



OFFICERS CALL

ST. PETERSBURG AREA CHAPTER,

Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 7054 St. Petersburg, FL 33734



VOL IV No III ★★★★★ **Five Star Chapter - 2002, 03 & 04** ★★★★★ March 2006
Winner 2003 Newsletter Contest–Print & Electronic Media & Web Site !!

State of the Chapter

CAPT Don Freese, USN (Ret), President

Recently the Executive Committee changed your chapter's name from St. Petersburg to St. Petersburg Area Chapter. This was done so that the name includes the many diverse communities, not just St. Petersburg, that our members live in and to inform prospective new members from the entire surrounding area that they are welcome to join the St. Petersburg Area Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America.



Your chapter, with 328 members, is part of a much larger team of MOAA chapters. There are 44 chapters in the Florida Council with over 11,000 members and 419 Nationally with over 370,000 members. Together we are "One Powerful Voice" that could be much stronger if we reverse the declining membership trend that we have experienced as our WW II and Korean War members age. Membership growth is an achievable goal as there are over 1,000 National MOAA members in the St. Petersburg Area that are not members of any chapter. Incidentally there are over 33,000 National Members in Florida that are not members of any chapter. Attracting new members is the most important job each of us has!

Why, because together MOAA has fought many battles and won many victories for all veterans, active duty, national guard and reservists over the years. Congress and the President are under intense pressure to cut the defense budget and personnel cuts are a constant target. Most in Congress and the Executive Branch have no military experience nor does anyone in their family. According to the Selective Service 16,307,243 men (no women) were drafted since the modern draft was started during WWI. But the last man drafted entered the Army June 30, 1973. When the draft ended, one-in-two families had someone in the military. Today it is less than one-in-twenty-five and declining. No wonder we have to fight for the defense budget as the great majority of Americans have no contact with the military and take the defense of this country for granted.

A partial list of MOAA victories: 1985 defeated Gramm-Rudman Act, which would have cancelled retired COLAs for

"State" Continued on Page 3

Col Charles E. Potter

Commander, 6th Medical Group

Colonel Charles E. Potter is the Commander, 6th Medical Group, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. As the Commander, he is responsible for providing world class prevention and healthcare services to a global air mobility wing and 52 mission partner units including two combatant commanders. Colonel Potter oversees the Department of Defense's largest single catchment area supporting over 106,000 warfighters, retirees and their families with 160,000 clinic visits, 24,000 dental and 977,000 ancillary visits annually. He accomplishes this with a staff of over 700 military, civilian and contract personnel and an Operations & Maintenance budget in excess of \$46 million.



He received his Baccalaureate Degree from Nyack College in Nyack, New York in 1973 and his Master's Degree from Georgian Court University in Lakewood, New Jersey in 1982. Colonel Potter joined the United States Air Force Reserves in 1980 and received a direct commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Reserves in 1983. Colonel Potter attended the Health Services Administration Course at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas in 1984 and reported to his first active duty assignment in 1985. Colonel Potter has served in a variety of Administrator, Director and Command positions from 1985 to the present.

His presentation will be based on a Department of Defense briefing entitled, "Sustaining the Military Benefit." Handouts will be available for the audience. His subject is important to all of us, and especially to our retired members, spouses, and auxiliary members since the Administration, Congress and the Defense Department are planning to reduce our medical benefits.

Please use the enclosed Forms:

- Convention 2006 Registration**
- New Membership Application**



Officers Call

Published Monthly by The St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA, Inc. P.O. Box 7054, St Petersburg, FL 33734.

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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 St Petersburg Post Office, Permit #1533. Printed by Sir Speedy, St Pete Beach, FL.

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 Visitation LCDR Hazel McGrath, USN 545-3884

AND: Life Members Emeritus and Past Presidents

Chapter Statistics

Total Membership - 328
 Regular Members - 235
 Auxillary Members - 93

Military Services:

Army - 88 USMC - 13
 USAF - 79 USCG - 7
 Navy - 48

From the Editor

COL Roger J. Shields, USA (Ret)

HOT! – “**Help Our Troops**” is a recently approved project to send necessities and goodies to our warriors in Afghanistan. Maj Gen Peck acquired a military postal address which was given to Carolyn Shields who has volunteered to chair the project. As she briefed the attendees at our recent chapter luncheon, her plan is to receive donations of sundry items and “goodies” that are otherwise not available to our troops. She also solicits cash or checks to pay the \$8.10 cost of mailing each box as well as for additional items. If you wish to donate by check, please make it to: SPMOAA and annotate the “For” box with “HOT.” Use our chapter address as it appears on page 12 of your Officers Call newsletter. “HOT” benefits our warriors and benefits our chapter through publicizing our efforts as an aid to recruiting and retention of members. Please bring your donated items as well as your checks to our monthly luncheons.



Avoid bringing aerosol-propelled items or other items susceptible to heat (chocolate, stuff that melts or goes stale) for example. Thank you!

