



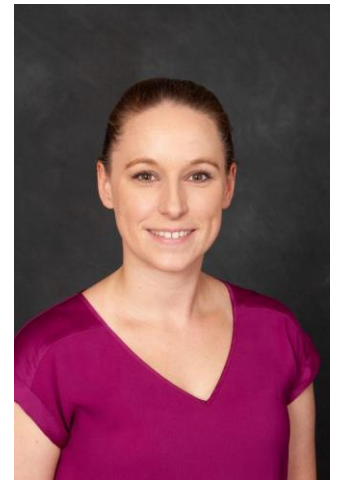
MARCH 2024 MOAA NEWSLETTER/FERNANDINA BEACH

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING WILL BE ON 12 MARCH 2024
AT 0530 PM FERNANDINA BEACH GOLF CLUB (FBGC).**

CALENDAR EVENTS

12 Mar: MOAA Meeting
17 Mar: Saint Patrick's Day
29 Mar: Vietnam Vet Day
29 Mar: Good Friday
31 Mar: Easter
01 Apr: April Fools
09 Apr: MOAA Meeting
15 Apr: Taxes Are Due
28 Apr: Arbor Day

The MOAA Nassau Florida Chapter will be having its monthly meeting on 12 March 2024 @ 0530 PM. Our speaker will be Melissa Yuchasz. She is the Executive Director of YMCA at Wildlight and co-leads Military Outreach Initiatives in the 6-county service area of YMCA of Florida's First Coast. Melissa began her YMCA career when her husband was stationed at Naval Station San Diego. She started working for the YMCA of San Diego County in 2011 as a Wellness Coach and Personal Trainer. After a short time, Melissa was promoted to Wellness Coordinator leading a staff team and wellness programming and then promoted again to Wellness Director taking on additional responsibilities. In 2017, Melissa's husband was assigned to Naval Station Mayport, and they moved their small family of 3 to Jacksonville. She quickly found work at the Brooks Family YMCA as their Healthy Living Director. In this role her main accomplishment was helping YMCA of Florida's First Coast launch the Y's cancer survivor program, LIVESTRONG, at the YMCA. This program is now facilitated in multiple YMCAs in Northeast Florida and has helped hundreds of cancer survivors



increase their quality of life. Melissa was promoted to Associated Executive Director and moved to McArthur Family YMCA in 2019 then promoted again and moved to YMCA at Wildlight in 2020 where she was responsible for opening a brand-new facility at the height of the COVID pandemic.

As always, spouses are invited and encouraged to attend, since they are a key component of the group and can contribute with valuable input. As a reminder, in accordance with our arrangement with the golf club, if you reserve dinner, you have obligated the chapter for your dinner expense and will be requested to reimburse the chapter. However, if you can provide at least 24-hour notice prior to the event of your change in plans, we can then modify the number of meals requested from the club and remove this obligation. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated, as we have reached this agreement with the club to keep the individual costs to a minimum. Dinner will be \$15.00 to be paid at the door. To make, change or cancel your reservation, please contact Paul Booton (pbooton@comcast.net).

*"A nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten."
- Calvin Coolidge-*

Our February general meeting was well attended with over 50 members attending our second meeting of the year. Captain Ed Turner USN (ret), presently serving as the Executive Director of the National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum was our speaker. For more information about his lecture read “From the Chapter President” below.



We have 89 active members that support our JROTC scholarships and other activities with their \$25.00 annual dues. They were due starting in October. Please pay Bob at the door or go to

“From the Chapter President”

Wow! What an eventful month we’ve had for our chapter!

On 25-26 January, the Florida Council of Chapters held their annual Leadership Training Seminar in Orlando at the Rosen Center. Tony, Mary and I represented our chapter and had a very productive time exchanging ideas and best practices with leaders from other chapters as well as leadership from National MOAA. Our chapter received four leadership awards, one of which was for Mary - it was nice for her to be able to receive the award in person at the formal dinner. Tony and I were able to spend some time discussing our chapter’s accomplishments with the national President and CEO, LtGen Brian “BK” Kelly, and the national Director for Councils and Chapters, CAPT Frank “The Tank” Michael.



