



COASTAL TIDE

Military Officers Association of America

Grand Strand Chapter

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

www.grandstrandmoaa.com

November 2017



From the President:



Mark your calendars now for our special holiday program on Tuesday, December 12. This most highly attended dinner will be something special as we will be entertained by members from the String Orchestra at Carolina Forest High School under the direction of Stephan Williams. Make sure spouses are invited. While in the holiday spirit, bring an unwrapped toy or two to drop in the box for the Marine Corps Toys of Tots" program benefiting many deserving children in our area. Also, if there is more room in your car, bring canned or boxed food stuffs and/or used coats or sweat shirts to be distributed by Chaplain Hill in Conway, Pawleys Island and Georgetown. Most of us have been blessed in this life and this is a good time to spread cheer to others.

(continued on page 3)

As mentioned in President Townsend's monthly message, the Chapter's annual Toys for Tots toy collection will take place at the Chapter December 12 dinner meeting. Bring your toy donation to put in Past President Roger Pilcher's collection boxes at the dinner meeting. Help make 2017 the best year ever for the Chapter's support for Toys for Tots.

Bring Food and Clothing Too

And don't forget that the Chapter is also collecting food and clothing for the needy at the December dinner meeting. Chaplain Greg Hill heads up this annual collection and ensures that donated items make someone's holidays happy.

Wreaths Across America

By Peggy DeVivo

Saturday, December 16, wreaths will be laid at Arlington National Cemetery as well as 1200 other locations around the country.

These ceremonies are designed to Remember, Honor, and Teach about the sacrifices of those who have served our country and protected our freedoms.

As in past years, the Chapter Auxiliary collected funds to purchase wreaths at our October and November meetings. In addition to individual donations of \$345, we are deeply thankful for the huge boost we received from the Chapter contribution of \$500 presented to Sharon Russell, 2nd Vice-President of Coastal Carolina Chapter of the Blue Star Mothers to purchase wreaths to be laid on veterans' graves at the National Cemetery in Florence.



To participate in the ceremonies at Florence National Cemetery, go

to the Wreaths Across America website

www.wreathscrossamerica.org.

You can also make a contribution on this site, and we are still accepting donations to reach our goal of 12,000 wreaths.

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Chaplain's Corner

By Greg Hill

A Thanksgiving Prayer

O God of Protection, Bounty and Blessing, we give you thanks for: Your presence in our lives; our nation's Veterans and their Families; our Veteran Service Organizations; our local VA and a VA system that is good and getting better; those who now stand in harm's way and for their Families; our local community which supports our Military; our nation's leaders; and, the compassion our MOAA Chapter members show to one another and to our local Veterans and community. This Thanksgiving, remind us to give thanks for our Families, our Friends, our great nation and to pray for those in any kind of need. Amen.

Now and Always We'll be There.



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Next Dinner Meeting
Tuesday, December 12, 2017
Pine Lakes Country Club
Social Hour: 5:30 p.m.
Dinner: 6:00 pm
Entertainment by Carolina Forest String Orchestra

President's Message (cont. from page 1)

November was another month packed with activity. Leading off on November 4th was the South Carolina MOAA Council of Chapters Convention held at Ft. Jackson in Columbia. These conventions are held every two years and feature speakers of interest to our MOAA membership. Our Chapter was represented by 15 attendees who enjoyed presentations given by MG John Johnson, Commanding Officer of Ft. Jackson, LTG Michael Garrett, Commanding General of US Army Central, GEN Jack Sheehan, Chairman of the MOAA Board, Congressman Joe Wilson and a Senior Director from Boeing.

My point is not to be a name dropper, but to let you know the quality of the speakers that are part of the convention, and hoping you will join us in two years at the next one. On November 8, we had our MOAA Tapping Fundraiser organized by Tony Prince, and on November 9, Greg Youngman arranged an additional fundraiser with EGGS UP GRILL as part of their "Coffee with a Vet" promotion. I thank all those who participated in the above activities. We intend to use much of the funds raised for gift cards to be distributed to vetted veterans in need and their families to buy food during the holidays.

As we approach the festive season, Gale and I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah! Come celebrate with us at our Holiday Dinner on December 12th.