Letters to Congress – If we don’t fight back, we’ll lose or dilute some of our earned entitlements. Perhaps the pen is more powerful than the sword. It’s really the only weapon we have. Congress and the Administration seem determined to cut veteran’s benefits and they will if we don’t fight back. General Pace, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs has rolled over and taken the other Chiefs with him to accede to SecDef’s program to cut our benefits in order to buy weapons and equipment. Retirees under 65 years of age would be required to pay for a portion of Tricare. Recently, Senator Nelson (D, Florida) had persuaded the Senate to kill the “Widow’s Tax.” After legislation went to committee, Senator Nelson’s amendment was stricken from the main bill to which it was attached. The richest nation in the world cuts programs for its warriors and their widows while passing out tax breaks for the wealthiest citizens and refuses to cut the many pork projects now in the Budget! For shame! Let’s use our mighty pens to overwhelm our legislators and the President and keep writing until they do the honorable thing for our military. Without the military there would be no United States of America.

New Web Site – Soon Jim Hughes will be moving from Florida and as most of us know, he was our web manager and winner of MOAA awards for his outstanding web site as well as his electronic message center. Thank you Jim. We’ll miss you. Larry Fernald is our new web manager and he has designed and operated a new Chapter web site. Welcome, Larry. The Chapter is most fortunate to have you as a member. Larry served in the USAF for twenty years and then had a second career as an airline pilot. Web Site: <http://moaastpetearea.com> **RJS**

A HOT Donation!

Recently an auxiliary member of our chapter visited her dentist. While there she mentioned our project – sending needed items to our troops including toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc. The dentist promptly gave her **six dozen** toothbrushes and sample size dental floss and toothpaste! Think of other sources. **RJS**



“State” Continued from Page 1

six years, 1999 authorized dual compensation of military retired pay and pay as a federal employee, 1999 restored the 20 year retirement system, 2001 instituted TRICARE for Life and TRICARE Senior Pharmacy for Medicare eligible retirees, 2004 obtained partial concurrent receipt of retired pay and VA disability compensation, 2005 obtained Basic Allowance for Housing equity for certain Reserve Components, 2005 increased TRICARE support for certain Reserve Components, 2006 final phase-in of active duty compensation parity with civilian pay, 2006 final phase-in of active duty Basic Allowance for Housing increases to eliminate out of pocket expenses. Quite an impressive list that was made possible by MOAA and other organizations like MOAA that support and speak for our men and women in the military who by law cannot speak for themselves.

Your chapter is one of the best chapters in Florida and the Nation having been awarded MOAA’s top “Five Star” chapter award again last year, one of five in Florida and 44 in the Nation. Your chapter is also one of an unknown few that has won the award for three consecutive years! We have an outstanding chapter with a cross section of uniformed officers, their spouses and surviving spouses of deceased officers. Our By Laws were just changed so that all three types of members, officers, spouses and surviving spouses can chair committees, hold office (only officers can be President or Vice Presidents) and can vote.

We meet monthly at a convenient site, have tasty but inexpensive meals, excellent programs and the opportunity to socialize with those of like interests and backgrounds. There is a lot of work that goes on between meetings and we need your help to get the work done and grow the chapter. Come to the meetings, get involved, volunteer for office and most importantly have some fun and enjoy living in this great country that so many of our members and former members have fought for!

With your help the future is bright!

Don Freese, President

Help Our Troops – HOT

Here is a partial list of HOT items we are sending to Afghanistan. The first shipment to them will contain a letter asking them for additional wanted items for future shipments.

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Sunflower seeds | Shaving equipment |
| Trail Mix | Eye drops, Visine |
| Tea bags | Lip balm |
| Cocoa | Chap stick |
| Envelopes, pens | Chewing gum + more gum |
| 39 cent stamped envelopes | Life savers |
| Mouth wash, travel size | Mints |
| Toothpaste | Q-tips |
| Tooth brushes | Hand + body lotion |
| Disposable digital cameras | Pretzels |
| Baby and cleansing wipes | Cupcakes |
| | Peanuts, small bags |

Auxiliary Corner

DANCING ALONE

The music has stopped, the dance has ended, your partner has left! What happens next? You want to keep dancing, but you think you cannot dance alone ... or can you? There is another person inside you, one you didn’t know even existed, so bring that other person out into the open, put on your dancing shoes, and take the first steps forward. The new steps may be difficult; they are not the same as the ones you and your partner danced to. The tempo will be different, not the same as when you danced with that partner of so many years. However, you can still take the first steps, even on your own.



You will learn to take those first new steps one at a time, and the first big step will be getting out with friends – and organizations that you and your partner enjoyed belonging to – for example, your local MOAA chapter. So get out there yourself and join the MOAA family. They are there for you, and you can help them by offering your services, talents, and skills. You have more time now, so go forth (if that local chapter has not called you, forgive them for not doing so), call them and volunteer your time and services. Let them know you want to be involved.

