



# PMOAA BEACON

Home of the Blue Angels - Pensacola, FL  
4 Star Chapter Award – 2002  
A 5 Star Chapter 2003 – 2019, 2021, 2022  
<http://www.pmoaa.org>  
October 2023



## President's Corner

October will be a big month for our Chapter with a visit from the Florida Council of Chapters President, Pat Kluever and two of his vice presidents. We will meet October 19<sup>th</sup> for lunch from 1100-1300 at the Oaks Restaurant and Lounge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Banquet room, A.C. Read Golf Course aboard NAS Pensacola. Park on the east side of the building to access the elevator and stairs to the second floor.

In addition, national MOAA is working with us to recruit new members to attend the October 19 meeting as our guests and, hopefully, join PMOAA. The invitations will go to all members of MOAA who live in this area but have not, for whatever reason, joined PMOAA. As an added incentive, we are paying for their lunch! I am specifically asking each of you to think about your retired officer friends or surviving spouses who are not members of our Chapter, and reach out to them with an invite for a free lunch! We are a fun group, why not share the joy with someone who might also enjoy becoming a member of PMOAA and contribute to the fun and service opportunities? "Bring an Officer to Lunch" on October 19. Sign up is available on the website.



(Photos are courtesy of Christine Frazier)

Although Sandy and I were out of town for the September meeting, I was told that Senator Broxson provided much good information on his work in the recent legislative session. Thanks to Dean Kirschner for chairing the meeting. I have personally addressed the issues some of you may have experienced when

we ran out of food before all were served. Mustin



Beach Club has assured me that this will never happen again. We are going to give them another chance on November 16<sup>th</sup> for our Annual Business meeting where we elect new officers and directors for next year and approve Bylaws revisions.

Our speaker for the October meeting will be Dr. D. Rush McQueen, Ph.D., Director of the Pensacola Veterans Center. Dr. McQueen will enlighten us about the services he and his team are delivering to Pensacola-area veterans experiencing PTSD and other psychological challenges.

The November annual business meeting will be on November 16 starting at 1100 at Mustin Beach Club. Our speaker will be Captain Terry "Village" Shashaty, Commanding Officer, NAS Pensacola. The final event for 2023 will be the Annual Christmas Gala on December 7 starting at 1800 at the Pensacola Yacht Club. We will be celebrating the Christmas Season with the Krewe of Avant Garde, including a collection for the Marine Corps sponsored "Toys for Tots" program and a silent auction.

I hope all of you are doing well. We are looking forward to seeing you and a friend/guest on October 19. Love and hugs to all,

**Your President, Ken Pyle**



## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

While Congress struggles with budget problems, some new options and observations are being floated around the Capital. This month we will be looking at some of those options and how

they might affect us, along with how we might be able to shape those options for our benefit. Finally we will look at a VA hiccup.

To help you stay informed about issues, please consider subscribing to the MOAA Newsletter which is sent out two to four times per month on Thursdays via email. You can sign up for the newsletter at [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org). Please let me know how you think I can make this column better for you by sending an email to me at [thejuddsfl@cox.net](mailto:thejuddsfl@cox.net).

Your voice needs to be heard by our Florida Congressional Delegation. Please consider using some or all of the many excellent resources and avenues available to express yourself through MOAA. The Pensacola Chapter of MOAA is a member of the [Florida Council of Chapters, MOAA](#) and an affiliate of the [Military Officers Association of America \(MOAA\)](#) who together are the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. We are an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization. MOAA has several critical legislative issues they are championing. Become an advocate and **Take Action NOW!** at <https://moaa.quorum.us/>

1. GAO: Defense Health Agency Should Reevaluate Staffing, Administrative Setup.
2. Cola Update: MOAA Projects Inflation's Path as the Fiscal year Wraps Up.
3. Tricare Fixes, Restored Benefits, and More: Read MOAA's NDAA Priority List.
4. How MOAA Members Made A Difference Via Our Summer Advocacy Campaign.
5. MOAA Joins Advocacy Groups Offering Fixes in Fight Against Food Insecurity.
6. This New House Bill Will Help Protect the TRICARE Pharmacy Benefit.
7. VA Failed to Process 56,000 Requests to Update Veteran's Dependents.

### 1. GAO: Defense Health Agency Should Reevaluate Staffing, Administrative Setup

(Adapted from an article by Patricia Kime in the 31 Aug 2023 MOAA Newsletter)

With the Department of Defense's reorganization of its health system complete, the Defense Health Agency should reevaluate its administrative structure and focus on ensuring that military treatment facilities are fully staffed, according to the Government Accountability Office.

As part of [military health system reforms launched by Congress in 2016](#), the focus of the military medical commands shifted to supporting mainly active-duty military personnel and training for military missions, while DHA was responsible largely for providing care to non-military beneficiaries in military facilities and streamlining programs like administration, information technology (IT), logistics and training that once existed in triplicate under the separate [Army](#), [Navy](#) and [Air Force](#) medical commands.

The reforms also included the management transfer of roughly 700 military hospitals, clinics and dental clinics from the Army, Navy and Air Force, which was completed in November 2022.

#### [TAKE ACTION: [Fight Cuts to the TRICARE Pharmacy Benefit](#)]

With the arrangement, the military services are to provide personnel to staff hospitals and clinics while DHA is responsible for augmenting the uniformed providers with civilians or contractors, or shifting them from nearby military facilities.

But staffing military hospitals and clinics with uniformed providers has always been a challenge, given not only a nationwide shortage of doctors, but also the demands of military duty -- frequent training, [deployments](#), [permanent change of station](#) (PCS) moves.

The COVID-19 pandemic also contributed to this strain, with providers called away to support the nationwide response to the pandemic.

DHA has been working to mitigate staffing shortfalls at those facilities, according to a Government Accountability Office report published Aug. 21, but the challenge has been enormous.

#### [RELATED: [MOAA Talks TRICARE With Key Congressional Staff, Fellow Advocates](#)]

In one case, at Naval Hospital Jacksonville, Florida, officials told GAO that the shortages were so bad, they expected they would not be able to provide around-the-clock services in the emergency room in the summers of 2022 and 2023.

The hospital was only able to keep the emergency room open 24/7 by using military providers from other military treatment facilities temporarily "despite Navy-wide shortages of such providers," according to the report.

The Defense Health Agency is working to fully staff facilities by shifting civilian providers from nearby facilities, forging agreements with the military services, establishing a new system for monitoring human capital and instituting a new program to track and analyze staff shortages, according to GAO.

But while it is focused on improving staffing at the hospital and clinic level, it has not reviewed the number of personnel it needs

to staff the administrative structure that oversees these facilities.

And that, GAO auditors said, may be problematic.

