



COASTAL TIDE

Military Officers Association of America

Grand Strand Chapter

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

www.grandstrandmoaa.com

December 2017

From the President:



Time has gone so fast! I realized that with the conclusion of the Holiday Gala, that my first year as your President is in the record books.

What a fun evening it was. The students of the Chamber Orchestra from Carolina Forest High School, under the direction of Stephen Williams, entertained us throughout the evening, playing as we went through the serving line, and then after dinner performing a variety of Christmas music. Upon completion of the performance, the crowd of 71 guests spontaneously rose to their feet with extended applause.

The evening, however, was just not about music, the holiday mood prevailed as mountains of toys were brought by members to support the Marines annual "Toys for Tots" drive headed so admirably in our Chapter by Past President and Marine Corps veteran Roger Pilcher.



Grand Strand Chapter Members again provided generous support for the USMC Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

Chaplain Greg Hill also went home with armfuls of coats and bags of food to pass on to those in need. A job well done by all,
BRAVO ZULU!



The Carolina Forest High School Chamber Orchestra provided music for the annual Holiday Gala dinner meeting.

Now we turn to the future. Our next meeting will be held in the evening at the Dunes Beach and Golf Club starting at 5:30 p.m.

on Tuesday, January 9. Our featured speaker will be Margaret Wadsworth, an elder law attorney. So, bring your questions as they pertain to wills, trusts, long term care insurance, Medicare benefits, etc.

In February our speaker will be retired Navy Captain Nori Ann Reed. Captain Reed served on six ships, with the honor of commanding three of them: the USS KISKA (AE-35), USS WILLIAMETTE (AO-180), and USS DETROIT (AOE-4). She also was the Commander Logistics Forces, United States Naval Forces Central Command (CTF 53) in Bahrain. Captain Reed was one of the first women assigned aboard Navy ships in 1980. She also became one of the first women to captain three of the six ships on which she served. She commanded the USS DETROIT stationed 11 miles from the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, but she will have to tell the rest of the story.

Let us raise our glasses to another productive Grand Strand MOAA year in 2018! Gale and I wish you all good health and happiness in the coming year.

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Chaplain's Corner

By Greg Hill

Happy Hanukkah (Jewish Festival of Lights)

Merry Christmas (Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus),

Happy Holidays (which includes Happy New Year!)

are the three most heard greetings in our area this December. Each greeting includes joy for today and hope for tomorrow. My prayer for each of you is that you will find joy in your celebrations and that 2018 will be filled with blessings and opportunities for service.

Thank you for supporting our Chapter's clothing and food drive during November and December this

year. Your generous contributions made a significant difference in the lives of people.

The \$1,250 Hero Grant our Chapter received from the Homes for Heroes Foundation greatly helped five Veterans and their families in the Georgetown County area. Our collaborative partner, Friendship Place, vetted the applicants to ensure they met the criteria established by the Homes for Heroes Foundation. We hope to continue to partner with Friendship Place in the coming months.

Two other outstanding projects: the "MOAA Military Family Initiative" and The Eggs Up Grill "Breakfast With a Veteran" program (see other articles) are other examples of how our Chapter is helping Veterans and their Families in both Georgetown and Horry counties.

Thank you for your continued service!

Membership

By John Bradley



We have added another new member this month; you may have met him and his wife, Jeannie, at our Holiday Gala dinner meeting. Please welcome to our Chapter:

Michael Freeman, CDR, USN (Ret)

This brings our Chapter membership total to 164 with actually 22 new members joining so far in 2017. One thing that I have noticed about many of our new members is that they are also members of the National MOAA, which of course helps our Chapter to earn our 5-star rating. So do us a favor and review your MOAA membership status; renew before the end of the year if possible, join if you haven't already. It's easy to do, just go to www.moaa.org.

To any of our own remaining delinquent members who may be reading this, I remind you that our dues are VERY reasonable, only \$20 a year. So, please, if you haven't paid yet, please drop a check, payable to Grand Strand Chapter MOAA, in the mail to our PO Box before the end of the year.

