

THE SARASOTA BREEZE



THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF SARASOTA, INC

An Affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America MOAA and The Florida Council of Chapters

Best Newsletter 2000-2004, 2007/2010; Runner Up 2008/2009, 2012-2014; Newsletter 5 Star 2015/2017-2023; 4 Star 2016; Website 5-Star 2015-2023
Vol. XXXVI No. 4 MOAA 4-Star Chapter 2003/2008/2019; MOAA 5 Star Chapter 2004-2007, 2009-2018, 2020-2023 April 2025

MARCH 2025 PROGRAM - NOAA Aviation Operations - LT Kennieth Brewer



The NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO), part of the US Dept of Commerce, manages and operates NOAA's fleet of 15 research & survey ships and 10 specialized environmental data-collecting aircraft, and is comprised of civilians and officers of the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps.

LT Kennieth Brewer, who gave a most interesting and informative presentation, is currently assigned to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Aircraft Operations Center (AOC) stationed in Lakeland, FL as a pilot and Programs Officer, where his primary duties are supporting various National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) airborne projects.

The AOC is known mainly as the "Hurricane Hunters," but LT Brewer's presentation was filled with insightful information, great slides and humor describing the many missions performed by this small but extremely important service. The AOC is studying marine mammal abundance, as well as missions capturing essential data on sea turtles in the Caribbean and on the East and West coast of the US.

In addition, LT Brewer has played a leading role in efforts to integrate advanced sampling technologies on NOAA's aircraft. Notably his work with the Alaska Fisheries Science Center's Ice Seal & Polar Bear Survey enables the integration of an advanced multispectral-aerial imaging system (KAMERA) that employs AI to streamline data capture, a first for the B-350CER (King Air) platform. A job well done by a fine young officer.

APRIL 2025 PROGRAM - State Adversary Use of Emerging Technologies - COL Wesley Moy, Ph.D

Dr. Moy's presentation on emerging technologies and their use by state adversaries builds on a March presentation he made in Washington, DC to an intelligence conference hosted by the National Intelligence University as well as the Sarasota Chapter of FBI Special Agent Alumni.

Dr. Moy is a Lecturer at Johns Hopkins University's Advanced Academic Programs, teaching on the role of intelligence in protecting the homeland. A MOAS member, he is also a member of InfraGard (a non-profit organization serving as a public-private partnership between U.S. businesses and the FBI). He had a book on homeland security intelligence released in March and has published on countering disinformation, the weaponization of Artificial Intelligence, and emerging threats.

COL Moy retired from the U.S. Army in 2008 after serving in the infantry on the Korean Demilitarized Zone and as a scout in the 82nd Airborne. He later transferred to military intelligence as a strategic intelligence officer. He has commanded at the company, battalion, and brigade levels including serving as commander of all Army Reserve strategic intelligence units worldwide.



WHAT'S INSIDE	
<i>Officers, Directors & Committees ..</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>President's Message.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Secretary's Corner.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Chaplains Corner.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Membership Updates.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>TAPS.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Legislative Update.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Luncheon Photos.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>For Your Information.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>YAHOO.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Luncheon Reservation</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>MOAS Calendar.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Membership Application.....</i>	<i>12</i>

Receive the Breeze via email or view it on our website www.sarasotamoaa.com or blog sarasotamoaa.blogspot.com

Military Officers Association of Sarasota (MOAS)**Mission Statement**

MOAS, a non-profit 501c(19) organization, exists to improve the awareness, life style, and overall environment of its members; support and serve the citizens of the Sarasota area; influence the political process in matters pertaining to active duty, retired and former military personnel; and enhance the image of America's uniformed services in our local community.

Chapter Officers, Directors and Committees

President	David Downer
1st Vice President	Steven L. Carnes
2nd Vice President	Ron Wozniak
Treasurer	Christa I. Friedlander
Secretary & Historian	Peter Dering
Director (Scholarships)	William F. Lawyer
Director (Communications)	Vacant
Director (Legislative)	Michael Lindquist
Director (Membership)	Len Friedlander
Immediate Past President	Jonathan C. Gordon
Legislative Committee	Michael Lindquist
Vets Affairs/Commission	Vacant
Marketing & Communications Committee	
Chairperson	Vacant
Editor-Newsletter	Len Friedlander
Web Site	Craig Hullinger
BLOG/Social Media/Photo	Craig Hullinger
Membership Committee	
Recruiting & Retention	Len Friedlander
Recruiting & Retention	William F. Lawyer
Reporting & Records	Christa I. Friedlander
Personal Affairs Committee	
Surviving Spouses Liaison	Peggy Mock
Chaplain	Michael Lindquist
Programs Committee	
Chairperson	Ron Wozniak
Luncheon Programs	Chris Nind
Luncheon Programs	Karen Olson
Young at Heart [YAHOO]	Ron Wozniak
YAHOO Coordinator	Linda Wozniak
Meet & Greet	Peggy O'Connell
Luncheon Committee	
Chairperson & Coordinator	Peggy O'Connell
Greeter	Peter Dering
50-50 Manager	Mary Gordon
Scholarship Committee	
Chairperson	William F. Lawyer
Member	Jim Ainslie
Member	Len Friedlander
Member	Mary Gordon
Member	Linda Wozniak
JROTC Liaison	William F. Lawyer
Support Our Troops [SOT]	Ron Wozniak
Awards Board Chair	Jonathan C. Gordon

