



The Volusia Officers Call

West Volusia MOAA Chapter, INC. (WVMC)
An Affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America



Vol 33, No 3, NOV 2024

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MOAA's Mission

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a nonprofit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. Membership is open to those who hold or have ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, or NOAA and their surviving spouses.

President's Perspective—



I hope this message finds you well and safe after this stressful hurricane season. It is my hope that we have seen the last of the storms, but that may be dreaming on my part since the season doesn't end until November 30th. Hopefully as the "cooler" weather begins to set in our chances of another storm will be minimal.

The Florida Council of Chapters Communique is now posted on their website and is filled with valuable information. I encourage all of you who were impacted by the recent storms to take advantage of the MOAA Foundation Crisis Relief Grant. All serving and honorably discharged veterans and their surviving spouses are eligible for up to \$1,000 in relief. Additionally, I encourage you to check out the FEMA website: www.disasterassistance.gov. Recently our chapter secretary forwarded to you information regarding the application for "Blue Tarps" and other resources.

I want to emphasize that your leadership is here to help you in many ways.

Please remember to support our continued collection of personal hygiene items for the Barracks of Hope and non-perishable items for the Salvation Army.

I look forward to seeing you at our next Luncheon Meeting.

LTC Laura Wickett, USA, RET
President

**WEST VOLUSIA MOAA CHAPTER
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Scholarship:

MAJ Pam Ring, USAR, RET

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Webmaster:

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COL John Burtnett, USA, RET

Surviving Spouse Liaison:

Mrs. Lisa Hightower
386-216-3767 lisamh4550@yahoo.com

MOAA Take Action Center -

<http://takeaction.moaa.org>

Legislative -**New Policy Change for Homeless Veterans**

More homeless veterans will be able to qualify for a key housing program due to a policy change by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The change means service-connected disability benefits will be exempt from income limit calculations. The move echoes proposals in the bipartisan Home for the Brave Act (H.R. 6179).

"The days of veterans having to choose between getting the VA benefits they deserve and the housing support they need are finally over, this is a critical step forward that will help veterans nationwide and bring us one step closer to our ultimate goal of putting an end to veteran homelessness for good" VA Secretary Denis McDonough stated this in an Aug. 8 press release announcing the change to the HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program.

For more information about The Home for the Brave Act ([H.R. 6179](https://www.congress.gov/bills/116/6179)) go to the MOAA website <https://moaa.gov> and search for (H.R.6179)

Do Your Part – Take Action – Be an Advocate

LTC Michael Galaty Jr, USA, RET
Legislative

Credit Cards now accepted—

Credit cards are now accepted for our luncheons. The meal cost using a credit card is \$25. The additional one dollar is to pay the servicing company that processes the credit cards. The meal cost if paying by cash or check is still \$24.

Last Meeting (2 OCT 2024) -

President LTC Laura Wickett called the meeting to order at 1146 hours.

Attendance : 26

MAJ Raul Gonzalez gave the invocation followed by The Pledge of Allegiance and the playing of the National Anthem.

LTC Wickett welcomed our members and guests: LtCol Davis introduced new member CAPT Lee Anne Powell USN, Ret; Col Pugh introduced his guest CMSGT (Ret) Gary Cornwell.

LTC Wickett welcomed LTC Lorraine Holland, FCoC Area VP, and Pat Greene, MOAA National Surviving Spouse Liaison

Lunch was served: Chicken Milanese with Lemon Caper Cream Sauce, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans and Cookies and Ice Cream for dessert.

LTC Wickett asked MAJ Gonzalez that the 50/50 drawings be done at this time. Then the members' free lunch drawing.

Maj Pete Durnell won the free lunch for the 6 NOV 2024 meeting/luncheon.

LTC Laura Wickett presented the history of the Womens Army Corps 1942-1978.

The Women's Army Corps (WAC) was the women's branch of the United States Army. It was created as an auxiliary unit, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) on 15 May 1942, and converted to an active-duty status in the Army of the United States as the WAC on 1 July 1943. Its first director was Colonel Oveta Culp Hobby. The WAC was disbanded on 20 October 1978, and all WAC units were integrated with male units.