Our December Holiday meeting was the first one for which you were able to register on line. I would consider it a great success with over 90% of our 70 attendees registering on line. We continue to fully expect to have the ability to pay our 2018 dues with a credit card as well as to register and pay in advance for all our 2018 monthly Dinner/Lunch Meetings. You can continue to do everything by phone, in person and by check or cash, if you desire. Hopefully, however, such an added convenience will drastically reduce our delinquency rate and increase our meeting attendance.

SEE YOU ALL in the NEW YEAR.....and, yes, I will be invoicing many of you in January, as I must, for 2018 dues!!

Now and Always We'll be There.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, January 9, Dinner Meeting, The Dunes Beach and Golf Club, 9000 North Ocean Blvd. Myrtle Beach, SC. Featured Speaker will be Margaret Wadsworth, Attorney at Law. 2018 Officers will be sworn-in. Social Hour 5:30 pm; Dinner 6 pm.

Tuesday, February 12, Dinner Meeting, Angelo's Steak and Pasta, 2311 South Kings Highway, Myrtle Beach. Featured Speaker will be Capt. Nori Ann Reid (USN, Ret) who commanded three ships during her distinguished career. Social Hour 5:30 pm; Dinner 6 pm.

You will receive an email with more information and directions on making your reservations electronically for our upcoming events and to pay your dues. You can always make dinner reservations by calling our Treasurer Tony Prince.

Funds Raised to Support Veterans in Need

2017 was an extraordinarily successful year for our Grand Strand Chapter's efforts to raise funds to support veterans in need throughout our area. Thanks to the quick work of Rufus Manning and Greg Hill, we were able to apply for and receive a \$5000 Military Families Initiative Grant from National MOAA. In addition, the Chapter received another \$1200 Homes for Heroes Grant to assist veterans with housing related needs. Rufus and Greg also took on the task of applying the grants to needs of the veterans by using partnerships with local agencies to identify veterans in need. In addition to those efforts, Greg Youngman developed a new initiative with the Eggs Up Grill restaurants that raised \$4600. The Chapter Board of Directors agreed to use those funds to provide food to veteran families for the holidays. We are looking forward to taking advantage of any additional fund-raising opportunities in 2018. We owe a deep gratitude to Rufus Manning, Greg Hill, and Greg Youngman for their hard work in obtaining these funds and developing a sound program for using them to support Grand Strand veterans.



We provided Jeff, a homeless veteran with equipment necessary to live outdoors while he seeks employment on the Grand

Strand.



Working with East Carolina Homelessness Organization (ECHO plan to provide 2 home cleaning services to an elderly 26-year USA

veteran and his spouse in Loris, SC. Recent health issues have hindered this couple and thanks to the MFI grant, they can rest by the fire and spend a little less energy on daily chores of life.



Working with the Veterans Welcome Home and Resource Center, we identified a qualified disabled veteran (& spouse) who recently arrived in our Grand Strand area seeking permanent housing. In addition to housing, they were in immediate need of food, standard kitchen cookware and utensils. We were fortunate to be able to assist with their request for support with a, one time, \$500 gift card from Walmart, thanks to the MFI Grant.



Our partnership with Eggs Up Grill provided \$4600 to provide needy veterans and their families with holiday meals.

Greg Youngman and Dave Townsend were joined by Chris Aranda (second from left) of the Veterans Welcome Home and Resource Center to receive the proceeds from the Eggs Up Grill "Coffee with a Veterans" event from Danny Bonar, owner of the Eggs



Grant funds assisted Georgetown County veterans through our partnership with the Rev. Earl Rutledge, Commander of the Low Country Veterans Group



Up Grill in Conway and the company's driving force in developing this partnership.

Financial Report



Due to the acquisition of the two grants and the Eggs Up Grill “Coffee with a Veteran” initiative mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, our Chapter has been able to enhance its support of programs to assist veterans and other organizations who support our military service personnel. The Board of Directors has been diligent in ensuring that the limited funds we have are used efficiently and effectively. While we were very successful in acquiring new sources of revenue this year, our most important source of funds remains our annual golf tournament, and the primary focus of our expenditures will remain the support of ROTC at Coastal Carolina University and the JROTC units at the 18 high schools in our area and the annual Stand Down for veterans. Thank you for all of your support for our activities and your continuation of your membership in the Chapter. As always, there will be many opportunities for our members to be involved in Chapter activities throughout 2018, and we hope you will join in any that may interest you.

