



OFFICERS CALL

ST. PETERSBURG AREA CHAPTER,
Military Officers Association of America
P. O Box 7054, St. Petersburg, FL 33734



VOL IX No. II ★★★★★ Five Star Chapter:2000, 2002-08 ★★★★★ February 2010
Print Media Winner 2006; Also, 2003 Won: Print & Electronic Media & Web Site!!

President's Comments:

To those of you who attended our installation of officers on January 16, 2010 I give special thanks. We spent a wonderful evening at the Bayou Club. Everyone enjoyed the program.



Larry attended the MOAA Board of Directors meeting in San Diego and received our 5 Star Award for 2008. He presented it to the assembled Chapter members at the Installation ceremony. It now flies on the Chapter flag. We earned the 5 Star Chapter designation in 2000, 2002-08 and with your help we will receive this designation again for 2009. I call upon each of you to help maintain this outstanding performance for years to come.

Our special guest and speaker was Under Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, Admiral USN (Ret) Thomas Hall who directly served President Bush and President Obama. Secretary Hall was Director of Reserve Component Affairs at the DOD. He is now retired and was able to tell us what is happening at the DOD level. His message was on target and the question period that followed provided us an insight that we did not have when walking into this installation ceremony. It was very informative.

See President's, Pg 9

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Proposed Bylaws Change Summary

The Executive Committee proposes a substantive change and three administrative changes to the bylaws as follows.

The substantive change would be to allow spouses of chapter members or Life Members Emeritus to become Auxiliary Members. This is not intended to alter the status of current or future Auxiliary Members who are widows or widowers. It would, however, let the chapter take advantage of the skills of spouses, and it would give spouses a clear-cut opportunity to serve the chapter through elective office.

The first administrative change would clarify that individuals nominated to elective offices must be either chapter members, Life Members Emeritus, or Auxiliary Members. The second change would more clearly define that the Board of Directors consists of the five officers: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The third change is a move of Section 5 of Article V, to Section 1 (b) of Article VII, where it applies.

The Executive Committee feels these changes to the bylaws would be in the best interests of the chapter and encourages eligible members to vote for them when presented to the general membership.

Proposed Additions and Strikeouts to the Bylaws of the St. Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA, a 501 (c) 19 Veterans' Organization

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING RIGHTS

Section 1. Subject to the provisions hereof, membership shall be composed of:

(a) Men and women who are or have been officers - that is, commissioned officers, commissioned warrant officers, and warrant officers - of the regular, reserve, National Guard of the United States, and other components of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service.

(b) Spouses of individuals who are Chapter members or Life Members Emeritus.

~~(b)~~ (c) Widows and widowers of deceased members or of any deceased individual who would, if living, be eligible for membership.

See Proposed Changes Page 3



Officers Call



Print Media Winner- 2006

Print Media 1st Runner-Up - 2008

-*Officers Call* is published monthly by The St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA, Inc. P.O. Box 7054, St Petersburg, FL 33734. Articles in *Officers Call* are the sole opinion of the authors and do not necessarily reflect policies or opinions of the publisher. Mailed as third class mail at the Manasota Post Office, Permit #1533. Printed by Creative Technology of Sarasota, Inc.

- Editor – CWO4 Jim Patton, USCG 393-4160
- Reporter/Photos – CWO4 Basil Burrell, USCG 821-7365

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

DIRECTORS

President- MAJ Ed Lillich, USA (Ret) 546-2246
 1st VP- LTC Terry Carr, USA (Ret) 392-6524
 2nd VP- LTJG Larry Butterfield, USN (Fmr) 289-8559
 Secretary- Mrs. Chris Lillich Spouse-A 546-2246
 Treasurer- Maj Pete Dawson, USAF (Ret) 894-3761

EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD

2010 —

CDR Bill Bolin, USN (Ret) 584-1595
 CDR Maureen Conners, USN (Ret) 347-7976
 Mrs. Barbara Walters, AuxMbr-A 595-4619

2010 & 2011 —

Col Bill Lofgren, USAF (Ret) 528-3946
 1LT Hazel Murphy, USANC (Fmr) 347-5195
 Mrs. Johnnie Neville, AuxMbr-AF 522-5685