[RELATED: [Higher TRICARE Fees Part of Testimony From Congressional Budget Office](#)]

DHA has clustered hospitals and affiliated clinics into 36 "markets" overseen by 22 offices, with a staffing requirement of more than 1,400 people, a vast increase from 2018, when DHA envisioned two regions with two offices each.

GAO said the Defense Health Agency needs to reevaluate this structure, because the estimate of 1,400 personnel in 22 offices "could be higher than needed and exceeds expected budgetary and personnel resources."

"Until DOD reevaluates the efficiency of the market structure and updates personnel requirements, DOD may risk not accomplishing its vision for an integrated health delivery system that efficiently uses available personnel and budgetary resources," GAO auditors wrote in the report.

GAO noted that its analysis of the Defense Health Program budget, which encompasses the Defense Health Agency, the military treatment facilities and non-military health-care programs like Tricare, in addition to all overhead, has shown that in terms of military treatment facility operations, the budget has remained constant when adjusted for inflation.

[RELATED: [Here's How Much TRICARE Pharmacy Prescription Prices Will Rise Next Year](#)]

DoD officials told the GAO that the transition is likely to lead to future savings as the Defense Health Agency matures, but GAO found that the extent to which the Defense Department has realized or will realize savings is "unclear."

GAO recommended that DoD reevaluate its market management structure and establish performance goals for the reform initiatives and for monitoring savings.

The Defense Department noted that it is currently reviewing the market-based management organization and partially agreed with the recommendations for setting performance goals.

The leadership now in place is responsible for ensuring the undertaken reform initiatives improve "readiness, clinical outcomes, patient safety and patient experience," wrote Seileen Mullen, the principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, in the DoD response to the report.

## 2. Cola Update: MOAA Projects Inflation's Path as the Fiscal Year Wraps Up

(Adapted from an article by Dan Merry in the 31 August 2023 MOAA Newsletter.)

Military retirees, VA beneficiaries, and Social Security recipients will pay close attention to a key August inflation figure, released on Sept 13th, as it marks the second of the three data points used to calculate the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for many federal payments.

What will that figure be? Here are three potential paths forward, plus a reminder on how the final adjustment comes together.

[RELATED: [MOAA's COLA Watch](#)]

## Scenario 1: Inflation-Busting Continues

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell has commented repeatedly on the importance of getting inflation down to 2%, emphasizing the point 20 times during a July press conference. His credibility is sustained by his results, with inflation dropping from around 9% to about 3% in a year. But challenges will come as he diligently stays the course to finish that last leg toward 2%.

**Forecast:** If Powell gets his way, anticipate August's increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) – the figure used to calculate COLA – to stay at par or slightly lower than July, maybe a tenth or two-tenths of a percentage point below that month's figure of 2.7% above the FY 2023 baseline.

## Scenario 2: Consumers Rule

Consumer spending was up earlier this year but appears to have slowed recently, Powell said last month. While those who interpret the economy as strengthening may seek rate-hike relief, Powell made clear his intentions to continue bringing inflation down to 2%. But even without rate-hike relief, economic growth could bring more spending, wage increases ... and ultimately inflation.

**Forecast:** If consumers get their way, anticipate August's CPI-W figure to stay at par with July's number, or slightly higher.

[FROM MOAA'S PRESIDENT: [Join our Legislative Action Center Today](#)]

## Scenario 3: Fiscal Uncertainty

The mounting congressional turmoil set off by fiscal disagreements on key appropriations across the board leads to questions that will affect all parts of the economy, including inflation calculations: Will lawmakers fund the government before it shuts down? And if so, how?

A recent Reuters report outlined how markets have [struggled during previous shutdowns](#). And while the funding won't dry up until after the September figures are calculated, news on the likelihood of a solution will impact how investors and consumers behave as the fiscal year wraps up.

**Forecast:** It's difficult to say what the markets will do as the budget fix seems far off. One positive note: Any inflation increase or decrease brought about by shutdown-related concerns could level out in the quarter following the reopening of the government, as confidence is restored.

## COLA Calculation

The August CPI-W figure, set for September release, is the second of three months used to calculate the annual COLA. The July, August, and September figures are averaged, and that number is compared with the FY 2023 baseline to reach the final figure. For example, if inflation remains steady and the July CPI-W of 299.899 ends up a good indicator of the final three-month average, next year's COLA would be 2.7%. For the math fans:  $[(299.899-291.901)/291.901 \times 100]$ .

MOAA continues tracking these figures, not only to provide retirees and others with COLA-connected income a way to track the increase, but also to ensure we remain at the forefront of protecting the value of service-earned benefits. Cutting COLA for military retirees, especially in an austere budget environment, has been discussed ([and enacted](#)) by Congress



in the past, and a recent Congressional Budget Office proposal to change COLA calculation would save the government billions ... partially [on the backs of military retirees](#).

### 3. Tricare Fixes, Restored Benefits, and More: Read MOAA's NDAA Priority List

(Adapted from an article by Kevin Lilley in the 7 August 2023 MOAA Newsletter.)

Ongoing MOAA advocacy efforts to preserve the value of earned benefits for the entire uniformed services committee – past and present servicemembers, their families, and their survivors – led a list of priorities for the annual defense authorization bill outlined for congressional leaders in an Aug. 24 MOAA letter.

“This upcoming fiscal year will be challenging for our nation and the all-volunteer force,” wrote Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), MOAA President and CEO, “and we believe the way through these challenges is to prioritize and care for our nation’s servicemembers.”

The full letter can be accessed [at this link](#); it was sent to the chairmen and ranking members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees and will be sent to all members of the conference committee set to meet and produce the final version of the FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

Two issues atop the priority list have been part of MOAA's Advocacy in Action campaign throughout the spring and [into the summer recess](#):

- **Preserving the TRICARE Pharmacy Benefit:** MOAA supports House NDAA language directing a detailed report into reductions in the TRICARE pharmacy network. Such a report is a critical step to protecting beneficiaries' access to medication, especially those in rural areas or with complex medical needs.
- **Restoring the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH):** MOAA also supports House language increasing BAH to 96% of estimated local rental and utilities costs, up from 95%. This is another critical step, moving toward 100% BAH and a much-needed boost to the finances of those in uniform, especially young families.

[TAKE ACTION: [Protect the TRICARE Pharmacy Benefit](#) | [Restore BAH](#)]

#### More Priorities

The letter outlined seven other key issues addressed in the NDAA drafts:

**Pay Table Reform:** MOAA-backed House language would boost enlisted pay as a way to combat recruiting challenges. MOAA also supports broader pay reform, Kelly wrote in the letter, with a more comprehensive approach helping to “eliminate the need for special needs allowances or supplemental food assistance programs. Basic needs ... should be met within the standard compensation package and not through supplemental means.”

