



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.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.

## MARCH 2026 MOAA NEWSLETTER/FERNANDINA BEACH

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

### CALENDAR EVENTS

- 10 Mar: MOAA Mtg
- 17 Mar: Saint Patrick's Day
- 29 Mar: Vietnam Vet Day
- 01 Apr: April Fools
- 03 Apr: Good Friday
- 05 Apr: Easter
- 14 Apr: MOAA Meeting
- 15 Apr: Taxes Are Due
- 24 Apr: Arbor Day

The MOAA Nassau Florida Chapter will be having its monthly meeting on 10 March 2026 @ 11:30. Our speaker will be Dr. James Antun, Mayor of Fernandina Beach. Mayor Antun has a bachelor's degree in Kinesiology from the University of Cortland, NY. After graduation, he proceeded directly into graduate school at New York Chiropractic College (NYCC) in Seneca Falls, NY. At NYCC, he studied Doctor of Chiropractic and dual-enrolled in the school to earn a Master's in Human Anatomy & Physiology Instruction. He graduated from the Chiropractic program with honors while maintaining a 3.5 GPA in the master's program. In addition to these qualifications, he maintains an active license in the state of Florida, which requires 40 credit hours of continuing education every two years. This rigorous educational foundation paired with guidance and mentorship from several individuals within the chiropractic profession, as well as mentors with many other specialties



provided the knowledge and support that has allowed him to flourish his business in Fernandina Beach. He was elected as Mayor of Fernandina Beach in 2024.

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](mailto:louistonti@gmail.com).

## From the Chapter President”

March 2026

Aloha Nassau County Chapter of MOAA Members –

Early February came with sad news of the passing of Lt Col Charlie Finnigan, USAF (Ret). Charlie was a long time Chapter member, a previous Chapter President, an absolute gentleman, and an all-around great guy. Charlie will again be remembered this coming Memorial Day with a ceremony and unveiling of his memorial brick. Charlie’s positive, infectious attitude and presence will certainly be missed.

My regrets for canceling the 10 February Chapter meeting, but I determined it necessary in order for Chapter members to attend the memorial service and funeral for Charlie Finnigan that was occurring concurrently with the Chapter meeting. We hope to be able to reschedule Gary Powers, a Cold War Historian who was the scheduled guest speaker.

**Well Done Nassau County Chapter Members.** Earlier in February I reported the MOAA’s updated and final 2025 Legislative Action Center (LAC) statistics for our Chapter. The Nassau County Chapter had a LAC Sign Up percentage of 63% and 864 letters sent to Congress. **The Chapter is punching well above its weight class.** The Florida average across 36 Chapters for LAC sign up is 35%...we are at 63%. The average number of letters sent to Congressional Representatives from our Chapter is over 8 per Chapter member. The largest Chapter in the state has 1,000 members and their LAC sign up is at 24% with an average of 2 letters sent per Chapter member. Again, Well Done!

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

- Major Richard Star Act (S. 1032 / H.R. 2102)
- GUARD VA Benefits Act (H.R. 1732)
- Military CARE Act (H.R. 6796)
- Shutdown Fairness Act (S. 3168)

I will be on Capitol Hill for AiA alongside approximately 160 other MOAA members from across the county. I will be speaking with Members of Congress (Senate and House) from Florida to advocate in person for MOAA’s priority topics.

In the coming weeks leading up to AiA, you will be receiving **CALL to ACTION** emails requesting you to **TAKE ACTION** regarding the aforementioned AiA campaign topics. To make your voice heard and to support MOAA’s Legislative Priorities, please ensure you are signed up in the **Legislative Action Center (LAC)**, as approximately 40 Chapter members are NOT. **Please sign up, it’s important** and it only will take a few minutes. Scroll down further into the newsletter to the easy to follow LAC sign up instructions.

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,

*Tony*

## 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 108 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](mailto:Rssstang@aol.com)**

## Officer's Call

MOAA had its first Officer's call for 2026 at Disco Witch. It was a great turnout with plenty of reconnecting and catching up with fellow members. If you couldn't make it, don't worry there are plenty of other meetings and activities in the coming months. Just go to our schedule in the newsletter and mark your calendars.



