



COASTAL TIDE

Military Officers Association of America

Grand Strand Chapter

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
www.grandstrandmoaa.com

October 2017

From the President:



There is so much going on that my mind is whirling. However, that could be from

my medication as I approach my back surgery on the 16th. We need volunteers!

Greg Youngman asked for volunteers at our dinner meeting to support a fundraiser initiated by the owner of "Eggs Up Grill" to provide funds to local needy veterans' groups. He is relying on our Chapter to collect and distribute these funds. Greg has some volunteers, but needs more. Call him at 973-714-5073. This event takes place on Thursday, November 9.

Dean Brown needs volunteers too. Our Board of Directors has approved awards of \$200 grants to each of the 18 JROTC units we sponsor.

(Continued on page 3)

Grand Strand MOAA Heart = Stand Down Success



By Rufus Manning

I want to extend a heart felt "THANK YOU" to all the incredible volunteers who came out to make the Myrtle Beach, 2017 Stand Down an awesome success.

Special "Thanks" go to Norm and Jan Ward who filled in for me, on the day of the event, while I was away on family business. However, I am sure they will agree, that we couldn't have achieved the level of success without everyone's "shoulder to the wheel."

Speaking of success, according to our fearless, lead organizer and sponsor, Doris Gleason (AARP, SC), we served 252 veterans who were either homeless, near homeless or in need of special services. The line for those seeking services

started as early as 6:15 am in the morning, and continued at a healthy rate until the event closed. One of this year's services included five companies who were interviewing potential candidates for jobs...on the spot. Kudos also to "Active Day" for offering limited transportation for some of our veteran clients who were in need of rides to and from the event...(and all others who provided ride assistance).

Overall, it was a record day for our community's four year history of putting on this program.

Once again, thank you for volunteering your help with this important special event.

Next Dinner Meeting
Pine Lakes Country Club
Tuesday, November 14, 2017
Social Hour: 5:30 p.m.
Dinner: 6:00 p.m.
Guest Speaker: Alex Milovich,
President and General Manager of
the Myrtle Beach Pelicans
Contact Treasurer Tony Prince to
reserve your seat

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Chaplain's Corner

By Greg Hill

If the people in your life influence the kind of person you are, then, what kind of influence are you on others?

The answer to this question can help us determine where we serve, with whom we regularly associate and how we behave.

Soon, as a nation, we will observe Veterans Day. How will you show others that you value that day?



Chaplain Greg Hill received a Quilt of Valor at the Chapter October dinner meeting in recognition of his distinguished service to our country.

From the President *(continued from Page 1)*

Dean needs members to travel to these high schools to make the awards. Let's help him out. Contact Dean at 843-520-4753.

Past President Roger Pilcher has asked for volunteers to assist him during the holiday season with "Toys for Tots." South State Bank is allowing us to have boxes placed at each of their branches to collect toys for the Marines "Toys for Tots" program that they do each year. Contact Roger at 843-449-6807.

So, there you are – concrete ways to show our Chapter's compassion. These are opportunities for us to show that we are more than just a supper club.

Speaking of compassion, we were privileged at our October dinner meeting to honor one of our own, Colonel Greg Hill with a Quilt of Valor. Chaplain Greg does so much for our Chapter in veterans' outreach. While most members know him simply as the person who says a prayer at the beginning and conclusion of our dinner meetings, Chaplain Greg contributes so much more to our Chapter and our community by his advocacy and support for veterans who need support. Greg, BRAVO ZULU.

Finally, our Chapter presented a check for \$1000 to Amy Johnston and Keith Bacon, who represented the Veterans Welcome Home and Resource Center. Amy is a member of our Chapter and Kevin has promised to be a new member.

**Now and Always
We'll be There.**


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MEMBERSHIP



By John Bradley

I realize that one of the issues I underlined last month, in addition to our continued membership growth, was our Chapter's high rate of delinquency.....35 members out of our 161 have failed to pay their 2017 dues of \$20. I have sent invoices to all of them with only slight success. So, I must again include here the following appeal:

Too many of our members have yet to pay their 2017 dues, which were due January 1 and considered delinquent June 30. 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 or, if you prefer, you can pay in cash at our next dinner meeting.

