



OFFICERS CALL

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



VOL. VI No. XI ★★★★★ Five Star Chapter: 2000, 2002-07 ★★★★★ November 2008
Print Media Winner 2006; Also, 2003 Won: Print & Electronic Media & Web Site!!

President's Comments:

You are probably wondering why you received the *Officers Call* so early in the month--something is up, right?

Not exactly. Just a long and well deserved vacation for Barb and me as we cruise the Caribbean and Pacific, and transit the Panama Canal with other members of the Chapter.

I'll have more on the cruise for the December edition, though.

And "Thank You" to all who got the information for this issue to me in time to meet the short deadline, especially Basil Burrell, who provided the minutes and photos (for yesterday's luncheon) in record time.

Now, on to business. And the first order of business is the upcoming election of Chapter officers and board members for the coming year.

On Page 8 of this edition, you will find a ballot which I am asking you to cut out, fill out, and either mail to the Chapter or bring with you to either the November or December luncheon, both of which will be held on the SECOND Friday due to the holidays later in those months.

And, speaking of ballots, please remember to vote for the candidate of your choice at the General Election on 4 November. With the cruise and our decision to delay our return to visit one of my brothers and his family who live in California, I totally forgot about the election on the 4th. Fortunately, there is still time to personally pick up a mail-in ballot and return it in time for it to be counted in the election...which is exactly what Barb and I did.

And, speaking of December, please don't forget to bring a toy for the Toys for Tots Program. Our plans for the December luncheon are to have a speaker from Toys for Tots to tell us about the program and share some of the successes that the Marine Reserves, who run the program, have had.

Also at the December luncheon, we plan on having a chorus to perform holiday music.

See President's, Pg 8

Our November Speaker:

Pam Dubov:

Pam began her career with the Pinellas County Property Appraisers Office over 16 years ago as the senior non-elected manager supervising 140 staff in five offices as they prepared over 485,000 appraisals and 325,000 exemptions each year.



Pam, shown here with her husband, LTC Bruce Dubov, USA (Ret)

Pam learned her leadership skills in the United States Army, attaining the rank of Captain before she separated. While on active duty, she served as a Program Manager for the Field Artillery School at Ft Sill; as the Executive Officer, 6th Training Battalion at Ft Sill; the Personnel Officer/Adjutant, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command; and as a Battery Commander, 6th Training Battalion, USAFATC, Ft Sill.

Pam holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Cameron University, Lawton, OK; a Masters of Business Administration degree, with an Information Systems concentration from Florida Institute of Technology; and a Juris Doctor from Stetson University College of Law.

Additionally, Pam has over 500 hours of appraisal and ethics courses and over 115 hours of continuing legal education.

Pam and Bruce have made Florida, and specifically, Pinellas County, their home for the past 22 years.

Renewed your membership in the St Petersburg Area Chapter yet? (Only) Approximately half of us have. See Progress Report, Pg 9 for more information, and please renew soon!



Officers Call



Print media winner-2006

-*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 – Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF 522-6237
- Assistant Editor – CWO4 Don Simmons, USN . 521-2080
- Reporter/Photos – CWO4 Basil Burrell, USCG 821-7365
- Consultant-- Col Al Neville, USAF..... 522-5685

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

President- Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF 522-6237
 1st VP- MAJ Ed Lillich, USA 546-2246
 2nd VP- LTC Janice Mogan, USA 381-3997
 Secretary- Mrs. D Kay Benson, AuxMbr-AF 895-5116
 Treasurer- Maj Pete Dawson, USAF 894-3761

EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD

2008 —

Col Bill Eisenhart, USAF 526-5088
 Col Stew Palmer, USAF 343-5022
 COL HB Love, USA 347-3730

2008 & 2009 —

COL Ron Merritt, USA 397-9809
 LTC Terry Carr, USA 392-6524
 Mrs. Anita Harrow, AuxMember-N 347-3730

Immediate Past President

CAPT Don Freese, USN 360-3102

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

AdvertisingLTC Janice Mogan, USA 360-8549
 Auxiliary Liaison .Mrs Anita Harrow, AuxMbr-N .. 367-9050
 Bylaws/Policy Bk LtCol Fred Edwards, USMC 360-2936
 Chaplain:COL George Brown, USA 866-6859
 Data Base Col Al Neville, USAF 522-5685
 Electronic Info Lt Col Larry Fernald USAF 522-6237
 Historian:LTC Marie Lorence, USA 595-1342
 JROTC MAJ Ed Lillich, USA 546-2246
 Law: Lt Col Alan Christner, USAF 596-3383
 Legislative:CAPT Don Freese, USN 360-3102
 MacDill Liaison ... Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A 595-5543
 Master at ArmsCWO4 Basil Burrell, USCG 821-7365
 MembershipLTC Janice Mogan, USA 381-3997
 MemorialMrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A 595-5543
 Newsletter Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF 522-5685
 Nominating Cmte CAPT Bob Eynatten, USN 360-4637
 Personal Affairs ...Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A 595-5543
 ProgramsMAJ Ed Lillich, USA546-2246
 Publicity:Mrs. D Kay Benson, AuxMbr-AF895-5116
 ROWC LiaisonMrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A 595-5543
 Scholarships: Col Stew Palmer, USAF 343-5022
 TOPSCOL Ron Merritt, USA 367-9809
 VA Vol SvcLCDR Hazel McGrath, USN 545-3884
 Vet LiaisonLtCol Fred Edwards, USMC 360-2936
 VisitationLCDR Hazel McGrath, USN 545-3884
 AND Life Members Emeritus AND Past Presidents