(l to r) South Carolina President Dave Lobb, Rep. Joe Wilson, General John Sheehan (USMC, Ret) presented the 2016 MOAA Level of Excellence 5 Star

Award to President Dave Townsend (2nd from right) at the Council of Chapters meeting held at Ft. Jackson November 4.

Membership

By John Bradley

Welcome New Members

**Norman Henslee, Capt., USCG (Ret)
Thomas Foster, LtCol., USA (Ret)**

With these new members, our Chapter membership now totals 163 with 19 new members joining in 2017. The fact that the new members were recruited and introduced to our Chapter by current members underlines for me the fact that our best resource for new, active and productive members is our own current membership. As we move about and participate in our neighborhoods, churches, and other charitable groups, we meet and befriend retired and former military officers. As we do, I urge you to tell them about our Chapter, our mission, our camaraderie, our effort to continue to serve. Invite them as our guest to dinner (if they are eligible to join, of course). Wish me luck this month as I, during my annual physical, encourage my physician, who is a former Navy doctor, to come join us! Ouch !

With the good news, there is also not so good news. While our membership rolls grow, we continue to grapple with high rate of delinquency. With the seemingly tireless help of Bob Hawkins and others we have reduced our delinquent members count down to 32. Bob will continue to contact those members throughout the month of November to encourage them to renew. If there is anything you think you can do to assist, please call Bob.

To any of our delinquent members who may be reading this, I remind you that our dues are VERY reasonable, only \$20 a year. So, please, if you haven't paid yet, please drop a check, payable to Grand Strand Chapter MOAA, in the mail to our PO Box or, if you prefer, you can pay in cash at our Holiday Dinner meeting on December 12.

In addition, the December Holiday meeting will be the first one for which you will have the option to REGISTER ON LINE. We also fully expect to have the ability to pay 2018 dues with a credit card as well as register and pay in advance for all our 2018 monthly dinner meetings. You can continue to do everything by phone, in person and by check or cash, if you desire.

Updates

Jimmy Jacobs presented a slate of officers for the 2018 calendar year at the November meeting. Current office holders President David Townsend, First Vice-President Randy Dymond, Second Vice-President John Bradley, Treasurer Tony Prince, and Secretary Kelly Sharbel have agreed to remain their current positions for the next year. No other members indicated a willingness to take on that responsibility. Consequently, the slate of officers presented were unanimously nominated and approved by the general membership. The slate will be formally sworn in at the January 2018 dinner meeting at the Dunes Golf & Beach Club.



Our Grand Strand MOAA dinner meeting on November 14th featured guest speaker Andy Milovich, President and General

Manager of the Myrtle Beach Pelicans minor league baseball organization. Andy gave an informative and inspiring talk about the Pelicans' extensive involvement in local community affairs and support of charitable and veterans organizations like MOAA. Andy also highlighted a few personal stories of recent players, including a young Air Force veteran's return to the mound armed with new-found discipline and courage acquired through his military service, and the story of an autistic lad and employee of the Pelicans who Andy arranged to attend a session of Professional Umpire School. Finally, Andy injected a little humor into his presentation when he described a publicity stunt he was involved in during a game in 2014 as a means of raising funds for a personal friend battling cancer as well as raising awareness of men's health issues.

Sharon Russell, Vice President of the Coastal Carolina Chapter of Blue Star Mothers encouraged those attending the dinner meeting to participate in the wreath laying ceremonies at the National Cemetery in Florence, SC.



President Dave Townsend presented Mrs. Russell with a \$500 contribution from the Chapter to purchase additional wreaths for placement at veterans graves. Mrs. Russell also reminded the Chapter that the Blue Star mothers are preparing holliday "Care" packages for troops deployed overseas.



Second Vice President (Membership) John Bradley reported to the Chapter that members will soon have the option of paying dues, making reservations for dinner

meetings, and paying for dinner meetings on line through the Chapter website. John has been working diligently for several months to fully implement the software the Chapter uses to power its website. Known as Wild Apricot, the software is a full suite of membership and organizational management tools that can make member interactions with the Chapter more efficient and more convenient. Look for your invitation to the December dinner meeting in your email. It will provide instructions on how to make your reservation. In January you will be able to pay for your meal (s) using your credit card. If you want to use the prior system of contracting Tony Prince by phone or email and subsequently paying at the door, you may also continue to do that. The decision is always yours. Whatever that decision is, we look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. It will be our traditional festive holiday meeting with entertainment by the Carolina Forest High School string orchestra.

