

Grand Strand Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



The Coastal Tide

Sept Oct 2019

www.grandstrandmoaa.org

President's Message by Randy Dymond



With this edition of Coastal Tide, you will see that the chapter is well into its fall season of programs and events. At September's kick-off dinner meeting, we had an enjoyable evening reuniting with friends and were treated with truly inspirational words from guest speakers Deanna and Clebe McClary. Also in September, the chapter co-sponsored and participated in the 6th Annual Myrtle Beach Veterans Stand Down, which was a huge success in providing material items, services and meals to well over 240 needy veterans living in and around the Grand Strand. Kudos to the many chapter members who volunteered for this event and greeted, escorted and passed out the blankets, comfort kits and knapsacks to the veterans coming through. At October's dinner meeting, our own Mike Davison presented an excellent slideshow of our chapter's proposed memorial in Warbird Park and outlined the fundraising campaign to support this project. Myrtle Beach Special Projects Manager Ron Andrews and City Manager John Pedersen provided members with a brief history of Warbird Park as well as an update of current items of interest involving the city. November promises to be a very busy month with many Veterans Day-related events, including Eggs Up Grills' "Breakfast with a Veteran" and the Gordon Biersch keg-tapping fundraisers. Hope to see you there!



Never Stop Serving



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Fall Meetings Inspirational, Informative

Mark Your Calendar

- November 7 — Appreciate Veterans Night at CCU Football vs. Lafayette 7:30 p.m. Free Admission for veterans. Contact Greg Youngman for tickets.**
- November 8 — Breakfast with a Veteran, Eggs Up Grill Locations, 8–11 a.m. Call Greg Youngman to volunteer**
- November 9 — SC Council of Chapters, Ft. Jackson. Let Randy Dymond know if you want to attend**
- November 11 — Veterans Day**
- November 11 — 5 p.m. Annual Keg Tapping fund raiser at Gordon Biersch in Market Common**
- November 12 — Chapter Dinner Meeting, Pine Lakes Country Club, 5:30 pm ROTC Graduates Honored Passed Members Memorial Service**
- November 15 — Veterans Center Expo, General Reed Recreation Center, Market Common 9 a.m.—2 p.m.**
- December 10 — Chapter annual Holiday dinner meeting; Music again provided by Carolina Forest High School Ensemble Toys for Tots Collection**

Chapter dinner meetings restarted in September after a two month hiatus during the summer, and our meeting programs did not disappoint.



Our September speaker Clebe McClary suffered devastating wounds during his service as a Marine in Vietnam, losing his left eye, left arm, and enduring 34



subsequent surgical procedures. He and his wife Deanna shared their inspirational stories of perseverance and commitment — hers of what it was like having to deal with his injuries and rehabilitation, and his of recovery and rebuilding his life. Their personal accounts were alternately riveting, humorous, patriotic and inspirational. Clebe and Deanna's story is truly heroic.

Myrtle Beach City Manager John Pedersen joined us in October to review the challenges facing Myrtle Beach and the City Council's priorities for addressing them. The Council, he said, has placed a major focus on addressing crime in the city. They have agreed upon a multi-faceted strategy to increase both the number of local police officers and their pay, invest in additional technologies such as body and surveillance cameras, and make better use of intelligence data.



Their plan for implementing that strategy continues to evolve but has been effective in reducing crime by 17% in 2018 and an additional 14% thus far in 2019.

Mr. Pedersen also briefly summarized the city's efforts to address homelessness and the opioid epidemic. In both areas, the city has initiated efforts to coordinate the work being done on both issues by a myriad of agencies and non-profit organizations. Previously, the efficacy of these efforts was adversely affected by a lack to coordination, a deficiency being addressed by the city's efforts.

Memorial Monument Fund Raising Kick-Off

Fundraising for the construction and placement of a Grand Strand MOAA memorial monument in War Bird Park in Market Common officially began at the October dinner meeting. LTG Michael Davison presented the chapter with the plans for acquiring an appropriate monument and having that monument placed on permanent display at War Bird Park. The monument is one of three actions recommended by a study committee and approved by the Board of Directors to memorialize the local contributions of deceased members of the chapter.

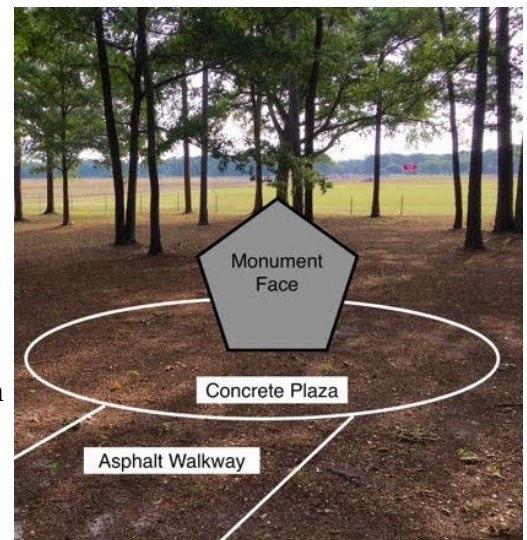


Two actions have already been implemented. The first was the publishing of a memorial page on the Chapter website. Webmaster John Bradley has constructed that page, and it is available to any member who accesses the website. The second action is a simple memorial service for our deceased brothers and sisters in arms at the November Chapter dinner meeting. Constructing the monument is the final piece of the effort to honor those members who have made such enormous contributions to our Chapter and our community.