Chapter Statistics

Total Membership - 333
 Regular Members - 243
 Auxillary Members - 90
 Inactive Members - (4)

Military Services:

Army - 83 USMC -16
 USAF - 77 USCG - 10
 Navy - 55 NOAA - 1

10/14/2008

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

CALENDAR

November 14th, Friday (Second Friday), 11:00: Pam Dubov, Pinellas County Appraisers Office

December 12th, Friday(Second Friday), 11:00: Toys for Tots and a Chorus for Holiday Music

--2009--

January 17th, Saturday: Installation Banquet (**NEW DATE**)

February 20th, Friday: TBA

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

**Call: CAPT Bob Eynatten 360-4637
 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.

November 10th Monday (12:30 to 2:00 PM)

December 1st Monday

January 5th Monday

February 2nd Monday

ROWC

- **Luncheon** – (2nd Tuesday) 11:30, lunch 12:30
 Reservations: LTC Rose Munchbach, 397-4146, or Bobby Walters, 595-4619 (luncheons resume in October)
- **Membership:** Martha Willis 579-4116.

Bridge – (1st Wednesday of the month) 10:00 AM
 Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park.
 • Reservations: Evelyn Hamilton 399-1272, or Margaret Peck 525-1688

Having trouble reading the *Officers Call*? Have a home computer?

Did you know that if you were to subscribe to the *Officers Call* via email that you could, using your computer, easily enlarge the pages and even selectively print out a page or more? Or, just read or print it all out **in color!**

To subscribe to the electronic version of *Officers Call*, and save valuable funds for your Chapter, call me at 522-6237.





Happy Birthday, Marines!

By Col Robert A. G. Berns, USMC (Ret)

(Editors Note: On short notice, I asked Col Berns if he would provide me some information on the Marine Corps Birthday, which he graciously did. Thank you, Sir.)

On 1 November 1921, John A. LeJeune, 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, directed that a reminder of the honorable service of the Corps be published by every command, to all Marines throughout the globe, on the birthday of the Corps. In compliance with the will of the 13th Commandant, Article 38, United States Marine Corps Manual, edition of 1921 is always republished as follows:

“(1) On 10 November 1775, a Corps of Marines was created by a resolution of the Continental Congress. Since that date, many thousand men and women have borne the name Marine. In memory of them, it is fitting that we who are Marines should commemorate the birthday of our Corps by calling to mind the glories of its long and illustrious history.

(2) The record of our Corps is one which will bear comparison with that of the most famous military organizations in the world’s history. During 90 of the 146 years of its existence, the Marine Corps has been in action against the nation’s foes. From the battle of Trenton to the Argonne, Marines have won foremost honors in war, and in the long eras of tranquility at home, generation and generation of Marines have grown gray in war in both hemispheres, and in every corner of the seven seas so that our country and its citizens might enjoy peace and security.

(3) In every battle and skirmish since the birth of our Corps, Marines have acquitted themselves with great distinction, winning new honors on each occasion until the term “Marine” has come to signify all that is highest in military efficiency and soldierly virtue.

(4) This high name distinction and soldierly repute, we who are Marines today, have received from those that preceded us in the Corps. With it we also receive the eternal spirit which has animated our Corps from generation to generation and has been the distinguishing mark of the Marines of every age. So long as that spirit continues to flourish, Marines will be found equal to every emergency in the future as they have been in the past, and the men of our nation will regard us as worthy successors to the long line of illustrious men who have served as “soldiers of the seas” since the founding of our Corps.”

The inspiring message of our 13th Commandant left its mark in the hearts and minds of all Marines. It accompanied them at Iwo Jima, the Chosin Reservoir, Dong Ha and Khe Sanh, through engagements in Grenada, Panama, Somalia, on to the deserts of Southwest Asia, and the far reaches of Afganistan. Unselfishly and with diligence, Marines have never failed to support this nation’s requirements. As we celebrate the past, and look forward to the continuing contributions of our Corps, please join General LeJeune in a toast to the United States Marine Corps!

In addition to the historical information, Col Berns provided the following:

At a Marine Corps birthday celebration on the 10th of November a Catholic chaplain opened the ceremony with the following remarks:

O Lord, we have long known that prayer should include confession. Therefore, on behalf of the Marines and their guests gathered here tonight, I’ll confess their sins.

Lord, they’re just not in step with today’s society. They are unreasonable in clinging to old fashioned ideas like patriotism, duty, honor, and country. They hold radical ideas believing they are their brothers’ keeper and responsible for the Marine on their flank. They have been seen standing when the Colors pass, singing the National Anthem at ball games, and drinking toasts to fallen comrades. Not only that, they have been observed standing tall, taking charge, and wearing their hair un-fashionably short.