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***David Downer*

We enjoyed a terrific presentation by Lt. Kenneth Brewer of the Hurricane Hunters at our luncheon on March 21st. I will not write about that here, other than to say it was not only great info, but it was also very professionally presented! Thank you so much to Karen Olson & Ron Wozniak for setting it up.

I hope that you were present for Teresa Taft's presentation at the luncheon meeting on February 21st on the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Suncoast. As I wrote in this column last month, they always have a waiting list of boys and girls, and it can be discouraging for young people with a lot of enthusiasm for the program to spend a long time on that waiting list. If you would be willing to mentor a youngster, please contact their office.

As I've also mentioned previously, we're still looking for another lunchtime venue that would be reasonably priced and convenient for our members. We were considering the Bird Key Yacht Club but learned that they are closing, planning to tear down the existing building and build a new one several feet higher. Moving back there will not be possible anytime soon but might be in the future (years out!). I recently checked out the Carlisle Inn on Bahia Vista and it looks like it might work for us. If you have feelings about it as a venue, or have ideas for another place, please let us know.

As previously mentioned also, we need someone to fill the "Communications" position on the board! Let us know if you're interested in that or anything else.

Please keep track of MOAA's Advocacy in Action items and support them. Of particular importance now are better housing for unaccompanied enlisted members, and the Richard Star Act, which would provide combat-injured retirees with their full earned benefits. Please investigate these matters and possibly write to our Congressional representatives.

Remember that the Breeze always includes the sign-up information for the next luncheon (see the back page).

Editorial Policy: "The Breeze" newsletter is published by the Military Officers Association of Sarasota, Inc., an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and the Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC). MOAA and its affiliated chapters & councils are non-partisan."



SECRETARY'S CORNER

Peter Dering

**Military Officers Association of Sarasota, Inc (MOAS)
Sarasota Military Officers Foundation, Inc (SMOF)**

The board meeting for the above organizations was held Monday March 3, 2025 at the Meadows Lifestyle and Wellness Facility 3350 Longmeadow. Issues of significance are addressed below. NOTE: The complete minutes and financial reports will be on the MOAS website www.sarasotamoaa.com following approval of the Board of Directors, The information below should be considered unofficial as the meeting minutes are not yet board approved.

CALL TO ORDER: President Dave Downer called the meeting to order at 1420 and began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Downer (Pres), Steve Carnes (1VP), Ron Wozniak (2VP), Peter Dering (Sec'y) Christa Friedlander (Treas), Bill Lawyer (Dir), Michael Lindquist (Dir), Len Friedlander (Dir) & Jon Gordon (IPP)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & VISITORS PRESENT:Linda Wozniak
PRESIDENT'S ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- The MOAA Council of Chapters held a long ZOOM meeting on Feb.27, 2025. It covered a huge amount of material on the Committee Module (CM) and the NRT. Invitations were extended to 124 chapters on Feb. 24 but only 78 responded. I believe Len Friedlander was also on this call and may be able to add more.
- The Feb. 21 program was Teresa Taft of Sarasota Big Brothers & Big Sisters

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: (Steve Carnes) Nothing to report.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: (Ron Wozniak) Nothing to Report.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:(Jon Gordon) Nothing to Report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: (Peter Dering) The February 2025 BOD Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:(Christa Friedlander) The February 2025 Treasurer's Reports was approved unanimously.

- Our application for the renewal of the Solicitation of Contributions Permit was approved by the FL Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services on 2/10/25. Letter on file.
- Jon Gordon reviewed the Hartford/USAA liability insurance renewal policy for me and found it in order.
- The 990 EZ IRS tax filings for MOAS and SMOF were completed and submitted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LEGISLATIVE: (Mike Lindquist) Nothing to Report. Refer to the Breeze for the full report.

BREEZE NEWSLETTER: (Len Friedlander)

- March issue published and emailed to 233 addressees on February 26th. Thirty-three (33) copies were printed and mailed to members.
- Newsletter & Website were submitted on Feb 8 for MOAA Communications Award.

