Newsletter is published for the personal use of the members of the Suncoast Chapter, MOAA. It must not be used for any type of solicitation or other purposes not in the best interest of this Chapter and individual members. Opinions presented herein are those of the individual and not necessarily of the Chapter. Commercial solicitation of members using membership rolls and/or rosters is prohibited. Some articles may be taken from MOAA and DoD publications.



VOLUME 27

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[www.suncoastmoaa.org](http://www.suncoastmoaa.org)

NOV - DEC 2009

## CHAPTER DUES ARE DUE! SEE PAGE TWO!



### 2010 FCOC Convention – Something for Everyone!

The annual Florida Council of chapters MOAA convention, May 21 – 23 in Ft. Myers, is definitely not just for officers of the chapters – it's for every member also. There will be much helpful information at the seminars, on topics from the latest benefits you need to know about to legislation efforts.

There are still a few spaces available for the *free room night drawing* at the convention, but they're going fast. Register now and be one of the first 45 eligible to be in the drawing for the \$90.00 cash.

For details and registration form, go to the Florida Council of Chapters website [www.moaafl.org](http://www.moaafl.org), click on the "convention" tab, then choose "2010" convention or you can contact Jim Conner at 239-542-5627 or [jmcf1@comcast.net](mailto:jmcf1@comcast.net).

### Upcoming Events

November 17, Board Meeting - Normal November board meeting changed to this date.

November 24, Dinner Meeting - Speaking will be chapter member Maj. Jerry Miller on the history of our flag. Election of officers and board will also be made. See page 5 for reservations.

December 15, Dinner Meeting - Installation of Officers, LCol Larry Fernald, USAF, AVP West Central Area, and Music by Lucy. See page 5 for reservations.

January 24, Luncheon Cruise - See page 4 for more information and reservation form.

January 26, Dinner Meeting - Speaking will be E. Honey Dalton of The Deaf and Heard of Hearing Services of Florida, Inc.

February 20 trip to Armed Forces Military Museum, Largo - Includes a guided tour. See page 4 for more information.

March 20, A Day at the Races - Our third annual event at Tampa Bay Downs race track. Includes Clubhouse Turn luncheon buffet. More information will follow.

### HONOR FLIGHT - A Great Deal for WWII Vets

The sole purpose of Honor Flight is straightforward and pure spirited: To transport WWII Veterans to Washington, DC, to be honored at their memorials. Top priority is given to WWII Vets along with those other veterans who may be terminally ill. This is a trip of about three days, and is at no cost to the veteran. Those who have been on this tour highly recommend it!

You can contact Southwest Florida Honor Flight, Inc at PO Box 494488, Port Charlotte, FL, 33949, phone 941-889-8119, email [info@pchonorflight.org](mailto:info@pchonorflight.org). Or visit the Southwest web site [www.pchonorflight.org](http://www.pchonorflight.org).

The national headquarters for Honor Flight can be contacted at 913-521-2400 or through web site [www.honorflight.org](http://www.honorflight.org).

**Have a good trip!**

### Congress passes MOAA Federal Charter

On October 27, the U.S. House of Representatives approved legislation granting a federal charter for the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). The Senate passed an identical bill on September 24. It will now be sent to the president, who is expected to sign it into law.

The MOAA North Carolina Council first brought the charter issue to the attention of the association's national leadership. In North Carolina and at least nine other states -- Alabama, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Ohio, Oregon and Pennsylvania – MOAA council and chapter representatives are barred from participating in state-level veterans' advisory panels because state laws require a federal charter for participation. Passage of the MOAA federal charter will enable all MOAA councils and chapters to be "at the table" when military and veterans' issues are under consideration in each state.



Still getting your newsletter by snail mail (and in black and white)?  
Send your email address to [suncoastadvisor](mailto:suncoastadvisor)

**2010 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE PAYABLE**

**Due by December 31, 2009**

**WE NEED YOU!!!**

Clip along the lines below and mail or bring to the next meeting.

Mail to:

Secretary, Suncoast Chapter (MOAA)

P.O. Box 854

Port Richey, FL 34673-0854

I am attaching cash ( ) in the amount of \$20.00 or a check ( ) in the amount of \$20.00 payable to the Suncoast Chapter, MOAA, for my dues for the coming year.