They have taken Teddy R’s and JFK’s words too seriously and are overly concerned with what they can do for their service and country instead of what it can do for them. They take the Pledge of Allegiance to heart and believe that their oath is to be honored.

Forgive them Lord, for being stubborn men and women who hold these values as genuine. They are aware of the price for honor and with total command of their spirit, they have been willing to pay that price. After all, what more can you expect? They are Marines.

O Lord, bless these men and women of ideals, continue to raise up in this nation strong leaders and deliver us from the “me first” managers and the “don’t ask” followers. Be our honored guest this day, O Lord, and join with us in laughter, good food, good drink, and the telling of tall tales and legends that may occasionally exceed the truth. We bow our heads to those who were lost in places that had meaningless names until the muddy Marines landed.

Watch over and keep safe all those that wear this nation’s uniform with special attention to their families and loved ones everywhere. With brandy and cigar in hand, I salute you all, for through this day and all the following days and nights ahead, God bless you, God bless this great Nation, and God bless the United States Marine Corps.

Semper Fi, and amen!”

(Attributed to Father Putka, University of Dayton)



Col Berns with Col Honore G. Dalton, USMC (Ret), who flew F8U’s in the South Pacific with the likes of Pappy Boyington and a civilian tech rep named Charles Lindbergh





Executive Committee Meeting

St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA;

6 October 2008

Reported by **Chris Lillich, Acting Secretary**

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Fernald at 11:30 a.m. George Brown gave the invocation and Larry led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 15 present: George Brown, Basil Burrell, Terry Carr, Pete Dawson, Larry Fernald, Paul Finley, Don Freese, Ed Lillich, Chris Lillich, Marie Lorenz, Hazel McGrath, Ron Merritt, Janice Mogan, Stew Palmer, and Earl Peck.

Minutes of 8 September 2008: A motion was made by Don Freese and seconded by Ron Merritt that the minutes be approved as published in the O.C. Motion carried.

Treasurer: Pete Dawson reported balances on September 30, 2008 as follows: operating account, \$129.65; H.O.T. fund, \$4043.19; scholarship fund, \$738.41, Officers' Call Boosters, \$149.19. He further reported that dues and donations have started to come in as of October 1, 2008. Since the H.O.T. fund has enough money to take care of its needs Pete Dawson made a motion to now put the memorial fund money and the 50/50 receipts back into the scholarship fund as it had been before H.O.T. needed some start up money. Ed Lillich seconded the motion and it was approved. There being no further discussion Earl Peck made a motion to accept the financial report, seconded by Ron Merritt. Motion carried.

First VP: Ed Lillich reported Col. Dennis Beatty will be our speaker at the October 12 meeting and an Episcopal Church choir will have a musical presentation at the December meeting. A representative for Toys for Tots will be there to accept the toys that are donated by our Chapter. Ed is seeking a speaker for the November meeting.

Second VP: Janice Mogan is still working to get ads and sponsors for the convention. We have seventeen committed to ads and she is half way toward her goal. Don Freese commended Janice on the great job she has been doing. A quote has been received from Creative Technology, Inc. (the same vendor who prints the O.C.) in the amount of \$626 for the cost of printing the souvenir booklet. The cost for the 06 booklet was \$1,666. Ron Merritt is helping Janice in obtaining ads.

Membership Initiatives: Don reported the Chapter had a membership of 318 on 12/31/07 and on 9/30/08 the membership was 333. We received twenty new members so far this year, ten of them as a result of the recent mailings. Twenty have enrolled in the Give Me Ten program this year, 16 are life conversion and 4 are annual. Don said that since MOAA National has a big push for MOAA National members to join a Chapter he recommends that we do a second mailing to the 374 lapsed MOAA members and 139 MOAA prospects in our area. Earl Peck made a motion, seconded by Ron Merritt that we complete this mailing. Motion carried.

Officers' Call: Larry Fernald referred to the smaller photos in the middle section of the O.C. This met with the approval of the entire board.

Scholarship: Philip Costa from Valrico, Florida, a 3.6 student this year, is the Chapter's scholarship recipient for 2008-2009. A letter was received from Philip's mother indicating that due to conflicts in Philip's schedule, he would not be able to visit the Chapter at this time, but may be able to arrange his schedule the first of the year in order to come to one of our meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Terry Carr will begin working on the duties of the 2nd VP, which includes membership. Don Freese will help Terry until the end of the year.

Hazel McGrath reported that Rodney Brickner is in Bay Pines Hospital, 5-B, room 124, Ed Spears had surgery and is at home now, and we are to remember Rose Munchbach, Jane Lambert and Maggie Eynatten who are on the "sick" list.

Violet Smith was unable to attend the meeting as she was meeting with the administrator of the pharmacy and she will be bringing us the new formulary. The third Wednesday of the month is training day and the PharmaCare will be closed that day. Flu shots will be available November 1 but we are to call 813-827-9375 to make sure the serum is available on the day we wish to go to MacDill.

