



OFFICER'S CALL

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

BROWARD COUNTY CHAPTER, INC.

January 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, here we are, beginning 2014, having safely returned from trips to see family for the holidays. I am beginning to see more e-mails from members, so most have recovered from the food and football marathon of Christmas and the New Year. We sincerely hope everyone had a safe, enjoyable and healthy time.

New Year's always bring new things—I'm not talking about your (ahem) resolutions, but new things to organizations such as ours as we assess our annual goals and how to improve our operations. There have been several developments which will help our Chapter advance into the future and help our members get more information as we move forward. There are several items in the "News" Section (page 3) of this **Officer's Call** which add a few more specifics to these improvements. This is the "Information Era" and you will be able to better understand where we are headed and plan your calendar with the information.

In addition, there's always the political morass impacting our basic mission. If you watched it develop over the holidays (I don't blame you if you didn't), you saw a new wrinkle in attacking veterans in the approved budget--reducing military retirees' benefits. This could impact both National Security (retention) and veterans' benefits (financial and medical) so it deserves our close attention. Now I understand some of us feel it will never impact us, but that might be a very bad assumption. Given what we see every day in the actions of both political parties, we need to watch what National MOAA recommends we do.

So, it is going to be a busy but fun year. We'll have some informative, helpful, and enjoyable events. But, remember, there's always the gravity of our mission.

Very Best, *Steve*

UPCOMING EVENTS

January Board of Directors Meeting—0900, January 11, 2014, American Legion Post

January Luncheon/Installation of Elected Officers—1230, January 19, LHPYRC | RSVP: LtCol Sam J Trichilo 954-752-1280 or LtCol Steve Bettner 954-942-3651

ANNUAL DUES REMINDER

2014 annual dues are payable by February 28, 2014. **Mail to: MOAA-BCC, PO Box 8552 Deerfield Beach, FL 33443-8552.** Regular members' dues are \$30, and Auxiliary members are \$15. Pay them now and avoid the rush. You may bring Cash or check to the Luncheon for convenience.

BOARD MEETING

January 11, 2014 – at American Legion Post 142, (behind city Hall, Pompano Beach) 171 American Legion Blvd. (SW 2nd St). Enter the meeting room through the Lounge at the Northeast corner of the American Legion Hall. **Breakfast will be served at 0900. The Business Meeting will begin at 1000.** Board members, please call the host, LtCol Sam Trichilo (954) 752-1280 to advise if you do not plan to attend. Other members of the Chapter are also invited to attend. They are requested to call LtCol Trichilo to advise if they do plan to attend.

LUNCHEON

January 19, 2014 – at Lighthouse Point Yacht Club. 2701 NE 42nd Street. **Coats preferred.** Cost is \$30.00 per person payable to MOAA/BCC.



CHAPTER CONCERNS AND INFORMATION

In order to inform Chapter Members about the interests, needs and concerns of their colleagues, this recurring column will provide Chapter members with the opportunity to share joys, concerns and information with each other and strengthen the bond we have, as brother and sister officers of our Nation's Military Services. It is our hope that members will advise the Secretary of the positive items and events of interest in their lives, as well as illness or other sad events for which their fellow members may want to express their sympathy or encouragement.

Please remember other members who are ailing and unable to join us for our meetings and socials. They would all like to receive calls or visits, and would appreciate your concern and best wishes.

All members are encouraged to relay information to the **President, or 3rd VP | Dr. Ronald Anderson, USPHS at 954.941.6189**, or other officers of the Chapter, so that we can respond and offer assistance.

Chapter elected officers include:

President – LTC Steven Bettner, USA
 1st Vice President – LtCol Sam Trichilo, USAF
 2nd Vice President – LtCol David Harper, USAF
 3rd Vice President – Dr. Ronald Anderson, USPHS
 Secretary – Jean Bettner
 Treasurer – LtCol Charles Radoy, USAF
 Legal – CPT Ed Fink, USN
 Chaplain – LTC Ronald Burgess, USA

GUIDANCE FOR THE NEW YEAR

I do not know what the phrase “under sealed orders” suggests to you, but for young Peter Marshall it had special meaning. Growing up near the harbor in the British Isles, he would watch the sleek, new British destroyers glide out of their seaports. He would watch them slip hurriedly from their ports in response to some urgent command. He would watch the crews hurry their preparations for sailing watch them cast off the mooring hawsers and get under way as they rose to meet the lazy ground swell of a summer evening. The morse lamps would go on working on the control bridge aft until they would disappear in the mists of the North Sea.

These destroyers would always be mystery vessels. They were under sealed orders. Not even their officers knew their destination or point of rendezvous.

Genesis reads, “by faith Abraham...went out, not knowing where he went...” Here was Abraham, a mature and successful man, having established himself in Ur of the Chaldees. Then God spoke to him: “Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will show thee...And I will wake of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great...and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed.”

Try to imagine what was involved in Abraham’s obeying this summons. Abraham had to sever all his business connections, uproot himself, procure his

supplies for a new and strange way of life...he was giving up the comforts and conveniences of a world he knew to live as a nomad under canvas with no settled abode.

