

Officers Call

2024

January/February Issue

Military Officers Association of America
Saint Petersburg Area Chapter



★★★★★
One of America's Best....

February Guest Speaker

Thank you again for inviting me to your monthly luncheon, it is truly an honor!

Kindest Regards,

Elizabeth Miller
LTC, AN
OIC/Program Manager, Army Reserve Medical Management Center (AR-MMC)
2801 Grand Ave
Pinellas Park, FL 33782
Email: elizabeth.j.miller34.mil@army.mil

Office: (910) 771-5166

Fax: (910) 771-5354

Here are the meal selections for the Bayou Club MOAA Luncheon on February 16th.

1: Grilled Salmon over Villager Salad

Mixed greens, mandarin oranges, raisins, strawberries, pecans, and raspberry vinaigrette

2: Southern Fried Chicken Salad

Mixed greens, grape tomatoes, cucumbers, shredded cheese, croutons, and honey mustard dressing

3: Bayou Club Wrap

Turkey, ham, bacon, lettuce, tomato, mixed cheese, in a wheat wrap served with fresh fruit

4: Vegetarian Bowl

All served with coffee/iced tea and dessert.

Cost remains the same \$25 per meal.

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 Board meets on the above dates. *Times and locations are subject to change. Current EC sessions are in the evening 5pm to 7pm at the Broadmoor Panera Bread restaurant on Bryan Darry road.

Reservations with final locations and meal selections 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

President's Comments

By: John Kieffer
MAJ, USA (veteran)
SPA MOAA

First, I want to thank you, our membership, for your trust and confidence in electing me president of the chapter. I will work hard to meet your expectations to make manifest the MOAA vision and its mission:

The Vision: to be the leading association advocating on behalf of the military community.

The Mission: to advocate on behalf of the military community and never stop serving.

In this regard, I want to acknowledge our recent past presidents who have led us through the years to our continuing Five Star Levels of Excellence in achieving such: Thomas Hofer, CW5, USA, Ret.; Pauline Mallory, LTC, USA, Ret.; and Peter Gunderson, CAPT, USN, Ret. I will be relying on their experience and guidance as I “learn the ropes” in the coming months.

As we navigate our chapter through 2024, I want you to know that we have a great leadership team in place that will facilitate that continuing success: 1st Vice President John Rummel, CDR, USN, Ret.; 2nd Vice President & Officers Call newsletter Editor Larry O’Hara, MAJ, USA, Ret.; Treasurer, Brian Rau, LTC, USA, Ret.; Secretary and Chaplain: Anthony “Tony” Clark, COL., USA, Ret.; and, Spouse Liaison Frances “Fran” Chancy, LTC, USA, Ret. That exceptional lineup includes Denise and Tom Pederson, MAJ, USAF Ret. who coordinate and manage our social events; and, Monroe “Jim” King, DO, CAPT, USN, Ret. who has outreached and connected our chapter with local civic and military organizations.

Finally, in regard to our core mission, I need to relay to you an important ask from the leadership of the Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) conveyed at our January Leadership Training Seminar in Orlando. You are encouraged to sign up and join National MOAA’s advocacy network, link for such: https://moaa.quorum.us/sign_in/. That link is found on MOAA’s Legislative Action Center page, <https://moaa.quorum.us/>, which describes MOAA’s current legislative campaigns and, for each campaign, an easy to fill out online form to add your name backing that campaign.

With your support, ideas and enthusiasm, we’re going to have a great year.

Never stop serving.

Chaplains Corner

“To be really happy and really safe, one ought to have at least two or three hobbies, and they must all be real.” Winston Churchill

Alexa reminded me this morning that January is National Hobby Month and so it seems meet and right to reflect a bit on hobbies, most especially why they are important for our well-being. I spent a few minutes consulting the Google about hobbies and found a wealth of articles outlining the importance of hobbies in our life. So why continue our current hobbies or start a new one?

For starters, hobbies promote active leisure. Active leisure may mean physically active in the sense of running, walking, swimming, hiking, or playing golf. Two of my hobbies fit in this physically active category: walking a monthly 5K (which requires regular walking throughout the month) and playing or practicing golf. Walking keeps my body moving (according to Tom Petty, if “you never slow down, you never grow old”) and allows my mind to wander: mulling over the latest challenge at work, admiring the sunset, SQUIRREL!