Don Freese announced the next convention planning committee meeting to be Wednesday October 8 at the Sirata. All is going well so far. There still is a lot to do, but plenty of time to do it. There is room for more volunteers. It is too early to tell how the "reserve a room and register now, but be billed in February" is working as only 9 people have reserved rooms for a total of 19 room night including the two hospitality suite rooms. We have committed to 160 room nights that can be reduced to 130, but we would like to fill our total commitment. Souvenir Book ads are off to a good start for a total value of \$3,865 with a goal of \$10,000. Only \$7,805 was sold in 2006. The membership can volunteer, register, reserve a room for at least one night at the Sirata, try to sell one souvenir book ad or at least identify a potential advertiser to Janice Mogan, and buy a convention shirt and ball cap or visor. Don has just started advertising to other chapters. Betty Finley is in need of raffle items. Hats and Visors are \$12.00 each.

Larry said that due to some problems at the Treasure Island Tennis and Yacht Club, he is looking into another venue for the installation banquet. The Chapter has not made any firm commitments with the T.I. club and no contract was signed. In addition, the date may change to Saturday, January 17th depending on where the banquet will be held. Larry Fernald will explore other venues. Suggestions given by the members were the Vinoy, downtown Hilton, Wine Cellar, and others. Membership will be notified as soon as possible.





MOAA Legislative Update

Edited by Don Freese from MOAA and other sources

The Latest on Concurrent Receipt, SBP Payments - The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) gave a special update this week to MOAA and The Military Coalition on progress implementing various compensation fixes for tens of thousands of disabled retirees, SBP enrollees, and survivors.

■ **VA Retro Payments** – This three-year joint effort by DFAS and the VA to recalculate concurrent receipt and VA payments to 230,000 retirees' cases has been completed, and all the payment adjustments have been made. The affected retirees received a total of \$174 million in retroactive payments.

■ **Paid-up Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)** – As of October, SBP payments ended for retirees who are at least age 70 and have paid 30 years (360 cumulative months) of SBP premiums. This affects 137,000 retirees, who will see their retired pay go up in the November checks. The net increase in the check won't be quite as much as the premium, because retired pay is taxable, whereas the SBP premiums were deducted before taxes. In December, DFAS will display an "SBP Counter" on a retiree's Retiree Account Statement that will show the total months of SBP premiums paid to date, so individuals can better project when their premiums will end.

■ **Individual Unemployability Payments** – Last year's defense bill authorized full concurrent receipt, retroactive to Jan. 1, 2005, for retirees designated as "unemployable" by the VA. But the effective date was delayed until October 2008. Affected retirees will see their first monthly payment increase in November, and some will be eligible for additional retroactive payment. DFAS is notifying all who are due retroactive payments, and says those payments should be completed by the end of February.

■ **Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA)** – Last year's defense bill authorized a monthly SSIA of \$50 (which will increase in annual increments to \$100 by 2013) to survivors who now have VA survivor benefits deducted from their SBP. All of those survivors, whether the military sponsor died on active duty or in retirement, will see the first SSIA payment in the November check. The payment will be automatically paid to all eligible survivors.

Congress May Not Be Done This Year.

The defense bills for the new fiscal year have been passed, and the rest of the government's appropriations have been approved providing funding at least into March. Legislators have gone home to campaign for election, and the congressional schedule says the House has adjourned until the start of the new Congress on January 3. But the Senate has scheduled a "lame duck" session for the week of November 17, and there are rumors that the Speaker may call the House back that week, too. They probably won't be taking up any defense or VA is-

issues, but that doesn't necessarily mean that the initiatives won't affect any MOAA members. The Senate will try to ram through a long list of 165 bills, covering various state projects that previously were held up on the basis that they hadn't been fully debated. If the House comes back, it will probably be an indication that leadership thinks they can get an agreement on a new stimulus package to further jump-start the economy.

2008 Un-Passed Bills Are Toast

When Congress adjourns at the end of each two-year session, all of the un-passed bills expire.

All MOAA bills on concurrent receipt, SBP, TRICARE fee protections, Guard/Reserve retirement age, etc., that didn't get wrapped into the FY2009 Defense Authorization Act officially die. And the long lists of legislator cosponsors that you helped build for the legislators expire, too. This means MOAA will start over when the new 111th Congress convenes in January and is a reminder to all of us that these legislative initiatives don't happen by accident. They get passed only through strenuous, repeated collective efforts to push legislators to do the right thing by those who served and sacrificed for the rest of the country.

The lesson from history isn't to get discouraged when our bills don't pass as we all know that great victories rarely come easy. It took year after year of sustained efforts to win TRICARE For Life, elimination of the age-62 SBP annuity reduction, and achieve major inroads on concurrent receipt.

We can win on our other big issues, too, if MOAA and you work together to keep consistent heat on our legislators. Together we are **"One Powerful Voice"** for our military, past, present and future!

