

Officers Call

2023

Military Officers Association of America
Saint Petersburg Area Chapter



★★★★★
One of America's Best....

December Issue

Its official the 2024 Officer Slate has been approved at the Chapter's November Luncheon.

President: John Kieffer MAJ USA FMR.
1st VP: John Rummel CDR USN Ret.
2nd VP: Larry O'Hara MAJ USA Ret.
Treasurer: Brian Rau LTC USA Ret.
Secretary: Anthony Clark COL USA Ret.
Spouse Liaison: Frances Chancey LTC USA Ret.

Executive Advisory Board, Term Expires 31 DEC 25

1. Peter Gunderson CAPT USN Ret.
2. Christina Manley CPT USA Ret.
3. Richard Dusincki LTC USA Ret.

Your Executive Board for 2024



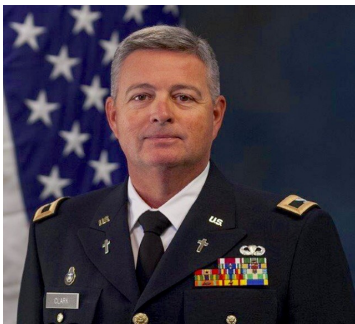
President
MAJ John Kieffer



1st Vice President
CDR John Rummel



2nd Vice President
MAJ Larry O'Hara



Secretary
COL Tony Clark



Treasurer
LTC Brian Rau

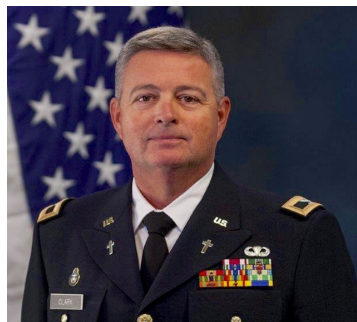


Spouse Liaison
LTC Pauline Mallory

Executive Council Contributors



Hospitality & Reservations
Denise & Maj Tom Pederson



Chaplain
COL Tony Clark



Veteran Representative
LTC Frances Chancy



Join your fellow Chapter members and their guest for our annual holiday social!

When: Sunday 17 December 2023

Where: The Bayou Club

Time: 1300 hrs (1:00pm)

Note:

Hors d'oeuvres will be provided.

Valet parking provided

Cash bar is available.



Help Wanted

The chapter needs a recording secretary. This position has one responsibility: Taking minutes of the monthly Executive Committee meeting. The meeting is usually held on the first Monday of the month. The minutes would then be submitted to the editor of the monthly Officers Call Newsletter.

There are other committees which could use additional support. You could spend as much time as you have available. The several advisory committees are listed on the contact page later in this newsletter.

If you can support the Chapter, contact your President or any Executive Committee member.

Meeting Dates 2024

<u>Month</u>	<u>Executive Committee</u>	<u>General Membership</u>
January	2	19
February	6	16
March	5	15
April	2	19
May	7	17
June	4	21?
July	2	19?
August	6	16
September	3	20
October	1	18
November	5	15 Annual Mtg
December	3	20 Holiday Social

Note: All dates are subject to change due to venue availability or other matters beyond the control of the Executive Council.

The Executive Council ("EC") meets on the 1st Tuesday above dates, 5:30pm to 7pm at the Panera Bread, Bardmoor Plaza, 10801 Starkey Rd., Largo. *Times and locations are subject to change.

Locations, meal selections and times for General Membership events will be published in your Officers Call.

Remember to bring your Officer or Surviving Spouse friends.

Lunch Meeting Times:

11:00 Social followed by lunch
 11:45 Program
 13:00 Luncheon Ends

Dinner Meeting Times:

17:00 Social followed by dinner
 17:30 Program
 19:00 Dinner Ends

Breakfast Meeting Times:

09:00 Purchase meal
 09:30 Meeting
 11:00 Adjournment

Upcoming MOAA-St Petersburg Area Chapter Meeting Speakers

December Holiday Social

2024 Speakers to be determined.

Note: If you have a person who you feel the chapter would find interesting, give that idea to a member of the Executive Committee.

What's the Grinch's favorite band?