Immediate Past President

Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF (Ret) 522-6237

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advertising LTC Janice Mogan, USA 381-3997
 Auxiliary Liaison Mrs Anita Harrow, AuxMbr-N .. 367-9050
 Awards Maj Gen Earl Peck, USAF 525-1688
 Bylaws/Policy Bk LtCol Fred Edwards, USMC 360-2936
 Chaplain COL George Brown, USA 866-6859
 Chaplain Ass't Capt Charlene Sanders USAF 894-6050
 Data Base Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF 522-6237
 Electronic Info Lt Col Larry Fernald USAF 522-6237
 Historian: LTC Marie Lorence, USA 595-1342
 HOT Mrs Anita Harrow, AuxMbr-N .. 367-9050
 JROTC MAJ Ed Lillich, USA 546-2246
 Law: CAPT Don Freese, USN 360-3102
 Legislative: CWO4 Jim Patton, USCG 393-4160
 MacDill Liaison ... Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A 595-5543
 Master at Arms CWO4 Basil Burrell, USCG 821-7365
 Membership LTJG Larry Butterfield USN 289-8559
 Memorial Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A 595-5543
 Newsletter CWO4 Jim Patton, USCG 393-4160
 Nominating Cmte Col Bill Lofgren, USAF 528-3946
 Personal Affairs ... Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A 595-5543
 Programs LTC Terry Carr, USA 392-6524
 Publicity: Mrs. Chris Lillich 546-2246
 Reservations CDR Bill Bolin, USNR 584-1595
 ROWC Liaison Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A 595-5543
 Scholarships: Vacant
 TOPS COL Ron Merritt, USA 367-9809
 VA Vol Svc CDR Maureen Conners, USN ... 347-7976
 Vet Liaison MAJ Ed Lillich, USA 546-2246
 Visitation LCDR Hazel McGrath, USN 545-3884

Chapter Statistics

Total Membership - 299
 Regular Members - 220
 Auxiliary Members - 79
 Inactive Members - (7)

Military Services:

Army - 71 USMC - 16
 USAF - 73 USCG - 7
 Navy - 50 NOAA - 0

1/15/2010

Luncheon Meetings The 3rd Friday — mixer
 11:00 - 11:45; luncheon program 11:45 - 13:15;
 BanquetMasters, 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Pk.

CALENDAR

February 19th, LtCol Fred Edwards, USMC (Ret)

March 19th,

April 16th

**** Need a ride to the luncheon?**

Call: CDR Bill Bolin 584-1595 or

Lt Col Larry Fernald, 522-6237

Business Meetings are on the 1st Monday of the month 11:30-12:30 at Perkins Restaurant on the NE corner of Starkey Rd. & Park Blvd., Seminole.

February 1st Monday

March 1st Monday

April 5th Monday

May 3rd Monday

ROWC

Luncheons:

- January thru May--Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd Luncheon Reservations: Bobbie Walters, 595-4619, or Evelyn Hamilton, 399-1272

Bridge: (1st Wednesday of the month) 10:00 AM

Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park.

- Reservations or Information: Evelyn Hamilton 399-1272

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Proposed Changes From Page 1

Section 2. Membership shall be of the following classes:

- (a). Regular Members: Those eligible for membership as prescribed in Section 1 (a) of this Article.
- (b) Auxiliary Members: Those eligible for membership as prescribed in Section 1 (b) and 1 (c) of this Article.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the Chapter shall be the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

~~Section 1. 2.~~ The President shall be the chief executive ~~of the Chapter~~ and shall be, ex-officio, a member of all committees except for the Nominating Committee. He shall appoint standing and special committees, other than the Executive Committee. The President or First Vice President only, unless some other person is specifically authorized by vote of the Board of Directors, shall sign all deeds, mortgages, extension agreements, leases and contracts of the corporation.

~~Section 2. 3.~~ The responsibilities and duties of all other officers have been established by custom. When any doubt exists, the decision of the President shall be final.

~~Section 3. 4.~~ A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the First Vice President until the next regular election of officers of the corporation.

~~Section 4. 5.~~ Any other officer vacancy shall be filled by a ~~Regular Member or the spouse of a Regular Member, by a Life Member Emeritus or the spouse of a Life Member Emeritus,~~ or by an Auxiliary Member. The appointment shall be by a majority vote of the Executive Committee and shall stand until the next regular election of officers of the corporation.

~~Section 5. Any vacancy on the Executive Advisory Board of the Executive Committee shall be filled by the Executive Committee until the next regular election of officers of the corporation.~~

ARTICLE VI - DIRECTORS

Section 1. The business management and affairs of the Chapter shall be under the direction and control of the Board of Directors, which consists of the officers. President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Board has the authority to authorize contracts, incur liabilities, expend funds, and attend to such other matters connected with the conduct of the Chapter, as, from time to time, it may determine. The Chapter membership reserves the right to direct and control the Board of Directors in their exercising of these powers.

ARTICLE VII - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. There shall be an Executive Committee, consisting of:

- (a) The Board of Directors.
- (b) A six-member Executive Advisory Board, consisting of any combination of Regular Members, ~~Regular Member's spouses, Life Members Emeritus, spouses of Life Members~~

Emeritus, or Auxiliary Members shall be elected at large. Three members shall serve until the next annual election and three shall serve until the next succeeding annual election. Any vacancy on the Executive Advisory Board of the Executive Committee shall be filled by an appointee of the Executive Committee until the next Annual Membership Meeting of the Chapter.

ARTICLE XI - ELECTIONS

Section 1. ~~Officers and members of the Executive Advisory Board~~ shall be elected at the Annual Membership Meeting of the Chapter. The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee of not less than three members, whose names shall be announced at the regular meeting eight months preceding such election. This Nominating Committee shall submit its proposed slate of candidates to the membership-at-large, and receive any additional nominations of candidates from the floor at the Regular Membership Meeting one month preceding the election. All candidates must meet the prerequisites outlined in Section 2 of this Article.