Financial Report	
Balance September 30	\$36,173.03
Revenue October	\$1,100.30
Expenditures October	\$3,054.50
Balance October 31	\$35,294.60

MOAA-Eggs Up Grill Initiative

“Coffee with a Veteran”

by Greg Youngman

On November 9th, eighteen Grand Strand Chapter volunteers participated in a successful new fundraising partnership with 9 Eggs Up Grill (EUG) restaurants located throughout the Grand Strand. At this initiative, entitled “Coffee with a Vet”, our volunteers were on hand to represent veterans and interact with restaurant customers, veterans and their families, and families of those currently serving. Proceeds from the sales of all beverages will be disseminated to needy veterans and their families in Horry and Georgetown counties through MOAA and its partners.

The project was a joint effort between the consortium of Eggs Up Grill owners and managers and our MOAA Chapter. At the event, flyers were available upon request that highlighted Area Veterans Resources, Chapter Accomplishments (2014 thru 2017), and membership applications for the Chapter



President Dave Townsend and Past President Greg Youngman present a MOAA Certificate of Appreciation to Danny Bonar, owner of the Eggs Up Grill in Conway.

Planning began for the fundraiser in early September with Joe Burger, an official of the Eggs Up Grill. A Chapter Committee (Greg Youngman, Bob Hawkins, Rufus Manning, and Greg Hill) was organized to identify the potential needs of various veteran charitable organizations and needy veteran families. Since the Chapter has donated previously to many of the area veteran organizations throughout the Grand Strand Area, the committee was charged with identifying new veteran

donation sites and areas that required further funding.

In consultation with the Eggs Up Grill consortium and the Chapter’ Board of Directors, the committee recommended that the funds be donated to area needy veterans and their families to purchase groceries over the holiday season. The fundraiser raised over \$4500 that will benefit approximately 40 veterans and their families in the Horry and Georgetown areas. Monies will be distributed through the Vets Center in Myrtle Beach and the Low Country Veterans group in Georgetown in early December.

This cooperative venture with Eggs Up Grill and the Chapter enabled us to continue to strengthen our outreach efforts with local veteran resources and to directly reach needy veteran families throughout our community. In addition, it continued to reflect our Chapter’s mission of playing a pivotal role in pursuing community veteran outreach projects that benefit our veteran population throughout the Grand Strand area! Our hope is that it will be a successful and cooperative annual event in the years to come.

Gordon Biersch Keg Tapping Raises Funds for MOAA vet programs



Greg Youngman, John Bradley, Jerry Terwilliger, Hans Duerr, and Randy Dymond were among Grand

Strand Chapter members who turned out for the second annual Keg Tapping at the Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant in Market Common for a night of food, beer, and good fellowship. The event, held for only the second time, also raised funds for MOAA’s veterans’ assistance and ROTC/JROTC programs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ December 7, 10 a.m. Fisher House Grand Opening, 150 Wentworth Street, Charleston, SC
- ❖ December 9, 3 p.m. Army v. Navy Football Game, 3 p.m. Lincoln Financial Field, Philadelphia, PA. Broadcast on CBS.
- ❖ December 12, Holiday Dinner Meeting; Pines Lakes Country Club; Social Hour 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6 p.m. Entertainment by String Orchestra from Carolina Forest High School. Toys for Tots and food and clothing donations are needed.
- ❖ January 9, Dinner Meeting, Social Hour 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6 p.m. Speaker is Margaret Wadsworth, a local attorney who specializes in estates, wills, and VA/Medicare rules covering veterans.
- ❖ February 13, Dinner Meeting, Social Hour 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6 p.m. Captain (Ret.) NoriAnn Reed who may be the only woman in the Navy who has had command of three ships.