## MOAA SIGNATURE GROUPS

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

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

**GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES** *from* The Official Travel Agency of MOAA



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## FERNANDINA BEACH HAPPENINGS MARCH 2026

### COOL CARS, FAMOUS FACES, FREE ADMISSION



Friday, March 6, Main Beach 1 p.m.-5 p.m.  
We're kicking off the Amelia weekend in style with the Classic Motorsports Amelia Island Kickoff presented by Sunoco! Our plan is to fill the green space of Main Beach Park, just a few miles north of the Ritz-Carlton, with awesome cars and great people. Along the way, we'll send some of the classic car world's biggest celebrities through the field awarding prizes to their favorite cars. Spectator entry is free – just walk right in, with no registration required. Go to [Cars](#) more information.

### AMELIA ISLAND CONCOURS A MOTORING EVENT LIKE NO OTHER

5-8 March, Amelia Island, FL

Four days of automotive excellence. Amelia is fully loaded with something for everybody. Bring the whole family for automotive fun that will delight all ages, get behind the wheel of a cool car, take a close-up look at some of the world's most impressive vehicles at Sunday's Concours d'Elegance and more. Go to [Concours](#) for more information and tickets.



### THE NIGHTHAWKS

One Night Only!

March 9, 7:30 pm

Live Music. Established in 1972, The Nighthawks celebrate over 50 years in rock and roll. Decades

of gigs and countless rabid fans have earned them the name "The Best Bar Band in the World" Founder, lead singer and harp master Mark Wenner is still at the helm, while drummer Mark Stutso, guitarist Dan Hovey and bassist Paul Pisciotta all share vocals and songwriting, making this lineup one of the strongest ever. More than a bar band or blues band, as they're frequently labeled, this is a band that played with Carl Perkins in addition to Muddy Waters. Go to [Theatre](#) for tickets and more information.



# Nassau County Chapter Meeting and Social Schedule for 2026

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

| <b>Date</b>                            | <b>Event</b>    | <b>Time</b> | <b>Location</b>              | <b>Guest Speaker / Comments</b>   |
|--|-----------------|-------------|------------------------------|---|
| <b>13 January</b>                      | General Meeting | 1130        | FBGC                         | CAPT Tony LaVecchia, USN (Ret)<br>President, Nassau County Chapter of MOAA      |
| <b>10 February</b>                     | General Meeting | 1130        | FBGC                         | Gary Powers Jr.<br>Cold War Historian   |
| <b>24 February</b>                     | Officers Call   | 1730        | Disco Witch Mainland         | 464073 FL-200, Yulee, FL 32097<br>Food available for purchase or bring your own |
| <b>10 March</b>                        | General Meeting | 1130        | FBGC                         | Fernandina Beach Mayor Dr. James Antun  |
| <b>14 April</b>                        | General Meeting | 1130        | FBGC                         | RADM Robert Wirth, U.S Navy<br>Commander, Submarine Group TEN, Kings Bay GA     |
| <b>24 April</b>                        | Officers Call   | 1730        | First Love Brewing On-Island | 22 S 8th St, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034   |
| <b>12 May</b>                          | General Meeting | 1130        | FBGC                         | Janet Adkins, Nassau County Supervisor of Elections                             |
| <b>9 June<br/>**Evening Mtg**</b>      | General Meeting | 1730        | FBGC                         |   |
| <b>Xx June</b>                         | Officers Call   | 1730        | TBD – Mainland               |   |
| <b>8 September<br/>**Evening Mtg**</b> | General Meeting | 1730        | FBGC                         |   |
| <b>13 October</b>                      | General Meeting | 1130        | FBGC                         |   |
| <b>Xx October</b>                      | Officers Call   | 1730        | TBD – On Island              |   |
| <b>10 November</b>                     | General Meeting | 1130        | FBGC                         |   |
| <b>11 December</b>                     | Christmas Party | 1730        | FBGC                         | 1730 Cocktails, 1830 Dinner   |

# **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](mailto: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. VA releases, then reverses, new rule on veterans' disability benefits.
2. Forget happiness: Pursue fulfillment.
3. Pro tips for your transition: How to excel after service.
4. MOAA member inducted into Arkansas military veterans' Hall of Fame.
5. Army officer communities face cuts in service wide restructuring.
6. MOAA-backed caregiver bill takes major step forward in house.

## **NEWSLETTER CORNER**

### **Veterans Affairs website (highlights)**

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

1. VA moves to improve dental care access for eligible Veterans.
2. VA sets new record for customer satisfaction in memorial services.
3. Changes to apportionments.
4. Calling all artists!
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