Auxiliary Membership will be \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Service \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State ZIP

Please Update:

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

MOAA # \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The following nominations have been made for Officers and the Board of Directors. Other nominations may be offered from the floor during the election process. Officers will be elected at the November meeting and installed during the December meeting.

President ..... LtCol Don Knutson, USAF (RET)  
(still serving term)

Vice President ..... LTC Robert M. Wiggins USA (RET)

Secretary. .... Mrs Verna Weber, AUX

Treasurer..... Maj. Gerald Miller, USAF (RET)

Directors:

Mrs. Janice Shortt, AUX

Capt. Harley Grace, USAF (RET)

Mrs. Dorothy Cunningham (still serving term)

CPT Robert Frankel, USPHS (RET) (still serving term)

COL Edward Schenk, USAR (RET) (still serving term)

**REMINDER DATES**

- 10 Nov - Marine Corps Birthday
- 11 Nov - Veteran's Day
- 17 Nov - Board Meeting
- 18 Nov - Wives Club Meeting
- 24 Nov - Dinner Meeting
- 26 Nov - Thanksgiving
- 1 Dec - Board Meeting
- 7 Dec - Pearl Harbor Day
- 8 Dec - Immaculate Conception
- 12 Dec - Hanukkah Begins
- 13 Dec - National Guard Birthday
- 15 Dec - Dinner Meeting
- 16 Dec - Wives Club Meeting
- 21 Dec - Winter Begins
- 24 Dec - Christmas Eve
- 25 Dec - Christmas Day
- 26 Dec - St Stephen Day
- 26 Dec - Kwanzaa Begins
- 31 Dec - New Year's Eve
- 1 Jan - New Year's Day
- 5 Jan - Board Meeting
- 6 Jan - Epiphany

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
SUNCOAST CHAPTER, MOAA  
OCTOBER 6, 2009**

**2009 OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND STAFF**

**President**

LtCol Don Knutson, USAF  
(352)686-9379  
drkattny2009@live.com

**Vice President & Recruit Chairman**

LtCol. Robert M. Wiggins, USA  
(727) 861-1272  
boblizwiggins@verizon.net

**Secretary**

Mrs. Verna Weber, AUX  
(727)372-0932  
verna.weber1@gmail.com

**Treasurer**

Maj Gerald Miller, USAF  
(727)372-8736  
millergs@uwec.edu

**Past President**

Capt. John Stanard, USN  
(727)845-0813  
stanardj@verizon.net

**Board of Directors**

Capt. Robert Frankel, USPHS  
(727) 869-9435  
rfrankel@tampabay.rr.com

Col. Edward Schenk, USA  
(727) 376-0982  
ewschenk@gmail.com

Mrs. Dorothy Cunningham  
(727) 372-7615  
mcunningham9@verizon.net

Mrs. Janice Shortt, AUX  
(727)863-4724  
jshortt@ij.net

Capt. Harley Grace, USAF  
(727)863-0653  
hgrace3@tampabay.rr.com

**Editor & Legislative Affairs Rep**

Maj. John H. Alderman, USA  
(727) 372-3790  
alderm33@tampabay.rr.com

**Personal Affairs Officer**

LtCol Melvin Sweat, USA  
(352)666-9244  
nosweat1@tampabay.rr.com

**The Board of Directors meets 2 pm the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Pasco County Library, Regency Park Branch, 9701 Little Road. All members are welcome to attend and make any presentation. The General Meeting is held the 4th Tuesday of each month, except May through August & Dec. All members should attend. A social hour is held and dinner is served at the Spartan Manor Restaurant.**

Meeting Called to Order by Pres. Don Knutson at 2 p.m. with the following in attendance: Don Knutson, John Alderman, Dottie Cunningham, Bob Frankel, Harley Grace, Jerry Miller, Janice Shortt, Mel Sweat, Verna Weber and Bob Wiggins.

Don Knutson: Reviewed our Chapter's qualifications for Excellent Chapter Certificate – percentage of Membership National MOAA members – O.K. Clarified following representation --  
Legislative Affairs – John Alderman  
Recruitment Chair – Bob Wiggins  
Auxiliary Liaison – Angela Lombardo  
Don will present draft at our next meeting.

Treasurer: Jerry Miller – Report distributed, reviewed and clarified. Mel Sweat – necessary to carry this large a balance in checking account versus keeping it in Savings and transferring as needed. Discussion followed. Agreed to leave “as is”.  
Jerry repaid Harley for his personal cash outlay for the Cheers for our September meeting. Subject of continuing with Cheers at our General Meetings discussed – all agreed to continue with this, as members apparently enjoy it. Jerry will be responsible for obtaining these items. Treasurer's report accepted and filed for Audit.