You are now an auxiliary and not a spouse, but it doesn’t matter what you’re called. You are now a different you, but nevertheless you can keep on dancing. That is the secret. The music will start again – at a slower pace perhaps but it will pick up with every new step you take. Auxiliaries, you can do the dance right along with other members; you’ll find you enjoy the new steps you’re taking. It will take time and isn’t easy at first. But each step you take will bring you closer to being able to “dance alone.”

Violet Smith,

Auxiliary Advisory Committee, MOAA

(from “The Affiliate”, a newsletter of Councils and Chapters, MOAA)

**VA WEB SITE
HOSTS SURVIVING SPOUSE**

Because this is so important, we decided to list it again: The VA now has a Web site for surviving spouses and military dependents of veterans who died on active duty and surviving spouses of veterans who died after serving their country. The site (www.vba.va.gov/survivors) answers many frequently asked questions and links to other federal agencies and organizations that offer benefits and services to survivors and dependents, including relief societies, support organizations and the casualty assistance offices for each of the armed forces. (from The Affiliate, Feb 06)



Luncheon Meeting

17 February 2006

Reported by **Basil Burrell**

Attended—83: Members—38, Wives—20, Guests—5, AuxMbrs-16; Walk-ins—5, No shows—1, Cancellations—0

CAPT **Don Freese**, USNR (Ret), President of our chapter, opened the luncheon meeting with the Pledge to our Flag followed by an Invocation and Introductions. **Carolyn Shields** presented a new project for the chapter, “Help Our Troops” – HOT! She asked for donations of comfort items to be sent to an Air Force unit in Afghanistan and for money for postage and sundries. Maj Gen **Earl Peck** provided an APO address of the unit. A list of comfort items was distributed to the luncheon attendees. More information will be forthcoming. Our next order of business today was to vote on three changes to our Chapter by-laws and the proposed changes were presented by LCOL Fred Edwards USMC (Ret) to the membership present. First was the motion to approve our name change to “St. Petersburg Area Chapter” in lieu of “St. Petersburg Chapter” in order to more accurately describe our cachement area of members. Motion was made to change our name to St. Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA and was approved unanimously by a show of hands. Second was the motion to change the name of “Special Members” to “Auxiliary Member” in order to conform to MOAA National’s designation. Motion was made to make the change to “Auxiliary Member” and was passed unanimously by a show of hands. Third was a proposal to change the appointment of the Nominating Committee from three months before the scheduled election of officers to Eight Months before the scheduled election. This proposed change is designed to allow more time for the Nominating Committee to find suitable and willing candidates for our Chapter offices. Motion to make the change from three months to eight months was made and passed with one dissenting vote.

Our speaker today was Mr. Doug Duncan from Metro Crime Prevention of Florida. Mr. Duncan is an excellent speaker and gave us some good information on ways to protect our homes and families from the criminal element that is so pervasive in society today. He managed to keep us awake especially when he set off the “Screaming Meemie”. That is a security device to protect a home from intruders. It responds to a minute change in air pressure when a door or window is opened or closed. I forgot to ask what would happen if an air conditioner or heat pump came on while this thing was set to activate. I’m sure that such a thing causes a momentary change in air pressure. Anyway, the noise was deafening when that machine went off. A burglar would probably have to change his pants after such an experience! Incidentally, the machine is called “Challenger System” and is available for sale at about

\$500.00. Not cheap but very effective I believe since no other hardware is needed.

Mr. Duncan spoke about mace and pepper spray for personal defense. Mace is NOT recommended because it can have opposite to desired effects on some drugs that criminals may be on. Pepper spray is recommended and is available at police supply stores. Mr. Duncan had many interesting and informative safety hints for us and one I especially remember involves car-jacking safety and how to avoid becoming a victim. Always check under your car and in the passenger compartment before unlocking it. Look around and see if any one is standing near your car. If there is something suspicious then don’t get in your car. Go find someone to accompany you to your car. Don’t leave your door open while you adjust your seat belt or check your make up or hair. Close and lock it immediately. No matter how often I tell Eleanor this, she will leave the car door open while she does whatever it is before closing the door. I offered Eleanor an all-expense paid hunting trip with Vice President Cheney, but she refused. She just doesn’t appreciate the things I try to do for her. **Basil**



Above: Speaker Doug Duncan
Below: Marie Lorence & Mary O’Brien





All new members on this page: Above: Bronnie and Bob Polk; Below: Carol and Cliff Polk



Above: Jim and Bobbie Donovan
Below: Terry and Bob Trudell



THE BUZZ

COL Roger J. Shields, USA, (Ret)

George Washington – What he said long ago still applies today, perhaps more than ever. “The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.” — George Washington. Apparently our elected officials do not believe that President Washington was correct in his statement of why we should take care of our warriors. We veterans have won many a struggle to gain our earned benefits. Under the present Administration and Congress it appears that we have to fight the same battles over and over again. If we do nothing, those vets under age 65 will find that their Tricare contributions will double and triple as a first step. For those of us over 65 years old, we may expect an attempt to place monetary limits on medical procedures as well as inflated co-pays on our medications. The present Administration and Congress claim that they can’t pay for veteran’s healthcare and the costs of our war in Iraq and Afghanistan. They can and do pay to cut taxes for the rich and to finance each other’s pet boondoggles and pork projects. What MUST we do? We must write letters and e-mails, visit our members of Congress, telephone them and demand that promises made will be kept. Just do it!