MEMBERSHIP: (Len Friedlander)Membership Renewal a/o 2/28/25 Current Membership – 194 Awaiting Check – 7 Unknown – 6

Attended MOAA Zoom meeting on new re-instituted Committee Module/NRT. Will begin updates. The MOAA Zoom meeting presented an update on the new Committee Module –inoperative for the past two years – which is the primary means for keeping the MOAA and chapter membership information in synch. (LONG process ahead to get our chapter information updated). Also have re-implemented the Near Real Time (NRT) system which was MOAA's means for notifying chapters of MOAA national members who moved into a chapter's area and would be available for chapter membership. This is a set of data to be used to contact potential MOAS chapter members over the next few months.

SOCIAL MARKETING, COMMUNICATION AND WEBSITE: No Report

LUNCHEON REPORT: (Peggy O'Connell):

- We had 37 paid in February and 1 guest
- Total income: \$1443.00; Invoice: 1402.20; Profit: \$ 40.80

MEET & GREET: (Peggy O'Connell) The Meet & Greet will be Wednesday, Mar.12th, at 5:30 p.m. at Tripletail in the Landings.

PROGRAMS: (Ron Wozniak)

- March- NOAA Aircraft Operations Center "Hurricane Hunters" LT Kenneth Brewer, a Programs Officer and B350ER Pilot.
- April- Adversary use of Emerging Technologies - COL Wes Moy.
- May- Scholarships, Mr. Ryan Chase, Principal Sarasota HS
- June- Tentative if the Luncheon Meeting can be changed to Wednesday, Mr. Mike Modrick Discovering the Suncoast, **Or**
- July- Tentative if the Luncheon Meeting can be changed to Wednesday, Mr. Mike Modrick Discovering the Suncoast.
- August- The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce, Mrs. Heather Kasten.
- September- Joint Florida MOAA?
- October- TBD
- November- TBD
- December- Winter Gala no program

JROTC, MCJROTC: (Bill Lawyer) Several schools have set dates for their award ceremonies, and they have selected their outstanding cadets. Art Hillman and I plan to attend as many of the ceremonies as possible.

YAHOO: (Ron & Linda Wozniak) For info on cancellations, venue, date & time changes, go to the MOAS website Calendar & Blogs at <https://www.sarasotamoaa.com/> or text Ron Wozniak: 941-779-5448 or e-mail: RonWozniak13@gmail.com or Linda at 941-779-5447 or NauticalEffect@msn.com.

Future Events/Outings — **Details on YAHOO Page 8 -**

- Wednesday 2 April Pop Stroke Putt Golf, 1900 (Date Change)
- Saturday 26 April Annual Picnic, Phillippi Estate Park
- Saturday 3 May Big Cat Habitat, 1100

SARASOTA MILITARY OFFICERS FOUNDATION, INC

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT: (Bill Lawyer):

- I met with representatives from Ringling College of Art and Design, State College of Florida, Manatee Technical College, and University of South Florida (Sarasota-Manatee) and presented them with their scholarship checks. Each college promised to keep us informed about the progress of their veterans and how the money will be used.

MONTH	BOARD	LUNCHEON
April	Monday 3	Friday 18
May	Monday 5	Wednesday 7 **
June	Monday 2	Wednesday 18 **

	LUNCHEON PROGRAMS
April	COL Wesley Moy
May	Scholarship Luncheon
June	Mike Modrick - Discovering the Suncoast

- The high school scholarships on our website went live on 10 February and a link to the website was posted on the Sarasota County Schools website called Schoolinks. I plan to contact the counselors at each school and remind them that there is a \$3,000 scholarship available to their students.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Annual picnic at the Phillippi Estates Park (now scheduled).
- Need someone to replace Craig Hullinger.
- Amendment to the MOAS Constitution and Bylaws to allow an Allied Officer Member to serve on the Board in selected capacities and, perhaps, after a certain term of membership in the organization.
- Weren't some lists of non-renewed members to be given to some of us to call?

NEW BUSINESS:

- \$100 donation for Big Cat Habitat.
- Change the June (or July) luncheon to WEDNESDAY to accommodate Mike Modrick to speak on "Discovering the Suncoast."
 - The board elected to move the luncheon to Wednesday, June 18.

BOARD APPROVED ACTIONS/MOTIONS:

- A motion was made and approved to allocate \$500.00 for picnic expenses.
- A motion was made and approved to renew our insurance with The Hartford at a cost of \$625.00.

The meeting adjourned at 1540.

NEXT MEETING: The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday April 7, 2025 1400 hours at the the Meadows Lifestyle and Wellness Facility, 3350 Longmeadow.