Section 2. To be eligible for election, a candidate must be either a Regular Member, Life Member Emeritus, or Auxiliary Member, and must agree to accept the position to which nominated.

~~Section 3. 2:~~ After the nominating meeting, ballots listing the names of all candidates shall be mailed to all members entitled to vote. Ballots may be voted and returned by mail to the Chapter, or they may be delivered at the Annual Membership Meeting to the Canvassing Committee not later than 1200 hours of the day of the meeting. The Canvassing Committee, composed of not less than three voting members, shall be named by the President and announced to the membership in the call for ballots. Said Canvassing Committee shall count the ballots and certify the results of the election at the Annual Membership Meeting.

~~Section 4. 3:~~ Newly elected officers and members of the Executive Advisory Board shall be installed at the Regular Membership Meeting next following the Annual Membership Meeting.

Letter From Admiral Ryan

Col Fernald and Members of the St Petersburg Area Chapter:

Your generous gifts continue to make such a difference! Because of loyal and committed donors like you, we are able to provide \$9.1 million to 1,650 students from military families for college this year. The vast majority of these students received a \$5,500 interest-free loan, which they will begin repaying upon graduation. These are such intelligent, motivated and responsible young people, and it is so rewarding to know that they are our future

We appreciate your trust in our stewardship of your gift and your continued belief in taking care of our military families.

Thank you for this wonderful gift and for your service to our country. You are all valued members of MOAA.





Executive Committee Meeting St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA; 4 January 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Fernald at 1130 hours. Ed Lillich gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Larry. Seventeen were present including Bill Bolin, Terry Carr, Ed Conners, Pete Dawson, Fred Edwards, Larry Fernald, Don Freese, Anita Harrow, Chris Lillich, Ed Lillich, Bill Lofgren, Stew Palmer, Jim Patton, Earl Peck, Charlene Sanders, Violet Smith and Bobbie Walters.



Minutes of Previous Meeting: There being no additions or corrections to the minutes, motion was made by Jim Patton, seconded by Anita Harrow that minutes be approved as printed in the O.C. Motion Passed.

Treasurer's Report: Pete Dawson reported that the balance in the operating account is \$10,210.73. Seven thousand dollars was sent to the Scholarship Fund. Earl Peck moved that the treasurer's report be accepted as presented, seconded by Fred Edwards. The full Treasurer's report is found elsewhere in the O.C.

First Vice President's Report: Ed Lillich had nothing official to report but he thanked everyone for prayers, thoughts, visits and cards while he was hospitalized.

H.O.T. Anita Harrow thanked Larry Fernald for all the help he gave in mailing 28 boxes in December. Anita will again need help for the January boxes and plans to get them out the week after the installation dinner. Victor Wood, a new Chapter member, donated seven autographed books to be put in the boxes. Trish Hayden, our December luncheon speaker, gave Anita many other ideas for items that the troops would enjoy having in the boxes.

Scholarship: Larry Fernald received a letter from Shelley S. Marshall, USN (Ret), Scholarship Fund Development Officer, thanking the Chapter for being so generous in our donations to the Scholarship fund.

JROTC: The Admiral Farragut Academy Honor Guard will present the colors at the installation banquet on January 16, 2010.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Member Liaison: Violet Smith reported on the health status of chapter members..

Bylaws/Policy Book: Fred Edwards presented the proposed amendments to the by-laws for approval of the Board. There being no dissenting discussion, Fred made a motion to

present the proposed amendments to the by-laws as approved by the Board of Directors to the general membership at the February luncheon. Motion was seconded by Earl Peck. Motion carried by unanimous vote. The proposed changes are printed in their entirety elsewhere in the February O.C. Larry thanked Fred for all his diligent work on the amendments.

Membership: Terry Carr reported there still are 32 delinquent in renewing dues, six have chosen not to rejoin and three are out of the area. Telephone calls will be made to all those in delinquent status.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion took place regarding invitations we have received to have our membership hold one of its regular luncheon meetings at Westminster Assisted Living Facilities. It was decided to table any further discussion at this time, but Westminster will be permitted to have a table at one of our luncheons to display the offerings of the facility and be available to answer any questions prior to or after the luncheon meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

President Larry thanked all those who are leaving the board for all their help and expertise. Larry introduced Charlene R. Sanders, Capt USAF (Ret) who will act as Assistant Chaplain in 2010. Charlene is a local Minister, having graduated from the St. Petersburg Seminary.

Maureen Conners will take over the VA Volunteer Service position. Maureen replaces Hazel McGrath who, due to current health issues is not able to carry on with this position.

There being no further business Charlene Sanders gave the benediction and the meeting was adjourned at 1245 hours. The next board meeting will be Monday, 1 February 2010.