Convention 2006 – Our St Petersburg Area Chapter and the Clearwater Chapter will present the annual Florida Council of Chapters Convention 2006. Our chapter presented a yet to be equaled convention in 1999 which set the standard for other chapters to follow. We can do it again with the enthusiastic

help of many of our members. At the very least, please plan to attend your Convention 2006 in May.

President’s Message – Please read the message from CAPT Don Freese, USNR very carefully. He asks that you consider filling the important chapter jobs which are now vacant. Every job must be handled in a professional manner and every job is important to accomplish our recruiting and retention of members goals. Many of our members are doing double duty with more than one position being covered by only one person. Please help.

Help our Troops - or “HOT” is a new project approved by our Executive Board for implementation by our chapter. The object is to determine what necessities and comfort items are not now available to an Air Force unit in Afghanistan and to provide those items by mailing them through a military postal unit. Maj Gen **Earl Peck** has provided an APO address that we may use to receive and forward contributed items to the troops. **Carolyn Shields** has investigated the required procedures, ordered mailing supplies and recruited volunteer helpers to make the project a success. She explained the need and the process at our recent chapter luncheon. (You were there, weren’t you?) Please look at the list of items which seem to be the most requested by the troops. If you wish to provide some of the items, please bring them to our next scheduled luncheon of 17 March. If you prefer to write a check to enable us to purchase some of the items and to cover the shipping cost of \$8.10 per box, please make it out to the chapter address on page 12 of your Officers Call newsletter. Please annotate the “For” line on the lower left of the check with, “HOT” to enable our Treasurer, **Pete Dawson**, to credit the project.



Pentagon targets military retirees With friends like this, who needs enemies

Issue 1. MOAA testifies Before House Veterans Committee: Military and veterans service organizations testified this week before the House Veterans Affairs Committee. MOAA was represented by Deputy Director for Government Relations COL Bob Norton (USA-Ret), who recommended that the Committee: Fully fund the VA health care system for all enrolled veterans to meet the rising demand among Iraq and Afghanistan veterans including more than a half million Guard and Reserve veterans now eligible for VA care. Oppose a proposed \$250 user fee and increased drug co-pays for certain non-disabled enrolled veterans. Norton recommended that Congress reject these fees, as it has for the past three years. Press the VA and DoD to for timely implementation of a “seamless transition” between military and VA programs, including a jointly usable electronic medical record, a “joint” VA-DoD separation physical, and expanded transition assistance services for separating members. Increase medical research and construction funding for VA poly trauma centers that treat severely wounded veterans. Restore cuts in the VA claims processing system and improve training and technology support to reduce the huge claims backlog and improve decision quality. Enact a “total force Montgomery GI Bill” that matches education benefit rates to service performed by combining active duty and reserve GI bill programs under one law. Norton also publicly thanked retiring Subcommittee Vice Chairman Mike Bilirakis (R-FL) for his many years of dedicated service and for his leadership and tenacity in championing elimination of the unfair “disability tax” on earned military retired pay.

Issue 2. Pentagon Leaders Continue Fee Hike Campaign on Hill. This week, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen Peter Pace, USMC, and Army Chief of Staff Gen Peter Schoomaker testified once again, this time before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense and continued to push fee increases for retirees under age 65. Gen Pace picked up where he left off last week by again emphasizing the need to “renorm” the health care cost share for retirees under 65. Gen Pace stressed that health care costs have doubled in the past five years up from \$19 billion in 2001 to \$37 billion in 2006 and there has been no fee increase over the past ten years. Appropriations Committee Chairman Jerry Lewis (R-CA) was surprised that there had been no premium adjustment since 1996 and said this “needs to be reviewed” to ensure retirees pay their “fair share.” At a separate hearing on Feb. 15, the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs, DoD witnesses included Dr. William Winkenwerder, Asst. Sec. Def. for Health Affairs. Chairman James Walsh (R-NY) stated, “It’s going to be politically difficult for Congress to support these fee increases.” Rep. Chet Edwards (D-TX), the panel’s senior Democrat, asked Winkenwerder to “get the facts on the table” about where the proposed savings would come from. Published reports indicate the large majority come from the expectation that the fee increases would drive large numbers of beneficiaries out of TRICARE. Pressed about how many the budget plan is expected to drive away, Winkenwerder said “about 150,000.” Later that afternoon, the Subcommittee heard from

the Services’ senior enlisted leaders. When asked point blank by Rep. John Carter (R-TX) if they “...agree that the Department should increase health care costs for retirees,” they restated their civilian leaders’ stock answer that the budget proposal “puts priority on sustaining the current benefit,” adding only that the burden should not be on those retiring due to disabilities. **MOAA rejects Pentagon leaders’ disingenuous double-talk about exorbitant fee increases being “necessary to sustain the current benefit.” We think it’s unconscionable to put the Joint Chiefs and Senior Enlisted Advisors in the position of having to advocate a benefit cut in order to fund weapons programs.** We’re in the process of meeting with key congressional leaders and their staffs to rebut the DoD case.