The WAAC were first trained in three major specialties. The brightest and nimblest were trained as switchboard operators. Next came the mechanics, who had to have a high degree of mechanical aptitude and problem solving ability. The bakers were usually the lowest scoring recruits. This was later expanded to

dozens of specialties like Postal Clerk, Driver, Stenographer, and Clerk-Typist. WAC armorers maintained and repaired small arms and heavy weapons that they were not allowed to use.

The average WAC was 25-27 years of age, healthy, single and without children.

In 1943 the recruiting momentum stopped and went into reverse as a massive slander campaign on the home front challenged the WACs as sexually immoral. Many soldiers ferociously opposed allowing women in uniform, warning their sisters and friends they would be seen as lesbians or prostitutes.¹ Other sources were from other women – servicemen and officer's wives' idle gossip, local women who disliked the newcomers taking over "their town", female civilian employees resenting the competition (for both jobs and men), charity and volunteer organizations who resented the extra attention the WAACs received, and complaints and slander spread by disgruntled or discharged WAACs. All investigations showed the rumors were false.

The second WAC training center was in Daytona Beach, FL. The area of the band shell.

About 150,000 American women eventually served in the WAAC and WAC during World War II. Most women served stateside, some went to various places worldwide, including Europe, North Africa, and New Guinea. Approximately 700 officers and enlisted WACs served in Vietnam from 1962-1973.

The WAC as a branch was disbanded in 20 October 1978 and all female units were integrated with male units. Women serving as WACs at that time converted in branch to whichever Military Occupational Specialty they worked in. BG Mary Elizabeth Clarke was at the WAC from 1975 to 1978 as the last executive, as it was dissolved at the end of her administration. After this assignment she was given the rank of a two-star general and promoted to major general in November 1978. She then immediately became commander of the United States Army Military Police School (continued on page 4)

Last Meeting - continued from page 3

and Training Center.

LTC Wickett asked if there were any corrections to the 4 SEP 2024 Luncheon Meeting Minutes as posted in the VOC. Motion to approve the minutes as posted in the VOC was made by MAJ Raul Gonzalez and seconded by Col Jim Pugh. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

LTC Wickett reminded the membership that we are collecting non-perishable foods for the Salvation Army, and gently used, clean clothes for men and women, and hygiene goody bags for the Barracks of Hope. We also collect monetary donations for our JROTC Scholarship Fund and for Veteran's causes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Our Chapter will have a float in the Volusia County Veterans Day Parade in DeLand on 9 NOV 2024. We will meet in the parking lot of the First Baptist Church, 725 N. Woodland Blvd, DeLand at 0800. Members are invited to ride on the float.

LTC Wickett called for reports:

Secretary's Report: LtCol Twila Davis-stated the Chapter received another donation to the WVMC JROTC Scholarship Fund in Memory of CAPT Hank Clay.

Treasurer's Report: Maj Pete Durnell reported the checking account balance as of 30 SEP 2024 is \$ 2811.91 and \$ 12,741.47 in savings. Treasurers report is given for informational purpose and is subject to audit.

Directors and Committee Reports:

LTC Michael Magee -1st VP /Speaker Coordinator- excused

2nd VP- MAJ Raul Gonzalez stated : the MOAA Roundtable on 17 OCT 2024 will be on Community Outreach ; the FCoC Leadership Training/Mini Convention will be held at the Rosen Centre Hotel 17-18 January 2025. All

members are invited to attend; he and LTC Wickett attended the Volusia County Veterans Council Meeting and the have asked our Chapter to provide a speaker for the 2025 Veterans Day Celebration at the Emory L. Bennett Veteran's Nursing Home in Daytona Beach; after the Veterans Day Parade in DeLand on 9 NOV 2024 at 3:00pm, our Chapter will be honoring Veterans at the Grand Villa Nursing home. Members are invited to attend; and the Veteran's Education Museum in Daytona Beach is looking for volunteers to serve 3 hours per month.

COL Jack Burtnett-Director- nothing to report
Maj Curt Voelbel -Director -excused

MAJ Shirley Burtnett-Director -stated the members are welcome to ride the float in the Veterans Day parade and those that have done it in the past have had fun.