Reserve The Date:

17 January 2009

Chapter Installation Ceremony

(This is a change from previous plans)

Location will be announced in December



Left: Karen Anderson





Luncheon Meeting; 17 October 2008

Reported by **Basil Burrell**

Attended – 63: (64 reservations), 35 Members,
9 Auxiliaries, 14 spouses, 2 Member Guests,
4 Chapter Guests
[1 Walk-in, 3 No-shows, 6 Cancellations]

Our President, Larry Fernald, got our affair under way at 1145 – on time – today and asked Chaplain George Brown to give the Invocation. Larry then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag and Country. Larry then called for any guests or first-time attendees to make themselves known. Sarah Jane Cross and Karen Anderson both fit the profile and were made welcome. Larry reminded us that the 2009 Convention will take place 5 to 7 June 2009 at the SIRATA BEACH RESORT on St. Pete Beach. The Sirata is a beautiful resort and prices there are very reasonable even for our friends of Scot ancestry. That includes me! Don Freese then grabbed the floor and brought up that he has forms for reservations and to remind us again that we can make reservations at the Sirata and our plastic will not be charged until June 2009. For planning purposes Don asks that we sign up soon. Don asked if anyone present had been in the D-Day invasion on 6 June 1944 or if anyone had participated in the Battle of Midway. Paul Finley said that he was too old to have been at Midway, but that he remembered the cruise of the Great White Fleet. How about that Paul? Larry then put on his salesman hat and said we have Convention shirts and hats available. Actually the ball caps are Chapter specific and not Convention related. No MOAA pins are available since Violet Smith and Fred and Pauline Edwards are suffering at the MOAA Council and Chapters Convention at Lake Tahoe. Is it possible they are having a good time rather than suffering? Larry reported that the COLA next year will be 5.8 % which means that we will have an increase in both Social Security and Military retirement pay. I haven't heard of any change to the medicare deduction from Social Security. It is possible that some of us will see an increase in our Military retirement pay because of paid-up Survivor Benefit Plan for those of us who have been paying for 30 years or more.

Larry then called for the door prize drawing and wouldn't you know that Barbara Fernald won. Then the equity distribution drawing was held and three prizes were up for grabs today. Mike Tomasulo was a winner and very generously gave his envelope to Anita Harrow for HOT. Way to go Mike. Mike then drew the next number. H.B Love and Fran Shivers were also winners today and then I lost track of what was happening because I was bemoaning my failure to win anything. Larry asked Anita Harrow to say a few words about HOT or Help Our



Troops. We are sending care packages to two Air Force Forward Air Controller units in Afghanistan. Ten boxes were sent last month to the units. Trick or Treat items were sent. Boxes that go out next week will contain notes from members to let the troops know that they are in our hearts and are remembered by our members. Blank Christmas cards will be sent so the troops can send Christmas cards to their families. Nothing new on the Scholarship program at this time. Larry reports that we are about 50% complete on our membership renewal drive and he urges those of us who have not yet renewed to please do so soon. Don't forget that Chapter dues are separate from MOAA dues. If you become a life member of MOAA you won't have to remember to pay MOAA dues every year. I know as one approaches 80, memory is sometimes fleeting!

Larry asked Ed Lillich to introduce our speaker, Col Dennis Beatty, USAF, who is Commander of the 6th Medical Group at MacDill Air Force Base. Col Beatty earned a BS in Biomedical Engineering and a MS in Health Administration with Honors. He was accompanied by LtCol Oatis, Maj McKercher and A1C Bearce today. Col Beatty gave us a complete rundown on the new 6th MDG facilities that are under construction at MacDill and are due to be completed by October 2009. Col Beatty is Commander of the largest, by census, Medical Group in the Air Force. Lt Col. Oatis gave us a primer on the Pharmacy operation and the new robotic dispensing system. Maj McKercher gave an overview of TRICARE, a program for which we are thankful. See how I missed a split infinitive in that sentence!

After a question and answer session, Larry asked Chaplain George Brown for the Benediction and adjourned the meeting.



Nancy Vildibill and
Thurm Dwyre



Convention Shirts and
hats--See Pauline
Edwards to purchase





Harold DeArment



Fred Schlager and our speaker, Col Dennis Beatty, USAF



Louisa Menyhert and Marie Lorence



Earl Peck



A1C Bearce, USAF, and Maj McKercher, USAF, who is the TRICARE Flight Commander at MacDill AFB



Lt Col Ghitiana Oatis, USAF, Pharmacy Flight Commander at MacDill AFB



Basil and Eleanor Burrell



Faye and H. B. Love



Laurie Lanier



Sara Jane Cross and Wilma Fowler



Left: Barb Fernald

Right: Richard Green and Hazel McGrath (Yes, they are both standing on the floor)



Margaret Peck



Jeanne Alvarez



Left: Georgia French and Mike Tomasulo





The Buzz

Chapter Happenings and Items of Interest

Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF (Ret)
522-6237 or Larry246MOAA@sprynet.com

■ The 2009 Convention, as you know, is being hosted by our Chapter. While many of the volunteer positions have been filled, there is always room for more volunteers. So, whatever your speciality may be, please contact Don Freese if you are interested in helping us make this the best convention to date.

■ **Toys for Tots:** Our December luncheon will feature a speaker from the Marine Reserve Toys for Tots Program. Please bring a new, in its original packaging and unopened, gift for a young boy or girl. We will collect them at the luncheon and donate them to the Toys for Tots Program.



