



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](#). 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.

MAY 2026

MOAA NEWSLETTER/FERNANDINA BEACH

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING WILL BE ON 12 MAY 2026
AT 1130 FERNANDINA BEACH GOLF CLUB (FBGC).**

The MOAA Nassau Florida Chapter will be having its monthly meeting on 12 May 2026 @ 11:30. Our speaker will be Janet Adkins, Nassau County Supervisors of Elections. Janet earned her Bachelor of Science in Information Science from the University of North Florida, maintaining a full-time class load, working a part-time job through her university experience and graduating Magna Cum Laude. Immediately after graduation, Janet started her technology career and began her graduate studies part-time while working full-time. She attained a master's in business administration three years later. Janet spent 12 years refining both her leadership and technical skills as an information technology specialist and project manager at Information Systems of Florida. Her involvement there culminated in client partner status. Janet is currently in her second term as Supervisor of Elections and has served Nassau County for 22 years in elected office, as a volunteer in our schools and on various boards in our community.



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.

CALENDAR EVENTS

09 May: Military Spouse
Appreciation Day

11 May: Mother's Day

12 May: MOAA mtg

17 May: Armed Forces Day

25 May: Remembrance
Ceremony

25 May: Memorial Day

14 Jun: Flag Day

14 Jun: US Army Birthday

21 Jun: Father's Day

27 Jun: PTSD Awareness

Our April general meeting was well attended with over 50 members (10 new members attended, this was a record for our chapter) attending our fourth meeting of the year. Our speaker was the Commanding Officer, SUBASE Kings Bay, Captain Bill Dull. He discussed a wide range of topics that covered his career path to his currently position, Subase Kingsbay future and past, the future of submarine expansion at Kings Bay and all the resources that are available at his base. At the conclusion of his presentation he answered numerous questions from our members. This was definitely one of the best presentations we've had in a long time. 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”

May 2026

Aloha Nassau County Chapter of MOAA Members –

The Chapter is definitely firing on all cylinders and engaging across all the mission area's of Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie. Captain Bill Dull, USN provided an interesting presentation regarding Navy Submarine Base, Kings Bay at the April Chapter Meeting. Those in attendance at the meeting were also able to meet this year's JROTC Scholarship recipient, Jocelyn Smith, and hear directly about her future plans (Philanthropy & Community Service). **Thank you Mike Doran for leading the meeting.**

I was not able to attend the April Chapter meeting as I was in Washingtons DC as part of MOAA's Advocacy in Action (AiA) team. MOAA had 160 members from 49 states participating in AiA. Those 160 members collectively made over 300 office visits to members of Congress to advance MOAA Legislative Priorities. Florida as a whole lead all of MOAA by a wide margin in letters sent to Congress and your specific participation in Call-to-Action emails played a large part in MOAA and Florida's success, you are making an impact (Advocacy)! **Thank you Mike McClane for leading the Call-to-Action effort.**

Our 28 April Officers Call was another successful event with several first time new members attending. It's hard to beat First Love Brewery as it is a great venue with delicious pizza. **Thank you to all that came out and participated (Camaraderie).**

May will also be a busy month for the Chapter with our monthly luncheon meeting on 12 May and the guest speaker being Janet Adkins, Supervisor of Elections for Nassau County. There will also be a donation drive scheduled for the month...more to follow. The Chapter will hold a Remembrance Ceremony on Memorial Day for Sam Lane and Charlie Finnigan at Veterans Memorial Park in Fernandina Beach at 0930. For event dates and times, go to the Meetings Calendar posted to the website at www.ncflmoaa.org and also the [Meeting & Speaker Presentation](#) slides for information.

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 100 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 SCHOLARSHIP

MOAA President CAPT Tony LaVecchia, USN (ret) and JROTC Coordinator CDR Jim Jarvis, USN (ret) present West Nassau High School (WNHS) JROTC Senior Jocelyn Smith with a \$2500.00 Scholarship award from MOAA Nassau County Chapter and WNHS JROTC Junior Connie Smythe with MOAA medal for their years of outstanding leadership, academic, and civic duties while enrolled in Air Force JROTC at WNHS.



MOAA AWARDS

Congratulations to MOAA Nassau County Chapter for a clean sweep in the 2025 MOAA National Awards. We were awarded three “5-star” awards.