From a common sense point of view, he was crazy. He was seventy-five when he began his journey. Where was he going? Well, he didn’t know exactly. What was he going to do? He was going to found a nation.

Well, it came to pass...

Like Abraham we stand at the precipice as we begin a new year. New opportunities beckon. Wouldn’t it be great if we had a guide to help us find our way through the mist...preferably someone who knows the shoals and the sandbanks, the rocks and the reefs...someone who will steer us safely into that wonderful harbor where our anchor will be cast for eternity.

We are living in a hazardous epoch of history. It would be tragic indeed if the still, small voice of God’s wisdom and direction is not heard at such a time as this. We cannot know whither we are going or what we may be called upon to do.

So, I ask, why not take a pilot on board who knows the nature of our sealed orders and will shape our voyage accordingly?

- LTC Ronald Burgess | Chaplain

JOURNEY TO...
2014

...AND BEYOND!

CHAPTER NEWS ITEMS & ACTIVITIES

Membership Drive for 2014

As we enter the new year, we will receive a new list of MOAA National members not affiliated with a Chapter in our Zip Codes. This narrows down the list of potential new members considerably. Be prepared to possibly make a few phone calls once we process the list and identify candidates.

New Annual "Theme for the Chapter for the Year"

This could be very helpful in "steering" presenters for our luncheons and give them some direction in our discussions. The idea was presented by a member who then suggested that for 2014, our inaugural year for this, be entitled "Preserving Veterans' Benefits in a Changing Environment". The concept will be presented to the Board at our next meeting. Concurrent with that, we will be laying out an annual plan for our events each year.

Be advised though, we can make reservations for only the next six months for the facilities we use. You'll see the first version in next month's Newsletter. This way, you'll be better able to schedule your own calendar.

New Website Up & Running

The Board approved the use of the newer approach last meeting and the new "domain" (website address) is already running. The new website is located at: www.browardmoaa.com.

This is already "linked" to the State and National MOAA websites. That means that if you go to either of those sites, find "Chapters", and find ours, the link "view website" will take you directly to this site.

When you get there, you will see some new features, and lots of room for expansion. One of our Board members believes he has some old versions of the Newsletter. When he finds them, we'll put them on the site (just for laughs—and a record.) We are also updating some of the files, which have been on the National and State websites for years and are far out of date. We have also incorporated a new approach to the **Chapter calendar**, and it will be very easy for you to look at days/months/etc. The bottom line is had we not done this now, we would have to do it in a few years, and pretty much re-create everything. Better to do it now so we can all enjoy it—and adjust.

FEBRUARY – DelRay Beach Intercoastal evening cruise. The Palm Beach MOAA Chapter is hosting this event, although we do not have details, other than sometime in February. The event consists of boarding a "Party boat" and having a buffet with open bar while the boat cruises the intercoastal in the evening. A couple of our members have been on the cruise before. (Don and Rita D'Onofrio and Sam and Charlotte Trichilo) ...if you want a recommendation. We'll keep you posted on details.

Spring 2014 – Interested in getting your "Mile High" Certificate?? Well, you may have a chance. In case you didn't know, that's for jumping out of a perfectly good airplane at 12,000 feet and free-falling to about 2000 feet where you coast in comfortably for a landing. What you may also not know is this is a "tandem jump" and **you are guided down by a World Champion US Army Golden Knight.** *In other words, he does all the work.* The Golden Knights practice in the spring at Homestead and welcome volunteers to jump with them. If you are interested, there are some members of our Chapter who were parachute-qualified in their military life and will tell you just what a thrill it is. Anyway, if you're interested, contact the Chapter President.



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P.O. Box 8552
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MOAA – DISCOUNT PROGRAM

Being a member of MOAA offers several personal benefits. Below are the discount programs offered to MOAA members, with more details found at: <http://www.moaa.org/discounts>.

- **Health** – Get great rates, a variety of products, quality customer service and customer advocacy.
- **Financial Products** – Take advantage of MOAA's low-rate credit card, bank deposits program, and mortgages.
- **Dell Member Purchase Program** – Did you know that MOAA members save up to 30% off select computers when purchased through the Member Purchase Program on MOAA's Web site?
- **Travel** – Find military travel discounts, tips and resources for planning your next trip, and added benefits.
- **Insurance Plan** – As an MOAA member, take advantage of the many different insurance products (including MEDIPLUS TRICARE Supplements and Long Term Care Insurance) offering outstanding members-only benefits at reasonable rates.
- **Apple Member Purchase Program** – Looking for an Apple computer? MOAA members now receive special discounts - and free shipping - on select Apple products and accessories. Visit MOAA's online Apple store to see and order the latest must-have gear. (www.moaa.org/apple)
- **Legal** – Search MOAA's lawyer listing to find a participating attorney near you who is willing to offer a 25 percent discount to fellow MOAA members.
- **MOAA Exchange** – MOAA has a new easy-access online store. Visit the MOAA Exchange today, or call toll-free at (866) 860-9293 to place an order.

ACCESSING OTHER MEMBER BENEFITS

MOAA has many products and services available to its members, including transition assistance, military health and benefits counseling and financial information. Details on all member benefits MOAA offers that you can take full advantage of with your membership can be found at: www.moaa.org/discounts.