



President's Message

Wishing EVERY member a "Happy February"! My opening quote comes from our President's recent State of Union address: "A strong defense is necessary to deter adversaries . . . for this reason I am asking the Congress to end the dangerous defense sequester and fully fund our great military." Those words resonate with us because we served in uniform and because we continue to support those who are still in uniform.

The bottom line is that President Trump is calling on congress to TAKE ACTION that will empower our services. TAKE ACTION to remove the fiscal constraints of sequestration. It certainly makes sense to fund (empower) a strong military especially if we are NOT going to remain complacent in the face of aggression – also his words. Strength, resolve, success, and security require pro-active planning, commitment and ACTION.

TAKE ACTION -- that is also the gist of my message to YOU. Our Central Florida Chapter (CFC) needs to BE empowered by the strength of your commitment – your vision – and your desire to keep our nation strong. Keep America secure and take care of those who serve on the front lines. We must also care for their families. Those wives and husbands and their children, who travel and live around the world to support, love, pray and worry daily for their spouses, their moms and dads.

*** CFC can have a great community outreach program – show the flag, praise the military, sing the anthem, salute the flag, tell OUR stories to those who have not served so they KNOW what it really takes to serve.

*** CFC can provide outstanding support to active duty personnel and their families. Service personnel and their families, living in central Florida, need assistance.

*** CFC are Veterans taking care of Veterans who needs assistance. Military widows and widowers need assistance. The opportunities are many for us to be a HUB of information and a rock solid foundation of support.

But my words, like the President's, are only words, ideas and concepts unless good people commit and TAKE ACTION. The President is asking congress to end the sequester – TAKE ACTION. I am asking that you, our members, TAKE ACTION and become an active participant of this chapter. We are in our 3rd month of a 6-month campaign to REBUILD – to TAKE ACTION and pro-actively support our nation and its service people. We have open positions that need VOLUNTEERS – need LEADERS – need DRIVE and VISION. Come join us – TAKE ACTION.

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Dates to Note:

- Sat, Feb 10th, Board Meeting
- Wed, Feb 14th, Happy Valentine's Day
- Sat, Feb 17th, MOAA Luncheon @1130
- Sat, Mar 10th, Board Meeting
(tentative date)
- Sat, Mar 17th, MOAA Luncheon @1130
(tentative date)

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Saturday, February 17th, 2018 MOAA Luncheon

11:30 Social - Lunch at 12:00

Location

Elks Lodge 1079

12 N. Primrose Dr., Orlando, Florida

Menu: Shrimp Scampi or Prime Rib

Salad with house dressing

Coffee, Tea and Water included

Surprise Desert

Price: \$27 (includes gratuity)

Please note the increase in cost to provide a much nicer meal.

Reservations not later than noon on Tuesday, February 13th

Call or email Rick Jung @ 407-802-4035 or rickjungsr@gmail.com

If you must cancel, please do so as early as possible. Regrettably, we must charge for "no-shows" for the cost of the meal.

MOAA CFC Scheduled Board Meeting - January 13th, 2018

A quorum was not in attendance so no meeting was held in January.

MOAA Central Florida Chapter (CFC) 2018 Membership Survey

As we move into 2018 and a new year for the Central Florida Chapter, it is time to consider the future of the Chapter and what we, as members, want from it. It will not survive without your input and involvement. Given this, we have provided a brief survey toward the end of this newsletter to obtain your thoughts, ideas and/or comments. Please take a few moments to complete this survey and return it so that the Board can assess our future. We have provided a number of ways to complete this. The simplest is to enter this web link and take the survey on Survey Monkey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VMFDXJK>

The link has also been included in the e-mail distributing this Focus. However, you could also bring a copy of the survey to the next luncheon with pen/pencil responses or you could scan it and e-mail to me (rfiebs1953@gmail.com) or you could type out an e-mail to me with just the question number and your responses.

Chaplain's Message

I have been president of my local homeowners association for nearly 20 years. Why? I have no desire to be a big frog in a little puddle; I'd be delighted to turn the office over to someone else anytime. I took it all those years ago when my predecessor moved out of the area and I was asked to run to put the brakes on large dues increases every year.

Somehow, apathy crept in as once active homeowners moved out and were replaced by new ones moving in. I've appealed for people to offer themselves for board positions with no takers. We've not even been able to get a quorum for our annual meeting for over ten years, so the current board remains on by default.

It seems that people are content to keep to themselves, and, so long as the HOA doesn't bother them (we've stabilized the annual dues and haven't raised them in a long time), they don't want anything to do with it.

I'd like to think better of our Central Florida Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, though. It's been gratifying to see several people step forward to pick up responsibilities and help revitalize the chapter.