President's, From Pg 1

So, please make special note of the December luncheon and plan to attend--and bring along a friend or prospective new member.

Which leads me into the final topic for this months "column"-the January Installation Banquet.

Due to some problems with our previous location, the Executive Board voted to review other options and to select a location at its November 10th meeting. Due to the availability of the other locations that we are looking at, the date will change to the 17th of January. The location will be announced after the Executive Committee reviews the options and will be reported and announced in the December *Officers Call*. Until then, please reserve the 17th of January, even if we do not know the location yet.

In the meantime, please keep sending in your dues for the 2009 calendar year. (See a status update on page 9.)

See you at the November luncheon.

BALLOT FOR 2009 OFFICERS

ELECTION OF OFFICERS, DEC 14, 2008

Complete & bring to Nov.14th or Dec. 12th luncheon meetings, or mail to the Chapter P. O. Box.

President: Lt Col **Larry Fernald**, USAF (Ret)

1st Vice Pres.: MAJ **Ed Lillich**, USA (Ret)

2nd Vice Pres.: LTC **Terry Carr**, USA (Ret)

Secretary: Mrs. **Chris Lillich**, Spouse (A)

Treasurer: Maj **Pete Dawson**, USAF (Ret)

Executive Advisory Board

(Term Expires December 31, 2009)

CDR Maureen Connors, USN (Ret)

Mrs. Anita Harrow, AuxMbr-N

COL Ron Merritt, USA (Ret)

(Term Expires December 31, 2010)

CDR Bill Bolin, USN (Ret)

LT Ed Connors, USN (Ret)

Mrs. Barbara Walters, Aux-A

I ACCEPT THE SLATE AS LISTED

Signature: _____

I accept the slate **except** as indicated _____:

Minutes, From Pg 4

A letter was received from Harold G. DeArment in appreciation of Basil Burrell's efforts in sending cards to the members for birthdays.

The next Executive committee meeting will be held on November 10th from 12:30 to 2:00 PM.

There being no further business, George Brown closed the meeting with a benediction.

grow
financially!

18 branches in the Tampa Bay area.
800.839.6328

growfinancial.org **join today!**



Financial Report for the Month of September 2008

Officers Call Boosters

Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 458.57
Donations	\$ 00.00
Printing Expenses	\$ 309.38
Postage Expenses	\$ 00.00
Balance, End of Month	\$ 149.19

HOT Fund

Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 3,824.77
Donations	\$ 358.00
50/50 Income	\$ 40.00
Expenses	\$ 35.58
Balance, End of Month	\$ 4,043.19

Scholarship Fund

Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 320.41
Donations	\$ 358.00
Memorials	\$ 60.00
Balance, End of Month	\$ 738.41

Operating Account

Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 238.92
Monthly Luncheon	\$ 839.00
Dues/Give Me 10	\$ 120.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 25.00
Luncheon Expense	\$ 870.00
Supplies Expense	\$ 15.00
Postage Expense	\$ 0.00
Printing Expense	\$ 168.65
Memorials Expense	\$ 60.00
Balance, End of Month	\$ 109.27



Welcome our new members!

Bailey, Etha M., Auxiliary Member - Army
311 Bahia Vista Dr, Indian Rocks Beach, 33785
727 596-3580, ethairb@yahoo.com

Hamilton, Rosemary B., Auxiliary Member - Army
5672 24th Ter, N, St Petersburg 33710
727 347-9335

Taylor, Joanne M., MAJ USAR (Ret)
6427 Evergreen Ave, Seminole, 33772
727 388-2384, cell 727 439-0356, jmcous3@yahoo.com

PROGRESS REPORT --Annual Dues and Donation Drives

By now (October 14) everyone should have received a personalized Membership Renewal and annual donation drive letter. It came in our unique color envelope. It was sent 1st class!



As of today we have received 155 returns. There are over 160 of you yet to respond.

Your early response would be much appreciated by this "over age in grade" staff of one!!

Please Vote for Chapter Officers.
See the Ballot on Page 8.

Sick List

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

- * **CWO4 Robert E. Hodgen**, USAF (Ret)
Page 27, 2008 Directory
- * **LTC Richard H. Natzke**, USA (Ret)
Page 35, 2008 Directory
- * **Col Rod Bricker**, USAF (Ret)
Page 18, 2008 Directory
- * **Joan Landers**, AuxMbr-A
Page 31, 2008 Directory
- * **LTC Rose Munchbach**, USA (Ret)
Page 34, 2008 Directory
- * **Louann Andrews**, Spouse
Page 15, 2008 Directory
- * **Maggie Eynatten**, Spouse
Page 23, 2008 Directory
- * **Katherine M. Miller**, AuxMbr-A
Page 34, 2008 Directory

Banquet Masters

*Conference Facilities & Accommodations
for parties of 30 to 700*

All Catered Affairs From 2 to 10,000

**WEDDINGS • CORPORATE CATERING
BANQUETS • PICNICS**

(727) 541-1582 FAX (727) 546-6258

www.banquetmasters.com

8100 PARK BLVD N. • SUITE 201 • PINELLAS PARK, FL 33781

Stephen E. Fisherkeller



For Fish, Steak Pasta & Chops We are Tops!