Changes to Retiree ID Renewal Rules

Homeland Security Directive 12 now requires retirees and family members seeking to renew or replace a military identification card to provide two types of ID, one of which must include a photo. A list of acceptable documents can be found in PDF format on page No. 4 of Form I-9 (see link below to access this form):

<http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/I-9.pdf>

Before visiting a military ID card issuing facility, you may want to call first to determine what specific documents may be required, and to verify the process to renew or replace an ID card. The local ID card issuing facility at MacDill can be reached at 813-828-2278 or you can find other ID card issuing facilities, by visiting the RAPIDS Site Locator website. On this website you can search by city, state or ZIP code: <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsi/owa/home>.





MOAA Legislative Update

Edited by **Jim Patton**
From MOAA and other sources

Medicare Therapy Cap Looms

Congress failed to approve an extension of the Medicare therapy cap exception before it expired on Dec 31. Without the cap exception, Medicare payments for speech, physical, or occupational therapy will be limited to \$1,860 for 2010. Medicare beneficiaries needing therapy services in excess of that cap will pay any such excess expenses out of pocket.

This could pose very significant costs for Medicare-eligibles recovering from stroke, hip fracture, or other severe conditions that require extensive therapy to continue their recovery.

The therapy cap was originally approved by the 1997 Balanced Budget Act, but Congress delayed implementation of the cap three times from 1999 through 2003.

In 2005 the therapy cap was allowed to take effect, but Congress authorized an exceptions process for beneficiaries if their therapy was deemed a medical necessity.

With the exception to the cap now gone, many may go without necessary therapy until Congress takes action to reauthorize the exceptions for medically necessary care.

MOAA supports repealing the caps altogether, but renewal of the current therapy cap exception is the minimum action needed to protect the Medicare beneficiaries who need care most.

Both the House and Senate health care reform bills contain provisions to extend the cap exceptions, but these bills are still up in the air and are most likely weeks away from passing.

Medicare Part B Inequity Strike

In years like 2010 when there's no Social Security COLA, current law protects most Medicare beneficiaries from premium increases. This "hold harmless" provision covers nearly 75% of Medicare beneficiaries who will maintain their 2009 Part B premiums of \$96.40 per month

The other 25% of Medicare-eligibles will see a significant increase in their premiums. Those affected by the Part B premium increase include:

- new eligibles who will turn 65 in 2010
- Medicare beneficiaries who don't yet receive Social Security benefits and pay Part B premiums directly to Medicare
- some Medicare-eligibles who also qualify for Medicaid
- beneficiaries with 2008 adjusted gross incomes greater than \$85,000 (\$170,000 for married couples)

Even though overall inflation was negative for FY2009, medical costs actually rose, and that's what drives Part B premiums, which are supposed to reflect 25% of Medicare's cost of delivering care. But when the premium for 75% of beneficiaries is frozen, the cost increase must be borne entirely by the remaining 25% (about 11 million beneficiaries).

So the basic Part B premium for beneficiaries not protected by the "hold harmless" provision will be \$110.50 a month in 2010 - a \$14.10 increase. Premiums for higher-income people with a modified adjusted gross income of more than \$85,000 (for those filing an individual return) or \$170,000 (married couples filing jointly) will rise even more -- to \$154.70 - \$353.60 a month, depending on the size of their incomes.

MOAA believes all Medicare-eligibles should have their premiums frozen in years with no Social Security COLA, and the House already passed legislation (H.R. 3631) to do that. But the Senate has to pass it to make it happen.

Please send your Senators a message urging them to pass this important legislation.

Did Your Net Retired Pay Drop in January?

Federal income tax withholdings increased slightly in January, yielding a net reduction in most members' military retired pay checks.

But the withholdings adjustment wasn't some new tax increase. It occurred because last year's economic stimulus package provided extra money in retirees' checks for the last eight months of 2009.

For 2009 and 2010, last year's Making Work Pay provision of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act authorized a refundable tax credit of up to \$400 for working individuals and up to \$800 for married taxpayers filing joint returns. The law was enacted in February 2009 and the IRS needed additional time to adjust tax withholding tables. Because of that delay, the \$400/\$800 tax reduction for calendar year 2009 had to be packed into the May-December paychecks rather than equally spread over the January-December checks.

In 2010, by contrast, the \$400/\$800 withholding reduction could be spread over the full 12 months of the year.

An example will illustrate. Reducing withholding by \$400 over 8 months of 2009 meant a single person's taxes went down \$50 a month for May thru Dec of 2009. In 2010, that same \$400 withholding reduction will be spread over 12 months...meaning their taxes are reduced by \$33.33 a month for 2010.

So between Dec 2009 and Jan 2010, they'll see their withholding increase (and take-home pay go down) by \$16.67.

So there was no new law or tax change. It's just that the two-year stimulus withholding initiative could not be implemented until the spring of 2009, so the tax withholding schedule had to be different for 2009 and 2010 in order to give people full \$400 tax credit each year.

If there had been a COLA for 2010, most people probably wouldn't have noticed this unusual withholding issue.

But the absence of any COLA made the change obvious – far more obvious than the explanation is!