On 3 February, Tony and Charlie manned a MOAA table at the 3rd annual Vets For Vets event at West Nassau HS. It was a well-attended event again this year and we recruited a few more potential members for our chapter.



On 13 February, we had an outstanding guest speaker at our monthly meeting - CAPT Ed Turner, USN(Ret) is the Executive Director of the National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum at Cecil Field and he gave a fantastic presentation explaining the future plans for that very important and long overdue memorial for honoring our POWs and the over 80,000 service members still missing in action. During the chapter business portion

of the meeting, we formally adopted the revised chapter by-laws which will be signed and posted on the website very soon.



On 15 February, we had our largest and most successful evening social so far! We had over 60 attendees join us at Disco Witch Brewing where we enjoyed an open bar and feasted on pizza from Black Cat Pizzeria, all paid for by the chapter. Thank you to all who came out - I believe everyone had a fantastic time!

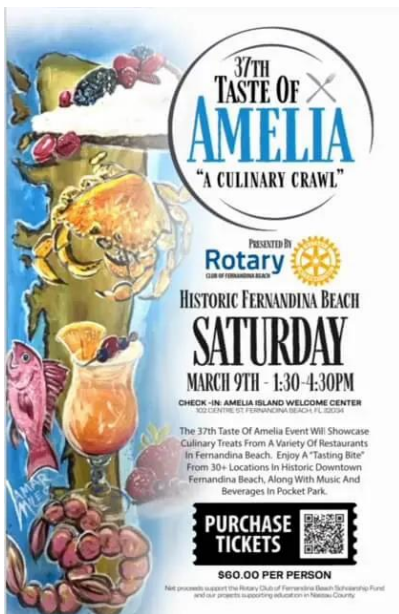
Our next meeting is on 12 March and our guest speaker is going to be Melissa Yuchasz, the Executive Director and Military Outreach Co-Leader for the Wildlight YMCA. I look forward to seeing everyone there!

Mike

FERNANDINA BEACH HAPPENINGS FOR MARCH 2024

Nassau Education Foundation 5K Fun Run

Saturday, March 9, 2024
 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
 Begins at Central Park go to <https://nassaueducationfoundation.org/> for more information.



Taste of Amelia

Saturday, March 9, 2024, 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm Historic Fernandina Beach
 Check-in: Amelia Island Welcome Center, 102 Centre St, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
 The 37th Taste of Amelia event will showcase culinary treats from a variety of restaurants in Fernandina Beach. Enjoy a “tasting bite” from 30+ locations in Historic Downtown Fernandina Beach, along with music and beverages in Pocket Park. Net proceeds support the Rotary Club of Fernandina Beach Scholarship Fund and our projects supporting education in Nassau County. Go to <https://events.humanitix.com/37th-taste-of-amelia> for more information.

Crescendo Amelia Big Band

Join us for an evening of music & dance from 1920 through the 2020's as we dance the night away with a live 10-piece band. We'll be performing everything from swing& jazz, to R&B, Motown, Soul, Disco, and pop-hits. There will be a costume contest with a \$100 CASH PRIZE for the best dressed so come as your favorite decade for a chance to win. We are delighted to announce a line-up of world class vocalists for this evening including: Marah Lovequist, Buster Morgenstern, Theo Canty & Millie Hudson. Go to <https://www.crescendoamelia.com/> for more information.



FLORIDA WOMEN'S FIGHT FOR SUFFRAGE



Date: 03/14/2024

Time: 5:00 pm reception

6:00 pm presentation

Place: GFWC Woman's Club
201 Jean LaFitte Blvd., Fernandina Beach, FL



Dr. Peggy Macdonald examines a selection of Florida's most prominent suffragists, along with their strategies to secure women's right to vote.

