

From the President's Pen

By Scott Berry

Greetings!

Whew! Where has this year gone? However, its swift passage did not stop this chapter from accomplishing many great and wonderful things.



Scott Berry

Remember M.A.P.? Membership, Advocacy, and Participation were my hot buttons and “map” for future activities when I became president last January. I think we, and I do emphasize the “we,” have achieved many things along those lines. We recruited more new members than in the last several years combined! What an achievement! We’re around 20 new members which easily surpassed the “stab-in-the-dark” promise I made to the Florida Council of Chapters last January.

As far as participation goes, our monthly meeting attendance increased substantially with record highs almost all year. Our birthday bash in May had the highest attendance for a monthly meeting in YEARS. A lot of credit goes to Tom Godbold for his creativity in cornering speakers who had a good message applicable to our membership.

And then there’s the five star Levels of Excellence Award from MOAA. That’s a HUGE recognition. The last time we earned five stars was probably 6-7 years ago. Things were much different back then. Our chapter was almost 600 members strong with lots going on so we’ve turned the corner and headed back in the right direction.

I hope it’s apparent this year has had many firsts and all of them positive. In almost every area of chapter administration and activity we’ve easily exceeded past records. Equally important is that this has started a momentum which will continue.

Note I did say “almost every area” improved. Advocacy was my Achilles heel and something I’ll emphasize more in the upcoming year. There are two parts to advocacy. At the national level, we can write our congressmen to vent our spleen and request tangible support for MOAA initiatives and recommendations. That helps us but the

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Membership Renewal

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!!!

May this be your best year yet.

IF YOU DID NOT YET SEND IN YOUR 2016 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS, PLEASE DO SO NOW.



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We are a non-profit 501(c)3 no kill cat and kitten shelter that needs VOLUNTEERS!

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MOAA's New Website

**By Michele Costello,
Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee**

Formerly, MOAA defined "auxiliary members" as the survivors of former national MOAA members who are deceased or as the survivors of deceased individuals who would, if living, be eligible for membership. These members now will be classified as "surviving spouses." Affiliate leaders should incorporate this change in their publications, websites, and officer rosters.

After a year or more of construction, MOAA's new website now is complete. The new website launched Sept. 1. MOAA's new super highway to information was rebuilt and contains new signage and exit ramps that offer easy access to a wealth of valuable military- and legislative-related information, interesting and informative publications, and opportunities to take action on legislative issues that affect servicemembers and their families. The site also boasts MOAA's new modern logo. As noted by members of the board of directors' Communications Committee, "It is a work in progress, with adjustments occurring continuously." However, the website already provides members and visitors with better access and navigation tools.

At the top of the home page, you'll find several membership categories with drop-down menus. The "Currently Serving" category offers avenues for "Jr. Officers," "Mid-grade Officers," and "Sr. Officers." The "Retirees" category offers a choice between "Early Retirees" or "Retired." Select "Former Officers," and you'll find career and financial-planning information. The "Family" category is divided into "Surviving Spouses" and "Spouses." If you select the "Chapters & Councils" category, you'll find information on "Chapter Recruiting," "Council and Chapter Management," "Officer Form," "Enewsletters," and more.

The home page also contains links to "Benefits & Discounts," available through MOAA, "Events," and more. Be sure to follow the "Take Action" link to learn about MOAA's top legislative issues. Then visit the "Legislative Action Center" to contact your congressional legislators. Those emails and letters do make a difference!

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results aren't as immediate or visible although still very important. Then there's advocacy at the local level. A big part of that is community awareness of who we are and what we contribute. Dave Parisot has led the charge in this area by organizing our participation in various civic events from a Military Appreciation Day booth to a float as part of the Billy Bowlegs celebration. So expect to hear lots more from me on this. But I can't do this on my own. It will fail unless it becomes a group effort. And it's so easy to participate! For the computer friendly person, a few clicks on the MOAA website will send letters to all our congressmen. How easy can that be?

I want to make it clear that all the accomplishments above weren't the work of just one person or a couple. Lots of people contributed so these can or should be rightly considered chapter successes. I mentioned a couple of people by name but there many more unnamed participants.

And finally, I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year. Oh, and yes, happy holidays as well.

Berry "OUT"



2015 MOAA Christmas Ball



Preservation and Conservation (cont.)

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An entrepreneur turned naturalist/educator; Paul has been with the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center since 2010. Before moving to the Panhandle in 2009 from Birmingham, Alabama, Paul owned and operated a moving/delivery company that provided nationwide services commercially and privately. He also owned a local coffee shop in the southern part of Birmingham.