The City of Myrtle Beach has approved the monument design and has designated a specific site for the monument at War Bird Park where aircraft stationed at Myrtle Beach Air Force Base are on display, and where other veteran organizations have erected monuments. In addition, the city will prepare the site by pouring a small concrete plaza with a concrete walkway leading up to the monument. Subsequently, the city will maintain the site and the monument.

Our task is to raise \$18,000 for the purchase of the black granite monument. If every member of the chapter donates \$125, that goal will be realized. To date, members have already donated over \$3,000. It must be emphasized that funds for the monument are above and separate from our fundraising and expenditures for veteran, JROTC, and ROTC support. A separate account has been established for memorial monument donations, and those funds will remain separate from funds we raise to support our mission. We are asking that members make a donation they can afford either by sending a check to our Treasurer Tony Prince with "Monument" in the memo line or by using your credit card on-line by signing onto the website and clicking on the Memorial Page. A running tabulation of donations is on the website. Any amount is deeply appreciated and makes each donor a partner in our effort to honor our chapter members who have gone before us, who are serving today, and who will serve in the future. For additional information, feel free to contact any member of the Memorial Committee below:

Chair—Greg Youngman; Members—Mike Davison, Dean Brown, Hans Duerr, Jerry Terwilliger, Rufus Manning, Greg Hill, Peggy DeVivo, Melody Wages



Chaplain's Corner by Greg Hill



The changing of the seasons is a welcome constant in our lives. The heat of the summer giving way to the cooler temperatures of autumn bring with them changes in plant life as well as new program year startups at public schools and even in our MOAA chapter.

At our October dinner meeting, Mike Davidson presented a briefing to kick-off our memorial monument fundraising campaign. I encourage you to contribute.

This monument will signify the contributions of past and current members of our chapter for service to our community and our nation.

During our November dinner meeting, I will conduct a memorial service during which time we will name those members of our chapter who have passed whose names we have been given. A memorial page is already on our chapter Web site. If you know other chapter members who have passed whose names are not on the memorial page, please contact us through the Web site or by calling a member of the memorial committee.

No one should be forgotten as the seasons change.

Financial Report by Tony Prince

The Chapter Board of Directors has made two recent important financial decisions. First, the Board adopted the annual budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1. We anticipate that \$30,484.40 will be carried over from the previous year. It is from



that amount that expenditures to support veterans, ROTC and JROTC will be drawn. Secondly, the Board agreed to establish a reserve account of \$15,000 to cover unanticipated contingencies during the year. That fund will be kept in a savings account separate from the Chapter operating account.

Balance August 31	\$36,467.69
Deposits in September	\$ 3,064.00
<u>Expenditures in September</u>	<u>\$ 8,435.62</u>
Balance October 1	\$31096.07
Memorial Fund Balance	\$611.60

Breakfast with a Vet Nov 8

The annual "Breakfast with a Veteran" event will be held Friday, November 8 at seven Eggs Up Grill Locations throughout the Grand Strand. Our Chapter partners with Eggs Up Grill to raise funds to provide food cards to needy veterans' families during the upcoming holidays. Last year, thanks to the generosity of the Eggs Up Grill team, our Chapter received and distributed over \$4700 from this project. Each Eggs Up Grill restaurant donates 15% of their breakfast sales from 8-11 a.m. to our Chapter for this purpose. Chapter members are on-hand at each location to meet with diners and answer questions. If you are interested in participating at one of the Eggs Up Grill stores, call Greg Youngman.





Breakfast

WITH A

Veteran

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8 | 8AM-12PM



15% of all sales benefit the _____
Grand Strand Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

Stand Down 2019

The Grand Strand Chapter continued its role as a major sponsor of Stand Down in September. The 2019 event was the sixth annual gathering designed to provide assistance to needy veterans, many of whom are homeless. The services offered include dental and medical check-ups and assistance accessing Department of Veterans services. For our part, Grand Strand MOAA provides the veterans with blankets and warm-ups kits, and Grand Strand MOAA volunteers escort veterans through the maze of service offerings. For the first time this year, 50 Horry Georgetown Technical College medical technician students partnered with us to provide assistance to veterans. Though numbers are still being finalized, about 240 veterans were served in this year's Stand Down. Special thanks go out to Norm and Jan Ward who go above and beyond duty every year to ensure attending veterans are served. In addition,



Norm and Jan Ward are mainstays in the Chapter's volunteer effort at Stand Down.