We will be working hard during the coming weeks to attempt to bring to our members the ability to pay dues with a credit card through our website as well as to register and pay in advance for our monthly dinner meeting. Hopefully such a convenience will drastically reduce our delinquency rate and increase our meeting attendance. With this goal in mind, we have designed a new Chapter application/renewal form which can be used for multiple years, no longer requiring a new form each renewal year. Check it out; it's the last page of this newsletter!

Remember, I can not grow our great Chapter alone. Each of you considers yourself a Chapter recruiter too, I'm sure. We are always in the need for new, active, energetic members; so in your local travels and other activities, please be on the lookout for prospective members. I stand ready to help you in any manner you need.

1st Annual Coffee WITH A VET

JOIN US!
Thursday
November, 9th
from 6am-2pm

Veterans in partnership with Military Officers Association of America will be on hand from 8am -11am to meet and greet our customers.

Make a Difference
All coffee, tea and soda sales will be donated to Military Officers Association of America.

Visit OUR PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS

Conway 2246 Highway 501 843-349-4748	Myrtle Beach 1289 38th Ave. N. 843-839-2200	N. Myrtle Beach 732 Main St. 843-273-4077
West Conway 2676 Church St. 843-438-8224	Market Commons 3630 Walton Dr. 843-839-1810	Pawleys Island 115 Willbrook Blvd. 843-237-7313
Garden City 2520 Highway 17 S. 843-299-0109	Barefoot Commons 4018 Highway 17 S. 843-663-3447	Surfside Beach 2300 Glenns Bay Rd. 843-650-5515

EGGS UP GRILL  WWW.EGGSUPGRILL.COM

“Coffee with a Veteran” at all Grand Strand Eggs Up Grill locations.

Our Chapter will receive the proceeds from this fundraiser to use to assist veterans in the Grand Strand area. Have breakfast at an Eggs Up Grill near you. Better yet, volunteer to be on hand to talk to patrons about MOAA and what we do to support veterans, ROTC, and JROTC. Materials to hand out will be provided. We just need volunteers to be the face of MOAA and veterans at this event. To volunteer, contact Greg Youngman at 973-714-5073.

More Volunteer Opportunities For MOAA

Find one you like and sign up

Grand Strand Chapter Auxiliary Collecting Funds for Wreaths Across America By Peggy DeVivo

*"A person dies twice: once when they take their final breath, and later, the last time their name is spoken." --
Banksy*

Again, this year the Chapter Auxiliary is collecting funds for the December 16 Wreaths Across America annual event during which wreaths will be placed on the graves of veterans at all the national cemeteries across the nation. We will be on hand at our November 14 dinner meeting asking for your donation to this important program.

This year's theme 'I'm an American' focuses on the celebration of differences, seeking to build bridges.

Donations collected at our dinner meetings will be sent to the Blue Star Mothers of Coastal Carolina. All wreaths cost \$15.00. Every two wreaths we donate will be matched by a third wreath. Please be generous so every veteran's grave has a wreath. The deadline for ordering the two wreaths to get a third is TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2017

More information can be found at the following websites: www.wreathscrossamerica.org or <http://bluestarmothersofcoastalcarolina.com/wreaths>

Annual Food and Clothing Drive November 14 and/or December 12, 2017 Monthly Dinner Meetings By Chaplain Greg Hill



Please bring canned or boxed food stuffs in boxes or bags for ease of transport. Please bring gently used coats or sweatshirts. These items will be taken to Conway, Pawleys Island and Georgetown. Questions? Please call Chaplain Greg Hill at 843.231.4507.



Thank you!!!

Making Children Smile



Past President Roger Pilcher is once again heading up the Toys for Tots program on the Grand Strand and can use your help. He has developed a partnership with South State Bank in which the company has agreed to allowing placement of Toys for Tots collection bins in all their branches. Roger can use a few good men and women to help place those bins and collect the toys that are collected there. If you want to help make children smile at Christmas, call him at 843-449-6807. And remember, we will be collecting toys for this program at our December meeting. Be generous.

