



The Volusia Officers Call

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



Vol 34, No 1, SEP 2025

Inside this Issue:

President's Perspective
Page 1

Club Leadership
Page 2

MOAA Take Action
Page 2

Legislative
Page 2

Last Meeting Minutes
Page 3

Membership
Page 5

Chief of Staff
Page 5

Chaplain's Corner
Page 6

Upcoming Meetings
Page 6

JROTC Awards
Page 7

Photos
Page 8

Items to Note
Page 9

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—



In the most recent Communicate publication, we are once again encouraged to be advocates for those key issues that our national organization has been focusing on. This is an opportune time to meet with our legislators, and for all to send emails through the MOAA Legislative Action Center (LAC) at <https://moaa.quorum.us>. Through our collective efforts our advocacy sends a powerful message to our

legislators. .

During our last Board meeting there was discussion on ways to become more active as a veteran's service organization in our community and to draw in more members. I understand it is difficult for some of us to step out of our comfort zone and approach people who display any type of military logo and thank them for their service and then ask them about their time in uniform. You would be surprised how many of them appreciate the interest and are willing to share, especially the younger generation of veterans.

I am pleased to share that there is a new senior instructor in the Army Junior ROTC program at University High School, and at the Air Force JROTC program at Deland High School.

FCOC is in the planning stages for the January Leadership Conference. I hope many of us will plan on attending.

I am still recruiting a volunteer to step into the Treasurers position. Pete Durnell has set up a quite easy program to understand and is willing to train anyone interested.

Sadly, since our last luncheon meeting, we have lost a dear member, Harvey Brandt. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family. He will be missed.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our September 3rd luncheon meeting.

Respectfully,

LTC Laura Wickett, USA, RET
President

WEST VOLUSIA MOAA CHAPTER
LEADERSHIPOFFICERS**President:****LTC Laura Wickett, USA, RET**

321-604-6694

lrwickett52@gmail.com

First Vice President:**LTC Michael Magee, USA, RET**

580-713-2016

michael.p.magee.usa@gmail.com

Second Vice President:**MAJ Raul Gonzalez, FLARNG, RET**

386-366-4473

majgonz@earthlink.net

Secretary:**LtCol Twila Davis, USAF, RET**

717-729-8281

flygirltltc@gmail.com

Treasurer:**Maj Pete Durnell, USAF, RET**

321-443-6264

petedurnell@aol.com

DIRECTORS**COL John Burtnett, USA, RET**

215-776-6599

dtboat@gmail.com

MAJ Shirley Burtnett, USA, RET

215-776-6613

2dtsailing@gmail.com

Maj Curt Voelbel, USAF, RET

386-479-3400

LgtCurt@gmail.com

APPOINTED POSITIONS**Chief of Staff:****Maj Curt Voelbel, USAF, RET**

386-479-3400

LgtCurt@gmail.com

Chaplain:**CH LtCol Christopher Hoffmann, USAFR, RET**

863-398-6265

cahoffmann60@gmail.com

ROTC/JROTC Liaison:**MAJ Pam Ring, USAR, RET**

317 403-1655

pamring07@gmail.com

Community RelaPons:**CW4 Tom Jackson, USA, RET**

540-604-7163

Thomas.d.jackson@outlook.com

Legislative:**LTC Michael Galaty, USA, RET**

203 606-3848

Mglty@yahoo.com

Membership:**Maj Curt Voelbel, USAF, RET****Personal Affairs :****LtCol Twila Davis, USAF, RET****Scholarship:****MAJ Pam Ring, USAR, RET****Program Director:****LTC Michael Magee, USA, RET****Webmaster:****MAJ Raul Gonzalez, FLARNG, RET****VOC Editor:****COL John Burtnett, USA, RET****Surviving Spouse Liaison:****Mrs. Lisa Hightower**

386-216-3767

lisamh4550@yahoo.com

MOAA Take AcPon Center -[hæp://takeacZon.moaa.org](http://takeacZon.moaa.org)**LegislaPve -**

With lawmakers home for their summer recess, now is the Zme for MOAA members to make their voices heard.