- **TRICARE Fixes for All:** MOAA highlighted several NDAA sections offering improved TRICARE coverage – better access to fertility treatments, for example – that do not provide the extended services to all TRICARE beneficiaries. While MOAA supports TRICARE keeping up with health care benchmarks, it

cannot do so while neglecting Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Service, and NOAA uniformed personnel, for instance, or members of the retiree population.

- **Better BNA Calculation:** MOAA supports House language removing BAH from the Basic Needs Allowance (BNA) process, a move that will “drastically increase the eligible population and improve the overall quality of life for our servicemembers and their families,” Kelly wrote. [The allowance](#) supports low-income (below 150% of the poverty line for their region) servicemembers and their families, many of whom may struggle with food insecurity.

- **Updated Separation Allowance:** The House NDAA would boost Family Separation Allowance (FSA) to \$400 a month, up from \$250 a month. MOAA supports the move, as the allowance hasn't been increased since 2003.

- **Child Care Support.** MOAA-supported House NDAA language would improve and codify discounted child care for dependents of DoD child care employees. This increased benefit would help the Pentagon combat a nationwide provider shortage.

- **Arlington National Cemetery Eligibility.** The House NDAA would require a report “that contains a proposal to increase national cemetery capacity through the expansion or modification of a national cemetery that has, or will have, the capacity to provide full military honors.” This is a step toward MOAA's goal of preserving earned burial benefits for all who served, though it does not go as far toward this goal as the Expanding America's National Cemetery Act. ([Learn More](#) | [Write Your Lawmakers](#))

- **Ending the ‘180-Day Rule.’** House NDAA language similar to the Retain Skilled Veterans Act ([Learn More](#) | [Write Your Lawmakers](#)) would forward MOAA's goal of increasing the talent pool of retired servicemembers seeking DoD civilian positions – a move strengthening national defense as well as improving the chances of a successful military-to-civilian transition for those leaving uniform but retaining a desire to serve.

### 4. How MOAA Members Made A Difference Via Our Summer Advocacy Campaign

(Adapted from an article by Dan Merry in the 14 Sep 2023 MOAA Newsletter.)

MOAA's [Advocacy in Action Summer Campaign](#) garnered continued support for two key advocacy goals – the preservation of your TRICARE pharmacy benefit and the restoration of the Basic Allowance for Housing – thanks to ongoing grassroots work from thousands of MOAA members and other supporters.

MOAA has amassed over 33,000 messages in support of the two topics sent via our [Legislative Action Center](#) since AiA work began earlier this year. The House version of the FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) includes actionable language on both issues; [an Aug. 24 letter](#) from Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), MOAA's president and CEO, addressed to the chairmen and ranking members of both the House and Senate encouraged support for the related House provisions during the upcoming conference committee session.

[RELATED: [Read MOAA's NDAA Priority List](#)]

#### TRICARE Pharmacy Cuts

We appreciate MOAA members' efforts to build support for a much-needed analysis of beneficiary impacts related to the

pharmacy network cuts. Hundreds of families have shared their stories about barriers to access resulting from the narrowed network.

**[\[TAKE ACTION | LEARN MORE\]](#)**

Data reporting will help quantify these challenges, particularly for rural residents and the elderly. MOAA will leverage this information in our advocacy efforts and ensure Congress reviews this critical information as part of their oversight role on the military health care benefit.

**BAH Restoration**

The concerted efforts from MOAA members during the AiA campaign led to increased support for the BAH Restoration Act and a Senate companion bill. Additionally, the House version of the NDAA includes a 1% restoration of the allowance, which signifies acknowledgement from Congress that servicemembers are struggling financially.

**[\[TAKE ACTION | LEARN MORE\]](#)**

MOAA will continue to build support for the standalone legislation while simultaneously urging appropriators to ensure the funds are provided for the 1% restoration of BAH as a starting point.

**Growing Our Advocacy Base**

Driven in part by these campaign engagements, the number of supporters registered for MOAA's Legislative Action Center approached 20,000, with a surge over the last two weeks. We welcome this growth and need to continue making major progress if we are to be prepared for any significant decrements to our service-earned entitlements.

What form could those decrements take? As we have regularly reported, every two years the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) provides Congress with a list of options to reduce government outlays. The intention is for this report to inform members of congress as they grapple with budgets through the congressional cycle. Option No. 8 in the CBO's report is to charge [out-of-pocket fees](#) for TRICARE For Life for the first \$850 worth of cost sharing, and then pay half of the next \$7,650 – the grand total cost to the beneficiary would not exceed \$4,675 in 2026. Option No. 16 is to reduce VA disability pay for those who receive payments in 2024 or later who later turn 67. ([Read the recent report](#) for more details).

Some of these issues may not directly affect you, but we must continue to support all ranks and each of the eight uniformed services. Remember, if Congress makes changes relative to the options shared by the CBO, there is a warranted concern for other actions, deeper cuts, or changing eligibility, which would widen the impact.

**[\[TAKE ACTION: Join MOAA's Legislative Action Center\]](#)**

As we may face challenges of this magnitude, MOAA will need many more than just 19,700 advocates. It takes two key components to succeed at this level of advocacy:

- A compelling, data-driven argument with personal examples highlighting the impact to those who served, and their families.
- An exceptionally loud voice, achieved by having more advocates. Our base of over 360,000 members should be able to yield at least double the number of advocates what we have now.

**Shaping Future Priorities**

Send your input on future AiA topics [via this survey](#), which can be found on MOAA's Legislative Action Center site. Some details:

- Your input should fall under one of the topic areas outlined in [MOAA's Legislative Priorities for the 118th Congress](#).
- Fill out the survey by Nov. 1 so responses can be assessed and included in discussions at MOAA's fall board of directors meeting, where the topics will be chosen.
- [Share the survey link](#) with your network, and be sure to sign up for the [Legislative Action Center](#) if you have not done so already.

**5. MOAA Joins Advocacy Groups Offering Fixes in Fight Against Food Insecurity**

(Adapted from an article by Jen Goodale in the 21 Sep 2023 MOAA newsletter.)

MOAA joined with other groups advocating for military families to author a Sept. 14 letter to Congress recommending much-needed improvements to DoD's plans for addressing food insecurity in the ranks – a wide-ranging problem that's so far been met with a very limited solution.