MAJ Pam Ring -Scholarship Chair -nothing to report

LTC Mike Galaty -Legislative Chair- reminded the members of the importance of reaching out to our legislators and an easy way to do that is through the MOAA.org website. A link to MOAA National is also on our new website.

Maj Curt Voelbel -Chief of Staff and Membership Chair- excused

CW4 Thomas Jackson-Community Relations-stated he delivered 20 cases of shampoos/ conditioners and body wash to the Barracks of Hope-a transitional housing facility for homeless Veterans. The average age of the residents there is 72 years old.

CH LtCol Chris Hoffmann- Chaplain-excused

COL Jack Burtnett - Editor - the VOC will be published 10 days before the next meeting

Ms. Lisa Hightower - Surviving Spouse Liaison -excused

LtCol Twila Davis- Personal Affairs- stated she sent get well cards to Don Smith and Phil Dever
(continued on page 6)

Membership -

When you are ready to renew your annual \$35 dues, you may pay with Cash, Check, or Credit Card at the November luncheon or by calling our Treasurer, Pete Durnell at 321-443-6264. If mailing your payment, send a check made out to WVMC and send it to at 319 E. Victoria Hills Blvd., DeLand, FL 32724. Let's try to take care of this obligation within the month of November so future reminders are unnecessary, thanks.

We welcome new member Capt. (USN) Lee Anne Powell. Thanks, Lee Anne, for helping us meet our goal of 58 members!

Reason to be a Chapter Member — We “Never Stop Serving”!

As officers in the Uniformed Forces, service to the country became our way of life and we understood our moral obligation to “take care of the troops.” As chapter members, we continue with that spirit. Our ethic is to work on behalf of all veterans, the active military, family members, and future leaders. That is why our motto is — “Never Stop Serving”!

Think of all the things we do as a chapter— Advocating for the Serving Military, Veterans and families, our Philanthropy and Community Service activities, the camaraderie we share and taking care of our chapter members... If we were not doing those things in our community, who would?

Do a friend a favor—If you know of someone eligible to be a Chapter Member, tell them about us and point them to our Website: [WV MOAA Chapter](#) and Curt Voelbel at 386-479-3400 or LgtCurt@gmail.com. The larger our numbers, the greater our impact!

If you are not a current dues paying member of MOAA National, we encourage you to join by going to the MOAA Website - <https://www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa/> Information on Premium and Life membership is described. When on the website, scroll down to join.

Maj Curt Voelbel, USAF, RET
Membership

From the Chief of Staff -

Remember to stop by the table at our luncheon to purchase a bunch of potential winning 50-50 tickets @ 3 for a dollar.

Sample Tee Shirts and Hat with our local chapter Logo will be on display for you to purchase or order. Pricing TBD.

Your Board has decided to support Barracks of Hope in Daytona. They provide transitional housing for up to 9 months to male and female veterans who have struggled with homelessness, addiction, and mental health. Single occupancy rooms are provided, along with mental health counseling, case management, and three meals per day.

Please bring to each luncheon “Hygiene Bags” filled with Toothpaste, Brush, Shampoo, Soap, Deodorant, etc. in a plastic Zip bag.

Additionally, we will collect unexpired Pantry items for The West Volusia Salvation Army.

At our luncheon, cash donations may be dropped in the buckets at the door for Veteran's Causes and JR ROTC Scholarships.

Maj Curt Voelbel, USAF, RET
Chief of Staff

Member Responsibility for Luncheons

We have been having a problem and need your help. People have been committing to come to the WVMC luncheon and not showing up. When we order the meals based on the number of people who have said they are coming, we must pay for them whether everyone shows up or not. “People making reservations for the luncheon/meeting are expected to pay unless they cancel their reservation before the Friday prior to the luncheon.” If there is a legitimate reason, please notify Maj Curt Voelbel at LgtCurt@gmail.com or call him at 386 479-3400, ASAP. If he has time to cancel the reservation, he will; if not, he will bring the situation to the Board of Directors for disposition.