Some folks, for physical or other reasons aren't able to help, and we understand that, but we have many members blessed with the talent and ability to really give the chapter a boost. I continue to pray daily that they too would step forward and say "I can help." We'd love to again be awarded five-star chapter status, and with some more help, we can do it.

More important than recognition, though, is our ability to be a valuable asset to our active, reserve, and retired military and our community as a whole. I hope we'll increase our efforts toward that goal.

In His love, Chaplain Dick



Annual Dues are Due !

Please send in your Chapter dues this month, if not a life member (your address label on this newsletter

shows your dues expiration date). Please check the mailing for this *Focus* for the date your membership expires. If you are paid-up-for-life, it will simply read "Life." If you are paid up for 2018, it will show a date of 31 Dec 2018. If it says 31 Dec 2017, your 2018 dues have not been recorded. Please send them in promptly, as we count on these funds to cover normal operations. Dues are \$15 for regular, \$10 for auxiliary. Make checks payable to MOAA CFC and mail to PO Box 141025, Orlando, FL 32814-1025. A form is provided on the last page of the *Focus*. Dues are our primary form of funds for administrative costs, so please help us keep the Chapter running. Contact us for information on Life Membership.



Protecting Your Pay and Benefits: MOAA's 2018 Advocacy Mission

If you haven't been to the MOAA National website recently, you may not be familiar with MOAA's Top 10 Goals for 2018. For your information, the first 5 are provided here; the second 5 will be featured in next month's newsletter. But you can also go to <http://www.moaa.org/2018Goals/> to see them in their entirety.

ONE

Action item: Ensure any TRICARE reform sustains access to top-quality care and avoids disproportional TRICARE fee increases.

Who is affected? All military beneficiaries, including active duty troops and retirees and their family members and others entitled to DOD's health care

The issue: Reforms to the Military Health System must sustain an operationally ready force with a ready medical force. MOAA strongly agrees the military's health care system needs to evolve beyond what it is today into a modern, high-performing, integrated system. However, this interdependent relationship between health care and the readiness-laden infrastructure must not lose sight of either imperative.

The health care benefit is a commitment our nation makes to service members and their families, military retirees, and survivors for their years of service. Any reform of TRICARE must take into account the decades of service that constitute a prepaid, in-kind premium worthy of a top-tier health benefit. Over 80 percent of those in Congress have not served in uniform and likely do not understand the toll service has on individuals and military families.

The remedy: Personal stories from constituents have a lot of impact on Capitol Hill. MOAA's members, councils, and chapters are a great source of grassroots support. Remind congressional legislators that any TRICARE reform not only must serve to strengthen the interdependent relationships between health care and readiness but also take into account that veterans prepaid for their health benefits through decades of service and sacrifice.

TWO

Action item: Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector.

Who is affected? All active duty currently serving uniformed personnel and their families

The issue: Budget pressures might tempt Congress to reduce military pay raises, widening the gap between military pay and civilian-sector pay and hurting recruiting and retention.

The remedy: We must work to ensure annual military pay raises approved by Congress remain tied to the Employment Cost Index.

THREE

Action item: Block erosion of compensation and non-pay and quality-of-life benefits.

Who is affected? All currently serving uniformed personnel and their family members

The issue: Future proposals likely will reduce the value of compensation, to include non-pay and quality-of-life benefits such as the Basic Allowance for Housing, Special Incentive Pays, and commissary, exchange, and morale, welfare, and recreation benefits, harming recruiting and retention.

The remedy: MOAA will continue to oppose proposals to reduce the value of compensation or undermine long-term retention.

FOUR

Action item: Protect military retirement and COLAs.

Who is affected? All new entrants into military service after Jan. 1, as well as those with less than 12 years of active military service who choose to opt in to the new blended retirement system (BRS)

The issue: Budget constraints might lead to further reductions in the value of the military retirement benefit earned after 20 years of service.

The remedy: Extend the period of government matching funds beyond 26 years to actual retirement. Oppose any efforts to reduce or eliminate the mandatory 12-years-of-service bonus in the BRS. Continue to seek comprehensive implementation of legislation authorizing concurrent receipt of uniformed service retired pay and VA disability compensation, to include a heightened focus on Chapter 61 retirees (those medically retired with less than 20 years of service).

FIVE

Action item: Sustain wounded warrior programs and expand caregiver support.

Who is affected? More than 52,000 servicemembers who were wounded in action, 1,000 battle-injured with major limb amputations, 327,000 traumatic brain injuries, and hundreds of thousands of individuals with service-connected conditions acquired since Sept. 11, 2001

The issue: While DoD, the VA, and the military services continue to maintain programs to care and support our most vulnerable servicemembers, MOAA has seen reductions in resources and funding for these programs.

The remedy: MOAA is committed to moving DoD and the VA to establish a more unified and integrated system of care and benefits that will provide comprehensive, wrap-around services to facilitate the health and well-being of the nation's wounded, ill, and injured. The Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Act of 2017, sponsored by Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and Rep. James Langevin (D-R.I.), is one step in that direction.