Many servicemembers and military families are struggling with some level of food insecurity, [according to DoD](#). The 2020 Status of Forces Survey of Active Duty members revealed 10% of servicemembers, mostly junior enlisted, report very low food security as defined by the parameters developed by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). To address this issue, Congress required DoD to develop and implement the Basic Needs Allowance (BNA) in the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

**[\[TAKE ACTION: Ask Your House Member to Strengthen the Basic Needs Allowance\]](#)**

The BNA is a supplemental monthly payment for qualifying servicemembers, including Guard and Reserve component members on active orders. The allowance is based on gross household income and federal poverty guidelines for family size. The threshold for eligibility is 150% of the federal poverty guidelines, a figure increased once officials recognized the limited reach the BNA would have at the initial threshold of 130%.

Unfortunately, even with that uptick, the BNA helps less than 3,000 servicemembers. The letter to members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees – co-authored by MOAA, [MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger](#), and the [National Military Family Association](#), and signed by 14 other advocacy groups – urges them to include much-needed improvements to the BNA in this year's NDAA. It recommends:

Full exclusion of the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) as part of a servicemember's income for determining eligibility.

- Exclusion of government food assistance as part of a servicemember's gross household income.
- Streamlining and simplifying the notification and application process for the BNA to remove barriers and eliminate stigma that may prevent servicemembers from seeking needed assistance.
- Requiring DoD to increase transparency about who is eligible to receive BNA, coordinate efforts with USDA

to identify servicemembers at risk of food insecurity, provide education on the BNA and other nutrition assistance programs available, and maximize program participation and utilization of available supports.

**[\[READ THE LETTER\]](#)**

Ultimately, Congress must do more to address overall servicemember compensation to ensure military families do not face food insecurity challenges. Because that will take more time to accomplish, the BNA must be improved to provide necessary support to families in the immediate.

Failure to secure meaningful and lasting solutions will result in a program similar to the BNA's predecessor, the Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA), which was eliminated in the FY 2016 NDAA in CONUS locations due to inefficiencies and lack of program use.

In a standalone effort to improve the BNA, Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-Calif.) introduced legislation which would eliminate BAH from the BNA eligibility calculation. The Military Food Security Act ([H.R. 1764](#)) would result in 21 times as many military families receiving aid, according to a [RAND study](#). It's time to address the issue of food insecurity with an effective, easy-to-navigate program.

**[\[TAKE ACTION: Urge Lawmakers to Support Improvements to the Basic Needs Allowance\]](#)**

You can make a difference by contacting your House member today and [asking them to co-sponsor this legislation](#). As members of the uniformed services community, we have a duty to take care of one another, and this is an important step in the right direction.

**6. This New House Bill would Help Protect the TRICARE Pharmacy Benefit**

(Adapted from an article in the 21 Sep 2023 MOAA Newsletter.)

Hundreds of TRICARE beneficiaries have reached out to MOAA citing problems caused by the shrinking TRICARE retail pharmacy network. Now, a new House bill will require a DoD report on the network to Congress – a report offering the data lawmakers need to better understand the reduced network's impact on military families, retirees and their families, and survivors.

MOAA recently heard from a retired Air Force nurse concerned about her family's ability to get acute medications during the winter months. Her rural Colorado town has three pharmacies, but none currently in network with TRICARE. The nearest network pharmacy is now a 40-minute drive via a mountain pass, a route with frequent closures due to heavy snow and avalanche control.

Her family now faces barriers to accessing prescription medications – not because her town lacks retail pharmacies, but because the narrowed TRICARE network has eroded her benefit.

**[\[TAKE ACTION: Ask Your House Member to Co-Sponsor H.R. 5150\]](#)**

A bill introduced by Rep. Joe Neguse (D-Colo.), [H.R. 5150](#), requires a detailed report on the pharmacy network, which has been cut by more than 13,000 locations since 2022. This move created access challenges for rural residents, the elderly, and

those with serious chronic medical conditions; this report will provide the data behind these challenges – data MOAA can leverage in our advocacy efforts.

Neguse introduced the standalone bill after successfully submitting the same legislative language as a [House floor amendment](#) to the FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). MOAA appreciates his efforts on this issue – the standalone bill allows member offices not directly involved in the NDAA process to signal their support for a TRICARE pharmacy network report by co-sponsoring the legislation.

Thousands of MOAA members already have reached out to their lawmakers seeking their support for a comprehensive report on pharmacy access, responding to [recent MOAA advocacy campaigns](#) and the [stories of their fellow beneficiaries](#). Even if you've used our [Legislative Action Center](#) to make your voice heard on this issue, it's important to do so again as the NDAA and other year-end bills like H.R. 5150 face procedural logjams.

**7. VA Failed to Process 56,000 Requests to Update Veteran's Dependents**

(Adapted from an article by Patricia Kime in the 7 Sep 2023 MOAA Newsletter.)

The [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) said Tuesday it failed to properly process 56,000 requests from veterans to add or remove dependents -- some dating back to 2011.

The agency discovered the mistakes while looking into a technical problem that caused headaches for roughly 900 veterans trying to file online appeals on their [PACT Act](#) claims decisions.

The VA launched a review into its PACT Act online appeal process Aug. 31 after receiving complaints from veterans and an inquiry from Military.com over concerns that the system wasn't working properly. Officials said Tuesday the technical issue that prevented hundreds of veterans from completing a "notice of disagreement" form through the website had been identified and fixed.

According to the VA, the website did not load as a result of a software bug accidentally introduced during a planned update July 27. A fix was rolled out Sept. 1, and the VA is now "monitoring to ensure that no further veterans are impacted by [the problem]," VA Press Secretary Terrence Hayes said in a statement late Tuesday.

**[\[RELATED: New VA Travel Reimbursement Program Is Failing Veterans, Review Finds\]](#)**

"We will ensure that all underpaid veterans receive the full backdated benefits they deserve, and that no veterans are negatively impacted by our error," he said.

"We at VA deeply apologize to all impacted veterans, and we are working urgently to identify them, contact them, and ensure that they get all of the benefits and appeals decisions that they deserve," Hayes added. "In both cases, VA has confirmed that we will be able to identify and contact all impacted veterans and ensure that they are not further impacted in any way."

According to the VA, more than 574,000 veterans filed a dependent status update -- VA Form 686c or VA Form 21-674 -- through the VA.gov or eBenefits website or elsewhere since 2011. Of those, the VA is investigating 56,000 to make sure proper adjustments were made.



Some veterans may be owed backdated benefits, while others may have been overpaid. Agency officials said they would not request reimbursement for those who have received excess benefits.

**[RELATED: [VA Had More Than \\$3.5 Billion in Misplaced Spending in Fiscal 2022](#)]**

The announcement follows a series of issues with the VA.gov website that have affected VA disability claims. Last month, [roughly 32,000 veterans received letters notifying them](#) that claims submitted through the website weren't processed, with the error dating back to 2018 for some.