The Who.

President's Comments

Outgoing President's Comments

By: SPA MOAA President

Tom Hofer

CW5 USA Ret.

Greetings, fellow officers.

As my term as your President is ending, I would like to make some comments. First, I thank you for your support during my time. It made all the difference in the world in making my job easier.

I am very proud of the efforts of the leadership team: John Kleffert, Art Brown, Larry O'Hara, Brian Rau and our chaplain Tony Clark. Their sage advice and the work they put into the website and the OC newsletter was once again recognized by national MOAA as a "five star" effort. I also want to mention the outstanding work of the Membership Chair, our Immediate Past President Pauline Mallory.

Our chapter is in very good shape. Our support to the five area high schools with JROTC will continue. Under the leadership of MAJ John Kieffert, USA, Fmr, we have started a fund-raising program to supplement your chapter dues. We will be reaching out to fellow veterans' groups in our area to solicit operational funds. We note that unlike many of our sister veterans' organizations we do not have a permanent meeting site with for profit food and beverage service and the ability to rent out a facility.

We will continue to emphasize our motto, "never stop serving" and I will continue as the new Immediate Past President and participate in the activities of the Executive Committee.

Again, I thank all of you for your encouragement and support.

In the meantime, keep on serving.

Chaplain's Corner

“Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem.”

The opening lines of Handel’s Messiah, a holiday season favorite, were recorded by the prophet Isaiah around 538 B.C. during the Jewish exile in Babylon. Jews from in and around Jerusalem were enduring what would be approximately 70 years of exile from their homeland. We can only imagine the hopelessness and resignation that likely described the exiles’ mood. Would God restore the nation? Would they ever see home again?

I suspect that Isaiah’s declaration of comfort broke into their hopelessness and resignation like a much needed balm and relief for their sorrow and disbelief. Handel’s musical accompaniment captures the soothing and strengthening sense of Isaiah’s words. Listen for yourself at <https://handelandhaydn.org/messiah-online/>.

The beauty of God’s Word lies in its timelessness: words of comfort for Jewish exiles in 538 B.C. still speak to the Jewish nation in the wake of the horrific attacks by Hamas on October 7th of this year. We have seen firsthand the devastation and grief wrought by that invasion and into that devastation and grief the Lord speaks words of comfort and strength: “Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem.”

Beyond the Jewish exile, beyond the recent attacks in Israel, can those words of comfort and strength speak to the difficult and heartbreaking circumstances that many of us know right now? Most definitely!

I say most definitely because the Spirit of Lord works through Holy Scripture to comfort the afflicted. Or as the prophet Ezekiel says, “seek that which was lost, and bring [back] that which was driven away, and...bind up that which was broken, and...strengthen that which was sick.”

I know that this holiday season is “the most wonderful time of the year” when we are all “holly jolly” and festive. Keep in mind that many of us may experience a “Blue Christmas” because of difficult circumstances in our lives: death of a loved one, financial challenges, loss of a job, or catastrophic illness.

If it’s a Blue Christmas for you, listen to Isaiah’s words and Handel’s music of comfort and strength afresh and hear YOUR NAME: “speak ye comfortably to YOUR NAME.” On the other hand, if you know someone experiencing a Blue Christmas, be their comfort and strength, so that may come to know the “comfort AND joy” of this remarkable season.

Legislative Action

Please contact your congressional representative , name and contact numbers are located in the chapter's annual directory). District 12 Representative: Anna Paulina Luna, 202-225-5961

Inform them that you want the military service personnel to receive their pay and allowances even in the event of a government shut down.

That the government should honor the promises, communicate and inferred, at the time the service member volunteered to protect the citizens of this great country.

The Consumerr Finance Protecction Bureau should continue to be a viable agency protecting our service members from the predatory actions of "over night check lenders". Thanks to this organization thousands of service members and their families have been protected from falling into debt.

Press the Congress to improve health care, benefits and services for women veterans.

Executive Council Minutes

Date: 6 November 2023

Attendees:

Tom Hofer, John Rummel, Wayne Morris, Pauline Mallory, Davvid Mallory, John Kieffer, Tom Pederson, Jim King, and Pete Gunderson

Discussion:

New member William Brockman (a Local Life Member.

