



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 on our website [NCFL](http://www.ncfl.moaa.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 MOAA national.

APRIL 2026

MOAA NEWSLETTER/FERNANDINA BEACH

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING WILL BE ON 10 MARCH 2026
AT 1130 FERNANDINA BEACH GOLF CLUB (FBGC).**

CALENDAR EVENTS

- 01 Apr: April Fools
- 05 Apr: Easter
- 14 Apr: MOAA Meeting
- 15 Apr: Capitol Hill Day (AiA)
- 28 Apr: Officers Call
- 09 May: Military Spouse Appreciation Day
- 11 May: Mother's Day
- 14 May: MOAA mtg
- 17 May: Armed Forces Day
- 25 May: Memorial Day

The MOAA Nassau Florida Chapter will be having its monthly meeting on 14 April 2026 @ 11:30. Our speaker will be Commanding Officer, SUBASE Kings Bay, Captain Bill Dull. Captain Bill Dull graduated with distinction in 2001 from the United States Naval Academy where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering with a focus in Materials Science. He completed Naval Nuclear Power training in 2002 and earned a Master of Business Administration from the National University of Singapore in 2008. Captain Dull's sea tours include serving as a junior officer on USS CHARLOTTE (SSN 766); Engineer Officer on USS OKLAHOMA CITY (SSN 723); and Executive Officer on USS ALASKA GOLD (SSBN-732). He commanded USS ALASKA BLUE (SSBN-732) in Kings Bay, Georgia. During his service on USS ALASKA the ship earned retention excellence awards each year, multiple Battle Efficiency "E"



awards, two USSTRATCOM Omaha Trophies as the best SSBN in the Navy, and Meritorious Unit Commendation.

As a reminder, in accordance with our arrangement with the golf club, if you reserve lunch/dinner, you have obligated the chapter for your 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. Lunch/Dinner will be \$20.00/\$30.00 to be paid at the door. To make, change, or cancel your reservation, please contact Louis Tonti at louistonti@gmail.com.

Our March general meeting was well attended with over 45 members attending our second meeting of the year. Our speaker was the Mayor of Fernandina Beach, Dr. James Antun. He discussed a wide range of topics that covered the city budget, paid parking, city commisioners responsibilities, and the future spending and how it will effect our taxes. For more information go to [Fernandina Beach](#). This year is going to be full of events and excellent speakers that will make our chapter stronger and even more flexible. Mark your calendars.



“From the Chapter President”

April 2026

Aloha Nassau County Chapter of MOAA Members –

It's officially Spring and the warmer weather is finally upon us. There will be many Chapter events and activities between now and Summer. Check out the Meetings Calendar posted to the website at www.ncflmoaa.org and also the [Meeting & Speaker Presentation](#) slides to check for events, dates, and times. A few of the upcoming events are: Chapter Meetings in April, May and June, Officer Calls in April and June, the JROTC MOAA Awards in late March, Advocacy in Actions (AiA) in mid April, Donation Drives to support the Charitable Efforts Program, and the Memorable Day Remembrance Ceremony.

Thank you to all who participated in the Chapter Survey Questionnaire. Nearly 50% of the Chapter members participated and provided responses. Your input will help the Board of Directors make better informed decisions for future Chapter activities and investments.

The 2026 Advocacy in Action (AiA) campaign will be 13-16 April. The AiA campaign topics are:

- **Major Richard Star Act** (CALL TO ACTION email sent 17 March)
- **GUARD VA Benefits Act** (CALL TO ACTION email sent 24 March)
- **Military CARE Act** (CALL TO ACTION email forthcoming)
- **Shutdown Fairness Act** (CALL TO ACTION email forthcoming)

In conjunction with AiA, Mike McClane is sending out weekly **CALL to ACTION** emails requesting you to **TAKE ACTION** regarding the above AiA campaign topics. Mike has already sent out two CALL to ACTION emails and two more are forthcoming. When you receive the CALL to ACTION email, simply click of the large font **TAKE ACTION** link to make your voice heard to support MOAA's AiA Campaign Priorities. Sign up in the LAC at: [SIGN UP](#).

Please....

- Be a Recruiter – Get one person to join our Chapter
- Participate in Calls to Action and attend as many Chapter events as possible
- Donate to the Chapters' Charitable Efforts Program at: [DONATE](#)

Very Respectfully,



DONATIONS

If you or someone you know would like to donate to our chapter, please go to the following link [DONATE](#) or take a picture of the QR code. Thank you.



We have 90 active members that contribute to our activities and volunteer work with their \$25.00 annual dues. Please pay Bob at the door or go to [RENEW MEMBERSHIP](#)

**WANT TO ADVERTISE IN MOAA NEWSLETTER
OR KNOW A BUSINESS THAT DOES?!**

Annual Subscription Costs:

Half Page Ad: \$1000

Quarter Page Ad: \$500 . 1/8 Page Ad: \$250

E-Mail: Rssstang@aol.com

MOAA EVENT

MOAA members VADM Dave Kriete USN (ret), CAPT Tony LaVecchia, USN (ret), COL Jeff Carr, USA (ret), CAPT Bob Bell, USN (ret), CDR Jim Jarvis, USN (ret), CDR Rich Sharp, USN (ret) and CW4 Mike McClane, USA (ret) prepared invitation letters to prospective MOAA members, invite letters, application forms, LAC sign up instructions, recruitment cards and approximately 280 envelopes were addressed and stamped for mailing. Special thanks go out to VADM Dave Kriete, USN (ret) for the use of his house and the pizza.



