



## PMOAA BEACON

*Home of the Blue Angels - Pensacola, FL  
A 5 Star Chapter 2003 - 2019, 2021 - 2023*

*Printed Newsletter Award -  
2008, 2010, 2011, 2019 - 2023*

*Website Winner -  
2010, 2011, 2012, 2018 - 2023*

<https://pmoaa.org>

*April 2025*



## President's Corner

Spring is in the air with all the flowers, budding trees, and pollen everywhere. As you are able, I hope you will get out for a walk or a drive to enjoy the spring temperatures and the beautiful scenery available from all the water and coastline views. We are blessed to live in a veritable wonderland that others come to vacation for a week or two a year and we live here full-time. Blessed, is all I can say!

The monthly dinner meeting this month will be at PYC on WEDNESDAY, April 16 due to the next day being "Maundy Thursday," a significant day in the Christian preparations leading up to Easter Sunday. The program will be all about the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park in Mobile. Mr. Shea McLean and others from the Battleship Park will present a highly informative overview of this gem of a museum, less than a hour from Pensacola. Please invite a friend to attend with you so they can learn about PMOAA and the great camaraderie we share with one another.



Last month, PMOAA members Karin and Tey Wiseman along with their dog Luke, presented a fun introduction to "Canines for Christ," a Christian-based Therapy Dog

ministry. Luke was a perfect gentleman, displaying his obedience training "chops" as well as a warm, friendly disposition that has proven effective in reducing stress for people in Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Schools, Hospice



Centers, Police Departments and Courts. This is a true calling for Karin and Tey and their passion for the work shone brightly. Thank you for a very enlightening and entertaining "show" featuring Luke, the Therapy Dog!

Looking ahead, we have a number of special events coming up in May and June:

Our May 15<sup>th</sup> Luncheon will be held at The Oaks aboard NAS Pensacola starting at 1100. Our special guest speaker will be our own Colonel Gib Ahl, USAF (Ret) who will be talking about his experiences flying the F-100 Super Sabre in low-altitude spotter missions in North Vietnam. The unit was super secret and was code-named "Misty."

We are holding our annual picnic once again this year on June 12, again at The Oaks starting at 1730. No program. Just good fun, good food, an adult/other beverage or two, and some bingo. Again, we need you to invite a friend.

As was done a few years ago, on June 19 from 1130-1330, the Baldwin County and Mobile MOAA Chapters have invited us to attend a joint meeting of all three Chapters in Fairhope. More details to follow. Please put it on your calendar. It was a fun event last time and should be again this year.

Enjoy all your days and especially the Easter holiday.

**Your President, Ken Pyle**





## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

“Time Waits for No One” while researching a similar quote I found this is the title of a song by the Rolling Stones off the “It’s Only Rock n’ Roll” album. I don’t believe I had ever heard it before as while I like the Stones and had the

opportunity to see them live in Atlanta a year or two ago (why can’t I run and jump like Mick Jagger; I am way younger!). Whether the title of a song or a famous quote, the sentiment is the same. Back on the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower with Ken Pyle in the late 80’s I used a Zenith 248 PC to prepare reports that were printed out and distributed (because there wasn’t email). I might have the opportunity to help a Sailor connect with family as a volunteer operator on the ships Military Auxiliary Radio Station (MARS) through Ham Radio operators. Today I am on IKE’s Facebook feed and see an almost daily dose of shipboard life.

Likewise, back in the “good old days” when I wanted to contact my elected representative about something, it was a lengthy process of writing out a letter (either long hand or typed), looking up the local office in the phone book, placing that on the envelope and loading my letter into same. Usually, the effort of all that was enough to make me decide to do nothing. Thankfully those days are gone and at least once or twice a month I reach out through an automated system to “Take Action” and in seconds I send my two cents worth. Plus, I always get a formal reply. Does it make a difference, you bet it does, and I encourage each of you to give it a try! If you are reading these words on a computer or other device, you have the tools! See the below links to do so.

We can support those efforts by being part of the action. A way to do that is to sign up for the MOAA legislative alerts visit [https://moaa.quorum.us/sign\\_in/](https://moaa.quorum.us/sign_in/).