JROTC Support

Since its inception, our Chapter has developed a strong program of support for Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps Programs in 18 high schools in the Grand Strand and beyond. This year, in addition to the three \$2,000 competitive scholarships we award outstanding JROTC graduates going on to higher education, we also approved an additional five competitive \$200 grants to fund JROTC unit activities in the spring that are not funded by the local school districts.

The JROTC units that applied and competed for those grants were deeply grateful. The grants allowed them to do things they might not have been able to do. We also learned that non-funded activities that occur in the spring also occur in the fall and again the units have to raise the funds needed to participate in them.

Consequently, the Chapter Board of Directors has agreed this fall to provide \$200 grants to each JROTC unit in our area. That means we have 18 schools to visit and present a check for that amount. Dean Brown is looking for volunteers to visit those schools, present a check for their unfunded activities and share with those units information about MOAA and its support for them. If you are interested in making one or more of those presentations, contact Dean at 843-520-4753.

Chapter Elections Scheduled

At the October Grand Strand MOAA dinner, it was announced that the incumbent Executive Team (President, 1st VP, 2d VP, Treasurer and Secretary) have consented to continue in their current positions another year. If there are members that would like to serve in any of these positions, please contact COL(Ret) Jimmy Jacobs (jjacob26@sccoast.net) to discuss and get your name on the slate. At the November Board of Directors meeting, the slate will be presented, and at the December dinner meeting approved by the general membership. The Executive team will be sworn in at the January dinner meeting.



Financial Report



September Revenue	\$9,748.25
September Expenses	\$1,185.43

Balances 09/30/2017

South State Bank	\$36,720.09
CresCom Bank	\$ 1,636.80

Government Affairs



By Jimmy Jacobs

Military Retired Pay and COLA

(Provided by MOAA National)

Most government payments see a Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) every year. The COLA makes sure that your payments keep up with inflation. These payments include: military retirement, civil service retirement, Social Security, VA disability compensation. The COLA is based on another government measurement, the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

What is the Consumer Price Index or CPI?

The CPI is based on what is known as a “market basket” of goods that all households purchase. Every month, the good folks at the Department of Labor measure the price of about 80,000 items at various locations nationwide. This month’s prices are compared to last month’s prices, averaged together and voila, the CPI is created.

Hurricanes?

Well, along with salad dressing, scotch, Subarus and slippers, the price of gasoline is included in this monthly measurement. If you’ve been paying attention, you know that after Hurricane Harvey hit Texas the price of gasoline shot up by about 15 percent at the pump. According to the government, gasoline makes up about 4 percent of the average household’s monthly spending. Since most people spent more per gallon for gasoline in September than they did in August the CPI will probably increase for that time period.

How Does All This Affect Your Payments?

Each year, the government takes the CPI average for the third quarter (July to September) and compares it

to the same period for previous year. If prices increase then the COLA will match that increase.

Last year there was a 0.3 percent increase in retired pay based on this formula, largely because the price of gasoline went down during the third quarter. In 2015, there was no increase in retired pay at all due to big drops in gasoline prices back then.

How Much Will the Increase Be?

The experts are saying that this year’s COLA may be much better than previous years. As of August, the CPI was 1.9 percent higher than last year. The effects of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma driving up gasoline and food prices may further drive up the CPI.

The Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) will be 2% in 2018, which is the first substantial increase in years. It was approved on October 13, 2017. Last year the COLA was 0.3 percent. Military pension increase will be effective December 1st and reflected in the December 31st pay.

You can easily calculate your military pay — and your future pay once the rates are released — with the handy Military.com pay app.

That’s just about enough to fill your tank with gas.



November 8 MOAA Tapping Party

Gordon Biersch Restaurant
3060 Howard Avenue
Market Common

Wednesday, November 8, 5 p.m.
\$5 Entrance Fee

Proceeds Benefit Grand Strand MOAA Programs



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 current 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 _____