We need you to help ensure these legislators hear a clear, unified message: Support for servicemembers, veterans, and their families must remain a naZonal priority.

MOAA's 2025 Summer Advocacy in AcZon (AiA) campaign is focusing on the following three legislaZve prioritizes that directly affect readiness, retenZon, and the well-being of our naZon's all-volunteer force.

1. Support Combat-Injured Veterans: Pass the Major Richard Star Act.

2. Support Military Families: Pass the Military Spouse Hiring Act.

3. Improve Access for Families Using TRICARE.

How You Can Help

- Sign up for the LegislaZve AcZon Center to send messages directly to your lawmakers. Signing up will also enable you to receive priority alerts on breaking issues on Capitol Hill that affect those in uniform.

- Call your elected officials today directly via MOAA's Capitol Hotline at (866) 272-MOAA (6622).

- As always, MOAA remains a nonparZsan voice advocaZng for a strong naZonal defense and support for those who serve.

- When MOAA Speaks, Congress Listens

Learn more about MOAA's key advocacy issues, and contact your elected officials using MOAA's messaging plae orm.

**Do Your Part – Take AcSon – Be an Advocate
TAKE ACTION !****LTC Michael Galaty Jr, USA, RET****Legislative**

Last Meeting (7 MAY 2025) -

President LTC Laura Wickeæ called the meeZng to order at 1144 hours.

Aæendace: 24

CH LtCol Chris Hoffmann gave the invocaZon followed by The Pledge of Allegiance.

LTC Wickeæ welcomed our members and guests: MAJ Lorraine Holland, FCoC Area VP and installing officer for today.

Lunch was served: Vegetable Pasta with Grilled Chicken and sherbert for dessert.

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

LtCol Twila Stahl-Davis won the free lunch for the 3 SEP 2025 meeZng/luncheon.

LTC Wickeæ asked if there were any correcZons to the 2 APR 2025 Luncheon MeeZng Minutes as posted in the VOC. MoZon to approve the minutes as posted in the VOC was made by CWO4 Ted Seaman, Sr and seconded by Ms. Lisa Hightower. MoZon carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

1 LTC Wickeæ announced the cost of the replacement of the Presidents Board has increased to \$1200. She asked the membership if they sZll wanted the new Presidents Board to be purchased. A moZon was made by MAJ Raul Gonzalez and seconded by MAJ Pam Ring that due to the cost of the new Presidents Board that we do not proceed with the purchase. MoZon carried. Individuals who donated to this cause are to let Maj Pete Durnell know if they would like a refund.

2 LTC Wickeæ announced we will be having a spring picnic "OperaZon Camaraderie" on 17 May 2025 from 1000-1400 hours cost is \$10.00 at the American Legion Post #6, Deland. We look forward to seeing all of our members.

3 LTC Wickeæ announced there will be a Memorial Day Service held on Monday 26 May 2025 at 0900 hours at Veterans Plaza and Gardens at Bill Dreggors Park. The American Legion Post #6 will be hosZng this event.

4 LTC Wickeæ showed the members a CerZficate of AppreciaZon the Chapter received from the Volusia County Veterans Services for

parZcipaZng in the Veterans Stand Down on 21-22 March 2025.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. LTC Wickeæ asked MAJ Lorraine Holland to install the new Officers for 2025-2026. MAJ Holland installed all the officers except for COL John Burtneæ, MAJ Shirley Burtneæ and Maj Curt Voelbel-who will be installed at the Sep 2025 meeZng.

LTC Wickeæ called for reports:

Secretary's Report: LtCol Twila Davis- nothing to report

Treasurer's Report: Maj Pete Durnell – reported the checking account balance as of 7 May 2025 is \$ 2,425.50 and \$ 6,757.31 in savings. There is a 12/ month CD of \$6,060.80. Total assets of \$ 15,243.61. Note: \$2000.00 is earmarked for a JROTC Scholarship. Treasurers report is given for informaZonal purpose and is subject to audit.

Directors and Commiææe Reports:

LTC Michael Magee-announced he has speakers lined up for the next meeZng cycle.