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 [p3dave@yahoo.com](mailto:p3dave@yahoo.com).

Also, if you are not aware, the Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC) publishes a newsletter every other month. It can be viewed here at <https://flmoaa.org/news/>

Your voice needs to be heard by our Florida Congressional Delegation. Please use some or all of the links available within this Legislative Affairs column and subscribe to the automatic notifications I mentioned above. The Pensacola Chapter of MOAA is a member of the Florida Council of Chapters, FCoC at [flmoaa.org](http://flmoaa.org) and an affiliate of the [Military Officers Association of America \(MOAA\)](http://MilitaryOfficersAssociationofAmerica.org) 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/>

In this issue:

- TRICARE Improves Its Coverage of Early Alzheimer’s Treatment
- Your Guide to TSP Investments
- Take a Deep Breath: Don’t Overreact to Market Moves
- Major Richard Star Act Reintroduced in House, Senate

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## TRICARE Improves Coverage of Early Alzheimer’s Treatment

(Adapted from an article by Karen Ruedisueli in the MOAA Newsletter, March 25, 2025)

TRICARE addressed a critical coverage gap by approving provisional coverage of a new type of drug for the treatment of early stage Alzheimer’s disease – a move [supported by MOAA](#) and fellow key military and veterans groups.

For up to the next five years, TRICARE will cover Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved monoclonal antibodies (MABs) lecanemab (brand name Leqembi) and donanemab (brand name Kisunla), for the treatment of Alzheimer’s disease in patients with mild cognitive impairment or in the mild dementia stage of the disease. The assistant secretary of defense for health affairs approved the change last October.

MOAA has worked to fix this coverage gap since the 118th Congress alongside stakeholders like The Military Coalition (TMC) – a group of military and veterans service organizations representing nearly 5.5 million members combined.

### Reimbursement Options

MOAA has confirmed reimbursements for Leqembi and Kisunla are in effect. Beneficiaries whose claims were paid by Medicare but denied by TRICARE should contact the WPS customer service team for assistance in ensuring those claims are now processed under TRICARE For Life.

There is no need to submit a corrected claim – simply reach out with details on the affected claims for reconsideration.

You can contact the WPS customer service team through the [TRICARE4u.com](http://TRICARE4u.com) portal or by calling (866) 773-0404. Coverage is retroactive to Oct. 23, 2024, the provisional decision approval date.

### Filling the Gap

Several impacted MOAA members initially alerted MOAA to this coverage gap; we appreciate their outreach, along with the support of members who reached out to their lawmakers on this issue via our [Legislative Action Center](#).

Before the provisional coverage decision, TRICARE’s outdated policy excluded coverage of MABs, including Leqembi, even though the drug has had full FDA approval since July 6, 2023. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved Medicare coverage for Leqembi, and federal employees have had access to Leqembi under the BlueCross BlueShield Federal Employee Program, a key benchmark plan for evaluating TRICARE coverage.

Treatment for Alzheimer’s disease is most effective when administered early – delays can result in irreversible disease progression – which made this prolonged TRICARE coverage gap particularly egregious.

MOAA will continue its work to ensure TRICARE coverage keeps pace with plans offered in the federal and civilian sectors, protecting the value of your earned benefit and preserving your access to world-class care. Learn more about [our work on access-to-care issues](#) as part of next month’s Advocacy in Action event – if you’ve faced access barriers, reach out to MOAA and [share your story](#).

Note: It seems like the “free” health care for life if you put in 20 is getting more expensive!

## Your Guide to TSP Investments

(This article by Kimberly Lankford originally appeared in the March 2025 issue of Military Officer, a magazine available to all MOAA Premium and Life members.)

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) has long been known as a low-cost way to save for retirement in a tax-advantaged account, offering investing options that aren’t available anywhere else. Recent changes make it even better.

Here’s how to make the most of the TSP investments and how to build your portfolio.

The TSP includes three funds that invest in stocks and two that focus on fixed-income investments:

- **C Fund:** Large-company stock index fund, designed to match the performance of the S&P 500 index
- **S Fund:** Small-company stock index fund
- **I Fund:** International stock index fund
- **F Fund:** Fixed-income index fund, tracking the Bloomberg U.S. aggregate bond index
- **G Fund:** Government securities investment fund

The TSP also offers lifecycle funds (L Funds) that create portfolios of the five funds based on your investing time horizon, in five-year increments. The investments are automatically shifted as your withdrawal date gets closer.