Issue 3 MOAA Meets with Senate Democrats On Feb. 16, MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan, Jr. (USN-Ret) and leaders of several other military and veterans’ associations were invited to a meeting with senior Senate Democrats. Hosted by Senators Hillary Clinton (D-NY) and Harry Reid (D-NV), others in attendance included Senators Jack Reed (D-RI), Patty Murray (D-WA), Daniel Akaka (D-HI), Christopher Dodd (D-CT), Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), John Kerry (D-MA), Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI). The primary purpose of the meeting was for the senators to express their continuing support for full funding of VA health programs and their opposition to Administration-proposed fee increases for certain non-disabled veterans. Association attendees expressed their appreciation for this support and outlined a number of problems that need to be fixed. One representative observed that the VA is a “terrible bureaucracy.” “If you don’t have PTSD when you get to the VA, you’ll have it when you leave,” he said. “Veterans who did battle in Iraq shouldn’t later have to do battle to receive care for their wounds. Everybody says they support the troops. It’s time to put their money where their mouth is.” VADM Ryan also took the opportunity to highlight several issues, including the need to: Oppose the large and unfair fee increases the Administration budget wants to charge military retirees (which are four times as big as the VA-proposed fees Congress already rejected). Oppose manpower cuts for the Army. “Our overworked troops are meeting themselves coming and going,” he said. “Our volunteer force isn’t broken, but it’s headed for the ditch unless we do something quickly. The last thing we need is more military manpower cuts.” Eliminate the “SBP widow’s tax” imposed on survivors of members who die of service-connected causes and implement 30-year paid-up SBP coverage. End the “disabled veterans tax” on disabled retirees designated by the VA as “unemployable.” (MOAA Legislative Update, 17 Feb 06) **RJS**

2006 Scholarship Fund
\$200 – Through — 26 February 2006

Gudmundson, Brent, LTC USA
Neville, Al, Col USAF

2006 Officers Call BOOSTER
\$100 – Through — 26 February 2006

Brown, George, COL USA
Gudmundson, Brent, LTC USA
Neville, Al, Col USAF

Shields, Roger, COL USA
Smith, Violet, Mrs. AuxMber-A



FINANCIAL STATEMENT (23 FEBRUARY 2006)

OPERATING ACCOUNT:

Income: \$771.00 (\$1,890.00)
Expenses: \$1,532.41 (\$2,767.09)
Cash Flow out: -\$761.41 (-\$877.09)
Operating cash on hand: \$6,529.43 (\$6,902.56)

SCHOLARSHIP FUND:

January 31: \$100.00
Donations: \$150.00
Memorial: \$30.00
Bank interest: \$2.87
January 23: \$ 282.87 (\$100.00)

HOT Project:

Donations: \$100
To HOT: \$50
Balance: \$50

BASEBALL FUND: (no activity)

Balance January 31: \$467.45
Charitable donation: \$103.72
Balance February 23: \$363.73

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



Welcome our new Members

Mrs. **Hennriette E. Bischol**, AuxMbr-AF
1336 39th Ave, N.E.
St Petersburg, FL 33703 727 527-5956

Capt **James R. Donovan**, USMC (Ret) (Bobbie)
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Mrs. **Joan M. Landers**, AuxMbr-A
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St Petersburg, FL 33712 727 360-8549

Col **Bob D. Polk**, USAF (Ret) (Bronnie)
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brpolk@charter.net

Maj **Clifford T. Polk**, USAF (Ret) (Carol)
4700 Tradewinds Dr
Gulfport, FL 33711 727 321-4720

Mrs. **Dorothy Monty**, AuxMbr-A
7316 Parkside Villas Dr, N
St Petersburg, FL 33709 727 546-6775



Left: Hazel McGrath & Ralph Myers

Beow from left: Henny Bischoff, Joan Landers, Marj Christy





Minutes: Executive Committee Mtg St Petersburg Chapter, MOAA; 9 January 2006 Reported by Basil Burrell

The meeting was called to order at 1135 hours by President CAPT Don Freese, USNR (Ret).