The 2025 Membership Directory was mailed to all members in early March. If you have not received your directory, OR if your information is incorrect, please notify me at lensrq223@gmail.com. Corrections/additions will be posted in the *Breeze*.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Member Directory Information Changes

Lawyer, William F. (Barbara) CPT, USA
941-228-1943

Travers, Robert G. (Charussri) CDR, USN
941-416-3839

Staley, Michael L. Mr
941-413-9081

High, William A. (Ronnie) Capt, USMC

TAPS

*Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to
the family and friends of*

George F. Francis, Col, USAF (Ret)

Judson D. Moulton, LCDR, USN (Ret)

Mrs. June Moore



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Michael Lindquist

April: Possibilities

As a child, I was taught that there was nothing I could not do, no one I could not become. Yet, I struggled with truly believing that I had limitless possibilities. I remember being asked, "What do you want to be when you grow up?"— what a daunting question for a young mind.

At an early age, I aspired to be a soldier, just like my father. As I grew older, I found inspiration in several teachers, leading me to consider a career in education, where I could impart knowledge and guide others. Later, my path was influenced by an Episcopal priest and a Catholic priest, sparking within me a desire to share God's wisdom and contribute to making the world a better place.

During college, I encountered academic struggles, but I found inspiration in the musical group Up With People. Recognizing my talent for singing, I envisioned a future in entertainment.

However, throughout my life, I was often met with discouraging words: "You can't do that!"—"You're not smart enough, brave enough, strong enough, or good enough." For a time, I believed those voices.

Then, something changed. I began to listen to a different voice—the one within me. This inner voice guided me along a path that allowed me to accomplish everything I set out to do.

I became a soldier, serving over 31 years in the United States Army. I earned a doctorate and began teaching Master's and Doctoral-level students. I discovered the transformative power of prayer, and today, I serve as a Unity Prayer Chaplain.

With faith in a God of your understanding, you can become the person you aspire to be. You can achieve anything you set your heart and mind to accomplish.

As the Gospel of Mark states, "For mortals, it is impossible, but not for God; for God, all things are possible" (Mark 10:27, New Revised Standard Version).

Similarly, in the book of Deuteronomy, Caleb assured the people that anything God commanded was possible because "nothing is impossible with God" (Deuteronomy 1:28).

Michael

References: New Revised Standard Version Bible. (1989). Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Michael Lindquist

Major Richard Star Act Reintroduced in House, Senate

The legislation (S. 1032 | H.R. 2102) addresses a long-standing and unjust offset by authorizing concurrent receipt of DoD retired pay and VA disability for those injured in a combat zone and forced to medically retire.

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Support Combat-Injured Veterans](#)]

“This measure corrects one of the deepest injustices in our present veterans’ disability system,” said Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), who introduced the bill in the Senate. “It is unacceptable that tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans are denied the full military benefits they earned. Our bipartisan bill will right this longstanding injustice and finally provide these military retirees who have already sacrificed so much their full VA disability and Defense Department retirement payments.”

The Star Act enjoys bipartisan support, with 185 cosponsors in the House and 43 in the Senate as of March 18th. MOAA and our veterans service community partners are working diligently to increase this support. It is imperative that we obtain as much engagement as possible so that this critical piece of legislation can cross the finish line.

To do this, MOAA is reaching out to congressional offices in both chambers to allay misconceptions and advocate on behalf of combat-injured veterans. However, MOAA requires your support and sustained engagement to help advance this bill and make its importance known to members of Congress. Your voice is crucial and will amplify our message to ensure lawmakers do not forget about our combat-injured veterans and their service to our nation.

We urge you reach out to your lawmakers and encourage them to support combat-injured veterans, and to visit MOAA’s Legislative Action Center to keep track of all MOAA legislative priorities.

Concurrent receipt for combat-injured veterans is just one of many issues impacting service members and their families. MOAA encourages advocates to make use of the [Legislative Action Center](#) to support the full force, to include currently serving members, veterans, retirees, military families and survivors, and caregivers. You can follow the link to learn more about MOAA’s other key advocacy initiatives and the legislative topics that make up our signature spring advocacy event, Advocacy in Action.

Caregivers Sacrifice for Our Veterans – Now Congress Must Support Them

Every day, millions of caregivers quietly serve our nation’s veterans — often behind closed doors, out of sight from the public and policymakers. They sacrifice their own health, their savings, and their careers to support a loved one in need.

Bipartisan bills (S.879) [in the Senate](#) and (HR 2148) [in the House](#) would expand health care coverage and career transition support for these individuals, and would require a study designed to provide caregivers with a path toward financial security in retirement.