## Changes and Options

“The TSP makes things easy, and the descriptions are pretty true to form,” said Lt. Col. Patrick Beagle, USMC (Ret), CFP®, owner of [WealthCrest Financial Services](#) in Springfield, Va. “With the recent revamp of the index tracking in the I Fund, it has improved even more.”

In the past, the I Fund invested only in companies from developed countries, but the benchmark changed in 2024 to add developing economies, too.

“Now it includes emerging markets, which is an important part of a diversified portfolio,” said Lt. Col. Amy King, USA (Ret), CFP®, [Instar Financial Planning](#) in Fallston, Md.

One special TSP option is the G Fund.

“The G Fund is unique,” said Col. Curt Sheldon, USAF (Ret), CFP®, in Alexandria, Va., and a MOAA Life member. “The fund buys government bonds that are only issued to TSP.”

The G Fund tends to have higher yields than stable value funds offered by other employer plans because it can invest in longer-term bonds, King said.

Even though the G Fund can be a good place to invest the cash portion of your portfolio, King warns against keeping too much long-term money there, which might not keep up with inflation.

Note: If you invested in the TSP, you have the option of leaving it there or moving it to an investment house as some of my friends have. Always speak to a professional before making moves.

## Take a Deep Breath: Don’t Overreact to Market Moves

(Adapted from an article by Lila Quintiliani in MOAA Newsletter March 17, 2025)

If you’ve been anywhere near a television, computer, or phone these last few weeks, you’ll have noticed a rather volatile stock market. Last week, the S&P 500 dropped 1.4% and entered what is known as a [market correction](#) – a 10% drop in stock prices that occurs after a recent high.

People are concerned, and rightly so – no one likes seeing their retirement and investment accounts suddenly shrink.

It’s normal to feel some anxiety about your finances. But take a deep breath – there is no need to rush into any decisions. Thoughtful planning always leads to better outcomes in the long run.

For those who have 15 or more years until retirement, it’s important to understand that you have plenty of time for the market – and your investments – to recover. History has shown that recoveries inevitably follow declines.

Investing for the long term is the way to go. The adage “time in the market is better than timing the market” is true: You can’t predict when markets will rise and fall, but if you stay invested, then you can ride out the volatility and take advantage of the dips, treating them like fire sales.

Investments are inherently risky, but you can mitigate the risk by diversifying and holding a mix of different types of stock funds, bonds, and cash.

## [MORE FROM MOAA: [3 Steps to Stay Sane in a Volatile Market](#)]

If your employer has “target date” retirement funds, like the [Lifecycle Funds in the Thrift Savings Plan](#), then the fund managers are making appropriate adjustments to your portfolio allocation based on your age and your retirement horizon.

Those within 15 years of retirement who haven’t adjusted their allocations to account for aggressive investments have harder decisions to make. You have less time for a comeback. Take a deep breath, think through the best way ahead, and seek help if needed.

If you have a financial advisor, reach out: This is what you are paying them to do – provide educated financial advice. If you don’t have a financial advisor, consider finding one before taking any drastic action.

If you are active duty military, every [family readiness center](#) has an accredited financial professional on staff. They can’t create a financial plan for you, but they can help educate you and (hopefully) ease your worries. Some installations may have the bandwidth to see retirees, as well.

Above all, don’t panic. Don’t check your portfolio every day. And maybe stay away from the news channels for a bit.

Note: It certainly is scary in the markets today. An old Navy friend moved his 7 figure TSP account into the G fund in 2019 and left it there. Solid 1 percent earnings but he missed out on huge gains. Again, speak to a professional before making moves, I suggested he contact a professional and he did.

## Major Richard Star Act Reintroduced in House, Senate

(Adapted from an article by Jeff Goldberg on Moaa.org March 19, 2025)

Lawmakers in both the Senate and House recently reintroduced the Major Richard Star Act, a bill which would provide combat-injured retirees with their full earned benefits.