John Bradley made a major contribution to this year's event. Numerous GSMOAA volunteers gave of their time over the two days. Funds obtained through National MOAA's grant program helps fund our sponsorship for this project.



Grand Strand Chapter volunteers, at left, distributed blankets and warm-up kits to veterans at Stand Down. Numerous Chapter volunteers devoted time to support this event.

For the first time, Horry Georgetown Technical College medical technician students, at right, partnered with Grand Strand MOAA to assist veterans navigate the services available to veterans who attended Stand Down 2019.



Membership

by John Bradley

Welcome back, everyone!! Hope the summer treated you well and you are anxiously looking forward to cooler weather and, as importantly, one of the best recruiting seasons. The Myrtle Beach Stand Down (a very successful event !) gave us an opportunity to meet fellow officers, and all the Veterans events coming up in November allow us to rub shoulders with other fellow officers as well. Remember...all I need is a name and an email address and I can take it from there! Currently here is our tally:

73	Annual Members
2	Two-Year Members
57	Three-Year Members
12	Surviving Spouses
<u>2</u>	<u>Honorary Members</u>
146	Total

The above shows that we are basically holding our own in total memberships. The good news is that this month alone we have added two new members, with two other prospective members in the wings. The bad news is that, of the 73 Annual Members, 13 of us are delinquent, having not paid our 2019 dues, despite frequent friendly reminders.

Please help me welcome our three newest members:

Maj. Joseph Orzel, USAF (Fmr)
Cpt. Lorie Orzel, USAF (Fmr)
Lt. Frank Bullock, USCG (Fmr)

Do not forget about our Members Only Directory. Log in to the website...

www.grandstrandmoaa.org...and click on Member Directory. There you will find the info on all our members, you can email them directly and you can make changes to your own profile (address, email, phone number updates).

One last thing before I go: while you are on the website, please look at our new on-line Store, where you can easily order shirts, caps and windbreakers!!! It is simple and quick.

Our website is full of additional information for your reference. Sign on and keep up to date on important chapter information and find links to other sources of information.

Remember....RECRUIT, RECRUIT !!

Finally “like” us on Facebook:

<https://m.facebook.com/pg/Grand-Strand-Chapter-MOAA-576092469509309/about/>



Never Too Early to Think About the MOAA Golf Tournament

Our Chapter's next golf tournament is scheduled for May 21, 2020. That may seem like a long way off, but the Golf Committee is already starting to plan the 2020 Grand Strand MOAA Golf Tournament and is looking for additional members. The committee will hold its kick-off meeting December 5 at the Veterans Café following the regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting. Help us continue with our successful Golf Tournament fundraiser by becoming a member of our tournament committee. The greater the participation, the more we can do. Fortunately, we realized over \$20,000 each of the past three years which allows us to offer FIVE \$2000 JROTC scholarships in 2020, ONE \$2000 award to the outstanding CCU ROTC graduate, financial support of needy veterans in Horry and Georgetown counties, our sustained participation in the September Stand Down and much more. Join cur-

rent committee members Jim Offutt, Tony Prince, John Bradley, CJ Parente, Bill Stewart, Jerry Terwilliger, Dave Fischer, Jim Albert, Truman Parmele, Randy Dymond, Dave Townsend, Cliff Tall, John Short and Frank Esposito. Please call tournament Chairman Dave Townsend at 843-907-1763 if you would like to learn more.



Federal Retirement COLA Increases for 2020

(Courtesy of National MOAA)

Military retirees, those who receive disability or other benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, federal retirees and social security recipients will see a 1.6% increase in their monthly checks for 2020. The annual Cost Of Living Allowance (COLA) is smaller than the 2.8% increase from last year but in line with the historical increases seen over the last ten years. Each year military retirement pay, Survivor Benefit Plan Annuities, VA Compensation and Pensions, and Social Security benefits are adjusted for the rate of inflation.

As a result of the increase, the average military retirement check for an E-7 with 20 years of service will go up by \$38 a month, while an O-5 with the same time in uniform will see a \$72 monthly increase. Retirees who entered military service on or after Aug. 1, 1986 and opted-in for the Career Status Bonus (CSB/Redux retirement plan), have any COLA increases reduced by 1 percent, so they will see a smaller increase in 2020.

The 1.6% increase means that you will get an additional \$16 for every \$1,000 in government benefits you receive.

For more information on issues MOAA is currently working on behalf of its members and active/retired service members go to

[www.http://takeaction.moaa.org](http://takeaction.moaa.org)

Now and Always
We'll be There.



1-800-247-2192 • www.moaainsurance.com



[Application Form](#)

www.grandstrandmoaa.org

ONE POWERFUL VOICE

Grand Strand Chapter MOAA: ___ Application/Renewal ___ Change of address /contact info
Chapter Annual dues: \$20.00 for regular membership or \$50 For 3 year membership. For NEW MEMBERS: \$20 1st Quarter; \$15, 2nd Quarter; \$10, 3rd Quarter; \$20, 4th Quarter (Good for Following Year). 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 current 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.