Field of Honor results were reviewed.

Meal selection options were discussed.

American Legion post 273 donation of 1,000.

Various Veteran's Day activities were provided.

Chamber of Commerce evaluation of donating. Tom will be attending the next luncheon to gather info.

American Legion Post 273 Boat Parade 11 Nov.

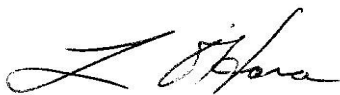
December Holiday and Officer installation

January's take a Vet fishing at the Maderia VFW (24 Jan). Might make a good luncheon speaker.

Motions\Action Items

Dues renewal campaign start.

Submitted Respectfully



Larry O'Hara
Chapter Secretary
MAJ USA Ret.

Membership

Membership Corner

LTC Pauline Mallory, USA, RET

It's chapter membership renewal and donation time! Your dues help us to continue our local support for

veterans, retirees, active-duty personnel, and future leaders in the five High School JROTC programs we

are directly involved with.

If you would like to make additional contributions, our 2024 Donations go to:

MOAA National Scholarship Fund

JROTC Scholarship Fund

Officers Call Booster Fund

Help Our Troops

Chapter News



Welcome New Member:

William Brockman LTC USA Ret.

Taps:

Nothing to report

Sick Call:

Nothing to report at this time.

Chapter Statistics by Membership:

Military:	76
Spouses:	30
Total:	106

Chapter Statistics by Service:

Army:	38
Navy:	14
Marine Corps:	3
Coast Guard:	5
Air Force:	16
Spouses:	10
Surviving Spouses:	20

Observances:

Date Observance

1	Civil Air Patrol Birthday (USAF Auxiliary)
7	National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
13	U.S. National Guard Birthday
18	National Wreaths Across America
25	Christmas Day
31	New Year's Eve

A photographer was hired to take pictures at a lawyer's convention. After lining everyone up for a group shot, he shouted, "on the count of three, everyone say, 'Fees'"

Birthdays:

December (Years between 1932 to 1967)

Birth Day	L NAME	F NAME	RANK	SVC	Suffix
04	Terwilliger	William	MAJ	USA Ret.	
05	Moulton	Harry	1LT	USA (Fmr)	
07	Lillich	Chris	Mrs.	Spouse	
15	Pederson	Thomas	Maj	USAF Ret.	
19	Bush	Judy	Mrs.	Spouse-CG	
21	Butterfield	Larry	LTJG	USN (Fmr)	
21	Harrow	Anita	Mrs.	Spouse-N	PhD,
24	Hudson	Lee	COL	USA Ret.	
26	Barkalow	Carol	LTC	USA Ret.	

Luncheon Meeting Photos:

See the Chapter's Facebook page for recent and past meeting photos.

Surviving Spouse Corner:

<https://www.va.gov/SURVIVORS/FAQs.asp>

Remember that the important thing is not what you give, or how you wrap it. The important thing, during this very special time of the year, is that you save the receipt. —Dave Barry

Did You Know? MOAA Has Podcasts!

Check these out for your next “listen”



MOAA has a vast selection of Podcasts for your listening entertainment and education. Listed below are just a few.

Check out MOAA’s website at MOAA.org

BORNE THE BATTLE – weekly podcast from the Dept of VA

<https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/va-podcast/network/borne-the-battle>

ECHOES OF THE VIETNAM WAR – spotlights, veterans, their families, and others affected

www.vvmf.org.Echoes

JACKO PODCAST – hosted by retired Navy SEAL officer

<https://jockpodcast.com/all-episodes>

MENTORS FOR MILITARY – focuses on stories behind real-life military experiences

<https://mentorsformilitary.com>

NATIONAL DEFENSE – features analysis news on military trends

www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/podcasts

SERVICE ON CELLULOID – debates on historical merit depictions of military films

www.nationalww2museum.org/war/podcasts/service-celluloid-podcast#episodes

SOFREP RADIO – podcasts hosted by former military operators

<https://sofrep.com/sofrep-radio>

TEAM NEVER QUIT – hosted by Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell, author of *Lone Survivor*

<https://teamneverquit.com/podcast>

VETERANS CHRONICLES – stories of American heroes in their own words

www.americanveteranscenter/org/avc-media/radio/veterans-chronicles

YOUR NEXT MISSION – support for transitioning service members, spouses and families

<https://yournextmission.org>

WAR ON THE ROCKS – “National Security. For Insiders. By Insiders.”