The legislation ([S. 1032](#) | [H.R. 2102](#)) addresses a long-standing and unjust offset by authorizing concurrent receipt of DoD retired pay and VA disability for those injured in a combat zone and forced to medically retire.

### [TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Support Combat-Injured Veterans](#)]

“This measure corrects one of the deepest injustices in our present veterans’ disability system,” said Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), who introduced the bill in his chamber. “It is unacceptable that tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans are denied the full military benefits they earned. Our bipartisan bill will right this longstanding injustice and finally provide these military retirees who have already sacrificed so much, their full VA disability and Defense Department retirement payments.”

The Star Act enjoys bipartisan support, with [185](#) cosponsors in the House and [43](#) in the Senate as of March 18. MOAA and our veterans service community partners are working diligently to increase this support. It is imperative that we obtain as much engagement as possible so that this critical piece of legislation can cross the finish line.

To do this, we are reaching out to congressional offices in both chambers to allay misconceptions and advocate on behalf of combat-injured veterans. However, MOAA requires your support and sustained engagement to help advance this bill and make its importance known to members of Congress. Your voice is crucial and will amplify our message to ensure lawmakers do not forget about our combat-injured veterans and their service to our nation.

We urge you reach out to your lawmakers and [encourage them to support combat-injured veterans](#), and to visit MOAA’s [Legislative Action Center](#) to keep track of all MOAA legislative priorities.

Concurrent receipt for combat-injured veterans is just one of many issues impacting servicemembers and their families. MOAA encourages advocates to make use of the Legislative Action Center to support the full force, to include currently serving members, veterans, retirees, military families and survivors, and caregivers. You can follow the link to learn more about MOAA’s other key advocacy initiatives and the legislative topics that make up our signature spring advocacy event, [Advocacy in Action](#).



I was driving the other day and was behind this, which needs no explanation!

Compiled and Edited by  
Captain Dave Mitchell, USN  
(Ret)

## The Surviving Spouse Assistance Committee Corner

This month’s Zoom call for Surviving Spouse Liaisons was very interesting. The focus of the call was contacting your legislature regarding bills of particular interest to Veterans, the VA, surviving spouse’s right to remarry, DIC, etc. If this is of interest, click on the following link where it provides areas to write letters. <https://moaa.quorum.us/home2/>

Also, several recent articles place emphasis on making sure that husbands and wives have that special talk, so that the surviving spouse knows where to find pertinent information. Another link to a great resource of information was put together by the Minnesota MOAA Chapter. Here is the link: <https://www.mcmoaa.org/index.php/?death-of-a-loved-one>

The MOAA Surviving Spouse Corner has a lot of information at this link: <https://www.moaa.org/content/about-moaa/meet-our-leaders/surviving-spouse-advisory-committee/surviving-spouse-corner/>

And in particular there are several beneficial publications at this link: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/moaa-publications/moaa-publications/#survivor>.

Of course, we have our own Digital Asset Checklist and Quicklist on the website; a link is now included with our signature line. Please check it out.

Here’s to warmer weather and getting outside more.

Submitted by Judy Dickson, Chair  
Karen Vinson-VanHouter and Karin Wiseman  
Surviving Spouse Assistance Committee

Link to PMAAA Digital Asset & Quicklist files on our website: <https://pmaaa.org/Surviving-Spouse-Assistance>



## PMOAA BOARD OF DIRECTOR’S MEETING

March 25, 2025

CAPT Ken Pyle called the meeting to order at 1612 hours at the Pensacola Yacht Club. The following Board members were present: CAPT Sue Varenholt, CAPT Maureen Yeager, LTC Karen Vinson-VanHouter, LtCol Bob Nelson, MAJ Molly Werner, Maj Charley Booton, Surviving Spouse Chair, Mrs. Judy Dickson, CDR Susan Ulloa, CPT Dean Kirschner and Beacon Editor Jean Booton. Excused member was RADM Joan Engel.

**January 2025 BOD Minutes** – There were no additions or corrections to the minutes. LTC Vinson-VanHouter made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by CAPT Varenholt. All members approved and the motion carried.