Active leisure may also mean mentally active in the sense of crosswording, jigsaw puzzling, or reading. I think another one of my hobbies, cooking, falls into this category, especially when I’m adapting a recipe or creating a recipe from a combination of ingredients. These “mental” hobbies keep our minds active, keep us curious, and keep us on pace as lifelong learners.

Our hobbies, whatever they may be, also make us more interesting at cocktail parties and around the water cooler by adding layers to our identity. We are more than our job (or the job from which we retired): we are our hobbies as well. I am a retired Army officer AND a walker, cook, and golfer. And these added dimensions to our identity – our hobbies – can lead to new friendships and social connections.

Finally, this multidimensional identity because of our hobbies builds resilience. Many of us, for example, found our identity in uniform. When we (or anyone else who leaves work for the last time) hang up that uniform after retirement, that can shake our identity to the core. Who am I beyond my work identity? Hobbies help us navigate life well when another dimension of life struggles. Winston Churchill, for example, turned to painting when his political career took a wicked tumble in 1915 after the failed Dardanelles Campaign. His essay, *Painting as a Pastime*, is itself a fine apology on the importance of hobbies and pastimes for a life well lived.

Let me close this brief reflection on hobbies with a few questions to consider:

What are your hobbies? Have they changed over the years? How do they enrich your identity?

Do your hobbies challenge you? Do they bring satisfaction? Do they relieve stress?

What new hobbies might you consider? Can you try a 6-month trial to audition a hobby?

“The cultivation of a hobby and new forms of interest is therefore of first importance to a public man [and woman.]” Winston Churchill

Legislative Action

By: SPA MOAA Immediate Past President - CW5 Tom Hofer USA Ret.

Since my last Legislative Action column in October 2023, I note that in December, Congress passed the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). I want to highlight the significant accomplishments, many of which were due to our MOAA Legislative Advocacy team in Washington DC.

A 5.2 percent pay increase which matches the Employment Cost Index. This raise is the largest since 2002.

Family Separation Allowance increase from \$250 to \$400/month.

Improved CONUS COLA payments for those service personnel living in high cost areas (at least 5% above the national average.)

Creation of a reenlistment bonus for E-6 and below. This is at the discretion of the Secretary of Defense.

Modification of the Basic Needs Allowance – this would allow additional monthly payments to junior enlisted members to avoid having to go on relief or rely on food stamps to meet basic family needs.

TRICARE Pharmacy benefit – directs the Comptroller General to address the impact of closing pharmacies to rural residents, individuals needing long-term medications and dependents with chronic conditions.

The following were not included in the NDAA and represent some of the priorities of our MOAA:

Concurrent receipt for combat injured veterans.

Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) restoration – currently at 95% of costs.

Revision of Arlington Cemetery eligibility.

Reservist dental care.

Repeal of the 180 Day Rule, prohibiting discharged or retired military from applying for GS-13 and below positions in the Civil Service.

Our advocates are also actively encouraging Congress to intervene with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to allow exempting Disability Compensation including DIC from income requirements relating to home buying. This has taken the form of HR 6179 – Home for the Brave Act.

Write to our Congressional representative, the Honorable Ana Patricia Luna (R-FL) urging her to support HR 6179. Don't forget to include our Senators as well.

Regards to all.

Tom Hofer, CW5, USA, Ret.

Legislative Affairs officer.

KEEP ON SERVING.

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.

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.

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.

Term Expires 31 DEC 24

Tom Pederson Maj USAF Ret.
Anthony Clark COL USA Ret.
Monroe King CAPT USN Ret.