RSVP by March 8
at
nassaureads.com

Sponsored by the Friends of the Fernandina Beach Library,
Women's Club, and Hampton Inn Historic Downtown



Florida Women's Fight for Suffrage

Thursday, March 14, 2024

Join us at the Women's Club for a reception and a presentation by Dr. Peggy MacDonal as she examines a selection of Florida's most prominent suffragists along with their strategies to secure Women's right to vote. Go to <https://fernandinafol.org/event/florida-womens-fight-for-suffrage/> for more information.

Council on Aging, COA (bingo, line dancing, ask a lawyer, cooking, pet therapy, etc.). If you are active or just want to do something, this is the place for you. They have four different calendars of events that cover just about every aspect of life. Go to <https://bit.ly/2TPpFNp> for more information on activities and social engagements.



The **Fernandina Beach Marketplace**: Join your family, neighbors and friends at this weekly event where farmers, growers, and entrepreneurial individuals sell locally grown and produced goods to those living in, and visiting, our friendly, little community. The farmers' market is open **EVERY Saturday** from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., year-round, rain or shine. For more information about the Fernandina Beach **Market Place farmers' market**, please explore this website or send an email to: Info@FernandinaBeachMarketPlace.com. Located on N. 7th Street, in the historic district of Fernandina Beach, and their newest market, the Fernandina Beach Arts Market, features local arts & crafts by talented artisans from our community, and is located adjacent to the farmers market on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month.

Congratulations to MOAA’s LTC Paul Booton USA (Ret), CDR Lou Tonti, USN (Ret) and LCDR Joe Blanchard USN (Ret) who were presented with the “Leadership Award” by “The Florida Council of Chapters” for their outstanding work in support of MOAA objectives and Programs.

On a special note, we said farewell to charter member Paul Booton who has been an invaluable board member since the start of the chapter 10 years ago. “Well done PAUL, you will be missed”! We also want to thank Dave Kriete for volunteering to take on Paul’s role as Database Manager.



Nassau County Chapter Meeting and Social Schedule for 2024

Date	Event	Time	Location	Guest Speaker / Comments
9 January	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	CAPT Mike Doran, USN (Ret) President, Nassau County Chapter MOAA
13 February	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	CAPT Ed Turner, USN (Ret) Executive Director of the National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum
15 February	Social	1730	DISCO WITCH BREWING	PIZZA from BLACK CAT PIZZERIA
12 March **Evening Mtg**	General Meeting	1730	FBGC	Melissa Yuchasz, Executive Director of YMCA at Wildlight
9 April	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	
Xx April	Social	1730	TBD – On Island	
14 May	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	
11 June **Evening Mtg**	General Meeting	1730	FBGC	
Xx June	Social	1730	TBD – Off Island	
10 September	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	
8 October **Evening Mtg**	General Meeting	1730	FBGC	
Xx October	Social	1730	TBD – On Island	
12 November	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	
13 December	Christmas Party	1830	FBGC	1730 Cocktails, 1830 Dinner

FBGC – Fernandina Beach Golf Club, located at 2800 Bill Melton Rd, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

The MOAA Nassau Florida Chapter and MOAA national are non-partisan organizations. This newsletter is published monthly. A current issue of this newsletter can be found at our website www.ncflmoaa.org. This newsletter is intended for wide distribution via e-mail within the Nassau Florida Chapter. Opinions expressed by contributors are their own and may not express the positions of MOAA Nassau County Florida Chapter or national MOAA.

NASSAU CHAPTER CALL TO ACTION **2024 ISSUES**

Pay Full Housing Costs

MOAA seeks to restore the Basic Allowance for Housing to 100% for Servicemembers.

Restoring the TRICARE Pharmacy Network

Thousands of independent pharmacies have left the network, threatening a critical benefit for many in rural areas, as well as elderly beneficiaries and those with serious medical conditions. MOAA wants increased Congressional oversight over a strong, accessible network.

Support the All-Volunteer Force

MOAA seeks meaningful quality-of-life improvements for those in uniform and their families, as well as long-term programs designed to widen the recruiting pool.