**February 2025 BOD Minutes** – There was no BOD meeting in February.

**Treasurer Report** – LtCol Nelson reported a few corrections to the advance report sent to all Board members. The final balances for the month to date are: Total Bank Accounts - \$23,508.45; Total Assets Accounts - \$96,282.74. A move to approve the Treasurer’s Report was offered by CAPT Yeager and seconded by CDR Ulloa. The Board concurred and the motion carried.

### REPORTS

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President** – LTC Vinson-VanHouter was the speaker at the joint Baldwin and Mobile County MOAA Chapters meeting. Her topic reflected on her combat nursing experiences during the Vietnam conflict, included nursing encounters involving former US President, GEN Dwight D. Eisenhower, and was well received by the audience. In attendance was the Executive Director of the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park, CDR Mark J. Fields, USN(R) and the Honorable Tim Russell, Baldwin County judge and recently appointed Commission Chair of Battleship Memorial Park. Both gentlemen will be attending the PMOAA April meeting along with guest speaker, Shea W. McLean, curator of the Battleship Memorial Park since 2009 and US Army veteran. LTC Vinson-VanHouter confirmed the PMOAA speaker for the May meeting will be Col Gib Ahl, USAF (R) and his Vietnam “Misty” pilot experiences.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Membership** – Active membership has increased to 149 this month but with caveats. Two members have passed away over the last couple of weeks while 25 members who have not yet renewed for 2025 have been added to the “lapsed” list and will become inactive on 1 April. Maj Werner and other Board volunteers will be calling lapsed members regarding their intentions for renewing membership. Renewal forms are available in the Beacon and on the PMOAA website. Dues may also be paid at the membership dinner meetings or to any Board member at any time. Annual dues to PMOAA for CY 2025 remain at \$30. President Pyle nominated 30 year member CDR(R) George Gedney, Jr. for Honorary Life Membership (HLM). CPT Kirschner motioned to approve the nomination and LtCol Nelson was the second.

**Survivor Assistance** – Mrs. Dickson had a busy month. She attended the monthly Zoom meeting for Surviving Spouses on legislative affairs and activism, as well as the day long MOAA

Training Seminar via Zoom along with several other Board members. She was present with other Board members at the funeral of Mrs. Jeanne Gedney who passed away March 5, Ash Wednesday, former Navy Nurse and wife of retired Navy pilot and PMOAA member, CDR(R) George Gedney, Jr. She will also be in attendance at the funeral of COL Michael Cook, USA, who passed away March 13 and has been in touch with his widow, Christine Cook. In addition, Mrs. Dickson extended her knowledge, expertise and resourcefulness to the surviving spouses of Baldwin and Mobile County MOAA Chapters to assist in their efforts to form a Surviving Spouse group within each of those Chapters.

**Scholarship Committee** – Maj Booton is in need of a member to join the Scholarship Committee. Anyone interested should contact Maj Booton via the contact information provided on the website or the last page of the Beacon. Calls for Scholarship applicants were announced via media outlets and personal visits by Maj Booton and CAPT Yeager to the local Army and Air Force ROTC units. Maj Booton had a sitdown powwow with a group of ROTC students, encouraging them to apply for assistance and answering questions about program requirements. ROTC programs pay tuition and a book stipend but room, board and other living expenses are the responsibility of the student. Scholarship awards would help significantly with the extraneous expenses. Maj Booton had to remind several past scholarship recipients that consecutive awards are not permitted in order to open opportunities to other applicants. Scholarship application packets are due online or postmarked no later than 25 April. As of this date, no applications have been received but Maj Booton is optimistic there will be several coming over the next month. Committee member LTC Vinson-VanHouter reported that the print order for the annual scholarship raffle tickets will be available on 23 June. This year each member will receive 5 raffle tickets at \$10 each. Ticket purchases may be returned by mail or brought to the 31 July Scholarship Banquet for the drawing of raffle winners. Extra raffle tickets may also be purchased at the event anytime before the drawing.

**Beacon** – Mrs. Booton requires all Beacon input due as soon as possible but absolutely by end of day Friday, March 28.