After the successful sales of both of his companies, Paul and his family decided to pick up and move to their favorite vacation spot; the Florida Panhandle. It didn't take long for Paul to get involved in the community. He became a Cub Scout pack leader, joined the board of the Walton County School District Advisory Council and found his passion for educating children by working at Van R. Butler Elementary School as a substitute teacher and also as a Paraprofessional.

Paul then joined the team at the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center as a part-time educator and soon was promoted after that. Paul is currently the President of Nokuse Education Inc. and Director of the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center. He is also on the board of the Wakulla Environmental Institute of Tallahassee Community College. The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center is the perfect spot for Paul to share his enthusiasm of the outdoors by teaching future generations the importance of conservation and preservation.

Paul lives in Freeport with his wife Heather and their three children: D.R., Lindy and Lillie

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Surviving Spouse Corner (cont.)

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The home page was designed to emphasize a particular legislative issue or news item. Remember, when navigating MOAA's new website, you'll need to scroll down in order to see everything. Users will know they have reached the bottom of a Web page when they see the motto, "Never Stop Serving." From there, you can link quickly to social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, In, YouTube, and MOAA Connect.

The "Surviving Spouses" Web page, which is undergoing construction, can be accessed from the home page by selecting "Family" and then "Surviving Spouses" from the drop-down menu. The Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee (SSAC) submitted recommendations to ensure as much information as possible can be accessed easily by surviving spouses who are dealing with the loss of their servicemember spouse. Pay and benefits, publications, personal affairs, and legislative issues, such as repealing the Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (SBP/DIC) offset, are only some of the areas that will be covered.

Finally, it's easy to add a shortcut to MOAA's home page on the screen of your cellphone.

For Apple iPhones:

1. Open Safari and type in www.moaa.org to access MOAA's website.
2. At the bottom, you will see a box with an arrow pointing upward. Tap it, and then scroll over until you see "Add to Home Screen." You can rename the icon, or leave it as "MOAA — Home."
3. Tap "Add" in the top-right corner of the screen. The shortcut to MOAA's home page now should appear as an icon on your cellphone.

For Android Phones using Chrome:

1. Open Chrome and type in www.moaa.org.
2. Once the website is loaded, tap the menu icon. (Look for stacked lines at the top of the page near Login.)
3. Tap the star icon. Rename the title if you want, and then tap "Save."

While not entirely complete, MOAA's newly designed website offers a consistent format for users. MOAA personnel have worked long hours redesigning the website and their efforts continue.

Jan. 2016 Scholarship Fund

By Dave Parisot, Chairman

Our 2015 Military Ball was well attended and the Fort Walton Beach Yacht Club did a superb job with the banquet and other amenities. I want to especially thank our two corporate sponsors, the Eglin Federal Credit Union and USAA, for their financial support of the scholarship program. The EFCU CEO, Jerry Williams, and his wife Jeanne, joined us at the Ball. In addition, the following local businesses contributed to our fundraiser raffles: Marriott Town Plaza Suites (2 one-night stay gift cards valued at \$258); Tammy's Journeys (4 VIP tickets to George Dyer concert valued at \$120); Mary's Kitchen (\$100 gift card); Indian Bayou Golf & Country Club (4 rounds of golf with cart valued at \$300); Shalimar Pointe Golf Club (2 gift cards for 2 rounds of golf with cart valued at \$200); Tommy Mattonie's Coastal Café (2 gift cards of \$25 each); Shalimar Cheers Pub (5 gift cards with combined value of \$72); Connect With Flowers (floral arrangement valued at \$50); Pepper's Mexican Grill & Cantina (\$25 gift card); Sam Taylor Buick/GMC/Cadillac (Gift card for \$50 in services); Samuel's Roadhouse of Crestview (\$50 gift card); and, Joey's Italian Grill (\$25 gift card). Please support these local businesses and tell them thanks for their support.

Special thanks also to NWFMOA members who contributed product to the merchandise raffles and/or spirits and wine to those raffles: Karl & Charlotte Eschmann, Dave Parisot, George Colton, Earnestine Carswell, Larry Bush, Carol Schaefer, Tom Godbold, Ann-Marie Brown, and Dan Brown. My personal special thanks to Angela Colton for selling the raffle tickets at the Ball for the three baskets of booze and wine, and to Eileen Arpke and her friend Roxanne for distributing the raffle prizes to the winners.

I hope all who attended enjoyed the Military Ball, the raffles, and the many door prizes from the scholarship program.

Since my last article, we have added three new members to the B/G Frank Glunn Century Club: Dick Prater, Carol Baker, and Karl Eschmann. Thank you for your donations. We did not have a 50/50 raffle at our December breakfast meeting, deferring to donations to Niceville High School's premier choral group, Opus One, who provided a most enjoyable choral program of holiday music. The 50/50 raffle will be back at our January meeting.