Serving the beaches since 1992



Breakfast * Lunch * Dinner

Beer • Wine • Cocktails

Happy Hour 5 - 7 pm

Early Bird Menu 4 – 6 pm

Open 7 Days 7 am - 11 pm

Voted Best Greek & Best Family Value

5799 Gulf Boulevard, St. Pete Beach

Across Gulf Boulevard, just
North of the **SIRATA**

727 360-1029

2008 Scholarship Fund Donors (Includes donations to National MOAA)

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

••**GOLD** –

Barton, Ann Mrs.
Bischofs, Henny Mrs.
Burrell, Basil WO4
Caton, Ed Col
Edwards, Fred LtCol
Eynatten, Bob CAPT
Fernald, Larry Lt Col
Freese, Don CAPT
Gudmundson, Brent LTC
Harrow, Anita Mrs.
Isley, Anne Mrs.
Lorence, Maria LTC
Love, HB COL
Nelson, Landy, COL
Neville, Al Col
Palmer, Stew Col
Peck, Earl Maj Gen
Smith, Violet Mrs.

••**SILVER** –

Carr, Terry LTC
Flint, John Col
Parson, Charles Col

••**BRONZE** –

Andrews, Carrol, Lt Col
Balke, Dale COL
Baney, Eleanore Mrs.

Bennett, Will COL
Bonnet, Franklyn LTC
Brink, Charles LTC
Buenzli, Bob Lt Col
Burke, BJ Mrs.
Christie, Robert LtCo.
Cormier, Martha LCDR
Dawson, Pete Maj
D'Louhy, Jacqueline Mrs
Eisenhart, Bill Col
Fratangelo, Pal MajGen
Green, Richard CWO4
Hermann, Peter Col
Kelly, Jacob LT
March, Larry Col
McGrath, Hazel LCDR
Merritt, Ron COL
Nelson, Anthony LTC
Plummer, Dot Mrs
Polk, Cliff Maj
Schramm, Wayne Brig Gen
Shepard, Walter COL
Shivers, Frances Capt
Simmons, Don CWO4
Tondreau, Herbert CWO4
Wildes, Ron Lt Col
Wisner, Charles LCDR

**Member donations ONLY:
\$3,350 as of 10/14/2008**

2008 Help Our Troops Donors

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

••**GOLD** –

Barton, Anne Mrs.
Carr, Terry LTC
Fernald, Larry Lt Col
Fine, Ken MAJ
Finley, Paul LCDR
Freese, Don CAPT
Gilchrist, Gary Lt Col
Gudmundson, Brent LTC
Harrison, Christa Mrs.
Hodgen, Rober CWO4
Hoffan, Elizabeth Capt
Isley, Anne Mrs.
Jessup, John COL
Kottich, Charles COL
Lorence, Marie LTC
Menyhert, Louisa LTC
Nelson, Landy COL
Neville, Al Col
Nolan, Richard Col
Palmer, Stew Col
Peck, Earl Maj Gen
Sumpter, Martha Mrs.

•• **SILVER** –

Augustine, John Col
Balke, Dale COL
Baney, Eleanor Mrs.
Eisenhart, Bill Col
Eynatten, Bob CAPT
Fratangelo, Pal MajGen
Green, Richard CWO4
Harrow, Anita Mrs.
Kottich, Chuck COL
Lanier, Laurie Maj
Milford, John Lt Col
Poteat Genevieve A., Mrs.
Secor, Madaline Mrs.

Smith, Violet Mrs.
Smith, Violet Mrs.
Talbitzer, John LT
Williams, Frances Mrs.

••**BRONZE** –

Andrews, Carrol, Lt Col
Bax, Giles COL
Bennett, Will COL
Bonnet, Franklyn LTC
Brown, Gary B Gen
Butler, Gene Col
Christie, Robert LtCo.
Cormier, Emery Maj
Cowardin, Margaret Mrs.
D'Louhy, Jacqueline Mrs
Edwards, Fred LtCol
Keelly, Jacob LT
Landers, Joan Mrs.
March, Larry Col
McGrath, Hazel LCDR
Merritt, Ron COL
Miller, Katherine Mrs.
Shepard, Walter COL
Shields, Roger COL
Shivers, Frances Capt
Tondreau, Herbert CWO4
Varn, Fred LTC
Wetherby, Shirley Lt Col
Wildes, Ron Lt Col

**Member donations ONLY:
\$2,191 as of 10/14/2008**



Thank You

*for your commitment
and dedicated service
to your country.*



**BAY
PINES**
Federal
Credit
Union





TAPS

**CWO2 Willis Plummer, USN (Ret), 9 October,
2008 Directory, Pg 37**

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends.

2008 Officers Call BOOSTER Donors

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

••GOLD –

Burrell, Basil CWO4
Carr, Terry LTC
Fine, Ken MAJ
Freese, Don CAPT
Gudmundson, Brent LTC
Isley, Anne Mrs.
Lorence, Marie LTC
Love, HB COL
Nelson, Landy COL
Neville, Al Col
Nolan, Richard Col
Peck, Earl Maj Gen
Smith, Violet Mrs.