### OLD BUSINESS

**Veterans Treatment Court** – The end of the MOAA grant year for the Veterans Treatment Court is nearing and graduation of the current participants will take place on Tuesday, April 15 at 1200, Courtroom 401 at M.C. Blanchard Judicial Center, 190 W. Government St, downtown Pensacola. All PMOAA members may attend.

**Flight Awards Banquet** – The annual Lions Club Flight Awards Banquet was held on February 25 at Scenic Hills Country Club. PMOAA had an all female presence at this superb event. Enjoying the food, mock paper plane carrier landing competition, McGuire’s Bagpipe Band, award presentations, and keynote speaker remarks were PMOAA Board members CAPT Sue Varenholt, CAPT Meredith Yeager, Mrs. Judith Dickson, CDR Susan Ulloa and, RADM Joan Engel at the head table. Many additional guests could have been accommodated and RADM Engel, through President Pyle, questioned how to recruit more active duty members to attend this military function. A suggestion was made to enlist the support of the Pensacola Daedalians to announce the event and recommend service

members for participation. The PMOAA table had four empty seats available for attendees’ guests or other PMOAA members to partake. Increased attendance will be planned for future events.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Challenge Coin** - CAPT Pyle proposed the idea of presenting a PMOAA Challenge Coin to present to guest speakers instead of the traditional plaque. Pros and Cons were discussed among the Board members and a vote taken – in favor of the Challenge Coin. However, the Plaque may still be appropriate for some speakers and will be left to the discretion of the 1st VP to determine a suitable gift option. Challenge Coins may also be available for purchase to the PMOAA Membership.

**Our Community Salutes (OCS)** – Our Community Salutes of Pensacola will host its second High School Enlistee Recognition Ceremony to honor its Class of 2025 high school seniors and their families on May 15 at 1900 at the UWF Conference Center, Bldg 82, 11000 University Parkway. OCS Ceremonies are organized by parents, educators, business and community leaders, and veterans to provide community support for new enlistees and their families as they transition into military service. Each OCS enlistee receives a pocket guide of the U.S. Constitution, gifts from sponsors, educational materials, and the recognition that their community supports their decision to serve. Everyone must register to attend the event. Doors open at 1800. Speakers will be announced soon! There is no cost to attend this event. Suggested attire is business or business casual. Registration deadline is May 8. The POC for this event is Ryan Bauman, (703)727-4966.

**NRT Report** – The Near-Real-Time Report is a MOAA generated database providing Chapter leaders with information about military members residing in the local area for recruiting purposes. It is currently in the testing stages therefore only two Chapter leaders have access to the database while testing is being completed. Further discussion on the progress of the roll-out will occur in future meetings. Meanwhile, discussion ensued regarding the process of marketing our organization to recruit new members and retain current members. Utilizing MOAA’s ability to blast an event notification email to all current and retired military members living in the local Chapter area has not worked well in the past. Suggestions to have PMOAA brochures/flyers available at local events, especially transition programs for members leaving the military and retired service member information events were proffered as well as getting the word out about PMOAA to other military organizations such as the Navy League, Marine Corps League, Daedalians, etc. The challenge to increase membership is a priority for the PMOAA Chapter and the Board will continue to work to overcome the difficulties marketing Chapter membership benefits.

**Membership Meetings** - The next PMOAA membership dinner meeting will be Wednesday evening, April 16 at PYC commencing at 1730. The guest speaker is Shea McLean, curator of the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park in Mobile.

The May 15 meeting will be a luncheon at Mustin Beach Club, 1100-1300. Col Gib Ahl, USAF (R) will be the guest speaker.

The June 12 membership meeting will be an evening “picnic” at the Oaks Restaurant on NAS, 1730-2000.

**Joint Meeting** – PMOAA will join Baldwin and Mobile County Chapters of MOAA, Thursday, June 19, 1130 hours at the Fairhope Yacht Club.

**Board Meeting** – the PMOAA Board of Directors will meet next on April 22, 1600 at PYC.

The Board of Directors Meeting adjourned at 1725 hours.