I hope everyone enjoyed a most blessed and Merry Christmas and best wishes for a prosperous and Happy New Year.

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Thank You! By Scott Berry

Our custom is to make a contribution to Opus One after their presentation every year. This year was no exception. The attendees at the December meeting dug deep into their pockets and produced \$255. From my perspective, their getting us all into the Christmas spirit was worth of

every penny of it. In several hours I'll have the privilege of delivering the money to Opus One at Niceville High School. I'm confident they'll be very grateful.

Thank you!



Scholarship Fund (cont.)

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Here's the complete list of Century Club members for 2015 along with our Business Donors:

2015 B/Gen Frank Glunn Century Club Donors:
(\$100 minimum donation)

March 2015: Winfred Boyer; Mel Bryant; Dan Brown; Dave Parisot; Fred Westfall. April 2015: John Feldman; Eileen Arpke; Olive Clyde Locke; Larry Bush.
May 2015: Samuel Lombardo. July 2015: Beryl Brenner.
August 2015: Dr. Howard Fisher; Tom Churan. October 2015: Frederick Rall. November 2015: Dick Prater.
December 2015: Carol Baker; Karl Eschmann.

2015 Business Platinum Donor (\$750 minimum donation):
April/November 2015: Eglin Federal Credit Union

2015 Business Gold Donors (\$500 minimum donation):
April 2015: ZT Motors of Fort Walton Beach; Resort

Quest Vacation Rentals; Michles & Booth Law Firm.
May 2015: Wild Willy's Adventure Zone (In-kind).

2015 Business Silver Donor (\$250 - \$499): April 2015: Holiday Inn Resort (In-kind); November 2015: Marriott Town Place Suites (In-kind); May/December 2015: Shalimar Pointe Golf Club (In-kind); December 2015: Indian Bayou Golf & Country Club (In-kind).

2015 Business Bronze Donor (\$100 - \$249): November 2015: Merrill Lynch Wealth Management; May/December 2015: Tommy Mattonie's Coastal Café (In-kind); Tammy's Journeys (In-kind); Mary's Kitchen (In-kind).

Please support our local businesses that have contributed to our scholarship program.

NWFMOA Scholarship Fund, Inc.: "Helping to build future military officers and leaders."

SCHOLARSHIP DONATION FORM

Please accept this gift of \$_____ to support the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund (Donations of \$100 or more will be recognized in the B/Gen Frank Glunn Century Club).

Donor Information (if not printed on check):

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Please inform the following of this gift:

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Address _____

City, ST ZIP _____

Make payable to: **NWFMOA Scholarship Fund**, and mail to: David Parisot, President; 56th 11th St, Shalimar, FL 32579

NWFMOA Scholarship Fund, Inc is a 501c(3) corporation. Donations are tax exempt as provided by law. Registration # CH20374. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the FL Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Services by calling toll free (800) 435-7352 within the State of Florida or via their website of www.800helpfla.com. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.



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AN INVITATION TO YOU: *The membership of NWFMOA extends a sincere invitation to join us in our social, cultural, professional and service activities that extend from the local to national levels.*

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|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Last Name | First Name | Initial | Spouse |
| Address | City | State & Zip | Phone |
| Rank | Service | MOAA Mbr. No | Email Address |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular | <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve | <input type="checkbox"/> National Guard | <input type="checkbox"/> Active Duty <input type="checkbox"/> Retired |

This application is for:

Life Member New Member Renewal Auxiliary Other (specify) _____

Make checks payable to NWFMOA or to Northwest Florida Military Officers Assn., Inc. Check here if you do not want your name, phone number or email address listed in printed chapter directories. **Membership Includes a subscription to *The DEFENDER* for the dues period.** We are a charter member of MOAA and recommend that our members belong to the national organization. Our association is also a member of the Florida Council of Chapters, itself an affiliate of MOAA.

**The spouse of a deceased life member is automatically an auxiliary life member.

Membership Application/Renewal

New Members joining this year receive membership through December 31 next year for \$25.00.

Membership Renewal
1yr—\$25.00, 2 yr—\$48.00, 3 yr—\$65.00

| Life Membership Dues** | | | |
|------------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| Age | Dues | Age | Dues |
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| 96-100 | 50.00 | 66-70 | 275.00 |
| 91-95 | 75.00 | 61-65 | 295.00 |
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| 81-85 | 150.00 | 51-55 | 360.00 |
| 76-80 | 195.00 | -50 | 395.00 |

Auxiliary Members
Pay half of the above rates