2nd VP- MAJ Raul Gonzalez-

1. Stated there are new name tags available for purchase: new brass name tags for life members. Please see him if you would like to order one.

2. MAJ Gonzalez stated our Chapter has been asked by the Volusia County Veterans Council to provide a speaker for Memorial Day 30 May 2025 Event at the Emory L. Benneæ VA Nursing home in Daytona Beach. LTC Michael Magee has volunteered to be the speaker for this event.

3. MAJ Gonzalez announced there will be a Fourth of July Veterans Parade starZng at 1000 hours on Main Street in Daytona Beach. He invites anyone to join him to parZcipate in that event.

Directors

Jack Burtneæ-Director- excused

Maj Curt Voelbel -Director -excused

MAJ Shirley Burtneæ-Director- excused

MAJ Pam Ring -Scholarship Chair – stated we have one applicaZon for the scholarship award and asks (ConZnued on page 4)

Last MeePng - conPnued from page 3

the Board members to stay for a few minutes to review the applicaZon. She also stated LtCol Twila Davis will be the Reviewing Officer for the DeLand High School JROTC Pass in Review on 9 May 2025 and that MAJ Ring will be presenZng the leadership award at the awards ceremony immediately following the Pass in Review.

LTC Mike Galaty -LegislaZve Chair- He encouraged members to go into the MOAA website and take acZon on the legislaZve items.

Maj Curt Voelbel -Chief of Staff and Membership Chair- excused. we currently have 49 members. The goal is 60.

CW4 Thomas Jackson-Community RelaZons - excused

CH LtCol Chris Hoffmann- Chaplain- "Who is going to be our next Pope?" is the quesZon he has been asked a lot recently. And the answer is we don't know. This is one example that we don't always know everything about every situaZon. It's good to always be flexible.

COL Jack Burtneæ - Editor - excused

Ms. Lisa Hightower - Surviving Spouse Liaison - nothing to report but she thanked LTC Michael Magee for coordinaZng the interesZng speakers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MAJ Gonzalez stated historically our Chapter has not aæended Veterans Events but MAJ Gonzalez feels we should get more involved and support these events.

LTC Wickeæ announced:

ExecuZve Board MeeZng will be held on 14 May 2025, 1000 hours at the American Legion Post 6. Members are welcome to aæend.

Our next luncheon meeZng will be 3 SEP 2025 1100 hours at the DeBary Country Club.

MeeZng adjourned at 1313 hours.

LtCol Twila Davis, USAF, RET
Secretary

**New Item for Sale -**

The WVMC Board of Directors has found a new item that it believes will be of interest to its members - a freedom bracelet. The bracelet has small Zles with items like the military branches' icons, the American flag, etc.; it is appropriate for men and women. The freedom bracelets will be available to view or buy during the September luncheon; the cost is \$8.00. See Ltc Twila Davis if you are interested.

Warning Order -

WVMC's upcoming Christmas party will be held on 6 December 2025 between 1600 and 2000 hrs. The event will be held at Cook's restaurant in their new event center located behind the main restaurant. The final cost is yet to be determined, but we shall select the main dish from among roast beef, turkey, or ham. More informaZon will follow as we get closer to Dec. Please mark your calendar.

Membership -

Membership stands at 49 with 29 being Life members of MOAA NaZonal. This year, invitaZon leæers have been mailed to over 20 potenZal MOAA NaZonal members who do not belong to a local chapter and live in our area. Remember, the larger our numbers, the greater our posiZve impact on our community and advocacy mission.

I conZnue to urge each of you to look for recruitment opportuniZes then strike up a conversaZon, and lastly, if they are an officer, invite them to our Sep 3 luncheon. If you need help closing the deal, have them contact me, Maj Curt Voelbel @ 386-479-3400 or LgtCurt@gmail.com

We should be proud of the fact that ALL our members are MOAA NaZonal members making us a unique chapter. I encourage you to upgrade from Basic to Premium or Premium to Life membership by going the MOAA Website - <https://www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa/> InformaZon on Basic, Premium and Life membership is described. When on the website, scroll down to join.