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan E. Ulloa, Secretary**

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**TAPS**

**CDR Raymond L. Williams USN (Ret) 09/2024**

**COL Michael R. Cook USA (Ret)**

**Mrs. Jeanne Gedney, Spouse**

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**2025 PMOAA CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Most member meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month except for June, July, and December. And April will be held on a Wednesday. Board meetings are held at 1600 on the Tuesday following the member meetings (some exceptions apply). Locations are subject to change (PYC is Pensacola Yacht Club; Mustin is Mustin Beach Club on NAS Pensacola; Oaks is The Oaks on NAS Pensacola).

**MEMBER MEETINGS**

**BOARD MEETINGS**

Apr 16 ( <b>Wednesday</b> ) Dinner	PYC	April 22 PYC
May 15 - <b>Lunch</b>	MBC	May 13 PYC
June 12 - <b>Picnic Dinner</b>	Oaks	June 24 El Paron
June 19 – Joint with BC-MOAA, Mobile & PMOAA in Fairhope		
July 31 – Scholarship Banquet	PYC	July 22 El Patron
Aug 1- <b>NO MEETING</b>		Aug 26 El Patron
Sept 18 - <b>Dinner</b>	PYC	Sept 23 PYC
Oct 16 - <b>Dinner</b>	PYC	Oct 14 PYC
Nov 20 -Annual Biz Mtg	PYC	Nov 18 PYC
Dec 4 - Christmas Party	PYC	Dec 16 PYC

*Menus and speakers TBD at a later date.*

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## PMOAA Scholarship Update

There is an outstanding opportunity for qualified students to take advantage of individual \$3,000 scholarships offered annually.

PMOAA is well known for the generosity of its members in funding and awarding these annual scholarships. One hundred percent of these donations go directly to help deserving children / step-children, grandchildren / step-grandchildren and spouses of active duty, honorably discharged veterans, reservists or retired military personnel (both officer and enlisted) of all eight Uniformed Services. Surviving spouses and children whose military parent retired and subsequently expired are also eligible.

At the time of application, the **applicant and/or military sponsor** must be:

1. **A resident and/or dependent/grandchild of a resident of the three areas served by the Pensacola Chapter at the time of the application; i.e. Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties of Florida and South Baldwin County, Alabama.**
2. **If enrolled in good standing with the University of West Florida ROTC program, then waive the parent / grandparent / guardian veteran prerequisite.**
3. **Must have completed one or more years from an accredited four/year U.S. College or University Bachelor Degree Program and have a cumulative average of at least a 3.5 GPA as an undergraduate.**
4. **Must be considered by the college / university to be a full time undergraduate student for the upcoming academic year.**

As mentioned, scholarships are **\$3,000 each** and awarded on an annual basis. Recipients are selected based on: **verification of eligibility, career objectives, community and college activities, 750 word essay, transcripts verifying cumulative 3.5 GPA and quality of application.** **Unfortunately, previous award winners will not be eligible for an additional scholarship.**

The essay topic is: ***"Identify the impact of social media on our culture and the workplace."***

Application deadline: emailed or postmarked no later than **April 25, 2025.**

Qualifying applicants can visit [Pmoaa.org/Community Services/Scholarships](http://Pmoaa.org/Community Services/Scholarships) and click [Criteria and App](#) at the bottom of the page for application completion details.

Judges are PMOAA members. **This year’s Scholarship Awards Dinner Ceremony is scheduled for July 31, 2025** for recipient congratulations as well as disbursement of funds. Funds are paid directly to the institution on behalf of the awarded student.

Thank you in advance for your attention and distribution toward applicable student candidates.

Respectfully,  
**Maj Charles Booton, USAF (Ret)**  
**Scholarship Chairman**  
[Scholarships@PMOAA.org](mailto:Scholarships@PMOAA.org)



### SCHOLARSHIP DONATION FORM

Please accept my/our gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support the PMOAA Scholarship Fund.