Harley Grace: Menu for October meeting for Advisor printing .

Secretary: Verna Weber – Correspondence distributed – nothing needing attention.

Bob Wiggins: Has hopefully been successful for getting our Chapter's meeting notices in several newspapers and periodicals. Noted that he has also volunteered to take care of publicity for the MOWC as well.

Bob Frankel, Nominating Committee Chairman, presented Motion that the Board submit to our membership at the October General Meeting, a list of nominations for officers, with additional nominations from the floor. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Wiggins. Unanimous.  
Names of nominees to be printed in the November Advisor.

Bob Frankel: Pres. LtCol Donald Knutson, USAF is serving a 2 year term.

Existing Officers to serve one year term:

VP – LTC Robert Wiggins, USA  
Sec'y – Mrs. Verna Weber, AUX  
Treas. – Maj. Gerald Miller, USAF

Board Members presently serving 2 year term:  
CAPT Robert Frankel, USPHS

COL Edward Schenk, USA  
Mrs. Dorothy Cunningham, AUX

Served through 2009:

Capt. Harley Grace, USAF  
Mrs. Janice Shortt, AUX

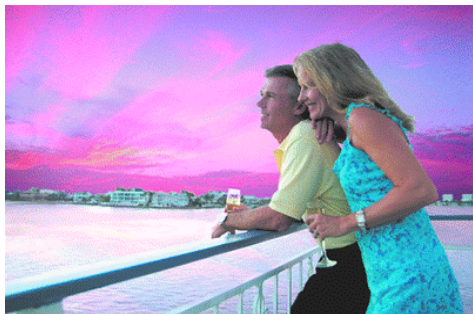
Bob Frankel additionally proposed that the Board nominate for new 2 year terms those 2 members, noted above.

John Alderman: MOAA will E-mail our prospects. 20 new prospects. John sends out 50-60 newsletters.

Bob Frankel: Library reserved for our Dec. 1 Board meeting.

Will bring “Fiddler on the Roof” Show Palace tickets to our October General meeting for pick-up. (October 19 is cut-off date)

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Verna Weber, Sec'y



## L U N C H E O N      C R U I S E

Please join us for a beautiful 2-1/2 hour luncheon cruise with your MOAA colleagues and guests on the Starlite Majesty on Sunday, January 24, 2010. The ship will depart from the Clearwater Beach Marina, 25 Causeway Blvd, Clearwater Beach, FL 33767-2064. Boarding will begin at 12:30 PM and departure will be at 1 PM. In addition to an excellent luncheon menu and cruise, we will be treated to a 2-1/2 hour live Dixieland Jazz performance. The luncheon includes a sit-down meal with salad, bread, choice of six entrees from the menu, dessert, coffee and tea. Any other beverages are extra. This will be a delightful afternoon for everyone. The total cost per person including service charge will be only \$35.

Please complete the form below along with your check made out to the Suncoast Chapter, MOAA and send to: Secretary, Suncoast Chapter, MOAA; PO Box 854; Port Richey, FL 34673-0854. The reservation should be received by our chapter prior to January 4, 2010. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Frankel at (727) 869-9435 or at [rfrankel@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:rfrankel@tampabay.rr.com).

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$35 each = \_\_\_\_\_ for the January 24, 2010 luncheon cruise.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

## THE ARMED FORCES MILITARY MUSEUM LUNCHEON RECEPTION BUFFET AND TOUR



Your chapter is planning an Armed Forces Military Museum Tour on Saturday, February 20, 2010. The museum is located at 2050 34<sup>th</sup> Way N, Largo, Florida 33771. Their telephone number is (727) 539-8371. The 35,000 square foot museum contains hundreds of military exhibits from World War I to the present. It will be an exciting tour for all of us.

The admission fee to the museum (\$8 per person) will be waived for retired officers with ID card. We will meet prior to 1:00 pm to begin the tour promptly at 1:00. Spouses will be charged \$8. Lunch is

on your own.