Those present were: Don Freese, Al Neville, Basil Burrell, Paul Finley, Earl Peck, Fred Edwards, Roger Shields, Carolyn Shields, George Brown, Bill Clark, Violet Smith, Larry Fernald, Marie Lorence, Hazel McGrath, Brent Gudmondson, Dick Koch, Jim Hughes, Bob Eynatten

MG Earl Peck USAF (Ret) made the motion to approve the minutes as printed in Feb 2006 Officer's Call. Motion seconded and passed. Don addressed the needs of the upcoming Convention. The souvenir booklet is a pressing item. COL Ron Merritt has offered to seek advertisers for the souvenir booklet for the Convention.

Lt Col John Milford USAF (Ret) will work on the dignitaries aspect of our program. We need a coordinator for the Military Ball. George Brown has a phone number for the MacDill AFB Honor Guard. He will also check on the availability of the Joint Service Color Guard. We also need a "50's Theme Party coordinator and decorators. An important item of hardware we need is audio/visual equipment. Does anyone have contacts to beg or borrow such equipment? Final registrations are needed for the Convention. Come on, sign up! MG Peck questioned the seating arrangements at the Military Ball. Don introduced Lt Col Larry Fernald USAF (Ret) who is taking over our Web Site from MAJ Jim Hughes USA (Ret) who is moving out of the area. We will miss him. Larry recommends that we go to a business-type web site for our Chapter. He recommends "Webmasters" in Tampa who charge \$9.95 per month and provide 5 GB of space. He also recommends web address to be SPMOAA.com. After discussion and in keeping with our name change a motion was suggested by Col Al Neville to use "MOAAstpetearea.com". MG Peck moved we use "Webmasters" and the address moaastpetearea.com Motions were seconded by George Brown and passed. Don extended a special thanks to Jim Hughes for his efforts on our behalf and a round of applause was given to Jim.

A note from Maj Pat Tamalis USAF (Ret) asked that we charge \$10.00 to anyone who attended a seminar but was not registered for the Convention. This suggestion was discussed and then explained by MG Peck. Consensus was that the charge was appropriate. Don reminds us that we still need a 1st VP and a Secretary. He suggested the possibility of splitting the 1st VP duties between 2 members; program director and Executive Officer duties.

Our recently earned streamer designating us a "5-Star Chapter" was given to Basil Burrell to be attached to our Chapter Flag. COL Roger Shields USA (Ret) says he will work on getting us a five-star designation again. MG Peck moved and Roger Shields seconded to buy an audio system for our Chapter. Cost not to exceed \$150.00. Motion passed. President Freese reminded us that our February speaker will be from Metro Crime Prevention and our March speaker is to be Col Charles Potter USAF the Commander MacDill AFB Hospital. MG Peck will find us a speaker for April.

Don suggests possible speaker gifts. He is looking at a set of four glass tumblers with our Chapter name and MOAA on them. These can be obtained from MOAA's store, Target Marketing, for a reasonable price. A motion was made by LCOL Fred Edwards and seconded by MG Peck to buy the tumblers for speaker gifts. Motion passed.

Don asked if it worth considering a BUDGET to keep track of our finances. LCOL Brent Gudmondson USA (Ret) says we tried that at one time and it didn't seem to do any good. Apparently our finances aren't complicated enough to require a budget. We just have to be sure that our outgo doesn't exceed our income! Mrs Carolyn Shields has volunteered her service and time to "Help Our Troops", a project to send sundries to a USAF unit in Afghanistan. She has found that the U.S. Postal Service provides free boxes in which any weight of goodies can be mailed to Afghanistan for only \$8.10, inclusive. Space does not permit naming the many volunteers for this good cause. After some discussion, we decided to change the name of the project to "Help Our Troops" which yields a sexy acronym "HOT". Carolyn solicits checks to buy items and for postage and the checks should be sent to Pete Dawson at our mail box: P.O. Box 7054. St Petersburg, FL 33734. This is a good cause and we must support Carolyn in this. Mrs Martha Willis, Auxiliary Member-Army has kindly volunteered to be our hostess at our monthly luncheons. She will greet and seat arriving guests and will need assistance. Since Martha is a go-getter, I'm sure she will be able to draft help.

Hazel McGrath says we should have more people volunteering at Bay Pines VA Hospital. President Don Freese asked if we want to continue Pizza sales at Devil Rays games. He had a note from Pat Tamalis about possibly selling pizza at spring training games at Al Lang Field in addition to the regular sales at Tropicana Field.

Col Albert Neville USAF (Ret) our Second Vice President has made up new membership application forms we are to use. He needs some of the information for our data base. He would like to know the new member's sponsor name so that the sponsor can be asked to call the new member in the event the new member doesn't come to our meetings. Roger Shields reminded us that 97% of our Chapter members must be members of MOAA National in order for us to qualify as a 5-star Chapter. Treasurer's Report by Maj Peter Dawson was passed to all the members present. Pete is still gainfully employed and can't be with us during the tax season. MG Peck moved that the report be approved, seconded by Roger Shields and passed.