MOAA AWARDS

CAPT Tony LaVecchia, USN (ret) Nassau County Chapter President, presented MOAA *The Florida Counsel of Chapters Leadership Awards* to Chong Murphy and Kathleen Davitt for their volunteer work. They have coordinated the last three holiday celebrations and all three were huge successes.



MOAA SIGNATURE GROUPS

**Join MOAA Leadership and your fellow MOAA members
on these hosted cruises and land tours.**

July 12-21, 2026	Highlights of Eastern Europe River Cruise	9-nights from \$3,999
October 1-10, 2026	Western Europe Yacht Cruise	9-nights from \$4,999
April 25-May 2, 2027	Castles Along the Rhine River Cruise	7-nights from \$4,199
July 19-27, 2027	France & Spain Yacht Cruise	8-nights from \$5,799
September 14-25, 2027	Circle Iceland Yacht Cruise	11-nights from \$8,999
Sept. 25-Oct. 4, 2027	Battlefields of WWI & WWII Tour	10 days from \$6,495

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FERNANDINA BEACH HAPPENINGS APRIL 2026



SOUNDS ON CENTRE

Sing and dance to the beat with free outdoor concerts held downtown on the first Friday of every month from April through October but skipping July! Classic rock, blues, oldies and more fill the waterfront area in historic Downtown Fernandina Beach. April 3, 2026, from 6-8 pm is the first concert. Go to [Centre](#) for more information.

The 3rd Annual Sea Turtle Festival

We are thrilled to announce the return of our Sea Turtle Festival – a day dedicated to celebrating sea turtles, promoting ocean conservation, and bringing our community together for a cause.

For more information go to [Sea turtles](#).

Saturday, April 18, 2026.

10:00 am – 3:00 pm.

Main Beach Green Space

32 North Fletcher Avenue, Fernandina Beach, Florida 32034



BYE BYE BIRDIE

It is 1958 and rock-and-roll idol Conrad Birdie has been drafted into the US army. His agent, Albert, sees his meal ticket flying the coop, so he and his secretary/girlfriend Rosie hatch a plan to try to save the record company from going under. They devise a farewell performance for Birdie to give one last kiss to a fan on The Ed Sullivan Show before he leaves and that fan is Kim MacAfee, a teenager from Sweet Apple, Ohio. Kim's life is turned upside down by Birdie's arrival and the frenzy that ensues! Performance Dates: April 9th-25th General Audiences. Go to [ACT](#) for tickets and more information.

The Fernandina Beach Songwriters Festival is a curated weekend of intimate performances and storytelling by acclaimed and emerging songwriters, presented by the Fernandina Songwriters Foundation, a nonprofit organization that also supports year-round programs including workshops, retirement concerts, and school visits. Friday, April 10- Saturday, April 11. Go to [Songwriter](#) for more information.



4th Annual Mini Links Masters Saturday, April 11, 2026

4:00 PM 7:00 PM

The 4th Annual Mini Links Masters is a new addition for the AMA and our first tournament in Florida! Thirty-Six Holes (2 rounds) of individual stroke play teeing off at 5:00pm. Yes friends, it's a late afternoon and evening tournament that will be taking place during the PGA Masters showing on 'the big screen. Gregor MacGregor's Mini Links. Go to [Minigolf](#) for more information.

Omni Amelia Island Resort & Spa will host its 10th Annual Fish to Fork April 16-19, 2026!

With sweeping views of the Atlantic Ocean and beautiful tree canopies as a backdrop, the weekend will offer an unmatched foodie experience, with true dock-to-dish specialties in a fun and interactive atmosphere. The resort will welcome renowned chefs from around the country to showcase their fishing and culinary skills, leading up to a final chef showdown on Saturday night with a live vote from event guests! For more information go to [Fish to Fork](#).



FISH TO FORK
omni amelia island resort



Nassau County Chapter Meeting and Social Schedule for 2026

Date	Event	Time	Location	Guest Speaker / Comments
13 January	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	CAPT Tony LaVecchia, USN (Ret) President, Nassau County Chapter of MOAA
10 February	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	Gary Powers Jr. — Cancelled Cold War Historian
24 February	Officers Call	1730	Disco Witch Mainland	464073 FL-200, Yulee, FL 32097 Food available for purchase or bring your own
10 March	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	Dr. James Antun Mayor, City of Fernandina Beach
14 April	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	CAPT Bill Dull, U.S. Navy Commanding Officer, Submarine Base, Kings Bay GA
28 April	Officers Call	1730	First Love Brewing On-Island	22 S 8th St, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
12 May	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	Janet Adkins Supervisor of Elections, Nassau County
9 June **Evening Mtg**	General Meeting	1730	FBGC	
25 June	Officers Call	1730	Brew Shed Mainland	474305 E State Rd 200, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 Food available for purchase
8 September **Evening Mtg**	General Meeting	1730	FBGC	George Zamka, COL USMC (ret) Former Space Shuttle Astronaut
13 October	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	
Xx October	Officers Call	1730	TBD – On Island	
10 November	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	
11 December	Christmas Party	1730	FBGC	1730 Cocktails, 1830 Dinner