*Last Meeting - continued from page 4***ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

CW4 Tom Jackson stated if anyone needs help with storm preparation or clean up to please contact him.

LTC Wickett announced there is a car show at the American Legion Post 6, DeLand on 9 NOV 2024 from 12:00 pm-3:00pm.

MAJ Raul Gonzalez announce the American Legion Post 6 has a Fish Fry with Karaoke on Fridays from 5:00 pm-7:00pm. Everyone is welcome.

Executive Board Meeting will be held on 16 October 2024, 1000 hours at the DeBary Country Club. Members are welcome to attend. (Updated before published due to hurricane Milton)

Our next luncheon meeting will be 6 November 2024 1100 hours at the DeBary Country Club.

Meeting adjourned at 1320 hours.

LtCol Twila Davis, USAF, RET

Veterans Day Parade—

Mark Saturday, 9 November on your calendar. We have a float in the parade so all can ride. Join us, we meet at the corner of N Woodland Blvd. and E Oakdale Ave. between 0800 and 0900 hours. Dress casual, consider wearing a patriotic T shirt or a WVMC shirt or hat; there are no requirements.

Christmas Party

WVMC will hold their casual dress Christmas Party on 14 Dec, Saturday evening (1700—2000), at the DeLand American Legion. See the flyer on page 9.

NO DECEMBER MEETING—we party instead.

Guest Speaker's Bio—

Harold Borrero-Almodovar is a distinguished professional dedicated to enhancing veteran's services and advancing healthcare education. He has been serving as the Program Specialist for Veterans Outreach Programs at the Orlando VA Healthcare System, where he plays a critical role in promoting awareness about essential services and benefits like the PACT Act. Harold's dedication to veteran advocacy is also evident in his roles on the Orange County and Orlando City Mayor's Veterans Councils where he actively works to ensure that veterans and their families receive the support they deserve.

His extensive career includes impactful roles such as Registrar at Touro University California, Adjunct Faculty providing instruction in Health Sciences, and innovative contributions like the "CPR in the Jails Program" developed in collaboration with the San Francisco Department of Health. He holds a Doctor of Arts in Naturopathic Medicine degree.

Harold's commitment extends beyond his professional achievements to a deeply personal mission of service. Having honorably served in the United States Navy, he remains passionate about ensuring every veteran receives the benefits they have earned. His heartfelt dedication is reflected in his work to preserve the freedoms enjoyed today and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Harold's personal notes underscore his unwavering respect for military service and his ongoing effort to support and recognize the contributions of veterans, emphasizing a lifelong commitment to service and gratitude.

***There is a change to our WVMC website—
www.wvmoaa.org***

The Chaplain's Corner -



Fear of a Natural Disaster

All of us have recently endured another hurricane. I don't recall how many I have been through, but it has been a number. When a storm is predicted, even if we don't know whether the hurricane or tropical storm will be weak or strong, there is the anxiety before it hits land. This past week I had just returned from vacation outside the country and heard that a storm was in the Gulf. Then I hear that it could be a Cat 3 or larger and is headed for Central Florida. At that point I felt worried.

How I have coped with an upcoming storm is taking control of what is in my power. I got gas for the car, checked on battery powered lights, and made sure I had propane for the gas grill, in case we would be without power.

Others had to be concerned with children, pets, and elderly family members. I know of some people who chose to evacuate. If one lives in a low lying area that may be the best solution, but then roads are jammed and those leaving often find there are no motels available anywhere close.

When the storm hits all one can do is wait and pray that it doesn't cause severe damage or flooding. Now we are in the recovery phase. But even this time has its stress producing elements. There is so much debris! How will I have strength to clean up everything? Will insurance cover any damage?

There is no one way to deal with all this stress and anxiety. But experts suggest talking with others, seeking the help of professional counselors, if necessary, returning to good eating and sleeping habits, and avoiding alcohol

and drugs that simply numb the pain, but can't make it go away.

As is always the case in a trauma, don't make big decisions quickly. You may, for instance, think I have to move to solve this problem. Often rash decisions can lead further complications later.

I pray that you are not having difficulty dealing with the aftermath of the hurricanes we recently experienced. May God give you strength to endure and the courage to admit when you need the help of others. We are all in this together. Let's support each other. We can make it, and we don't need to do it all alone.