Balance at the end of October	\$34218.83
South State Bank	\$33143.06
CresCom Bank	\$ 1075.77
Revenues in November	\$ 1331.26
Expenditures in November	\$ 5050.32
Balance as of Nov 30, 2017	\$30499.77
South State Bank	\$29424.00
CresCom Bank	\$ 1075.77

For updates on congressional or government action of interest to you go to www.moaa.com

Golf Tournament Planning Starts



We may still be in the throes of winter, but spring will be here before we know it. And with spring will come Military Appreciation Days. And with Military Appreciation Days will come the Grand Strand MOAA Chapter’s annual Golf Tournament. Five months may seem like a good ways off. We haven’t crowned a national champion in college football. The Super Bowl hasn’t been played. Spring training hasn’t started for major league baseball. March Madness is still three months off.

Nevertheless, planning for the 2018 golf tournament has already begun, the 2018 tournament is scheduled for May 24 at the Heritage Golf Club. And as is the case every year, there is much to do in the next five months. The golf committee is beginning to identify tasks to be done, establishing timelines for accomplishing those tasks, and developing strategies to ensure this year’s tournament is the best ever. It is a big challenge to exceed the success of the 2017 tournament, but we will give our best effort to do just that.

To achieve that goal, we need the continued support of the entire Grand Strand Chapter. This is our first plea for volunteers. If you want to be involved in the committee’s work, contact President Dave Townsend even if you have only limited time to devote to this effort. Send him an email at davemoaa@gmail.com or call him at 843.907.1763.

The golf tournament is our primary source of revenue, so we hope that you will consider how you can support us. The clock is ticking, and the air of May will be warming us before we know it.

Pick up the phone, send an email...today.



Application/ANNUAL RENEWAL FORM

www.grandstrandmoaa.com

ONE POWERFUL VOICE

Grand Strand Chapter MOAA: Membership Application Renewal Change of address (Check one.)

Chapter dues: \$20.00 a year for regular membership. Auxiliary: \$20 per year. Multiple year dues are encouraged to reduce costs.

Make check payable to: "Grand Strand MOAA". Mail to: MOAA Grand Strand Chapter, P.O. Box 15842, Surfside Beach, SC 29587.

Last name _____ First name _____ MI _____

DOB _____ Rank _____ Service _____ Spouse's name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

Email address (please print clearly) _____

Are you a member of National MOAA? _____ If yes, please provide membership number: _____

Status: Retired Active Reserve National Guard State Guard Former Officer Auxiliary ROTC JROTC

{My signature below verifies that the above information may be shared in a Members Only Directory and that I am eligible for MOAA Chapter membership.}

Amount: \$ _____ **Check** **Cash** **For year(s)** _____ **Signature** _____

Additional amount (donation) for this year's scholarship awards: \$ _____

Current employment (optional): _____

Professional skills (optional): _____

- If Auxiliary member or applicant, please indicate your spouse's full name, military service affiliation, rank, and status: _____
- Interested in a Chapter leadership/committee position? If yes, what? _____ (continue on reverse)

MOAA Mission/Purpose: To foster fraternal relations (and mutual support) among retired, active duty, and former officers of the uniformed services and their National Guard and Reserve counterparts, ROTC cadets, their families and survivors; Assist community organizations that support service members and veterans and their families; to provide funds for college scholarships for area high school seniors (normally JROTC students); conduct fund-raising to support other service member and veterans' programs (e.g. Wounded Warrior visits); provide annual MOAA leadership awards to graduating cadets in all area high school approved/active JROTC programs; participate, collaboratively, in coastal community events and activities, as priorities and resources permit; Maintain a proactive chapter affairs program that supports members during health and other family emergencies; promote the aims and objectives of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA); and, the aims and objectives of the SC MOAA Council of Chapters. MOAA and its affiliated Chapters and Councils are non-partisan.

(Staff use below)

Date _____ **Year Pd** _____ **Year Pd** _____ **Year Pd** _____