Go to <https://www.moaa.org/content/take-action/advocacy-in-action-2023/> and let your legislators know we support.

MOAA - MOAA at 95: A Leader in Military Advocacy: go to <https://bit.ly/3lfqjVi> to find out what MOAA has accomplished.

Congressman Bean's office to assist you with a military or veterans' matter, you can contact Ms. Troope at Christina.troope@mail.house.gov or by phone at 904-319-9433(o) or 904-403-7557©.

NEWSLETTER CORNER

MOAA Newsletter Mar 2024 (highlights)

Free with your MOAA membership –
go to <https://bit.ly/3wAUeLR> for more information.

1. MOAA at 95: A leader in military advocacy.
2. Combat-Injured veterans need our help NOW – Here’s how to join the fight.
3. Quality of live “Erosion” poses dire threat to the force lawmakers say.
4. A fresh look at MOAA’s legislative priorities for caregivers and veterans.
5. MOAA can help you maximize your compensation package.
6. March starts strong with big events to help you find professional success.
7. Scams cost veterans, military retirees \$350 million in 2023.
8. All MOAA members can save big with PODS.
9. Pet insurance is becoming essential.

Veterans Affairs website (highlights)

Go to [VA.gov Home | Veterans Affairs](#) to sign up for monthly newsletter

1. Free business classes for veterans.
2. Deals dedicated to service. Save up to 30% on ShopVCS.com.
3. Speak with a veteran: Access free 24/7 mental health support.
4. Physician assistant scholarship for veterans.
5. Veterans Day poster contest open for submissions.
6. Reaching out for support.
7. Virtual internship: work with VA’s digital media team.
8. NEW: Veteran Job postings over 100 positions are available.

Applications for the MOAA Scholarship fund. The deadline to submit application for the MOAA scholarship fund’s educations assistance program is March 1, 2024. Go to [MOAA - About MOAA Scholarship Fund](#) for more information.

If you know someone who wants to **join the MOAA** and meets the below eligibility requirements, please have them fill out the attached application.



NASSAU COUNTY FLORIDA CHAPTER

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Eligibility: Regular Members are all individuals who are or have been a commissioned or warrant officer of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA and the US Public Health Service (USPHS), or the Reserve or National Guard of these uniformed services. A current or surviving spouse of a regular member may join as an Auxiliary Member. MOAA is a Non-Partisan Organization.

NAME: _____

Please PRINT (Last Name) (First Name) (MI) (Suffix)

MIL. RANK: _____ **GENDER:** { } M { } F **BIRTHDATE:** _____
 (Spouse/widow(er) leave blank) (mm/dd/yyyy)

SERVICE: { } USA { } USN { } USAF { } USMC { } USCG { } USPHS { } NOAA { } USSF

STATUS: { } Retired { } Active { } NG/Reserves { } Former Officer { } Spouse { } Widow(er)

Mail ADDRESS: _____ **APT:** _____

CITY: _____, **FL ZIP:** _____-

HOME PHONE: (____) _____ **CELL PHONE:** (____) _____

EMAIL: _____ **SPOUSE NAME:** _____

National MOAA Member: { } YES { } NO **National MOAA#:** _____

WELCOME!

PLEASE CHECK CHAPTER ACTIVITIES IN WHICH YOU DESIRE TO ASSIST:

- { } Program/Event Planning (PP) { } Membership (MO) { } Legislative Affairs (LA)
- { } Phoning Members (PM) { } Personal Affairs (PA) { } Newsletter (NP)
- { } Public Relations (PR) { } ROTC/JROTC { } Advertising (AD)
- { } WEB Site (WM) { } Data Processing (DP)

Thanks for your Chapter membership commitment
 Chapter Dues \$25.00 Annually Payable to "Nassau MOAA"

PLEASE SEND APPLICATION AND DUES PAYMENT TO:

Nassau County Florida Chapter of MOAA
 ATTN: Database Administrator
 PO Box 16313
 Fernandina Beach, FL 32035