MOAA, in partnership with the Quality-of-Life Foundation, has joined forces with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation and other veteran organizations to reintroduce this bill in the 119th Congress. The need for enhanced support is increasingly urgent due to the exponential growth of the aging veteran population. **Approximately 80% of veterans will require long-term support services as they age, according to VA projections.**

There are 14.3 million military and veteran caregivers in the U.S. — a population larger than all but four U.S. states. And 74% of them are caring for veterans aged 60 or older, according to a [2024 RAND](#) report — veterans whose need for long-term care is only increasing with time.

These caregivers are not only unpaid, but they also often pay out of their own pockets for care-related expenses.

For the 55,000 caregivers enrolled in the VA’s Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers ([PCAFC](#)), the situation is even more concerning. The [original legislation](#) establishing the program in 2011 allowed for a monthly personal stipend to be paid to a designated primary caregiver for providing personal care services to their veteran.

This designation means caregivers cannot contribute to Social Security and personal retirement accounts, a problem made worse in most veteran households where all income is considered “unearned” — the caregiver stipend, VA disability compensation, Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC), for example.

These caregivers rely on the stipend, health care, and other services offered through PCAFC. However, when their caregiving role ends, they face challenges returning/reentering the workforce and experience financial instability.

One example: A spouse caregiver to a post-9/11 veteran singlehandedly met their family’s needs while tending to her husband’s challenging mental & physical health conditions. She gave up her professional career in education to be a full-time family caregiver for her husband while raising their two young sons.

“I lost my professional identity, my personal income, and my access to contribute to Social Security and my personal retirement accounts,” she said. “I suffered health issues because I would miss my appointments to take him to his appointments.”

The Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act recognizes the critical role of PCAFC participants and aims to address the financial, professional, and emotional challenges they face. It seeks to extend health coverage, provide bereavement counseling upon a veteran’s death, and support caregivers as they transition into the workforce or retirement. The bill also has the potential to reduce their future reliance on government assistance programs.

Veterans served our nation, and their caregivers stepped up to serve them. MOAA urges lawmakers to help empower caregivers to rebuild their lives and achieve financial security by cosponsoring and passing the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment and Retirement Act.

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers To Support Veteran Caregivers](#)]

Add Military Spouses to the Work Opportunity Tax Credit

Military spouses serve alongside their service member partners, making countless sacrifices to support the mission — but when it comes to their own careers, they are often left behind. Frequent moves, unpredictable schedules, and limited job opportunities near remote military installations combine to create an alarming 21% unemployment rate for military spouses, according to DoD. That’s five times the national average, and it creates significant financial strain for military families.

That’s why MOAA supports the bipartisan **Military Spouse Hiring Act** -- introduced last week in the [House](#) by Reps. Don Beyer (D-Va.), Mike Kelly (R-Pa.), John Carter (R-Texas), and Jimmy Panetta (D-Calif.) and in the [Senate](#) by Sens. Tim Kaine (D-Va.), John Boozman (R-Ark.), Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.), and Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) -- as part of its annual spring [Advocacy in Action campaign](#).

This bill would add military spouses as a target group under the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), a federal program designed to incentivize businesses to hire individuals from populations who face significant barriers to employment, such as disabled veterans and those receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

Employers receive a tax credit—ranging from \$2,400 to \$9,600 per hire—when they employ someone from one of 10 existing target groups.

This employment instability isn’t just a family problem — it’s a readiness problem. When military families can’t achieve financial stability, service members are more likely to leave active duty

prematurely, jeopardizing the strength and sustainability of the all-volunteer force.

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Support Military Spouse Employment](#)]

Veterans Affairs Department Plans to Eliminate More Than 80,000 Workers

The Department of Veterans Affairs is planning to reduce its work force by more than 80,000 employees from its recent count of 482,000 according to a memo first reported by the trade publication [Government Executive](#).

Doug Collins, the VA secretary, released a [video statement](#) announcing the cuts, saying that health care services and benefits would not be cut and that 300,000 positions at the department had been labeled “mission critical” to ensure that services would not be interrupted, and any cuts would come from the pool of about 182,000 workers in the noncritical work force. It is unclear which programs would be most affected. The VA has not yet started an agency-wide analysis of the work force.

In addition to its primary mission of providing veterans care and serving as the nation’s backup health care system, the department also oversees some medical research and manages veterans benefits programs — pensions, banking, home loans, insurance, job training and funding for college degrees. The department also manages the nation’s military cemeteries and investigates fraud in the veteran’s benefits system.

Those programs, and the department’s sprawling health care system, employ administrators as well as physicians, nurses, therapists, pharmacists, technicians, clerks, accountants, case workers and cemetery groundskeepers.

Congressional members on both sides of the aisle voiced concerns that cuts at the VA had already affected some services for veterans and that the PACT Act had significantly expanded the veterans’ benefits system requiring more staff.

“I have been in contact with Secretary Collins since this internal V.A. memo leaked,” said Representative Mike Bost (R-IL), the chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. “I have questions about the impact these reductions and discussions could have on the delivery of services, especially following the [implementation of the PACT Act](#).”