Recipients were told that the VA was conducting a thorough review of the issue and they did not need to take any action. But they were advised to pay attention to their mail for future requests from the VA for additional information, as needed.

Earlier in August, the department [chose to extend a filing deadline for veterans to apply for retroactive disability compensation claims](#) under the PACT Act after a surge in applications [overwhelmed the department's online filing portal](#), resulting in roughly 20% of applicants receiving error messages.

In April, [the department halted all future deployments of a new electronic health records system](#), built by Oracle Cerner, as a result of problems experienced by the handful of facilities that use it, such as safety issues involving patients and providers encountering difficulties using the system.

**[RELATED: [VA Still Challenged to Provide Timely Health Care, Watchdog Says](#)]**

The Oracle Cerner Millennium system is used at the Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center in Spokane, Washington, and its affiliated clinics; the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center and clinics in Walla Walla, Washington; the VA Central Ohio Health Care System; and the Roseburg VA Health Care System and VA Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics in Oregon.

VA officials said they have taken steps to prevent additional issues with their information technology systems, beginning with a full review of VA.gov processing systems, looking at every place veterans submit applications and claims.

The department is creating new technological measures to flag any claims that are not processed correctly so they can be addressed. The system also will notify VA leaders of the issue. And it is investigating the bug on the notice of disagreement forms to figure out why it was not caught earlier, according to the department.

The VA has faced long-standing challenges with its aging information technology infrastructure, and its fiscal 2024 budget request seeks to continue a years-long modernization effort. It proposes \$6.4 billion for the Office of Information Technology to continue to upgrade its aging IT infrastructure and services, and \$1.9 billion to convert to a new electronic health records system.

**[RELATED: [VA Signs New Contract With Company Behind Electronic Health Records Rollout](#)]**

VA officials said the department continues to invest in modernizing the claims processing to improve service for veterans.

"We will resolve these issues, prevent them from happening in the future, address them more quickly when needed, and -- most importantly -- make sure that all impacted veterans get the benefits and service that they deserve as quickly as possible," Hayes said.

In 2022, the VA processed more than 1.7 million disability compensation and pension claims. As of early August, the number of pending claims totaled 1,043,961 -- with 274,148 considered to be "backlogged," or older than 125 days.

**Compiled and Edited by  
LCDR Ray Judd, USN (Ret)**

## **Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC) Information**

Read the August 2023 Edition of the Council Communiqué Newsletter prepared by your Florida Council of Chapters of the Military Officers Association of America.

<https://www.moaaf.org/Communique/Issues/Aug2023.pdf>

The FCoC annual Leadership Training Seminar (LTS) is scheduled for 26-27 January 2024, at the Rosen Centre in Orlando. This event will be focused on understanding Chapter Health Assessment Criteria and validating the 2023-chapter assessments. At least two leaders from each chapter are expected to attend and work with Area Vice President, FCoC Leaders, and MOAA National leaders at this critical event. Also, understand the latest changes from MOAA national for 2024, trade best practices with other Chapter leaders, compete for Chapter Health monetary awards for 2023, and plan out FCoC 2024 events. Registration for the LTS opens soon. Check the FCoC website for more info.

### **FCoC Key Events Calendar 2023**

21 October - Virtual Fall Board Meeting - approve 2024 budget

### **2024**

26-27 January - FCoC Leadership Training Seminar - Rosen Centre, Orlando

1 February - Harris Communication Award input due

28 February - MOAA Community Outreach Grant submissions due

1 March - Scholarship application window closes

April - 2024 AiA Teams to Washington D.C.

1 May - Level Of Excellence Award inputs due

May – 65th Anniversary Celebration of the NW Florida Chapter in Fort Walton

13-15 May - 2024 FCoC / West Volusia Convention - Daytona Beach - Shores Resort & Spa

31 May - AMBA (Mercer) Ad Program application closes

1 June - Legislative Liaison Strobbridge nomination closes

1 June - Surviving Spouse Excellence Award nomination closes

Are you receiving email updates from HQ MOAA every Thursday? If not, it may be you did not "opt-in" for these emails. Here's how to opt-in:

Log in to your HQ MOAA account at [moaa.org](https://moaa.org)

Click "Profile Info" under your name at the top right side of your screen. Scroll down the vertical banner to "Communication" and click on "Opt in/Opt out"

Enter your email address when prompted to launch the Email Preference Center. Click the boxes of information you want to receive. Back out of the screen to view other HQ MOAA information or log off.

Remember to visit the Legislative Action Center at <https://moaa.quorum.us/> Review active MOAA campaigns and write to your elected officials from this portal.

**Submitted by:**  
**LTC Paul Chlebo, USA (Ret)**  
**PMOAA Board Member and FCOC NW Area VP**



## 2024 PMOAA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

(Please Print

Existing members – only information changes needed)

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FULL NAME: (Last) (First) (Middle)

RANK/SERVICE:

Circle:

Active Duty Retired Reserve Guard Former Surviving Spouse

SPOUSE/SIGNIFICANT OTHER:

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER: (Home) (Cell)

EMAIL ADDRESS: (For Official Chapter Communications/Use)

Member of National MOAA: Y / N

My MOAA Number is: \_\_\_\_\_

Life member: Y / N

[ ] If not a member of MOAA National, please check here to receive a **FREE Basic MOAA** membership.

**Please check all PMOAA activities in which you, or your spouse, can assist:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> Website Administrator
<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership Recruiting
<input type="checkbox"/> Survivor Assistance Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Beacon</b> Editor
<input type="checkbox"/> Accounting/Finance	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations/ Advertising
<input type="checkbox"/> ROTC/JROTC Liaison	<input type="checkbox"/> Program/Event Coordinator
<input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographer
<input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Affairs	

**PMOAA Membership Dues:**

\$30.00/year (**E-Beacon**)

\$42.00/year (**Mailed Beacon**)

**SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTION**

**TOTAL ENCLOSED**

Make check payable to **PMOAA** and mail to:

**PMOAA Membership**

**P.O. Box 17728**

**Pensacola, FL 32501-7728**



## PMOAA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

26 September 2023

President Pyle called the meeting to order at 1701 hours with the following members present: CAPT Pyle, MAJ Werner, RADM Engel, LtCol Nelson, LTC Chlebo, LCDR Judd, LCDR Brown, Past President Kirschner, Maj Booton, Scholarship Chair, Mrs. Judy Dickson, Survivor Assistance Committee Chair and Jean Booton, **Beacon** Editor. Members absent/excused: LTC Vinson-VanHouter, CPT Clark and MAJ Dillard.

President Pyle informed everyone that PMOAA was the recipient of the **FIVE STAR AWARD!** He offered thanks and congratulations to the board and the membership for the great job in achieving this award.