TAKE ACTION

Go to <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/> to contact your elected representatives on these issues and more.



MOAA Central Florida Chapter (CFC) 2018 Membership Survey

1. What is your MOAA CFC membership status and what city do you live in?
 - a. Active Duty
 - b. Retired
 - c. Veteran
 - d. Auxiliary
 - e. Indicate City: _____

2. Have you regularly attended MOAA CFC luncheons/functions in the past (by regularly means the majority of luncheons/functions over the past year)?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

3. If you answered No to Q2, why do you not regularly attend meetings/functions? Check all that apply.
 - a. Inconvenient day or time
 - b. Not interested in Chapter functions
 - c. Just too busy with other things
 - d. Other (please specify): _____

4. What type(s) of MOAA CFC meetings/functions would you prefer that would entice you to be more involved?
 - a. Weekend Luncheon (Like we have now)
 - b. Weekday Luncheon
 - c. Weekday Dinner
 - d. Evening Cocktail Hour
 - e. Other (please specify): _____

5. What types of topics and/or speakers would entice you to attend MOAA CFC meetings?
 - a. Update on Chapter and/or MOAA National Activities
 - b. Local government activities/representatives
 - c. Updates on Retirement benefits
 - d. Updates on local, state and national, legislative activities
 - e. Speakers from veterans support groups
 - f. Other (please specify): _____

6. What type(s) of locations would be more likely to have you attend a meeting/function?
 - a. Generic meeting hall (like now at the Elks Lodge with catered lunch)
 - b. Restaurant with meeting room and ordering from a menu
 - c. Hosted by a member's company at their facility
 - d. City Community Center
 - e. Other (please specify): _____

7. What do you see the purpose(s) of our Chapter to be?
 - a. Personal professional development
 - b. Networking with others in industry
 - c. Social connections
 - d. Supporting active and retired military families
 - e. Assisting military families in times of stress
 - f. Other (please specify): _____

8. In which of the following functions are you willing to volunteer to help the Chapter with our Mission (check all that apply)?
 - a. Membership
 - b. Events
 - c. Board of Directors
 - d. JROTC Programs
 - e. Veterans Affairs
 - f. Other (please specify): _____
 - g. I am not interested at this time

9. Do you have a particular skill, expertise or background that you might like to share as a featured speaker at a MOAA CFC meeting? _____

10. As our Focus Newsletter undergoes a resurgence, please offer your suggestions on how to make it better and/or more interesting to you.

MAKE COPIES OF THIS PAGE AND GIVE THEM TO FRIENDS ELIGIBLE TO JOIN THE CHAPTER
MOAA CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL

Central Florida Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

Eligible persons: Retired, Former or Active duty Commissioned or Warrant Officers of the seven uniformed services of the United States, and surviving spouses (eligible for Auxiliary Membership) of persons who would have been eligible, if living. Applicants for membership in the Central Florida Chapter are required to be members of National MOM. Dues are presently \$15 per year (\$10 for Auxiliary) for calendar year 2017. Please complete all applicable portions below and mail check payable to "MOAA, CFC, Inc." to the address indicated in "Amount enclosed" box below. This is my membership Application or Renewal (Note: if this is a renewal complete the form only if there are changes; otherwise just print your name on the form and sign and enclose your check)

1. NAME (please print, first, MI, last)

2. Address _____ City _____ FL Zip _____

3. Telephone# _____ Spouse (if applicable) _____

4. E-mail address, if applicable _____ @ _____

5. Birth date _____

6. National MOAA (TROA) member# (from mailing label of The Military Officer magazine)

For Regular Membership (Check as applicable)

Retired Officer ___ Former Officer ___ Active Duty Officer ___ Rank/Grade _____
Service: Army ___ Navy ___ Marine Corps ___ Air Force ___ USCG ___ USPHS ___ NOAA ___
For Auxiliary Membership (Complete items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, above, plus the following)

Deceased Spouse name (First, MI, Last) _____

Spouse service _____ Grade/rank _____

Your participation in various chapter activities is urgently needed and will be most sincerely appreciated.
Please check one (or more) areas you would be willing to help in:

Meeting Programs _____ Chapter Officer _____
Membership Recruitment _____
Ceremonies (Patriotic events) _____ Personal Affairs _____
Newsletter _____
Reservations (take phone calls, check in members at meetings) _____

ROTC/JROTC Programs _____

Please Sign

New member referred by _____

Amount Enclosed:

Dues:

Regular \$15 \$ _____

Or

Auxiliary \$10 \$ _____

ROTC/JROTC Contribution \$ _____

Community Service Donation \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to
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Publish my name in the roster

Yes _____ No _____