<https://warontherocks.com>

WOMEN OF THE MILITARY/AIRMAN TO MOM – interviews of women veterans and those who are currently serving in the military

www.airmantomom.com

Visit your Chapter's Web page and social media accounts (Facebook and Instagram) on a regular basis.

Don't forget the Florida Council and National sites. chapter web and social media accounts

National

MOAA.ORG

For general and Legislation Action Information.

Note: MOAA is an independent, nonprofit, politically non-partisan organization!

State

MOAAFL.ORG

For Florida specific information.

Local

MOAASTPETEAREA.COM

For membership eligibility and membership application as well as other chapter related information.

Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/moaa_st_pete_area/

Face Book:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/925278824641972>



St Petersburg Area Chapter

PO Box 8462

Seminole, FL 33735-8462

Personal Data	Applicant		Spouse
Last name		Last name	
First name		First name	
Middle Init.		Middle Init.	
Nickname		Nickname	
DOB (dd/mm/yyyy)		DOB (dd/mm/yyyy)	May use 2050 as the year

	Applicant	Spouse
Phone		
E-mail		

Address					If snow bird	
Street	City	State	Zip+4	From month	To month	

Military Data		Status	Applicant
Rank or Spouse	Service	Active, Former or Retired	MOAA #

Membership Dues				
Member	Spouse	Member Name tag	Spouse Name tag	Total Amount Sent
\$30.00	\$25.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	

Local Life Dues for Member or Spouse				
Age	under 55	56 to 70	71 to 90	over 90
Cost	\$425.00	\$375.00	\$300.00	Free

Send check payable to SPA MOAA to the above PO address

Membership is open to Active Duty, Former, Retired, National Guard and Reserve, Commissioned and Warrant Officers of the Uniformed Services and their Surviving Spouses. Per chapter bylaws, all chapter members must be members of MOAA (national). If not a national member please call 1-800-234-6622 to speak to a service representative or visit MOAA.org to join. **Note: MOAA is an independent, nonprofit, politically non-partisan organization!**

Note: By joining, you authorize the use of your image in official MOAA publications!

Contact Information

Committee	Chairperson
Advertising	MAJ John Kieffer
Awards	Maj Pete Dawson
Bylaws & Policy Book	MAJ Larry O'Hara
Help our Troops & VA Volunteer Service	LTC Fran Chancey
Hospitality & Reservations	Maj Thomas Pederson Mrs. Denise Pederson
Law	Maj Bert Carrier
Legislative	CW5 Tom Hofer
Membership	LTC Pauline Mallory
Personal Affairs	LTC Pauline Mallory COL Tony Clark
ROTC & JROTC	CW5 Tom Hofer
Scholarships	CAPT Pete (Halvor) Gunderson
Surviving Spouses	LTC Pauline Mallory
Transition	Vacant
Visitation	Vacant

The current chapter's directory contains contact particulars.

HELPFUL LINKS AND CONTACTS

DFAS

<https://www.dfas.mil/>

1 888 332-7411

AARP

<https://www.aarp.org/>

1 888 687 2277

ELIZABETH DOLE FOUNDATION

<https://www.elizabethdolefoundation.org/>

TAPS

<https://www.taps.org/>

1 800 959 8277

MOAA

Moaa.org

1 800 234 6622

SURVIVING SPOUSE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Surviving Spouse Virtual chapter:

mssvc02@gmail.com

SSAC Chair and Board Member:

viriniagailjoyce@gmail.com

VA

<https://www.va.gov/>

1 800 698 2411

MILITARY.COM

WWW.MILITARYCOALITION.ORG

Health Care Committee-Survivors

WWW.MILITARYONESOURCE.MIL

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