Your Executive Board for 2024



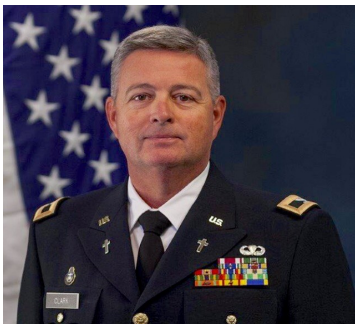
President
MAJ John Kieffer



1st Vice President
CDR John Rummel



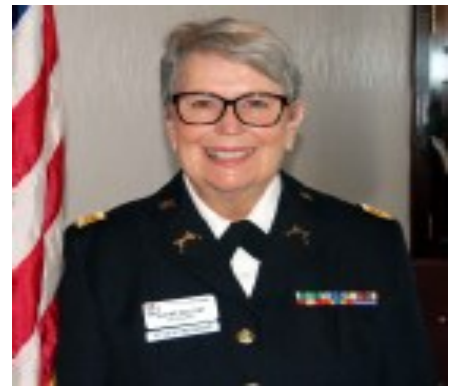
2nd Vice President
MAJ Larry O'Hara



Secretary
COL Tony Clark



Treasurer
LTC Brian Rau

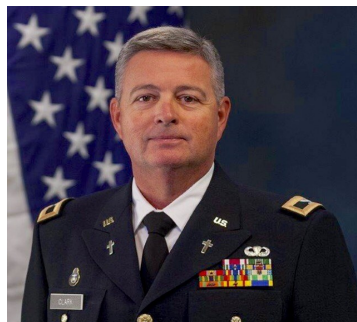


Spouse Liaison
LTC Pauline Mallory

Executive Council Contributors



Hospitality & Reservations
Denise & Maj Tom Pederson



Chaplain
COL Tony Clark



Veteran Representative
LTC Frances Chancy

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.

Personal Affairs Corner

LTC Pauline Mallory, USA Ret

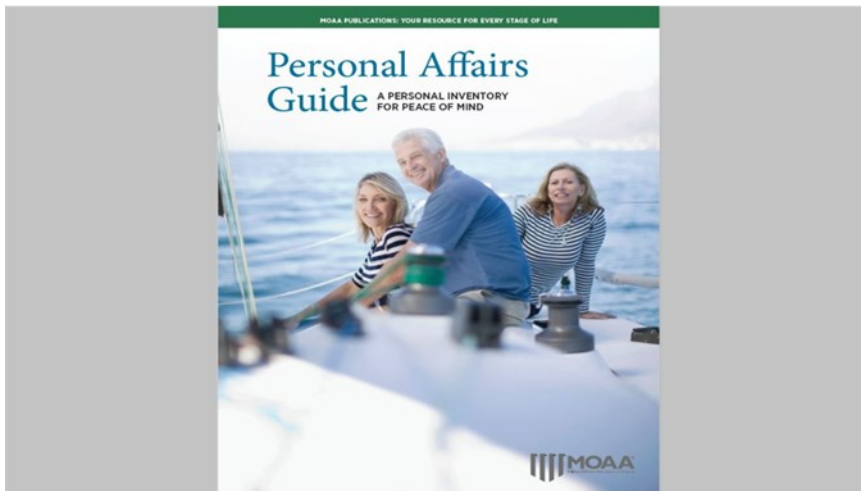
Personal Affairs Chair

It's the start of the New Year and time to make sure all your affairs are in order. MOAA has created this workbook to assist you in gathering all of your family's crucial information - from investments to legal documents, insurance policies, and more. You can complete a downloadable guide to save as a digital record on your computer or as a hard-copy file to place with your other important documents. For our PREMIUM and LIFE Members, benefits and financial counseling with MOAA staff experts will complement the process of completing this workbook.

PREMIUM and LIFE MOAA Member Price: [FREE download](#)

Not a member? [Join as PREMIUM or LIFE member today.](#)

BASIC members, [upgrade](#) to get your FREE copy.



Membership Corner

LTC Pauline Mallory, USA, RET

Happy 2024!!!! Thank you to all those who promptly replied to your chapter renewal letters. Just a reminder that we would like to receive your responses by the end of January. That will allow us to get our 2024 Directory together and printed for you. 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. **National MOAA** is the largest advocacy organization for active duty soldiers and families, retired soldiers and spouses and veterans. Your continued support helps! Thank you!

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

Just a reminder that the deadline for SPAC renewal dues is the end of January 2024. If you have moved out of the area and/or no longer wish to continue in your membership, please let me know.

You may mail your renewal dues to:

St Petersburg Area Chapter

P.O. Box 8462

Seminole FL 33775-8462

Military members: \$30.00

Spouse/Surviving Spouse: \$25.00

Thank you,

LTC Pauline Mallory, USA, Ret

Membership Chair

Never Stop Serving

Chapter News



Welcome New Member:

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

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:

Revisions coming

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	To

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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