MOAA Advocacy in Action (AiA) PROGRAM

MOAA's annual advocacy event will bring members from across the nation to Washington, D.C. in April to meet with lawmakers as part of our ongoing work to advance our legislative agenda. Use this link for AiA updates, including details on this year's key topics, how members and others can engage their lawmakers from home.

[[ADVOCACY IN ACTION 2025: More About MOAA's Signature Spring Event](#)]

March 2025 LUNCHEON



Joe & Blanche Barresi
Celebrating their 60th
Wedding Anniversary



Wesley & Brenda Moy
with Art Hillman (R)



Ralph & Jinny Scheffert



(l-r) Chris Nind, guest speaker LT Kenneth
Brewer, & Bob Travers



(l-r) Linda Brent, Barbara Shaver & Sara Little



Debbie Harvey (l) & Brenda Moy



Carl Morris



Art Hillman (l) & Joe Cyr



Bill Lawyer (l), Maureen Ranft & Jim Ainslie



Steve Carnes & Francine King



March Birthday
Linda Brent



(l-r) Mary Gordon, Linda Wozniak, Debra Sandberg
& Jinny Scheffert



Dave Downer
& Michael Lindquist



Post-presentation Q&A with LT Brewer
(l-r) Dave Downer, Jon Gordon & Larry Bennison



Ralph & Jinny Scheffert with
Dennis Ciborowski (r)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

DO YOU NEED A NEW MILITARY ID CARD?

Pete Dering – our chapter secretary – queried MOAA for information on the forthcoming requirement for retirees & dependents to replace INDEFINITE ID cards. (When will the current ID cards expire? Should we replace them as soon as possible?). This was their response.

The short answer is maybe - but yes you probably should.

MOAA has known about the "**DoD Next Generation ID Card**" (NGID) since approximately late 2019. The military services began issuing these IDs to active-duty families, about to be retired retirees (and dependents) and reservists in July 2020. They didn't begin NGID card issuance for previous retirees/spouses/dependents/surviving spouses until mid-2021. **DoD has stated that the older version of ID cards must be replaced by 2026. However, they have not given a date in 2026 when this must be accomplished.**

Is it Jan 1, 2026? June 30, 2026? or perhaps Dec 31, 2026? MOAA has requested this information on numerous occasions and not received a definitive answer.

Therefore, we highly recommend that those with a pre-NGID INDEF ID card replace the card with a NGID card at your convenience BUT before the end of 2025.

Here is DoD's Common Access Card [webpage](#). You can see the difference at what a NGID card looks like.

—The page on ID card renewals
<https://www.cac.mil/Next-Generation-Uniformed-Services-ID-Card/Renewing-Online/>

—The RAPIDS locator webpage to make an online appointment for a new ID card
<https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/>.

—If your ID card is less than 12 years old you may be able to renew online on this [website](#) (However you must have (or create) a DS Logon to access).

Here is MOAA's ID card [webpage](#) for more information on ID card requirements and renewal processes.

I hope this helps!
Paul Frost, AFC®
Captain, U.S. Navy (Retired)

Lower Rates for VA Life Insurance Plans Will Take Effect in July

Lower premiums for service members and veterans with VA life insurance policies will be put in place beginning July 1 and will benefit about 3 million policyholders. For information about accessing existing policies online, [click here](#).

Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI)

What: Premiums will fall between 2% and 17% across all age brackets, with an average rate cut of 11%.

How: Policyholders do not need to take action to receive the new rates, according to the VA, but those who pay via credit card or an automatic payment through their bank may need to update their payment method to reflect the new amount. Those who make advance payments will receive a credit for any overpayments.

Details: Learn more about the rate cut from the VA at [this link](#). See the full VGLI payment chart, broken out by age and coverage amount, at [this link](#).

Service members' Group Life Insurance/Family Service members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI/FSGLI)

What: SGLI premiums will drop from 6 cents per \$1,000 of coverage to 5 cents, with the new maximum payment of \$25 (plus \$1 for traumatic injury protection coverage) for a \$500,000 policy. FSGLI coverage will fall between 11% and 22% across age brackets, with an average cut of 13%.

How: The lower premiums will be applied automatically for all policyholders. Service members will see the new rates applied in their Leave and Earnings Statements.

Details: Learn more about the discounts at [this link](#). See the full SGLI and FSGLI premium charts at [this link](#).