ANNUAL Dues will be collected at our September Luncheon/meeZng.

Please make it easier on yourselves and our Chapter and pay them ASAP so we do not have to chase this over the next four months. You may pay by Cash, Check, or Credit Card. Over the phone, call our current Treasurer Maj Pete Durnell at 321-443-6264. Thanks.

Maj Curt Voelbel, USAF, RET
Membership



From the Chief of Staff -

September is NaZonal ConsZtuZon Month with September 17-23 being CelebraZon Week and September 17 being ConsZtuZon Day, commemoraZng the signing in 1787. Although there is no official NaZonal CiZzenship month, CiZzenship week coincides with ConsZtuZon week of September 17-23. Let's celebrate, be proud of and foster the ideals and principles that our forefathers pioneered as the greatest consZtuZon ever wriæen.

APPEAL:

Maj Pete Durnell, our Treasurer, has done an excellent job keeping us financially sound and in compliance with Federal and State law as well as MOAA's policies. However, at some Zme in the near future Pete will be moving to be with family in England. Therefore, we are looking for his replacement. Because he has developed easy to use spreadsheets, Pete esZmates he spends about 30-40 hours a month working the posiZon. Replacing him soon will allow for proper training and transiZon. If you have the skills and desire to help, please contact Pete or Curt Voelbel.

Veterans Causes:

We support Barracks of Hope in Daytona. They provide transiZonal housing for up to 9 months to male and female veterans who have struggled with homelessness, addicZon, 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 plasZc Zip bag. They are also accepZng casual sport type clothing such as gym wear.

Maj Curt Voelbel, USAF, RET
Chief of Staff

The Chaplain's Corner -



We know that the change of seasons in Florida is subtle. Some people don't even notice the changes because we have so many trees that don't lose their leaves in the Fall. I think that the changes we might recognize more quickly is the change of pace. Summer is often a time with less obligations. Fall can be the time with children and grandchildren are getting back to school. It is a time when we notice cooler weather in the mornings and maybe different birds find their way to our feeders.

What is really most important at this time of year is to take stock of where we are in our relationships with each other. If you are the one who is taking children to school or bringing them home at the end of the school day, take note of how school is going. Are the children excited about their learning or are they apprehensive? Ask questions and encourage them to speak to their teacher if they are not understanding something or they are having a problem with other children.

We are also aware of holidays coming up and what that will mean in terms of travel to attend important events. Maybe this is the time to coordinate schedules and make a plan to visit or have the relatives come to your home to celebrate with you, especially if travel is difficult for you. Also, don't forget that with technology, if you can't be in person you can speak with each other on Zoom, Alexa, and Face Time, which are great substitutes to keep in touch.

Clubs and activities are starting up once again. We encourage you to reconnect with our MOAA Chapter, of course. But you may have other groups that will vie for your time as well. Realize your limitations, but enjoy the time with friends and acquaintances once again. I know that as good as the summer is, we can miss

being with friends during that time.

I pray that you will have a great fall and experience reconnecting. May you take time to enjoy the change in weather. Let's pray for each other throughout the hurricane season, Be prepared as best you can, especially if a storm approaches, and may we realize that God is in charge come what may.

*LtCol Chris Hoffmann, USAF, RET
Chaplain*

NEVER STOP SERVING®



The next meeting, 3 SEP, will be held at the DeBary Country Club, 300 Plantation Club Drive, DeBary, FL 32713. The meal will be classic chicken marsala with wild mushroom sauce plus vegetable, starch, rolls, tea and coffee. 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.

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

Upcoming Meeting: 3 SEP 2025

Following Meeting: 1 OCT 2025

Upcoming Board Meeting: 10 SEP 2025

Meetings are held at the DeBary Country Club, 300 Plantation Club Drive, DeBary, FL 32713. Social hour starts at 1100 hrs., lunch served at 1145 followed by an interesting guest speaker, then a short business meeting.