See Legislature, Pg 8





Installation Banquet; 16 January 2010

Reported by Larry Fernald

Attended – 70: (73 reservations), 0 Member Guest,
6 Chapter Guest
[2 Cancels, 1 No-show]

The Installation Banquet was called to order at 1830 hours by Chapter President, Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF (Ret). Larry thanked everyone for attending and thanked all the Executive Committee members from the last year for making his job as president very easy and very enjoyable. Larry then introduced the Master of Ceremonies for the banquet, Maj Gen Earl Peck, USAF (Ret). General Peck extended his welcome to all present, and called upon Capt Charlene Sanders, USAF (Ret), and our new assistant chaplain, to give the invocation. Following the invocation, General Peck introduced the members of the Admiral Farragut Academy Honor Guard, and issued the order for them to “Present Colors,” which they did. General Peck then led us in the pledge to our Nation’s Flag. After the pledge, the color guard was dismissed to take their seats and enjoy the meal and evening as our guests.



Gen Peck introduced the guests sitting at the head table, followed by introductions of former MOAA Board of Directors members (1 present), former MOAA National Auxiliary Advisory Committee members (1 present), former Florida Council of Chapters President (1 present), Chapter Distinguished Members (4 present), Life Members Emeritus (4 present), and Past Presidents (7 present).

Following the introductions, General Peck announced the 2009 chapter awards. LTC Marie Lorence, USA (Ret), was awarded an unprecedented second award of Chapter Life Member Emeritus for her dedication and devotion to the chapter. Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF (Ret), was awarded a Distinguished Member award.

General Peck then introduced our president, who presented the Chapter with the 2008 5-Star Award from MOAA. Larry commented that he had received the award in the chapters name while at the MOAA board of directors meeting in San Diego in October where the award had been presented by General Neal, the chairman of MOAA’s Board of Directors. Larry commented that the banner had “2009” embroidered on it, but it really was for 2008; however we will win another 5-Star award for 2009.

Since we were running ahead of schedule at this point, Gen Peck decided to entertain us with some humor, and given the problems that NBC created between Jay Leno and Conan O’Brien, we might have found a very viable solution for NBC.

At this point, we recessed for dinner, which turned out to be excellent, as was the service and location.

Toward the end of the dinner recess, Larry took the mic and introduced the young lady with whom he worked to make the banquet happen—actually, she did all the work and Larry just nodded OK from time to time. Larry thanked Ms. Kari Perky for her outstanding job and for the excellent staff she had assembled who made the evening a really enjoyable event.

After dinner, General Peck introduced Larry, who put on his FCOC West Central Area Vice President hat and conducted the installation of our new officers for 2010. In other words, Larry installed his replacement MAJ Ed Lillich, USA (Ret), as our new President; LTC Terry Carr, USA (Ret), as 1st Vice President; LTJG Larry Butterfield, USN (Fmr), 2nd Vice President; Maj Pete Dawson, USAF (Ret), as Treasurer; Mrs. Chris Lillich as Secretary; and the incoming board members for 2010 and 2011: Col Bill Lofgren, USAF (Ret); 1LT Hazel Murphy, USANC (Fmr); Mrs. Johnnie Neville, Life AuxMbr-RAF; and CDR Maureen Connors, USN (Ret) who will complete a one year term for 2010.



General Peck then resumed his duties as Master of Ceremonies, and provided an excellent introduction of our guest speaker, former Undersecretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, the Honorable Thomas Hall, who also happens to be a retired Navy Rear Admiral, and a Naval Academy classmate of Don Freese.

Secretary Hall updated us on the state of our military reserve forces and provided an excellent overview of reserve component units and their activities and rotation schedules to Iraq and Afghanistan. He went on to talk about the DoD and his confidence in that organization.

Following Secretary Hall’s address, new president Ed Lillich performed his first function as president and presented a set of Chapter monogrammed glasses to Secretary Hall as a memento and as thanks for his presentation and presence. Ed assured the Secretary that the glasses would hold scotch just fine.



Following the gift presentation, Ed Lillich called upon COL George Brown, USA (Ret), our Chaplain, to give the benediction.

The installation banquet was adjourned at 2115.





Ed Lillich relieves Larry Fernald as President



Secretary Tom Hall Guest Speaker



General Peck Master of Ceremonies



Larry Butterfield
2nd Vice President



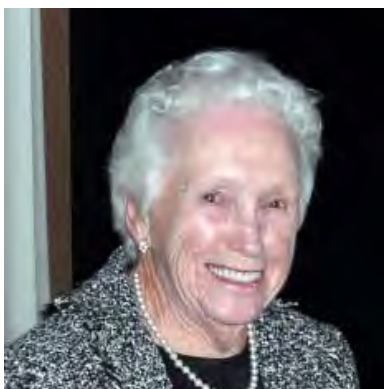
2010 Officers l to r Pete Dawson,
Treasurer, Chris Lillich, Secretary,
Larry Butterfield, 2nd VP, Terry Carr 1st
VP, Ed Lillich President