MOAS MEET & GREET

Wednesday April 9th
5:30pm to 7:30p

Mattison's 41

7275 S Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL 34231

<https://mattisons.com/forty-one>

Please let Peggy O'Connell know by
Monday April 7th if you will be attending.

pegoconnell12@gmail.com

or (312) 982-1374



YAHOO
Young At Heart Organization
Linda & Ron Wozniak

Looking for Your Ideas & Volunteers to Organize Future YAHOO Events

We have other YAHOO Events/Outings in mind and would like to see other MOAS Members and/or spouses come up with suggestions and hopefully volunteer to assist and/or organize an event/outing. Linda and Woz will assist you along the way. It is fun and you will be glad you were able to make MOAS an even better organization.

PAST EVENTS & OUTINGS

Sunday 23 Feb Twins @ Pirates Spring Training

Attended: Ron & Linda Wozniak & Cider, Michael Lindquist & Debra Sandberg, Grant Krueger & Peg Denham, George, Wylie & Karen Johnson enjoyed a sunny pleasantly warm Winter day. Good seats 4th Row down the Right Field Foul Line. The Pirates won 5-1.



Thursday 20 Mar Yankees @ Orioles Spring Training

Attended: Ron & Linda Wozniak & Cider, Jeff Wortmann & Brooks, Len & Christa Friedlander, Michael Lindquist & Debra Sandberg enjoyed an exciting game in Section 201 after rain delayed the start about an hour. Barbara Shaver and Dr. Sara Little made it to the stadium, had a hot dog but the rain chased them away before 1st pitch. The weather was great (but Chilly) during the whole game. The Yankees won 9-7.



UPCOMING EVENTS/OUTINGS

Wednesday 2 April - Tee Time: 1900

Pop Stroke Putt Golf

195 University Town Center Dr Sarasota, FL 34243

Make up your Foursome ahead of time or take your chance with who you play with that night. **UNLIMITED**

GOLF - Military & Seniors - \$20;

Adults - \$25; Children (3-12) - \$15

At PopStroke, both mini-golf courses and restaurant operate on a first-come, first-served basis; they do not accept reservations in advance. Guests can choose between two 18-hole mini-golf courses, each taking approximately 45 – 60 minutes to complete, depending on crowd size. They provide the putter and TaylorMade golf ball as part of the day pass price. **Please let Woz & Linda know if you are coming NLT Monday 1 April.**

Saturday 26 April 1100-1500

MOAS 4th Annual Picnic

Phillippi Estate Park Pavilion

5500 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34231

We usually have a good crowd of around 38 Folks. MOAS is providing rental cost of the pavilion, Publix fried chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers & buns. **Asking all attending to coordinate a dish to pass with Linda Wozniak NLT Friday 18 April.** We intend to populate a list of who is attending on the MOAS online Calendar.

Saturday 3 May 1045 Tour starts at 1100

BIG CAT HABITAT

7101 Palmer Blvd., Sarasota 34240

They open to the public @1200 so we will have the place to ourselves during the tour & you can stay till they close at 1600. [Welcome to Big Cat Habitat](#)

Big Cat Habitat Conservation and Education Center is a diverse zoological park. Sitting on 20+ acres they welcome over 50k guests to visit, encounter, experience, and fall in love with over 350 animals spanning more than 60 different species.

We are picking a Saturday to attract MOAS members who work during the week and/or have children and grandchildren they would like to bring.

Cost: Veterans \$5; Adults \$30; Children 3-12 \$15. Need a minimum of 20 folks for a Group.

Contact Woz NLT Thursday 17 April for reservations.

Send your check made out to: Ron Wozniak & mail to him at: 207 68th Street NW, Bradenton, FL 35209-2227

Friday 30 May 1830 (Sunset 2000)

No Host Lido Key Beach Sunset Gathering

400 Benjamin Franklin Drive, Sarasota 34236.

There are restrooms. BYO beach chairs, food & drinks. Look for the US, USMC, & POW/MIA Flags near the beachhead. Bring your Service Flag. If you do not have a flagpole of at least 8' contact Woz. **Please let us know if you are coming NLT Wednesday 28 May.**

For information on cancellations, changes in venue, dates & times, go to the MOAS website Calendar & Blogs at <https://www.sarasotamoaa.com/> or text Ron Wozniak: 941-779-5448 or e-mail: RonWozniak13@gmail.com or Linda at 941-779-5447 or NauticalEffect@msn.com.

NOTE: Ride Sharing - If you need a ride please check the MOAS online Calendar for folks already signed up nearby. Contact them to inquire about getting a ride to an event or outing. We do not want to preclude folks from attending for lack of transportation. If all else fails contact Woz or Linda.