**August 22, 2023 BOD Minutes** – a motion was made by LCDR Judd, seconded by LCDR Brown, to approve the August minutes as published in the September **Beacon**. Motion carried.

**Treasurer Report** – LtCol Nelson provided an advanced copy of the treasurer report as of 26 September 2023. The Checking Account balance is: \$3,527.10; the PayPal balance is: \$682.00; the Saving Account balance is: \$3,242.16; the CD 2024-04-06 balance is \$10,295.73 and the American Funds 529 is \$84,096.83. A motion was made by LCDR Judd, seconded by LCDR Brown, to approve the treasurer report. Motion carried.

**Review of the September 21<sup>st</sup> luncheon meeting at Mustin Beach Club** – A total of 59 people were present. The speaker was good; the food was good except there wasn't enough. Suggestions were offered to upgrade the October luncheon. The President will talk to the food and beverage manager next week.

### REPORTS

**Membership** – MAJ Werner, with the assistance of LtCol Nelson, reported the current membership is 159 with one perspective member and spouse which brings the total to 161.

**Survivor Assistance** - Mrs. Dickson, along with CAPT Bill Mayer, have been hard at work in putting together a Survivor Assistance Committee Manual. Judy distributed the revised quick check list and indicated it is on the website. Digital estate information is still needed. She also distributed Functions and Qualifications for the Survivors Assistance Committee.

**Scholarship Committee** – Maj Booton stated that Emma Miller (one of this year's scholarship winners) and her boyfriend (an ROTC Student at UWF) are interested in doing community service in appreciation of her scholarship. President Pyle said the most important thing right now is to get the word out about the PMOAA scholarship program. Potential exists for options when

PMOAA submits a Community Grant. This is on hold for right now.

**NW AVP, FCOC** - LTC Chlebo mentioned that the UWF Veterans Support Group is now aware of our scholarship program and uploaded it to their web site. The Email blast to our catchment area regarding the October luncheon was launched. A PMOAA letter will also be sent. It was noted that instructions should be given regarding NASP base entry procedures since the meeting will be held at the Oaks Restaurant on NASP. Leadership meeting will be held in Orlando on January 26-27, 2024. President Pyle encouraged attendance.

The Chapter Assessment is complete and will be submitted in January 2024. See LTC Chlebo's **Beacon** column for more information.

**Nominating Committee Report** - LCDR Brown submitted the proposed officer slate that will be voted on by the membership in November 2023. RADM Engel made a motion, seconded by LtCol Nelson, to give a one-time Bylaws waiver to allow MAJ Werner to serve another term as 2VP. Motion carried. The proposed slate of officers was also approved.

### OLD BUSINESS

**Membership Recruitment event on October 19, 2023** – See above paragraph.

**One Year Beacon Newsletter** - the board approved providing a one year email edition of the **Beacon** to Near Real Time contacts who are already MOAA members. This will be monitored.

**IRS 501 (c) (3) Charitable Organization** - application was submitted earlier this year. No response as of this date. If we continue to get no response, we will submit an application for this designator.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Proposed Revision of the Bylaws** - proposed revisions to the Bylaws were sent email by RADM Engel based on feedback by the board. A motion was made by LCDR Brown, seconded by LtCol Nelson, to approve the revisions and submit to the membership in November for approval. Motion carried. RADM Engel mentioned that once the Bylaws are approved, the project next year will be to develop a policies and procedures manual as the Bylaws are becoming quite cumbersome. A committee will be formed. **This is an open item.**

**FCOC Visit** – certain members of the Florida Council of Chapters will be here on 19 October for the membership recruitment event. They will meet with the board members after the luncheon.

**High School Recognition Program** – this program will consist of recognizing Military Academy and ROTC graduating seniors in some fashion. LtCol Nelson will chair the committee consisting of CAPT Pyle and RADM Engel. Others are more than welcome to join in developing a proposal.

**Beacon** – Jean Booton requested all Beacon input NLT COB Wednesday, September 27, 2023.

The next membership meeting is at 1100 hours at the Oaks Restaurant at the A.C. Read Golf Course aboard NASP on Thursday, 19 October.

The next Board meeting will be at 1700 hours on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at the Pensacola Yacht Club.

The meeting adjourned at 1825 hours.

**Respectfully Submitted**  
**Joan M. Engel, Secretary**

## **ACTION ITEMS FOR NOVEMBER 2023 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

These notices are being posted for all members to review prior to the November 16, 2023 annual business meeting.

### **Proposed Slate of Officers and Terms of Office**

First Vice President – LTC Karen Vinson-VanHouter – (2023-2025)

Second Vice President – MAJ Molly Werner – (2024-2026)

Secretary – CDR Susan Ulloa – (2024-2026)

Treasurer – LtCol Robert Nelson – (2024-2026)

### **Board of Directors and Terms of Office**

1. CAPT Sue Varenholt – (2024-2026)

2. 1LT David Anderson – (2024-2026)

3. RADM Joan Engel - (2024-2026)

## **MAJOR CHANGES TO PMOAA BYLAWS**

### **ARTICLE 1. SECTION A.2 Surviving Spouse Members**

Added: When a member with a MOAA lifetime membership passes away, that lifetime MOAA membership is passed to the surviving spouse. The surviving spouse will not pay MOAA dues. Once the lifetime membership is passed to the surviving spouse, the spouse will receive a one year free PMOAA chapter membership. After the one year free chapter membership, if the spouse desires to maintain affiliation with PMOAA, chapter dues must be paid.

**Rationale – clarification of membership**

### **ARTICLE 1. SECTION A.3**

Added: Approval of this designator is determined by the Honorary Life Membership Committee in March and approved by the board. These members are entitled to a free Beacon.

**Rationale - specifies who determines Honorary Life Membership and Beacon status**

### **ARTICLE IV. Section B.1**

Added: Qualified and trained leaders are selected from willing volunteers. The President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and five Director positions will be the source of future Officer and Board members. Each person in those positions will be trained, mentored and encouraged to accept increasing positions of leadership.

**Rational – new paragraph 1 - leadership succession plan. Renumber subsequent paragraphs 2-7**

### **ARTICLE V. Section B.1 Standing Committees**

Added: Membership Committee

**Rational – missing in previous edition of Bylaws**

### **ARTICLE V. SECTION B1.**

Added: paragraph 1 e

The Chair of the Surviving Spouse Committee is responsible for contacting newly widowed/widower spouses of PMOAA members to offer assistance and guidance in the settlement of financial affairs. This assistance includes providing a checklist of things that need to be accomplished in settling a member's estate.