Charlene Sanders
Assistant Chaplain



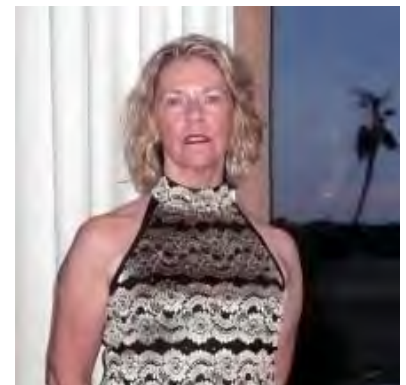
Pauline Edwards



Hazel Murphy



Johnnie Neville with Daughter Chris



Kathi Patton

Photos by Jim Patton



TAPS

CAPT Terry McGillicuddy, USN (Ret),
27 December 2009

LTJG Henry “Hank” Curren, USN (Fmr),
11 January 2010

Our thoughts and prayers are with family and friends.



Welcome Our New Members!

LTC Neal White, USA (Ret) and Lee,
13711 88th Place, Seminole, FL 33776 (727)
391-7775

Legislature from Pg 5

MOAA Goals for Veterans

House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Bob Filner (D-CA) and Ranking Member Steve Buyer (R-IN) welcomed MOAA and other military and veterans groups for a wide-ranging discussion on 2010 legislative priorities for veterans. MOAA Deputy Director Bob Norton, USA (Ret) testified for the Association.

More than a dozen legislators participated in the session.

MOAA-cited goals included:

- VA caregiver compensation and benefits legislation
- Readjustment of wounded warriors – ‘seamless transition’, with priority attention for veterans with PTSD/TBI, women veterans and those at risk of becoming homeless. A separate joint DoD-VA agency should be created to oversee multiple initiatives
- Overhaul of the VA claims system. MOAA recommends moving to a paperless, integrated system as quickly as possible to address a backlog expected to approach a million claims
- Survivors’ benefits upgrades, including increased dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC), allowing DIC retention for survivors who remarry after age 55, and creating a housing allowance for survivors who use survivor educational benefits
- GI Bill Upgrades, including coverage for full-time National Guard servicemembers on state active duty orders, allowing NOAA and USPHS officers to transfer benefits to family members, and streamline the rate mechanism for the cost of attending a public college

February Birthdays

(39 to 92 years)

Day	LName	FName	Rank	SVC
14	Alpert	Florence	Mrs.	AuxMbr-AF
29	Barnum	Ralph	CDR	USN (Ret)
05	Berns	Robert	Col	USMC (Ret)
27	Brodeur	Donald	Capt	USAF (Ret)
07	Carter	Nelson	WO3	USN (Ret)
15	Darling	John	LTC	USA (Ret)
02	Fernald	Laurance	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
24	Fratarangelo	Paul	MajGen	USMC (Ret)
23	Freese	Marc	LtCol	USMC (Res)
04	Funsch	Richard	CAPT	USCG (Ret)
18	Garnhart	George	LTC	USA (Ret)
05	Kisbany	Sara	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
26	Knab	Douglas	CAPT	USN (Ret)
07	Moore	Frances	Mrs.	AuxMbr-AF
23	Mortensen	Marilyn	Mrs.	AuxMbr-N
10	O’Toole	Charles	CAPT	USN (Ret)
19	Patton	James	CWO4	USCG (Ret)
25	Shine	John	Col	USMCR (Ret)
19	Steinhilber	Marion	LTC	USA (Ret)
20	Tondreau	Herbert	CWO4	USA (Ret)
14	Vallario	Rudolph	LTC	USA (Ret)

Sick List

Your cards, prayers, and thoughts are welcome.
(Contact **LCDR Hazel McGrath**, 545-3884)

*While Hazel is recovering, please contact
CWO4 Jim Patton, USCG (Ret) 727-393-4160*

- **LTC Sarah Niblack**, USA (Ret)
- **COL Roger Shields**, USA (Ret)
- **LCDR Hazel McGrath**, USN (Ret)
- **Col Thurm Dwyre**, USAF (Ret)
- **Lt Col John Milford**, USAF (Ret)

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Stephen E. Fisherkeller





2010 Scholarship Fund Donors (Includes donations to National MOAA)

Gold (\$100 & more); Silver (\$50-99); Bronze (\$1-49)

••GOLD –
Fernald, Larry Lt Col
Freese, Don CAPT
Love, H. B. COL
Peck, Earl Maj Gen

••SILVER –
Neville, Johnnie Mrs.
Trahan, Creighton LTC

••BRONZE –
Brown, Gary B Gen
Christy, Marge Mrs

Member donations ONLY:
\$560 as of 1/15/2010

THEHOTPROJECT HELPING OUR TROOPS

Reported by Anita J. Harrow, Chairperson

HOT MAIL!

