

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE SUNCOAST CHAPTER, MOAA

(Revised December 2007)

Article 1 – Name

Section 1: The name of the organization shall be – Suncoast Chapter, Military Officers Association of America, Inc.

Article II – Purpose

Section 1: The purpose of this organization shall be:

- (a) To promote the aims of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).
- (b) To further the legislative and other objectives of MOAA.
- (c) To encourage and facilitate camaraderie among retired, active and former officers of the uniformed services and their spouses.
- (d) To provide useful services for, and to protect the interests of, members and their dependents and their survivors.

Section 2: This chapter shall operate as a non-profit organization exclusively for the purposes specified in Section 1 of this article. It shall cooperate with MOAA in furtherance of the purpose and objectives of the parent organization. It shall function as an affiliate of MOAA.

Article III - Membership and Voting Rights

Section 1: The membership of this organization shall be composed of;

- (a) Men and women who are or have been commissioned and warrant officers of the seven U.S. Uniformed Services (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration and Public Health Service) and the reserves and other components of these services.

- (b) Spouses of men or women who are or who have been commissioned and warrant officers of the seven U.S. uniformed services are eligible to be Auxiliary Members of this chapter even if the service spouse is still living and is current with their dues.

Section 2: Subject to the provisions of Section 1 above, membership shall be of four classes, viz:

- (a) Regular members: Active Duty officers and officers who are on the Retired List (whether drawing retired pay or not).
- (b) Associate Members: (1) Officers who are not retired. (2) Former Officers who were separated under conditions acceptable to the Board of Directors.
- (c) Auxiliary Members: Spouses of men or women who are or who have been commissioned officers and warrant officers of the seven U.S. uniformed services are eligible to be Auxiliary Members of this chapter even if the service spouse is still living and is current with their dues.
- (d) Honorary Members: Individuals as described in the MOAA Chapter Handbook.

Section 3: Regular, Associate and Auxiliary members are required to hold and maintain membership in MOAA.

Section 4: Any membership may be revoked for cause by a two-third vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 5: The Board of Directors may grant honorary membership to certain individuals as indicated in the MOAA Handbook.

Section 6: Regular, Associate and Auxiliary members shall be entitled to vote on any matter submitted to the membership for vote. Proxy votes shall not be permitted.

Article IV – Officers

Section 1: The officers of this chapter shall be a president, a vice president, a secretary and treasurer, each of whom shall be a regular, associate or auxiliary member of this chapter. These officers constitute the elective officers. Honorary members are not eligible for office.

Section 2: The president shall be the chief executive of the chapter and shall be, ex-officio, a member of all committees

Section 3: The president may appoint other members to serve as public relations officer, service officer, chaplain or other like positions.

Section 4: The responsibilities and duties of all officers have been established by custom. When any doubt exists concerning responsibilities and/or duties, the president shall resolve and finalize such anomalies.

Section 5: The secretary shall have charge of and keep all chapter records, except financial. This includes issuance of membership cards, an annual listing of members (annual roster) and conducting all exchanges of routine correspondence.

Section 6: The treasurer shall be responsible for receipt, safe keeping and disbursement of all chapter funds. He shall maintain adequate bookkeeping procedures and records for the foregoing. The treasurer need not be bonded. Either the treasurer or the president shall have the authority to sign checks.

Article V – Board of Directors

Section 1: The board of directors shall consist of all elected officers, the immediate past president and five (5) members elected at large from the eligible members in the chapter. In alternate years two and three board members will be elected at the annual November meeting for two year terms.

Section 2: Should the Board of Directors decide by majority vote that the president is incapacitated , the vice president shall assume the duties of the president for the period of incapacitation.

Section 3: A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 4: Any other officer vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 5: Any officer or committee member may be removed for cause by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Article VI – Elections

Section 1: The election of chapter officers shall be held each year at the November meeting. The president shall be elected for a two (2) year term of office. Except for the Board of Directors provision (Article V, Section 1), all other elective officers are for one year terms.

Section 2: Not later than the September meeting each year, the president shall appoint a nominating committee of not less than three (3) regular members who are not holding elective office, to nominate candidates for elective office. When the nominating committee makes its report at the October meeting, the president shall also invite nominations from the floor.

Article VII – Finances

Section 1: Revenues (non-profit) shall be derived from payment of annual membership contributions and such other sources as may be necessary to provide operating capital. Membership contributions will be established, and may be changed from time to time, as determined by the Board of Directors and approved by the membership of the chapter. Auxiliary members shall be charged one-half the regular membership rate each year.

Section 2: The fiscal year shall be from July 1, through June 30.

Section 3: There shall be an annual audit of the chapter funds by a member or a committee appointed by the president.

Section 4: No member, officer or committee shall have the authority to obligate funds by agreement, either verbal or written, except by express authority of the Board of Directors, or unless authorization to obligate the specific funds had been previously approved by the Board in the annual chapter budget, except that arrangements for regular luncheons, dinner or parties shall be made by the vice president who will work closely with appropriate committees appointed by the president. The treasurer shall handle all instruments and expenditures for the committees and will establish necessary forms and procedures to effect necessary adjustments with vendors.

Article VIII – Committee Appointments

Section 1: The president shall appoint all committees except the Board of Directors.

Section 2: A newsletter editor will be appointed by the president and will be directly responsible to him.

Article IX – Procedure

Section 1: In all proceedings of this chapter, if no rule has been adopted, Robert Rules of Order shall govern.

Article X – Meetings

Section 1: Regular meetings of this chapter shall be held monthly, except designated Summer months, on the day and at the time and place selected by the Board of Directors.

Article XI – Delegates

Section 1: Delegates to the Florida MOAA Convention shall be in the descending order: The president, the vice president, the immediate past president and the secretary. Additional delegates as authorized or substitute delegates shall be nominated by the president and approved by the Board of Directors, The amount of funding for each delegate shall be determined each year by the Board.

Article XII – Amendment

Section 1: The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the members present at a regular meeting and further provided that the proposed amendment was read to the members at a regular meeting one month prior to voting.

Article XIII – Caveat

Section 1: This document and the particulars herein shall be subject to conformance with the express objectives of MOAA.

Purposes of the Military Officers Association

To inculcate and stimulate love of our country and the flag;

To defend the honor, integrity and supremacy of our National government and the Constitution of the United States;

To advocate military forces adequate to the defense of our country;

To foster fraternal relations between all branches of the various services from which our members are drawn;

To further the education of children of service personnel;

To aid active and retired personnel of the various services from which our members are drawn and their dependents and survivors, in every proper and legitimate manner and;

To present their rights and interests when service matters are under consideration.

(From the Preamble to the National Association By-Laws)