**Rational – missing in previous edition of Bylaws. Change existing paragraph B.1.e to B.1.f**

### **ARTICLE VI: Bylaws Changes**

Changed to Article VII

**Rational – to incorporate a new Article**

## **ARTICLE VI. Fiduciary Matters and Conflicts of Interest**

### **SECTION A. GENERAL STANDARDS OF CONDUCT FOR DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

1. Each Director shall discharge their duties as a Director, including duties as a member of a committee of the board in good faith with the care an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstance and in a manner the Director or Officer reasonably believes to be in the best interests of the Chapter.
2. In discharging duties, a Director or Officer is entitled to rely on information, opinions, reports or statements, including financial statements and other financial data if prepared or presented by one or more officers of the Chapter.
3. No member of the Chapter may receive compensation for services rendered in support of the activities of the Chapter from nonmembers or outside sources without approval of the Board. This does not preclude discounts to members for merchandise or services that are provided equally to all members or all participants in a particular activity sponsored by the Chapter.

4. Debts of the Chapter shall be satisfied prior to any dissolution of the Chapter. See the Articles of Incorporation for the Chapter for further provision in the event of dissolution of the Chapter. In the event of dissolution approved by 2/3 of the voting membership, the Chapter President shall notify MOAA National Headquarters and the Florida Council of Chapters. The Chapter Secretary shall file required documentation with the Florida Department of Corporations. After all liabilities and obligations have been discharged, any and all remaining assets shall become the property of the Florida Council of Chapters.

## **SECTION B. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

1. Conflicts of interest arise when any "responsible person" or any "Party related to a responsible person" has a "financial interest adverse to the Chapter." An interest adverse to the Chapter includes any interest in any contract, transaction or other financial relationship with the Chapter, and any interest in an entity whose best interests may be impaired by the best interests of the Chapter, including without limitation, an entity providing any goods or services or receiving any goods or services from the Chapter, an entity in which the Chapter has any business or financial interest, and an entity providing goods or services or performing activities similar to the goods or services of the Chapter.
2. If a responsible person is aware that the Chapter is about to enter into any transaction or make any decisions involving a conflict of interest (a "conflicting interest transaction"), such person shall inform the President and/or the Board of this conflict of interest and recuse themselves from the decision voting process.

### **Rationale – important as this Article was missing from previous Bylaws**

Voting on the proposed slate of officers and board members along with the proposed revision of the Bylaws will take place at the November 16, 2023 annual business meeting. Offices are open for nominations for any position. Nominations can be made from the floor, but only if you have obtained consent from the member being nominated. Only regular members are permitted to vote.

**Joan M. Engel, Secretary**

## **ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR THE PMOAA GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING NOVEMBER 16, 2023**

### **FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:**

LTC Karen Vinson-VanHouter, USA (Ret)

\_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

### **SECOND VICE PRESIDENT:**

MAJ Molly Werner, USA (Ret)

\_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

### **SECRETARY: CDR Susan Ulloa, USN (Ret)**

\_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

### **TREASURER: LtCol Robert Nelson, USMC (Ret)**

\_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

CAPT Sue Varenholt, USN (Ret)

\_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

1LT David Anderson, USA (Former)

\_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

RADM Joan Engel, USN (Ret)

\_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

### **APPROVAL OF BYLAWS REVISIONS**

\_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

Absentee voting is permitted to members otherwise entitled to vote under Article 1, Section C. of the Chapter Bylaws dated 18 November 2021. Absentee ballots for the 16 November business meeting must reach the Chapter Secretary no later than Monday, 13 November 2023. Mail ballot to: RADM Joan M. Engel, USN (Ret), 8775 Thunderbird Drive, Pensacola, FL 32514 OR email: [joanengel221@aol.com](mailto:joanengel221@aol.com)

Offices are open for nominations for any position. Nominations can be made from the floor, but only if you have obtained consent from the member being nominated. Only regular members are permitted to vote.





## October Buffet Membership Recruitment LUNCHEON Meeting

Thursday, September 19, 2023

Social: 1100 – 1130

Lunch begins: 1130

### Oaks Restaurant at AC Read Golf Course

799-1313 Duncan Road

NAS Pensacola

2<sup>nd</sup> floor – Elevator Available

Cost is \$30 per person

### Buffet Menu

Fried Catfish

Sliced Roast Beef & Gravy

Green Bean Almondine

Garlic Red Skinned Mashed Potatoes

French Petit Pain Rolls

Mixed Green Salad

Cherry Cobbler / Blueberry Cobbler

Coffee, Iced Tea and Water

Cash bar available on the First Floor

**Please R.S.V.P. by Sunday, 15 October 2023 to**

LtCol Bob Nelson (Ret)

**On line at [15 October Luncheon RSVP](#)**

Email: [rsvp@pmoaa.org](mailto:rsvp@pmoaa.org) or

Phone: 719.322.4130

**Guest Speaker:**

**D. Rush McQueen, Ph.D.**

**Director, Pensacola Vet Center**

No Exceptions. Meals are ordered based on accepted reservations. Phone/email/web reservations are considered committed. *US Mail reservations or payments not accepted.*

**Web Reservations – Be sure you receive an email confirmation, otherwise your reservation was not recorded. If you didn't RSVP, please do not attend.**

**Deadline for RSVP is: 10/15/2023**

**NAS Access Details:** DoD/Military ID card holders should enter the base as usual from either the Main Gate/Navy Blvd entrance or the Blue Angel Gate (West Gate)/ Blue Angel Parkway. Those without a Military/DoD ID **must** be escorted aboard the Base in the same vehicle with someone having a Military/DoD ID, retired or active. All occupants **must** have some form of legal picture ID.

Note: If you need assistance getting on base, please click [NAS Access](#) (email) or contact Molly Werner at 850-292-9756 or Bob Nelson at 719.322.4130 (call or text).

## The Surviving Spouse Assistance Committee Corner

It is so good to hear from members who have taken the time and energy to put together or update their digital estate or that they are doing the "Plan ahead together" estate plan. For those who still need to update your estate, you might consider MOAA's [Help Your Survivors Now: A Guide to Planning Ahead](#). Another helpful brochure is [Family Matters: A Personal Inventory for Peace of Mind](#). These are available for free to MOAA Life Members.

[The Navy Shift Colors](#), Spring-Summer Issue 2023, pages 4-9 has an excellent Survivor's Assistance Checklist with spaces to fill in info.

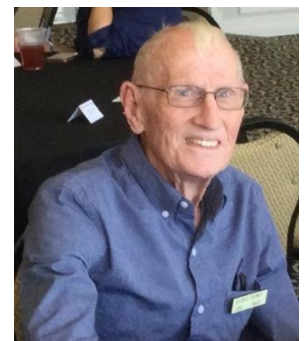
The VA's [Planning Your Legacy](#) and the Military.com's [Military Retiree Survivor Checklist](#) can also help with this process.