Myrtle Beach Honors Veterans

Mark Kruea, MB Public Information Director (Honorary GS MOAA member), and Chairman of the MB Military Appreciation Committee, served as the MC at the annual Veterans Day ceremony at the Convention Center.



Roger Pilcher, USMC, LTC (retired), Past Chapter President, and Military Appreciation Committee member, presented the Welcoming remarks on behalf of the Committee.

In recognition of LTC Pilcher's numerous contributions to the

Committee and to this annual event, Mr. Kruea presented LTC Pilcher with a Myrtle Beach City coin. President Townsend and other Grand Strand MOAA members attended the ceremony as well.

Flu Season is here! Veterans protect yourselves and get a NO COST flu shot!

The cold and flu season is upon us and the Department of Veterans Affairs has once again teamed up with **Walgreens Pharmacies** nationwide to allow all veterans who are currently enrolled in the VA healthcare system to be able walk into any of the over 8000 Walgreens nationally to receive a vaccination at no cost. Vaccinations will be available through March 31, 2018.

Veterans wishing to receive the no cost vaccination simply need to present a Veterans Identification Card and a photo ID, at any participating Walgreens to receive the vaccination. The Group ID is: VAFLU

In addition, after the Walgreens pharmacist administers the vaccine Walgreens will transmit that information securely to VA where it becomes part of the patient's electronic medical record.

VA is committed to keeping Veteran patients healthy, and during this flu season, vaccination is the best way to prevent the spread of flu. No matter where you live, visit your local VA clinic or Walgreens to get a no cost flu shot.

Veterans Can Apply for ID Card

Honorably discharged veterans of all eras who want a new identification card from the Department of Veterans Affairs will be able to apply online by registering with the VA and uploading a photo, officials said. A 2015 law requires the VA to issue a hard-copy photo ID to any honorably discharged veteran who applies. To apply for the card, veterans must register with Vets.gov, a process that authenticates users through the ID.me system



Application/ANNUAL RENEWAL FORM

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ONE POWERFUL VOICE

Grand Strand Chapter MOAA: ___ Membership Application ___ Renewal ___ Change of address (Check one.)

Chapter dues: \$20.00 a year for regular membership. Auxiliary: \$20 per year. Multiple year dues are encouraged to reduce costs.

Make check payable to: "Grand Strand MOAA". Mail to: MOAA Grand Strand Chapter, P.O. Box 15842, Surfside Beach, SC 29587.

Last name _____ First name _____ MI _____

DOB _____ Rank _____ Service _____ Spouse's name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

Email address (please print clearly) _____

Are you a member of National MOAA? _____ If yes, please provide membership number: _____

Status: ___ Retired ___ Active ___ Reserve ___ National Guard ___ State Guard ___ Former Officer ___ Auxiliary ___ ROTC ___ JROTC

{My signature below verifies that the above information may be shared in a Members Only Directory and that I am eligible for MOAA Chapter membership.}

Amount: \$ _____ Check ___ Cash ___ For year(s) _____ Signature _____

Additional amount (donation) for this year's scholarship awards: \$ _____

Current employment (optional): _____

Professional skills (optional): _____

- If Auxiliary member or applicant, please indicate your spouse's full name, military service affiliation, rank, and status: _____
• Interested in a Chapter leadership/committee position? If yes, what? _____ (continue on reverse)

MOAA Mission/Purpose: To foster fraternal relations (and mutual support) among retired, active duty, and former officers of the uniformed services and their National Guard and Reserve counterparts, ROTC cadets, their families and survivors; Assist community organizations that support service members and veterans and their families; to provide funds for college scholarships for area high school seniors (normally JROTC students); conduct fund-raising to support other service member and veterans' programs (e.g. Wounded Warrior visits); provide annual MOAA leadership awards to graduating cadets in all area high school approved/active JROTC programs; participate, collaboratively, in coastal community events and activities, as priorities and resources permit; Maintain a proactive chapter affairs program that supports members during health and other family emergencies; promote the aims and objectives of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA); and, the aims and objectives of the SC MOAA Council of Chapters. MOAA and its affiliated Chapters and Councils are non-partisan.

(Staff use below)

Date _____ Year Pd _____ Year Pd _____ Year Pd _____