Receive the Breeze via email or view it on www.sarasotamoaa.com or blog.sarasotamoaa.blogspot.com



SARASOTA CHAPTER

Friday, April 18, 2025

@ 11:30am

Michael's On East

1212 S East Ave Sarasota, FL 34239

Dress Code – Coat - Tie Optional

MENU

SERVED LUNCHEON

Specialty Bread Basket

ENTREE

Ginger-Orange Grilled Salmon

Topped with Zest of Lemon, Lime &

Oranges served with Lemon &

Pistachio Rice Pilaf, Asparagus &

Baby Carrots (Steamed)

VEGETARIAN

Spinach, Cheese & Sun-Dried

Tomatoes Stuffed Portobello

Mushrooms

DESSERT

Classic Tiramisu: Rich Mousse of

Mascarpone Cream & Hints of

Marsala, Surrounded by Espresso-

Soaked Ladyfingers with a Dusting

of Cocoa

Served Coffee, Decaf & Tea

Pre-set Iced Water

Served Iced Tea w/Lemon upon

request

Please make your luncheon reservation by mail.

Fill out the form below and mail us your check.

1. Provide first & last names, rank and service of attendees. Use back of form, if needed. Please note in comments if it is your birthday month, you're a new member, a surviving spouse, or if this is your, or your guests, first time attending.
2. Special diet and vegetarian meal requests **MUST** be submitted together with the initial luncheon reservation. Michaels on East will no longer honor last minute requests at the luncheons.
3. **Your reservation and payment should be received no later than 3 days before the luncheon date.** For late registrations, you must EMAIL or Call our Luncheon Coordinator (Peggy O'Connell). Do **not** contact Michaels on East. We will try to accommodate late registrations, but *no guarantees*. We must inform Michaels on East at least 48 hours in advance. *No refunds will be possible after that date.*
4. If you make your reservation with the intent to pay at the door, we must hold you to that promise, as Michaels on East will charge us for your guaranteed meal, if you attend or not.

MEMBER INFORMATION

Name, Rank Service _____

Phone # _____ email: _____

Please reserve ___ seats for the luncheon

Cost \$39.00/person (Tax & Gratuity incl.)

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____

Name	Meal (E / V)	Comment

COMMENT CODES: SS-Surviving Spouse; BD-Birthday; NM-New Member

Please mail reservation form and check payable to **MOAS**

to:

PEGGY O'CONNELL

1100 Imperial Drive #303, Sarasota, FL 34236-2465

Questions? (312) 982-1374 or email: pegoconnell12@gmail.com

WANTED!!!!!!

Member donations to support lunches for student Honorees and their parents at the May 7th

Scholarship Award Luncheon.

Simply add STUDENT reservations for the number of scholarship guests you wish to support.

THANK YOU!!!!!!



APRIL - MAY 2025



DATE	EVENT	TIME
Wednesday, April 2	YAHOO: Pop Stroke Putt Golf - Details on Page 10	7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 7	MOAS/SMOF Board Meeting - Meadows Wellness Center	2:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 9	Meet & Greet - Mattison's on 41 - Details on Page 9	5:30 p.m.
Friday, April 18	MOAS Luncheon - Michaels on East - CENTCOM	11:30 a.m.
Saturday, April 26	YAHOO: MOAS Annual Picnic - Details on Page 10	11:00 a.m.
Saturday, May 3	YAHOO: BIG CAT HABITAT TOUR & VISIT - Details on Page 10	10:45 a.m.
Monday, May 5	MOAS/SMOF Board Meeting - Meadows Wellness Center	2:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 7	MOAS Luncheon - Michaels on East - Scholarship Luncheon	11:30 a.m.
Friday, May 30	YAHOO: Lido Key Beach Sunset Gathering - Details on Page 10	2:00 p.m.

NAME TAGS

Fill out the form and provide a check for \$16.50 payable to **MOAS** & we will hand deliver a name tag to you at the next luncheon. Please allow 2 weeks for fabrication.

Give to Len Friedlander at a luncheon or mail to 8221 Deerbrook Circle, Sarasota, FL 34238.

First Name _____ Last name _____
 Rank (Abbreviated) _____ Service _____ Status _____

Example

First Name Henry Last name O'Connell
 Rank (Abbreviated) LCDR Service USNR Status Ret

Military Officers Association of Sarasota, Inc. | P.O. Box 1016 Sarasota, FL 34230-1016

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual Membership Dues: Regular Surviving Spouse Allied Associate

Mail application with your check for \$35, made payable to MOAS. Postal Newsletter add \$24

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____ Rank _____ Spouse Name _____

Street Address (Include Apt#) _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ E-Mail Address _____ Birthday mm/dd/yyyy _____

Status: Active Retired Former Officer Regular Reserve Surviving Spouse Foreign _____ Country _____

Service Component: Army Navy Air Force Marine Corps Coast Guard NOAA USPHS National Guard Space Force

Please do not publish my personal information in the Directory Who told you about the Association? _____

Signature _____ Date _____ National MOAA Member Number _____

Revised 11/23