*LtCol Chris Hoffmann, USAF, RET
Chaplain*



The next meeting, 6 NOV, will be held at the DeBary Country Club, 300 Plantation Club Drive, DeBary, FL 32713. The meal will be smoked beef brisket sandwich topped with slaw and served with one side. There will also be a dessert. The lunch cost is **\$24** per meal if paid by cash or check; \$25 if paid with a credit card. We ask that if paid with cash exact change helps. Our guest speaker will be Harold Borrero-Almodovar from the Veterans Administration offices in Lake Nona. See his bio on page 6.

Please bring your unexpired pantry items for the Salvation Army and your donation of toiletries for Barracks of Hope.

REMEMBER, YOU DON'T HAVE TO EAT A MEAL TO ATTEND THE MEETING.

Upcoming Meeting: 6 NOV 2024

Following Meeting: 8 JAN 2025

Upcoming Board Meeting: 13 NOV 2024

Meetings are held at the DeBary Country Club, 300 Plantation Club Drive, DeBary, FL 32713. Social hour starts at 1100 hrs., lunch served at 1130 followed by an interesting guest speaker, then a short business meeting.



The Volusia Officers Call
West Volusia MOAA Chapter, INC.
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Items to Note -

Free Meals

Those attendees who win a free lunch from the "ticket drawing" will only be able to claim their free lunch at the NEXT meeting.

If you are receiving this via U.S. Postal delivery and if you have email, we can get the VOC to you more quickly and at less expense to WVMC. Please let the editor know your email by contacting him at volusiaofficerscall@gmail.com

Notice: WVMC does not endorse any of the paid advertisers.

New name tags reflecting the name change for our organization are available from LTC Laura Wickett at the monthly meetings or by contacting her at: lrwickett52@gmail.com. The cost is \$15.

Check out **OUR** website at www.wvmoaa.org It has a lot of information and links to useful information for all vets. The website gives guidance about how prospective members can join MOAA and WVMC.

National MOAA and the West Volusia MOAA Chapter are nonpartisan organizations.

Third Dues Notice - -

Members are reminded that dues are now due for the year 2023-24. The dues are **\$35**. Please get a check or MO to Treasurer Pete Durnell as soon as practicable. Pete's address is Peter Durnell, 319 E Victoria Trails Blvd, DeLand, FL 32724.

**Standing with you
at every stage.**

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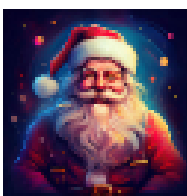
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 Committed to our members and veterans.

Contact: Ms. Lynn Ribaud
 386-668-11705 x1 Lynn@debarycc.com

West Volusia MOAA Chapter



Let's **Party** & Celebrate the Season

Date: December 14, 2024 Time:
5pm to 8pm

Location: American Legion Post #6
1087 Biscayne Blvd
DeLand, FL 32724



- *Fun & Camaraderie with Friends
- Ugly Holiday Sweater Contest
- *Christmas Karaoke Songs
- *Social Hour: 5pm to 6pm
- *Dinner: 6pm

MENU: YOUR CHOICE (served with Baked or Sweet Potato)

#1 - **Fish**



Fried Fish & Shrimp w/ Cole Slaw Salad

#2 - **Beef**



Ribeye Steak (cooked medium) w/ green beans

DESSERT



Post Auxiliary's Variety & you make a donation



COST: \$20.00/person

BEVERAGES: Coffee & Open Cash Bar

Please cut on the above line and return RSVPs with check made payable to WVMC.
Mail to: Raul Gonzalez, 1515 Teddington St., Deland, FL 32720. **RSVP No later than Nov 29, 2024**

Please Reserve _____ Seats for the West Volusia MOAA Chapter Holiday Dinner.

A check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Name: _____ Entré Choice # _____ with _____ Baked or _____ Sweet Potato

Name: _____ Entré Choice # _____ with _____ Baked or _____ Sweet Potato

Name: _____ Entré Choice # _____ with _____ Baked or _____ Sweet Potato