- **5 Star LOE Award Winner – 2025**



- **5 Star Newsletter Award Winner – 2025**



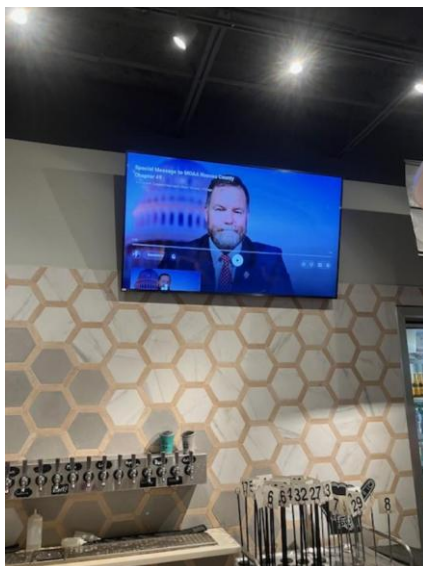
- **5 Star Website Award Winner – 2025 (1st Award)**

MOAA OFFICERS CALL

We had our second officers call for 2026 at the First Love Brew Pub and what a turnout! Over 55-chapter members showed up for free pizza, casual conversation, and just a really good time. House Representative Aaron Bean Fourth District made a special video for our chapter praising us for all our hard work in Nassau County and his District Director Bryan Campbell was also in attendance to represent Mr. Bean and introduce his video.



District Director Bryan Campbell



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

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



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FERNANDINA BEACH HAPPENINGS MAY 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 30, 2026, from 6-8 pm is the second concert. Go to [Centre](#) for more information.

61st Annual Isle of Eight Flags Shrimp Festival

May 1-3, 2026

The 61st annual Shrimp Festival. Food, vendors, and entertainment in Historic Downtown Fernandina. Go to [Shrimp](#) for more information.



29th Annual Shrimp Festival 5K Run/Walk

May 2, 2026

7:00 am-12:00pm

The 29th annual Shrimp Festival run/walk. The 5K begins at Main Beach Greenspace and heads north. Registration opens at 7am and run begins at 8am. Go to [Run](#) for more information.

Opening of the beaches and Wild Amelia Nature Festival

May 16, 2026

10:00-5:00pm

Opening of the beaches, featuring the Wild Amelia Nature Festival, Saturday May 16th at Main Beach. Over 60 exhibitors, vendors, live animal partners, Touch a Truck, and bounce houses will provide hands on, nature-based activities outdoors at Main Beach Greenspace. Music from local favorites and food trucks will be on site. Bring your reusable water bottles for a free water refill. Go to [Nature](#) for more information.



Fernandina Beach Fishing Rodeo

May 29-30, 2026

Marina Lot A

Come and join the Nassau Sport Fishing Association in the first Kingfish Tournament in Northeast Florida for 2026. 6 Species will be targeted in the Rodeo division: Trout, Flounder, Redfish, Sheepshead, Cobia, and Sea Bass. \$10,000 First place guaranteed and an expanded eastern boundary to 12 miles. Go to [King](#) for more information.

The **Fernandina Beach Market Place** farmers' market is a 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. Look for live music, featured businesses, a Booth with a Cause, and the friendliest folks in Florida! You will also find seasonal produce, fresh baked breads, pastries, plants, flowers, beef, chicken, pork, eggs, snacks, jellies, jams, pickles, salmon, jerky, hot sauce, guacamole, dips, salsas, candles, soap and body products, flavored salts, pecans, honey, wild-caught shrimp, specialty food items, and these are just the weekly vendors. For more information go to [Market](#).





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	Theresa Viets, Military Liaison for the Jumbo Shrimp Baseball Club
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	TBD
Xx October	Officers Call	1730	TBD – On Island	TBD
10 November	General Meeting	1130	FBGC	TBD
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. What you should know about the Army's new combat field test.
2. MOAA member found passion in Teaching Post-Service.
3. Advocacy in Action 2026: MOAA's Mission Continues.
4. The next steps: 3 upcoming moments that matter for your benefits.
5. Why I Serve: Marine Officer on Leadership Sacrifice, and Pride in the Corps.
6. Trump clears path for expanded psychedelic research to treat Veterans' PTSD.

NEWSLETTER CORNER

Veterans Affairs website (highlights)

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

1. VA helps Veterans maximize their GI Bill education benefits.
2. It's almost Tax Day: Don't get scammed.
3. Maximize your G.I. bill benefits.
4. VALife: Protect those who matter most.
5. Gold Star Spouses Day.
6. Spring home buying season.
7. Object 2: Bounty Land Warrant.
8. 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