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

NASSAU CHAPTER CALL TO ACTION

2026 ISSUES

MOAA's 2026 Legislative Priorities – Click [HERE](#) for Details on Each Priority

- **Shutdown Fairness Act**
 - Allows the Pentagon and the Department of Homeland Security to continue paying servicemembers during any future funding lapse
- **Improve and Enhance the Work Opportunity Tax Credit Act**
 - Modernizes the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), a nonrefundable tax credit employers can take for hiring target group members during the employee's first year on the job, by increasing the amount of the credit and adding military spouses as a target group. The program is intended to reduce the unemployment rate of "job seekers who have consistently faced barriers to employment" by incentivizing employers with a tax credit, according to the Labor Department.
- **Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act**
 - Reinstates criminal penalties for unaccredited claim representatives who charge unauthorized fees while assisting veterans with filing a claim for VA disability compensation benefits.
- **Military CARE Act**
 - Requires the Pentagon to establish a digital system designed to improve access to care at military treatment facilities (MTFs) by providing beneficiaries with a standardized platform to report barriers to MTF care and creating a data record that does not exist today to give Defense Health Agency leadership and Congress the insights needed to address systemic access challenges.
- **Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act**
 - Expands health care coverage and career transition support for caregivers and would require a study designed to provide caregivers with a path toward financial security in retirement.

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©.

Legislative Action Center (LAC)

Sign Up Instructions

1. Go to the Legislative Action Center (LAC) at:
<https://moaa.quorum.us/>
2. Select the Sign Up button in the upper right of the page.
3. Answer the questions...name, rank, status, etc.
4. For the address question, type your address and as addresses populate in the drop down, select your address from the drop down. You must select your address from the populated drop down option, otherwise you will receive an error.
5. For the last question, MOAA Chapter Affiliation, select:
“FL49 – Nassau County Chapter”
6. Click on “Sign up and Take Action” at the bottom of the page
7. The upper right of the page should say “Hello, (your name)!”

Note (1): In your browser settings, allow/enable third party cookies.

Note (2): Do not log out of the LAC.

For the most recent MOAA national content go to [MOAA](#) for more information. Here are the most recent topics:

1. MOAA members produce Vietnam film.
2. Eight steps to prepare your finances before deployment.
3. I began taking Social Security benefits early, and I'm regretting it. Is there a way to change my claim?
4. I'm thinking about an early IRA withdrawal. How can I avoid penalties?
5. What is a "secondary dependent," and who is eligible?
6. Select Naval Flight Officers, Aviators eligible for \$120,000 retention bonus.

NEWSLETTER CORNER

Veterans Affairs website (highlights)

Go to [VA](#) to sign up for monthly newsletter

1. Do you qualify for additional VA education benefits?
2. Join VA – make a tangible impact every day.
3. Women veterans belong at VA.
4. Reduce your risk for colon cancer.
5. VA resources, we're here for you.
6. Upcoming VA events.
7. Jobs for Veterans.

TRICARE EAST Newsletter Issue 1/2026

Go to [Tricare](#)

1. Resources to help you with your TRICARE benefit.
2. New virtual urgent care option for TRICARE Prime beneficiaries in the US.
3. TRICARE-allowable charges and balance billing: What you need to know.
4. Pharmacy copayments waived for TRICARE Prime remote enrollees in the US beginning Feb 28, 2026.

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
MOAA is a Non-Partisan Organization**

Eligibility: Regular Members are all individuals who are or have been a commissioned or warrant officer of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, NOAA, US Public Health Service, or Reserve or National Guard of these uniformed services, or a Surviving Spouse of any of the aforementioned. A spouse of a regular member may join as an Auxiliary Member.

NAME: _____

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

MILITARY RANK: _____ **GENDER:** M F **BIRTHDATE:** _____
(Spouse / Surviving Spouse leave blank) (mm/dd/yyyy)

SERVICE: USA USN USAF USMC USCG USPHS NOAA USSF

STATUS: Retired Active NG/Reserves Former Officer Surviving Spouse Spouse

YEARS OF SERVICE (MM/YY): From _____ TO _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____ **APT:** _____

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

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

EMAIL: _____ **SPOUSE NAME:** _____

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

PLEASE CHECK CHAPTER ACTIVITIES IN WHICH YOU DESIRE TO ASSIST:

Speaker Planning - Membership - Legislative Affairs - Phoning Members

Newsletter - ROTC/JROTC - Fundraising - WEB Site - Data Processing

Social Events Planning - Finance

Chapter Dues \$25.00 Annually Payable to "Nassau MOAA"

PLEASE SEND APPLICATION AND DUES PAYMENT TO:

Nassau County Florida Chapter of MOAA
PO Box 16313
Fernandina Beach, FL 32035