••SILVER –

Balke, Dale COL
Baney, Eleanor Mrs.
Dawson, Pete Maj
Eynatten, Bob CAPT
Fratrangelo, Pal MajGen

Green, Richard CWO4
Harrow, Anita Mrs
Milford, John Lt Col
Palmer
Vaughn, Sid RADM
Wisner, Charles LCDR

••BRONZE –

Balke, Dale COL
Baney, Eleanor Mrs.
Dawson, Pete Maj
Eynatten, Bob CAPT
Fratrangelo, Pal MajGen
Green, Richard CWO4
Harrow, Anita Mrs
Milford, John Lt Col
Palmer
Vaughn, Sid RADM
Wisner, Charles LCDR

Member donations ONLY:
\$1,202 as of 10/14/2008

Chapter Dues Renewal Letters

Early in October each member should have received his/her annual Chapter dues renewal letter (not to be confused with MOAA national dues, which are paid separately). This communication serves a number of functions, as follows:

- States your annual chapter dues amount (or may say 'Paid' if you've already paid this years dues);
- Reminds you of your MOAA (national) Annual dues renewal date (or your 'Life-MOAA' status);
- Indicates your 2008 donations to date, and;
- Shows, on the second page, the data in your database record for your approval or correction.

This year we used our distinctive color "Our Military and MOAA needs you..." envelope, sent via 1st Class mail so that you can separate it as something other than 'junk mail' and to ensure that the USPS will forward it to your current address, if different than our database.

Please remember that donations received will be credited to the 2008 year. If you wish to have your donation credited to 2009, please mail it in after the first of the year.

Please make your check out to SPAMOAA.

Should you have any questions, please call or email Col Al Neville, 522-5685, or nevil45@tampabay.rr.com

November Birthdays

(58 to 99 years)

Day	L Name	F Name	Rank	SVC
26	Arnim, Rosemary	Mrs.		AuxMbr-A
02	Bihn, Lois	Mrs.		AuxMbr-AF
22	Blatt, Donald	LTC		USA (Ret)
21	Brauner, Clarence	COL		USA (Ret)
22	Christner, Alan	Lt Col		USAF (Ret)
17	Cowsert, Mary	Mrs.		AuxMbr-AF
11	Dollahon, Jack	Lt Col		USAF (Ret)
16	Dwyre, G.Thurman	Col		USAF (Ret)
17	Flint, John	Col		USAF (Ret)
08	Flynt, Gertrude	Mrs.		AuxMbr-A
06	Guinan, Gloria	Mrs.		AuxMbr-A
01	Hansen, George	CPT		USA (Fmr)
09	King, Monroe	CAPT		USN (Ret)
05	Lorence, Marie	LTC		USA (Ret)
03	Maratos, Stanley	Col		USAF (Ret)
16	Milford, John	Lt Col		USAF (Ret)
12	Nolan, Richard	Col		USAF (Ret)
06	O'Hern, Luther	Col		USAF (Ret)
26	Penny, John	LCDR		USNR (Ret)
19	Rohatsch, Ralph	Maj Gen		USAF (Ret)
21	Sears, Claire	Mrs.		AuxMbr-A
27	Taylor, Dorothea	Mrs.		AuxMbr-A
13	Vaughn, Sidney	RADM		USCG (Ret)
27	Walters, Barbara	Mrs.		AuxMbr-A
07	Wilson, Marc	CDR		USCG (Ret)



Grant Culverhouse

Sales & Leasing Consultant

44 years at Dew



3333 Gandy Blvd., Pinellas Park, FL 33781

(727) 822-2019

Toll Free (888) WILL DEW

Cell: (727) 460-3109

www.dewcadillac.com

gculverhouse@dewcadillac.com

Thru Feb 2009



The St. Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA
P.O. Box 7054
St. Petersburg, FL 33734



NON PROFIT
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
MANASOTA FL
PERMIT No. 802

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Happy Birthday, Marines--November 10th



LUNCHEON MEETING

11:00 AM - 1:30 PM, November 14th

Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd.

• Reservations by Wednesday November 12th

Your name: _____.

Each reservation \$11:

Roast Turkey: _____

Stuffed Flounder: _____

Cobb Salad: _____

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

SPAMOOA,

CAPT Bob Eynatten, USN (Ret)

507 Plaza Seville Ct, # 16

Treasure Island, FL 33706

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

CAPT Bob Eynatten 360-4637 or

Lt Col Larry Fernald 522-6237



MOAA Life Membership

Not a Life Member?

Last month's edition had the names of those who recently (within the last several months) converted to MOAA Life Membership.

Within the Chapter, there are numerous of us who have been MOAA Life Members for some time now. That list of names is too large to publish here, unfortunately.

To all who are MOAA Life Members, whether new or for some time: **THANK YOU!**

If you would like information on Life Membership, please contact either Don Freese at 727-360-3102 or Janice Mogan at 727-381-3997.