The Executive committee passed motions by Fred Edwards to present the following three proposed bylaw changes to the general membership at the February 17 luncheon meeting. He noted that, in accordance with Article XII of the bylaws, the general membership was notified in the February "Officers Call" that the proposed changes would be offered for approval at the February 17 luncheon meeting.

Proposed Bylaws Change 1. Seconded by Al Neville. Change the chapter's name from "St. Petersburg Chapter, MOAA, Inc.," to "St. Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA, Inc."

Proposed Bylaws Change 2. Seconded by Al Neville. Replace the terms, "Special Member" and "Special Members" throughout the bylaws with "Auxiliary Member" and "Auxiliary Members" respectively.

Proposed Bylaws Change 3. Seconded by Al Neville. Replace that part of the second sentence of Section 1 to Article XI - Elections that says "three months preceding such election" with "eight months preceding such election."

Policy Manual Changes as proposed by Fred Edwards were approved—see complete Minutes on our website.

LtCol Dick Koch, our Publicity Chairman, asked if anyone had seen his news stories in the recent newspapers; no one had.

Mrs Violet Smith, MacDill Liaison and Member of National MOAA Auxiliary Advisory Committee, reported on a recent meeting she had with Col Charles Potter USAF Hospital Commander at



MacDill AFB. More drugs will be removed from the formulary and others added. If you have concerns about your medications, call the Pharmacy for help and information. The Phone numbers are: 800-22-0201 or 813-828-5367. As a rule if a drug is removed from the formulary, the pharmacy will in some cases honor an additional 90 day refill. We have also been told that some co-pays for some drugs will go up to \$22.00. A VA team will be visiting the Tampa/St. Petersburg area from 14-17 February and a Town Hall meeting will take place in St. Petersburg on 14 February. They will be interested in discussing VA Disability Benefits. The Committee is headed by LTGEN Jerry Scott USA (Ret). New Item: Do Not Use a Cell Phone while driving on MacDill AFB. It will get you a traffic citation if caught. If necessary to answer a cell phone, pull over safely before answering! This will apply to all military bases. The Retiree Activities Office can assist ID card holders with Income Tax Returns between 6 Jan and 15 April at no charge. Call 813-828-4555 for information and appointments. As of 3 February 2006 MacDill AFB has a shortage of Card Stock for Dependents' ID cards. For more information call: 813-828-2215.

There is a new booklet from National MOAA dealing with procedures to be followed by survivors when a member passes away. The booklet is called "Turning The Corner".

At 1350 hours President Don Freese concluded the meeting and Chaplain George Brown gave the Benediction.

Respectfully submitted, **Basil Burrell**

Our Leaders Need Military Service
(Edited article by Garrison Keillor. **RJS**)

Fewer and fewer of our leaders have military service in their resumes. They prefer to sweep blithely along from one comfy perch to the next, cushioned in self regard, promoting, puffing, spinning; hitting their talking points. They slip into public office without ever having been yelled at by a bullet-headed man with sergeant's stripes and made to stand up straight-in 95-degree weather and march back and forth across a dusty field and not ask why. This is a shame.

The way to put military service back in the picture is to pass a constitutional amendment requiring that a candidate for president have at least two years of full-time military-service. It would be a boon to the country, to the military and to the young. It would confirm the importance of service. The 42-year-old governor who discovers that he wants to be president would need to go down to the recruiting office and enlist. It'd be a big moment, like when Elvis went off to basic training. Think of Newt Gingrich climbing on a bus and going off to have his head shaved and his individuality taken away and rebuilt.

The Constitution requires the president to be at least 35 and a native-born American. The current president certainly casts doubt on the worth of that native-born requirement, but never mind — amend the Constitution and let the boys and girls of Harvard and Stanford and Yale ponder their futures. You will see the Army become more representative of the country, more middle-class and educated, and when it is, it will not likely be sent so casually off to war as the blue-collar Army has been.

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Above: Hal & Linda May, Right: Eleanor Burrell, Mike Tomasulo and Genny Poteat



Below left to right: David Poulin, Lynn & Bill Bolin, Sherry Freese





TAPS

Monty, William R., CPT USAR (Ret)
02/26/06 Page 35 2005 Directory



"Nurse, get on the internet, go to SURGERY.COM, scroll down and click on the 'Are you totally lost?' icon."

what you suspect happens in the OR!

Sick List

(Contact LCDR Hazel McGrath, 545-3884)

- * Col **Mildred (Gene) Butler**, USAF (Ret)
13780 89th Ave, N, Seminole, 33776
- * COL **John E. Jessup**, USA (Ret)
3701 42nd Ave S, St Petersburg, FL 33711.
- * 1Lt **Robert L. Alvarez**, USMC (Ret)
6070 80th St, N, #401, St Petersburg, FL 33709
- * LTC **Richard H. Natzke**, USA (Ret)
530 59th Ave, St Pete Beach, FL 33706
- * Lt Col **Charles R. Hedrick**, USAF (Ret)
12136 Kay Dr, Seminole, FL 33772
- * Col **William E. Eisenhart**, USAF (Ret)
1734 72nd Ave, N.E., St Petersburg, FL 33702
- * Mrs. **Mary Eisenhart**, Spouse
1734 72nd Ave, N.E., St Petersburg, FL 33702
- * CDR **William E. McCormick**, USN (Ret)
126 23rd Ave, N.E., St Petersburg, FL 33704
- * Mrs. **Jane Gough**, AuxMbr-N
427 39th Ave, N.E., St Pete Beach, FL 33706

Your cards, prayers and thoughts are welcome.



