



**FEBRUARY 2023 MOAA
NEWSLETTER/FERNANDINA BEACH**

CALENDAR EVENTS

- 02 Feb: Groundhog Day
- 14 Feb: MOAA Mtg
- 14 Feb: Valentine’s Day
- 20 Feb: President’s Day
- 21 Feb: Marti Gras
- 22 Feb: Ash Wednesday
- 14 Mar: MOAA Mtg
- 17 Mar: Saint Patrick’s Day
- 29 Mar: Vietnam Vet Day

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING WILL BE ON 14 FEBRUARY 2023
AT 1130AM FERNANDINA BEACH GOLF CLUB (FBGC).**



The MOAA Nassau Florida Chapter will be having its monthly meeting on 14 February 2023 at the FBGC at 1130 AM. Our guest speaker will be John Crawford, Nassau County Clerk of Courts and Comptroller. Mr. Crawford was first elected Nassau County Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller in 2005 and has been re-elected to this office ever since. Mr. Crawford is a tireless advocate for innovation, transparency, and service to the citizens of Nassau County and the state of Florida. A lifelong resident of Northeast Florida, Mr. Crawford is a proud Army National Guard veteran. Before serving as Clerk and

Comptroller, Mr. Crawford owned and operated Crawford Financial Group in Nassau County. All proceeds are used for our JROTC

scholarships.

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 a lunch, you have obligated the chapter for your luncheon 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 in an attempt to keep the individual cost to a minimum. Lunch will be \$15.00, the food is so good we had to raise the price a little, to be paid at the door. To make, change or cancel your reservation, please contact Paul Booton (pbooton@comcast.net).

***“A good Navy is not a provocation to war. It is the surest guaranty of peace.”
- Theodore Roosevelt-***



Our January general meeting was well attended with over 35 attending our first meeting of the year. Mike Doran, CAPT USN (ret), our new chapter president was our speaker. He presented his “State of the Chapter 2023”, chapter awards and displayed our new MOAA Nassau County Chapter flag. If you would like to see his “State of the Chapter 2023”, it will be posted on our website shortly. I have also posted his “From the Chapter President”, letter in this newsletter and our 2023 general and social calendar as well. This year is going to be full of changes that will make our chapter stronger and even more flexible. Mark your calendars.

We have 86 active members that support our JROTC scholarships with their \$25.00 annual dues. They are due every January.

Please pay Bob at the door or go to

www.ncflmoaa.org



We have a limited amount of these MOAA collectible mugs available for purchases. GET YOURS NOW!!! They make great gifts. Once we are sold out, that is it!!!! Until we order some more.





Congratulations to the following MOAA members for their hard work and dedication towards their service in the local community and our local MOAA chapter: Robert Bell, CAPT USN (ret) and Kathleen Waldrop, MAJ USA (ret). They were recently recognized by "The Florida Council of Chapters" and awarded Leadership Awards.



The newly elected President and Vice President of the Nassau County Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), retired Navy Captains Mike Doran and Tony LaVecchia, participated in the MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) Leadership Seminar in Orlando, FL 5 -7 January. The seminar provided attendees with organizational updates, training, and legislative affairs information from MOAA national staff members. Thirty-one (31) of the thirty-nine (39) Florida MOAA Chapters were in attendance as well as the national MOAA Board Chairman, retired Air Force General Gary North and the Florida Council of Chapters President, retired Navy Commander Pat Kleuver. Photo: Mike Doran, Pat Kleuver, Tony LaVecchia

“From the Chapter President”

It is an honor for me to be elected chapter president for the next two years. I am excited about the opportunity and feel very prepared for the job after watching the Master, Charlie Finnigan, over the past five years. Charlie did a fantastic job in leading our chapter and we all owe him a debt of thanks!

I also want to thank all of the chapter board officers and directors for volunteering their time and energy. All of us realize how important they are to the success of our chapter.

Looking ahead, I have decided to focus on a few areas for 2023 and beyond. The basis for these areas of focus is achieving a 5 star Level of Excellence (LOE) award for the chapter. This award is given by the national headquarters to those chapters that meet certain goals. Fortunately, due to Charlie's leadership, we already meet most of them. There are a few that are constantly needing attention, however, and that is what I'm going to address.

First of all, I want to grow our membership. We are a very healthy chapter - we have 86 members, which is about average for the chapters in Florida. However, if we don't constantly look for new members, we will decline. To that end, the board has agreed with some proposals to encourage new members to join:

-Any existing member who brings in a new member (who signs up and pays dues) will get one free year of chapter membership (\$25 value).

-To provide opportunity for participation to those MOAA members (and potential members) who work during the day and can't attend our Tuesday luncheons, we will have periodic no-host socials in the evening at local establishments. The first is scheduled at Mocama at 1730 on 8 Feb.

-Along the same lines, we will have one general meeting per quarter in the evening - the same format will be followed, including a meal and speaker.

Secondly, we will be applying for a MOAA grant. This is an annual grant that the national MOAA organization provides to worthy causes at the chapter level, up to \$5000. We will be applying for a grant to help renovate and expand the Veterans Memorial Park where we hold our brick-laying ceremony on Memorial Day.

Also, we will be creating a higher profile for our chapter in the local area, through more articles in local papers as well as participation in events. Anyone who has ideas for "growing our brand" in the community, please let me know. If attending the monthly meeting is all you are interested in, this won't affect you - just keep doing what you are comfortable with.