We also updated the PMOAA's Surviving Spouse checklist. This is available on request. A [Quicklist](#) has been posted on the PMOAA website.

The experts recommend that you should review and update your digital information list and estate plan at least once a year. Things to consider are: Changing circumstances; state or federal law changes that may affect any of these documents; is your list of assets and their location current? Do you need to update your real estate, bank accounts, and vehicle(s) titles? Is your beneficiary list current?

It is wise to discuss your plan with those who hold a health care proxy, powers of attorney, and any other authority over your person and property. You should keep documents in a safe place, yet where they can be accessed by those in whom you have placed trust.

**Judy Dickson, Chair  
Surviving Spouse Committee**



## ROWWA

Greetings Ladies,

Wishing you all well and hope this autumn finds you well! Our 2023-2024 Retired Officers Wives and Widows Association (ROWWA) year opens with our Membership Luncheon at 11 am on October 12<sup>th</sup> at O'Brien's Bistro on Bayou Blvd in Pensacola.

ROWWA now meets four times a year. In addition to October's meeting, we have a Christmas Ornament Exchange on December 14<sup>th</sup> at Scenic Hills Country Club, a party-themed February 8<sup>th</sup> luncheon at South Market, and our treasured Silent Auction on April 11<sup>th</sup> at Bonefish Grill.

Annual dues are \$20, luncheons are \$25 for October & December, payable at the door.

**NEW NEXT YEAR:** Beginning in 2024, our club will be ordering off the menu and paying individually due to the increase in meal cost and the decrease in attendance. Please RSVP to our Treasurer Chair, Melinda Connell, by calling or texting her cell at 410-271-9508. Checks can be mailed to Melinda Connell, 7230 Mier Henry Road, Pensacola FL 32507.

ROWWA eligibility for membership: Retired Wives and Widows, includes former and Retired Women Officers, spouses of former and retired Officers with a special invitation to Surviving Women Spouses of Military Officers. Guests are welcome.

Membership information and directory updates, please contact: Molly Werner

Cell: 850-292-9756

Email: [mc4werner@aol.com](mailto:mc4werner@aol.com)

**Respectfully submitted by,  
Molly Werner, Membership Chair**

## Mark Your Calendars for the last 2023 Heroes Among Us Event

October 26 – *Marine Aviation Night* –  
Lieutenant General Fred McCorkle, USMC

*Event starts at 1800 (6pm)*

*At Pensacola Veteran's Memorial Park*

Now and Always  
We'll be There.



1-800-247-2192 • [www.moaainsurance.com](http://www.moaainsurance.com)

### President

CAPT Kenneth Pyle USN (Ret) (2023-2025)  
479-651-0292 [KPyle1968@gmail.com](mailto:KPyle1968@gmail.com)

### 1st Vice President VACANT

### 2nd Vice President

MAJ Molly C Werner USA (Ret) (2022-2024)  
850-292-9756 [Mc4Werner@aol.com](mailto:Mc4Werner@aol.com)

### Secretary

RADM Joan M Engel USN (Ret) (2022-2024)  
850-473-9899 [JMEnightingale1961@aol.com](mailto:JMEnightingale1961@aol.com)

### Treasurer

LtCol Robert Nelson USMC (Ret) (2022-2024)  
719-322-4130 [Bob.Nelson@pmoaa.org](mailto:Bob.Nelson@pmoaa.org)

### Immediate Past President

CPT Dean Kirschner USA (Former)  
850-458-7988 [EstDean@cox.net](mailto:EstDean@cox.net)

### Survivor Assistance Committee Chair

Mrs. Judy Dickson, Surviving Spouse  
850-712-9599 [pindogal@yahoo.com](mailto:pindogal@yahoo.com)

### Beacon Editor

Mrs. Jean Booton  
850-496-6913 [Jean.Booton@pmoaa.org](mailto:Jean.Booton@pmoaa.org)

### DIRECTORS

#### Director

CPT William D Clark USA (Ret) (2023-2024)  
850-437-3115 [Sf44Clark@bellsouth.net](mailto:Sf44Clark@bellsouth.net)

#### Director

LCDR Trumin Brown USN (Ret) (2022-2024)  
850-375-4541 [Trumin.Brown@att.net](mailto:Trumin.Brown@att.net)

#### Director

LCDR Ray Judd USN (Ret) (2023-2024)  
850-456-8104 [thejuddsfl@cox.net](mailto:thejuddsfl@cox.net)

#### Director

LTC Paul Chlebo USA (Ret) (2023-2025)  
540-220-8771 [pchlebo@yahoo.com](mailto:pchlebo@yahoo.com)

#### Director

MAJ Frank Dillard USA (Ret) (2023-2025)  
317-526-8046 [jafd1@hotmail.com](mailto:jafd1@hotmail.com)

### Chair, Scholarship Committee

Maj Charles Booton USAF (Ret)  
850-496-6912 [Chazbo\\_af@mchsi.com](mailto:Chazbo_af@mchsi.com)



**Pensacola Chapter, MOAA**  
**P.O. Box 17728**  
**Pensacola, Florida 32501-7728**

## **What's Inside:**

<b>Pg 1 President's Corner</b>	<b>Pg 10 Board of Director's Meeting Minutes (cont)</b>
<b>Pg 2 Legislative Affairs</b>	<b>Pg 10 November Business Meeting Action Items and Proposed ByLaws Changes</b>
<b>Pg 3 Legislative Affairs (cont)</b>	<b>Pg 11 Proposed ByLaws Changes (cont)</b>
<b>Pg 4 Legislative Affairs (cont)</b>	<b>Pg 11 Absentee Ballot</b>
<b>Pg 5 Legislative Affairs (cont)</b>	<b>Pg 11 September Meeting Photos (cont)</b>
<b>Pg 6 Legislative Affairs (cont)</b>	<b>Pg 12 October 19 Menu and Directions</b>
<b>Pg 7 Legislative Affairs (cont)</b>	<b>Pg 12 Surviving Spouse Assistance Corner</b>
<b>Pg 7 Florida Council of Chapters Information and Calendar</b>	<b>Pg 12 September Meeting Photos (cont)</b>
<b>Pg 8 Florida Council of Chapters Information and Calendar (cont)</b>	<b>Pg 13 ROWAA</b>
<b>Pg 8 September meeting photos</b>	<b>Pg 13 Heroes Among Us 2023 Schedule</b>
<b>Pg 8 Membership Renewal Form</b>	<b>Pg 13 PMOAA Officers and Directors</b>
<b>Pg 9 Board of Director's Meeting Minutes</b>	