### VA Expands Agent Orange Illness List

The Department of Veterans Affairs established a service-connection for Vietnam veterans suffering from Parkinson's disease, ischemic heart disease (IHD) and B-cell leukemias such as hairy-cell leukemia. These illnesses are now considered "presumed" illnesses. This "presumption" simplifies and speeds up the application process for VA benefits. It is important to note that this new policy will not go into effect until sometime in 2010. At which point affected veterans will be urged to submit new disability claims. Additional information about Agent Orange and VA's services and programs for veterans exposed to the chemical are available at VA's [Agent Orange webpage](#), or call the toll-free helpline at 800-749-8387.

### No COLA, But Some May See \$250

The Bureau of Labor Statistics released the September inflation figure this week and confirmed what retirees already knew - there won't be any Social Security, retired pay, VA disability pay, or SBP COLA for 2010.

On the brighter side, President Obama called for legislation to renew for 2010 the \$250 economic stimulus payment that Social Security annuitants and VA disability compensation recipients received earlier this year.

White House officials said the \$250 payment should not be viewed as a "substitute COLA". They pointed out that several other provisions of the 2009 stimulus package covered two years, and that it was appropriate to renew this provision for another year.

Assuming Congress acts before the end of the year, eligibles could see the \$250 checks in April or May.

## MEAL RESERVATION

Please mail your check payable to Suncoast Chapter, MOAA, for \$18.00 per person, tips and gratuity included, and meal selection to Secretary, Suncoast Chapter, P.O. Box 854, Port Richey, Fl., 34673-0854. We will base our count to Spartan Manor on the number of reservations that we receive. Please send your check and meal selection so that it is received by Friday before the meeting. If this presents a difficulty, call Harley Grace at 863-0653. We will meet at:

### SPARTAN MANOR

6121 Massachusetts Ave., New Port Richey, Fl.

Our Next Dinner Meeting

Will be

**24 NOVEMBER 2009**

**Speaking will be:**

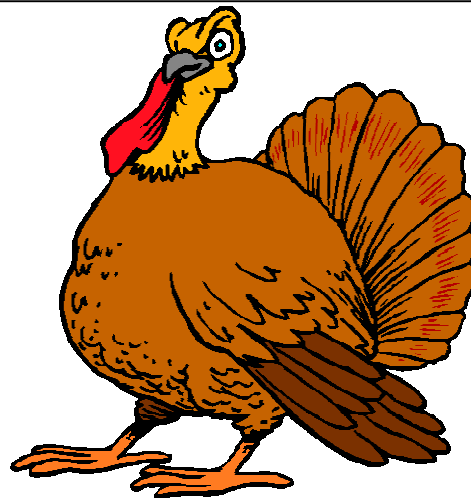
Chapter member Maj. Jerry Miller on the history of our flag.  
Election of officers and board will also be made.

Entrée choices are: (Please indicate selection)

**Roast Beef Au Jus**

**Chicken Parmigianino w/Spaghetti**

**Veggie Plate**



Please make reservations for \_\_\_\_\_ persons for this meeting (\$18).

If you have any special dietary requirements please list them here.

Name and telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**December meal reservations should be made on the form below since another Advisor will not be published prior to the December meeting.**

### SPARTAN MANOR

**December 15 (address as above)**

Social hour is 6 pm (1800 hours). Dinner will be served at 7pm (1900)

The program will include a **band for your dancing and listening pleasure** as well as a color guard for installation of officers.

**Entrée choices are:**

**Turkey with Dressing**

**Baked Ham**

**Veggie Plate**

Dress for men: uniform, tux, or dark business suit. Dress for ladies: long gown optional.



Please make reservations for \_\_\_\_\_ persons for this meeting.

If you have any special dietary requirements please list them here.

Cost will be \$20 per person.

Name and telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

SUNCOAST CHAPTER, MOAA

P.O. BOX 854

PORT RICHEY, FL 34673-0854



**NOV-DEC 09**

**Happy**



**Holidays**



**MILITARY OFFICER'S WIVES CLUB  
LUNCHEON MEETING**

**Wednesday**

**November 18, 2009**

**at**

**SPARTAN MANOR**

**6121 Massachusetts Avenue, New Port Richey**

**Social Time: 11:30 A.M. Luncheon 12:00 Noon**

**Program:**

**Cpt Jack Armstrong  
of Pasco Sheriff's Dept**

**Husbands and guests invited**

**Reservations are required: to make or cancel please call:**

**Dorothy Cunningham...372-7615**

**Elaine Dunn.....942-1153**