This gift is being made in honor of, or in memory of:

Donor Information:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

Please send an acknowledgement to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

Mail your donation payable to:

**PMOAA, P.O. Box 17728 Pensacola, FL 32501**  
Thank you for your support!

## April Dinner Buffet

**Wednesday**, 16 April 2025

Social: 1730 - 1830

Dinner: 1830



Pensacola Yacht Club  
1897 West Cypress Street  
 Pensacola, FL 32502

Cost is \$45 per person

### Buffet Menu

#### **Herb encrusted Prime Rib Carving Station**

With Creamy Horseradish Sauce on the side

Pecan Crusted Grouper with Citrus Butter Sauce

Vegetable Medley – Asparagus, Cherry Tomatoes & Squash

Roasted Rosemary Potatoes

Mixed Green Salad

Warm Dinner Rolls

Dessert – Chef’s Choice

Coffee, Iced Tea and Water

Cash bar available

**Please R.S.V.P. by Sunday, 13 April 2025** to

LtCol Bob Nelson (Ret)

On line at [April Dinner RSVP](#)

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

Phone: 719.322.4130

#### **Guest Speaker:**

**Shea W. McLean, Curator of the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park in Mobile**

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: 4/13/2025**

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**Shea W. McLean** serves as the park Curator for one of the largest historic tourist destinations in the southeastern US (approximate visitation 300k per year).

He is responsible for the security, maintenance, organization, preservation and exhibition of the various artifacts, photographs, and archival documents within the Museum’s historic collection. Additional duties include project planning, acquisitions / loans, exhibit design and construction, artifact conservation, and personnel training.



## 2025 PMOAA MEMBERSHIP SIGNUP / 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**





|                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>President</b><br>CAPT Kenneth Pyle USN (Ret) (2025-2027)                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>1st Vice President</b><br>LTC Karen Vinson-VanHouter USA (Ret) (2025-2027)         | <b>DIRECTORS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>2nd Vice President</b><br>MAJ Molly C Werner USA (Ret) (2024-2026)                 | <b>Director</b><br>RADM Joan M Engel USN (Ret) (2024-2026)                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Secretary</b><br>CDR Susan Ulloa USN (Ret) (2024-2026)                             | <b>Director</b><br>CAPT Sue Varenholt USN (Ret) (2024-2026)                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Treasurer</b><br>LtCol Robert Nelson USMC (Ret) (2024-2026)                        | <b>Director</b><br>Maj Charles Booton USAF (Ret) (2024-2026)                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Immediate Past President</b><br>CPT Dean Kirschner USA (Former)                    | <b>Director</b><br>CAPT Meredith Yeager USN (Ret) (2025-2027)                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Survivor Assistance Committee Chair</b><br>Mrs. Judy Dickson, Surviving Spouse     | <b>Director</b><br>Mrs. Judy Dickson (2025-2027)                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Beacon Editor</b><br>Mrs. Jean Booton                                              | <b>Chair, Scholarship Committee</b><br>Maj Charles Booton USAF (Ret)                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>For further information:</b><br><a href="mailto:Info@pmoaa.org">Info@pmoaa.org</a> | <b>Membership information at:</b><br><a href="mailto:Membership@pmoaa.org">Membership@pmoaa.org</a><br><b>Scholarship Information and mailing:</b><br><a href="mailto:Scholarships@pmoaa.org">Scholarships@pmoaa.org</a> |



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

## **What's Inside:**

|             |                                           |             |                                               |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Pg 1</b> | <b>President's Corner</b>                 | <b>Pg 6</b> | <b>2025 Calendar of Events</b>                |
| <b>Pg 2</b> | <b>Legislative Affairs</b>                | <b>Pg 7</b> | <b>PMOAA Scholarship Update</b>               |
| <b>Pg 3</b> | <b>Legislative Affairs (cont.)</b>        | <b>Pg 7</b> | <b>Scholarship Donation Form</b>              |
| <b>Pg 4</b> | <b>Legislative Affairs (cont.)</b>        | <b>Pg 8</b> | <b>April Dinner Meeting</b>                   |
| <b>Pg 4</b> | <b>Surviving Spouse Assistance Corner</b> | <b>Pg 8</b> | <b>2025 Membership Sign-up / Renewal Form</b> |
| <b>Pg 5</b> | <b>BOD Meeting Minutes</b>                | <b>Pg 9</b> | <b>Photos from March's Meeting</b>            |
| <b>Pg 6</b> | <b>BOD Meeting Minutes (cont.)</b>        | <b>Pg 9</b> | <b>PMOAA Officers and Directors</b>           |
| <b>Pg 6</b> | <b>TAPS</b>                               |             |                                               |