JROTC AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS -

JROTC Leadership Medal:

One of the JROTC (WVMC) leadership awards this year went to Cadet Raegan Hatch on April 11th at Deltona High School. According to her Senior Instructor, LTC Gregory Finn, her accomplishments were many:

- She served as Battalion Executive Officer, overseeing the staff planning of several missions to include the continuous improvement plan.
- She is a solid A student currently in advanced Cambridge Classes.
- She led the female Raider (physical fitness) Team to a first place trophy in the Cross Country Rescue Event.
- She led the JROTC leadership and Academic (JLAB) Team where they earned a trip to the second round (Level 2)
- She is one of the best female wrestlers in Central Florida.
- She was selected by the American Legion to represent Deltona High School at Girls State later this summer.



Our second JROTC Leadership Medal was awarded to Cadet Matthew Montanez at Pine Ridge High School in Deltona on April 16.

The final JROTC medal was awarded to Cadet Jaedyn Kaiser at DeLand High School on May 9th.

- She has been in AFJROTC for 3 years and has held a leadership position for the last two years as Cadet Deputy Commander.
- "She is an example of the selfless service sought out in cadet leaders.
- She has a 3.95 weighted GPA.



WVMC JROTC Scholarship:

Zachery Sampson (the son of two veterans) was awarded the scholarship at DeLand High School on May 22nd.

The following are some of Zachery's accolades:

- He was accepted into Duke University's Navy ROTC program.
- His academic standing in his graduating class of over 700 students is # 1 with a GPA of 4.0 and a weighted GPA of 4.8 and an SAT score of 1470.
- He was a Florida Boys State delegate.
- He was an Eagle Scout
- He was on the VARSITY Cross Country and Tennis Teams.
- He was the founder and president of the DeLand High School Pickle Ball Club.
- He was a member of the DeLand High School Marching Bulldogs & Concert Band, playing the trumpet for 4 years.
- He was a member of the Student Government for four years, serving one year as president.
- He was Mr DeLand High School.
- He was a member of the National Honor Society and French Honor Society

Photos from this Summer -



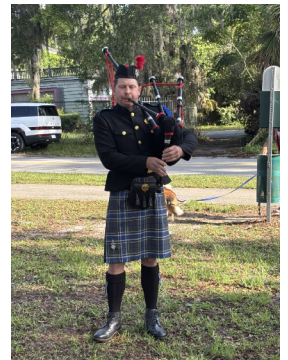
OperaZon Camaraderie was a great success at the American Legion Post 6 on Saturday 17 May. The weather was warm but we stayed in the shade and everyone had a great Zme.

OperaZon Camaraderie provided great opportunities for conversation and good food.



The DeLand Memorial Day Service was held at Bill Dreggors Park on 26 May. WVMC had a representative and several members in attendance. The guest speaker was DeLand mayor, Chris Cloudman.

Bagpiper from the DeLand Fire Department playing Amazing Grace during the Memorial Day Service at Bill Dreggors Park.



The American Legion Post 6 brought their replica of the Tomb to the Unknown Soldier to the Memorial Day Service at Bill Dreggors Park.



The Volusia Officers Call
West Volusia MOAA Chapter, INC.
An Affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America



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 are available from MAJ Raul Gonzalez at the monthly meetings or by contacting him at: majgonz@earthlink.net. 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.

First Dues Notice - -

Members are reminded that dues are now due for the year 2025-26. ~~The dues are \$35.~~ Please get a check or MO to Treasurer Pete Durnell as soon as possible. Pete's address is Peter Durnell, 319 E Victoria Trails Blvd, DeLand, FL 32724.

**Standing with you
at every stage.**

1-800-247-2192
www.moaainsurance.com/plans

100392

Raul Gonzalez
 REALTOR®

Cell: 386-366-4473
 Office: 407-712-2000
raulgsells@gmail.com
www.homewisefl.com

MLS GRADUATE REALTOR INSTITUTE

Let's Go Travel
VacationsByCurt.com

Curt Voelbel
 386-479-3400
Curt@VacationsByCurt.com

DeBary Country Club

The Perfect Venue For Special Occasions.
 Partnering with West Volusia MOAA.
 Committed to our members and veterans.

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