We pack and ship boxes each month as a labor of love and gratitude to our troops for the sacrifices they make daily on our behalf. With their multitude of daily responsibilities and need to remain constantly focused on task, we do not expect to hear from our troops, but are thrilled and humbled when we do. Following are some of the letters received from the field:

“We would like to say thank you for the care packages you have sent to us. Because of your care and consideration the spirits of our troops have been uplifted during this holiday season. Thank you for everything you have done for us and the troops on our compound.” *Chaplain’s Office*

“I would like to express my deepest gratitude and thankfulness for your generosity to us soldiers here deployed. We received your care packages! You have no idea how much it means to us to receive even the smallest of things from caring citizens such as yourself. We truly appreciate and thank you for everything you do for us. Our behalf of the men and women of United States Forces-Afghanistan, I thank you and wish you all Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year. We will continue to defend our nation and make folks like you proud. Thanks again and God Bless.” *Staff Sergeant , USAF, Afghanistan*

“Thanks so much for sending the gifts for the deployed service members. Your thoughtfulness is incredible. The items that you sent, cookies, popcorn, peanuts, balls, and caps, all help lift the spirits of those that are here. I am almost finished with my duty here and will depart with many memories. One mark that is left on my heart, that will follow me the rest of my life, is how you went out of your way to show your appreciation to the soldiers, sailors, and airmen at

President from Pg 1

I thanked Secretary Hall for his message and General Peck for performing his duties as Master Of Ceremonies in his typical masterful way. I thanked our Council Area Vice President, Past President Larry Fernald, for performing my installation. I know that it made him very happy. I thanked Larry for his guidance and help over the past two years. I thanked my best friend, my wife Chris, for all of her support and tolerance. (For the past 56 years)

To each of you I thank you for the honor you have given me by selecting me to be your President. With pride and humility I accept this responsibility.

I have had the privilege of working with you for the past two years as your First Vice President and am looking forward to many more years of working with you. I promise to give it my all.

I will perform the duties as President for the next two years but I cannot do it alone. I’m asking you for your continued assistance. Working together we will maintain the standards that have given us the Five Star Chapter designation.

The Executive Board consists of many outstanding Chapter members, all of whom are volunteers. I’m impressed with the many talents they possess. Each is an expert in his or her area of experience. Due to their diligence I have not been surprised by the accolades that this Chapter has received. As a Director and Board member I look forward to working with each of them and with you the members of this great Chapter.

This Chapter’s past leaders have set the standards that have made us one of the best, if not the best, chapters in the Council. I will strive to carry on this tradition.

HOT Continued

this base. May God grant you a special blessing for your actions.”

Lt Col, Afghanistan

Yes, each month we send care packages, but they are a small token of appreciation for the great sacrifices our troops make each and every day for our nation. Let us remember their generosity and pray “*Lord, please hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us.*”

2009 Help Our Troops Donors

Gold (\$50 & more); Silver (\$25-49); Bronze (\$1-24)

••GOLD –
Fernald, Larry Lt Col
Christy, Marge Mrs
Freese, Don CAPT
Love, H. B. COL
Peck, Earl Maj Gen
Smith, Paul BG

Member donations ONLY:
\$250 as of 1/15/2010





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Thru May 2010

Financial Report Summary for the Month of December– 2009

Officers Call Booster

..... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ (1,056.25)
..... Donations	\$ 1,331.83
..... Ad Income	\$ 0.00
..... Postage & Printing Expenses	\$ (275.58)
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 0.00

HOT Fund

..... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 4,024.50
..... Donations	\$ 377.00
..... Expenses	\$ (943.85)
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 3,457.65

Scholarship Fund

..... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 6,790.41
..... Donations	\$ 243.59
..... Memorials	\$ 0.00
..... 50/50 Income	\$ 70.00
..... Expended	\$ (7,000.00)
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 104.00

Operating Account

..... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 11,344.45
..... Monthly Luncheon	\$ 1,281.00
..... Dues/Give Me 10	\$ 460.00
..... Miscellaneous Income	\$ 7.19
..... Installation Banquet	\$ 37.50
..... Luncheon Expense	\$ (1,110.00)
..... Supplies & Non-recurring	\$ (1,297.42)
..... Post Office Box Rent	\$ (60.00)
..... Name Tags	\$ (25.00)
..... Other Organizations	\$ (100.00)
..... Printing	\$ (326.99)
..... Other Expenses	\$ (0.00)
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 10,210.73



Thank You
*for your commitment
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Debbie Butterfield**
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Military Discount

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Getting the Ship Under Way

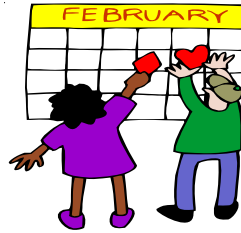
A young ensign had nearly completed his first overseas tour of sea duty when he was given an opportunity to display his ability at getting the ship under way. With a stream of crisp commands, he had the decks buzzing with men, and soon the ship had left port and was streaming out of the channel. The ensign's efficiency has been remarkable. In fact, the deck was abuzz with talk that he had set a new record for getting a destroyer under way. The ensign glowed at his accomplishment and was not all surprised when another seaman approached him with a message from the captain. He was, however, a bit surprised to find that it was a radio message, and he was even more surprised when he read, "My personal congratulations upon completing your underway preparation exercise according to the book and with amazing speed. In your haste, however, you have overlooked one of the unwritten rules: Make sure the captain is aboard before getting under way."