Betty & Paul Finley, Asa Myers



Roger Shields

Gunni & Ron Merritt



A Few Zen Thoughts For Those Who Take Life Too Seriously

- A day without sunshine is like, night.
- On the other hand, you have different fingers.
- 42.7 percent of all statistics are made up on the spot.
- 99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
- I feel like I'm diagonally parked in a parallel universe.
- Honk if you love peace and quiet.
- Remember, half the people you know are below average.
- He who laughs last thinks slowest.
- Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.
- The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

Visit our website =>



MAJ Mike Tomasulo, Chapter outgoing ROTC chairman, presents awards to ROTC cadets at a local high school. CAPT Tom Harrow is Mike's successor.



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March Birthdays
(From **68** - **95** years)

Day	L NAME	F NAME	RANK	SVC
23	Allen, James		CPT	USA (Ret)
27	Choronenko, Iwan		Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
30	Foutz, Delores		Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
27	Green, Robert		CDR	USN (Ret)
21	Hatfield, John		CAPT	USN (Ret)
17	Hundley, Charles		Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
18	Hunt, Elly		Mrs.	AuxMbr
16	Isley, Anne		Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
25	Jackson, Mallett		Col	USMC (Ret)
17	Poulin, David		Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
08	Prall, Thomas		LTC	USA (Ret)
02	Reischmann, Richard		Maj	USAF (Ret)
19	Rothfuss, John		LCDR	USNR (Frm)
29	Spencer, Denzel		MAJ	USA (Ret)
27	Wildes, Ronald		Lt Col	USAFR (Ret)

February 27, 2006 E-Mail from Don Freese:
The following have agreed to serve on the **Nominating Committee** and will be nominated at the March 6, 2006 Executive Committee Meeting.

- Tom Harrow, Chair
- Violet Smith, Auxiliary Member
- Carolyn Shields, Spouse Member
- Bob Eynatten, Officer Member

Thank you to all four for agreeing to serve!
Don Freese

LUNCHEON MEETING
11 AM - 1:30 PM, Friday, March 17th
Banquet Master, 8100 Park Blvd.

• Reservations by Wednesday March 15th

Your name _____

Each reservations \$10:
Corned Beef & Cabbage: _____
Salmon w/Dill Sauce: _____

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

to=> **CAPT Bob Eynatten,**
507 Plaza Seville Ct, # 16
Treasure Island, FL 33706

For late reservations, call either
CAPT Bob Eynatten 360-4637
or
CAPT Don Freese 360-3102

Calendar of Events

Luncheon Meetings are on the 3rd Friday of each month—mixer 1100 - 1145; luncheon and program 1145 - 1315; at Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park.

March 17th, Friday, 11:00

Col Charles Potter, commander, MadDill AFB hospital

April 21st, Friday, 11:00 TBD

May 17th, Wednesday, 5:45 - 1100 P.M., Our Chapter's monthly meeting is in conjunction with our Convention's **Military Ball** at The TradeWinds Resort, St. Pete Beach.

June 16th, Friday, 11:00 TBD

July 21st, Friday, 11:00 TBD

August 18th, Friday, 11:00 TBD

Business Meetings are on the 1st Monday of the month 1130 - 1230 at Perkins Family Restaurant on the NE corner of Starkey Rd. and Park Blvd. in Seminole.

March 6th Monday

April 3rd Monday

May 1st Monday

June 5th Monday

July 10rd Monday (2nd Monday)

August 7th Monday

ROWC

Luncheon—(2nd Tuesday) meet 11:30 AM, lunch 12:30 PM

•**Reservations:** LTC Rose Munchbach 397-4146

•**Membership:** Martha Willis 579-4116.

•**March 14th**, Dolphin Beach Resort, St Pete Beach

•**April 11th**, Shells, 17855 Gulf Blvd., N Red. Bch

•**May 9th**, Alfano's 1720 Clw Largo Rd

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

2006 Convention (May 14-18, 2006) MOAA 2006 Florida Council of Chapters Convention in St. Pete Beach, Trade Winds Island Grand Resort.

More information: MAJ Pat Tamalis, phone: 392-1066 or by e-mail: ptamalis@tampabay.rr.com

The St. Petersburg Chapter
Military Officers Association of America, Inc.
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CONVENTION 2006

Tradewinds Resort, St Pete Beach
May 14-18