The bottom line is that we will continue to do the things that all of us enjoy - meet for lunch and the camaraderie of our friends during our monthly chapter meetings. But we will also be expanding our scope of activities to be more accommodating to those with day jobs as well as raise the awareness of our chapter in the community.

Please send me a note if you have any questions or ideas.

Very respectfully,

Mike



Nassau County Chapter Meeting and Social Schedule for 2023

Date	Location	Time	Address
10 January	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1130	2800 Bill Melton Rd Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
8 February**	Mocama Beer Company	1730	629 S 8 th St Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
14 February	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1130	2800 Bill Melton Rd Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
14 March*	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1730	2800 Bill Melton Rd Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
11 April	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1130	2800 Bill Melton Rd Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
19 April**	TBD	1730	TBD
9 May	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1130	2800 Bill Melton Rd Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
14 June*	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1730	2800 Bill Melton Rd Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
22 June**	TBD	1730	TBD
12 September	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1130	2800 Bill Melton Rd Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
11 October*	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1730	2800 Bill Melton Rd Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
19 October**	TBD	1730	TBD
14 November	Fernandina Beach Golf Club	1130	2800 Bill Melton Rd Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
Xx December**	Christmas Party - TBD	TBD	TBD

FERNANDINA BEACH HAPPENINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2023**David Baldacci****Kate Quinn****Scott Turow****Jeannette Walls**

The Amelia Island Book Festival returns for its 21st season February 17-18. This island tradition features celebrated authors at events and venues throughout the community.

Go to <https://www.ameliaislandbookfestival.org/> for more information.

**Amelia Island Community Theatre. Clue**

Main Stage Farce/Murder Mystery

Based on the iconic board game, the tale begins at a remote mansion, where six mysterious guests assemble for an unusual dinner party, and murder and blackmail are on the menu. When their host turns up dead, they all become suspects. The butler, Wadsworth, leads Miss Scarlett, Professor Plum, Mrs. White, Mr. Green, Mrs. Peacock and Colonel Mustard in a race to find the killer, as the body count stacks up!

ACT Suggested Rating G: Appropriate for All Audiences

7:30 pm: February 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25

2 pm: February 12, 19

Go to <https://bit.ly/3j3zZzC> 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 calendar events that cover just about every aspect of life. Go to <https://bit.ly/2TPpFNp> for more information on activities and social engagements.

Amelia Island Museum of History

“Enemy Territory: The Story CIA U-2 Pilot Francis Gary Powers” with Gary Powers. Date/Time - February 21, 2023

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm. Go to <https://bit.ly/3FBL1oJ> for more information.



Amelia Island Montessori School

Chili Cook-off

February 11, 2023, Centre Street

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

This long-running community event focuses around Chili tasting from local competitors. The event will have live music, a kids zone, vendors and chili booths. For more information, go to

<https://bit.ly/3JozduP>.

LOCAL PARKS



Fort Clinch. It has numerous outdoor activities to fit just about everyone's abilities. Go to <https://bit.ly/2Le3ZKx> for more details about hiking, biking, bird watching, Fort Clinch tours,,,,,,,,.



Egan's Creek Greenway. A protected area of over 300 acres that runs north to south along Egan's Creek, the Greenway was opened for public use in the summer of 2000 as an undeveloped park for passive recreational use. Go to <https://bit.ly/3oKCeZd> for more details. **For individuals with disabilities,** a 2-person **GEM electric car** is available for reservation at the Atlantic Recreation Center to travel through the Greenway. Call 904-310-3350 for availability and to reserve.



Little Talbot Island. It is one of a handful of undeveloped barrier islands remaining in Northeast Florida. Boasting more than five miles of pristine beaches and three miles of bike trails, Little Talbot offers untouched natural beauty and diverse ecosystems for visitors to explore. Go to <https://bit.ly/2OsPyUx> for more info.



Big Talbot Island. Located on one of Northeast Florida's unique sea islands, Big Talbot Island State Park is primarily a natural preserve, providing a premier location for nature study, bird-watching and photography. Go to <https://bit.ly/3abcBf8> for more info.

MOAA challenge: Go to our website www.ncflmoaa.org to see all the local military store discounts, past/future events and much more. We want to get at least 25 visitors to the website this month. Our website needs more HITS.

MOAA Newsletter February 2023 (highlights)

(Free with your MOAA membership - sent to your e mail)

1. State Tax Update: Details from three states on push to except more retirement pay.
2. Debt ceiling drama could threaten your service-earned benefits.
3. Thousands more pharmacies rejoin the TRICARE network. Are there enough?
4. Join MOAA for our military executive transition program.
5. Ready for a mentor? Check out these resources from MOAA.
6. Protect yourself from these five common fraud schemes.
7. "Widows Tax" will be completely gone on Feb. 1 benefit checks.
8. VA will pay for all emergency mental health care under new policy.

Veterans Affairs website (highlights)

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

1. Easy access to VA products, services.
2. What to expect when you call the Veterans crisis line.
3. Top 10 Veteran resources in 2022.
4. Overcoming a loss of mobility.
5. Taking charge of your life and health.
6. Make a difference in your community.
7. Housing assistance
8. Pension and Life Insurance

If you know someone who wants to **join the MOAA** and meets the below eligibility requirements, please have them fill out the attached application and send it to Paul Booton at pbooton@comcast.net.

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.



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.

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

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:

Paul Booton, Database Administrator
Nassau County Florida Chapter of MOAA
474 Starboard Landing
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034-2780