Tip for Parents of Armed Services Personnel

If your child or loved one is enlisting in the armed services or planning to go overseas, the parents should also get passports. If you need to go to your child or loved one due to an emergency while they are overseas, remember that it takes six weeks to process your passport. They can be expedited for a hefty fee, but it will still take two weeks to get your passport.

2010 Florida Council of Chapters Convention

May 21 – 23



We are planning some interesting seminars for you. Along with the most important one, concerning the latest MOAA information, we will have a MOAA/FCOC member who was a flight surgeon flying Navy and Air Force jet fighters in Viet Nam who now has 6 eye clinics, speak to you about the latest innovations in eye surgery. He and

his son, also an Ophthalmologist, have spoken to medical groups all over the country on the newest techniques.

And a seminar just for fun! Author Robert Macomber, who writes historical novels about military Naval campaigns during the Civil War era, will give a talk. He has spoken to the Army War College as well as many other audiences all over the country. We have heard him on 3 occasions, and he was fascinating to listen to, a very enthusiastic and lively speaker who will have you begging for more. You can check out his web site in advance at: www.robertmacomber.com

We are working on other seminars and speakers and will give you updated information as soon as we have it.

Along with our seminars, we have a tour set up to visit the Edison-Ford Winter Estates. Thomas Edison and Henry Ford were best friends – Edison even gave some of his property to Ford so he could build a winter home next door. We will have a guide dressed in period costume who takes on the character he/she is portraying – it might be Mrs. Minna Edison telling you about her house and garden and the friends they entertained there, or Mr. Ford talking about his fishing trips with Edison. There is also the laboratory that Edison used while down here, with all the bottles and gadgets he worked with.

For details and registration form, go to the Florida Council of Chapters website 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. We can even mail a form to you complete with return addressed envelope if you prefer.

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- GOLD –
- Fernald, Larry Lt Col
- Freese, Don CAPT
- Love, H. B. COL
- Neville, Johnnie Mrs.
- Peck, Earl Maj Gen

Member donations ONLY:
\$250 as of 1/15/2010





Our February Speaker: LtCol Fred Edwards, USMC (Ret)

Most of us know that chapter member Fred Edwards is a retired 30-year Marine, a former national board member of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), and a past president of the Florida Council of MOAA. He also is a past president of the St. Petersburg Area Chapter and a Life Member Emeritus of the chapter.



But some may not know that Fred is an accomplished journalist. He has been a copy writer, a public relations director, a general news reporter, a contributing editor, a chief editorial writer, and a news bureau chief. He was Senior Associate Editor of Armed Forces News from 2000 to 2007, and became Special Correspondent in 2008. He has written a column at "Crosshairs - Military Matters in Review" (www.milmat.net) for the last six years.

Fred has written articles for more than two dozen magazines and has had seven books published. The latest is a humor book titled "Sailors are Reasonable: The Saga of Foredeck Fred." Fred holds a Freedom's Foundation George Washington Honor Medal for his essay, "Freedom has a Price." He is listed in recent editions of Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the World, and other biographical publications.



February Events:

- 2nd: Ground Hog Day
- 8th: Boy Scouts Founded
- 13th: St. Petersburg Area Chapter MOAA
Incorporated 1960
- 15th: President's Day
- 23rd: MOAA (formerly TROA) established 1929
- 27th: International Polar Bear Day

LUNCHEON MEETING

11:00 AM - 1:30 PM, February 19th

Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd.

• **Reservations by Wednesday Feb 17th**

Your name: _____.

Each reservation \$12:

Prime Rib: _____

Stuffed Flounder: _____

Cobb Salad: _____

*** **CLIP and MAIL, with check made payable to:**

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Mail to

Lt Col Larry Fernald

P.O. Box 7054

St. Petersburg, FL 33734

**For late reservations &/or a RIDE,
call either:**

CDR Bill Bolin 584-1595 or

Lt Col Larry Fernald, 522-6237

Our Chapter History:

1. Original Articles of Incorporation: Retired Officers' Club of St. Petersburg, Florida, Inc., County of Pinellas, State of Florida, original certificate dated February 13, 1960; probated copy February 11, 1960; State of Florida Recognition, February 15, 1960; Corporate Charter No. 700438 (renewable each year by June 30).

2. Internal Revenue Service, Department. of US Treasury: IRS Code 501 (c) (19), Veterans' Organization is tax exempt and does not have to file annual tax reports to the IRS unless the Chapter's assets exceed the dollar amount designated in IRS regulations (currently \$25,000). The original letter conferring tax exempt status from the Department of the Treasury, dated May 27, 1976 is kept by the President with a copy held by the Secretary.

3. The Chapter became a TROA affiliate on October 18, 1960. The Charter certificate lists the names of all charter members.

4. The Chapter changed its name to the St. Petersburg Chapter, Military Officers Association of America on October 11, 2002.

5. The Chapter changed its name to the St. Petersburg Area Chapter, Military Officers Association of America on April 5, 2006.

