

Central Florida Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
ZOOM Board Meeting Minutes 10am on October 15, 2025

Call to Order

In attendance: Lorraine Holland, Kin LaFate, Randy Fiebrandt, Al Schroeder, John Peters, Tom Love, Bob Brogan, Mike Gilette (Zoom Host). Meeting was being Zoom recorded.

Tom Love gave an opening prayer and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Joanie Fiebrandt could not attend. No minutes to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

LTC John Peters briefed on the treasurers' report. We received the expected \$50,000 bequest from the estate of a previous MOAA member, CDR John Hoffman. We discussed what we do with the \$50,000: if some of it gets earmarked to JROTC Scholarships, should we name the ones we give in his honor; discussed using as an endowment for scholarships or as operating cash or some combination of both. John Peters discussed the T-bill investment opportunities, currently 4% on rotating 4-week bills. One attendee noted he was opposed to naming the scholarship. BoD agreed to put the funds into the general Chapter Fund, 501(c)19, not the Philanthropy Fund, and manage it as needed.

Since our last meeting on March 24th, we were expecting a check for \$2,500 from the Winter Park American Legion Auxiliary (Neil Colbert) to support HTE (not yet received, Kin to investigate). KL says it was approved during the summer and just sent a note to get the status. Trying to track it down.

We received \$2,500 from the MOAA Foundation in support of HTE.

JP briefly discussed the 30 Sept 2025 Financial statement

MOAA Board of Directors Team:

COMMUNICATION:

CDR Fiebrandt – Please NOTE: Randy just published the October FCoC Communique' newsletter found on www.flmoaa.org. Our next full issue of our MOAA CFC Focus is due to Randy NLT October 30th.

SURVIVING SPOUSE:

Pat Green has an excused absence. She is scheduled to give a briefing to MOAA Cape Canaveral at their luncheon on October 21st. She will be traveling to NJ in mid-November to give a MOAA National NE Surviving Spouse briefing.

Question was asked about the Total Force conference and how expensive it is, so no one we know is going. In 2027 it will be in January and will have to move our LTS to March.

CHAPLAINS REPORT:

Chaplain Tom Love had nothing to add about members needed assistance. LH noted that Chris Goodwin (she attended the memorial) reports she will need to back off from the luncheons.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS:

We have our annual MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC) Leadership Training Seminar and Mini Convention at the Rosen Center January 29-31, 2026. Once again, our Chapter is running the Hospitality Room and we are in need of Volunteers! RF is running a golf outing and will be unavailable to all day events due to the LPGA tournament.

One of our newest MOAA CFC members is CDR Mike Ungerman, the Oviedo American Legion Post 243 (LH is also a member) and he holds the position of "Resource Officer." Mike holds a wealth of knowledge to help veterans and their families and is in the process of turning his huge resource book into a website resource. He can't make today's meeting and has said he would accept a position as Director in the Chapter. Bylaws 11.4 says we can add him as a Board Director. Motion to add CDR Ungerman USN CDR was made and approved.

Former CPT Ashley Orf joined our chapter in April 2025, and on Sept 20th, became the proud mother of 9lbs 8oz Michael "Mikey" and sent her thanks for the \$125 Amazon Gift Card our chapter sent her. Mother and baby are both well and thriving!

Save the Date: **October 25th** between 10am-4pm Orange County Veterans Service Office is hosting a Veterans and their Families a Resource Fair that is open to All Veterans! We will host our MOAA Central Florida Healing Through Expression table where we will be offering FREE Art classes for Veterans! Marybeth Verbinski will provide some art supplies and we will be purchasing additional items needed.

November 8th 11:00 AM - 01:00 PM is the 26th Annual City of Orlando Veterans Day Parade in Lake Nona Town Center 7800 Laureate Boulevard, Orlando. This year's Orlando Veterans Day Parade will be held on November 8th at Lake Nona Town

Center! Your MOAA Central Florida Chapter will be attending as an exhibitor (arriving at 9am to set up), so please plan to come out and enjoy the Veterans Day Festivities!

Our Community Salutes (OCS) April 16th 2026 at Edgewater High School at 7pm

Our Community Salutes (OCS) April 16th at Edgewater High School at 7pm to honor Central Florida high school students who have just enlisted in the military. OCS celebrates our Central Florida (and surrounding areas) High School Seniors who have contracted and taken an oath with their local Recruiter to enlist. LH has once again been asked to sit on the OCS Committee and is looking for others who want to help out. Our Chapter will have a MOAA table.

One Senior Place is hosting “Every Day Is Veteran's Day.” On October 24th at 2pm. One Senior Place, is located at 715 Douglas Avenue, Altamonte Springs. The event is in the VITAS auditorium, and the front desk can direct you. The event includes keynote speaker, Nora Sewell, who is an Army veteran. There will be patriotic music, a special pinning ceremony for our veterans and many veteran resources.

There is a free Army Field Band and Chorus concert on Nov 10th at Dr. Philips. It's free for up to 4 tickets. Seating is on a first-come, first-seated basis.

Orlando Westgate Military Weekend Registration. The first 1,000 military families who register on October 28th at 9:30am for the Westgate Military Weekend, will receive FREE hotel nights for December 5 - 7, 2025 at Orlando Westgate.

Important Survey for our Florida Veteran Community

On behalf of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA), we are reaching out to ask for your support in sharing an important survey with the Veteran community (Veterans, Families and Caregivers). The FDVA Veterans Services Survey is designed to better understand what services Veterans and their families are aware of, how they access those services, and what additional support may be needed. Your help in spreading the word will ensure we gather as many insights as possible. Every response brings us closer to making sure no Veteran goes without the benefits and support they've earned.

Our next Chapter luncheon is November 11th. I'd like to discuss that instead of a speaker, we give members a few minutes each to talk about their service and what significant events helped shape the person they are. Our December luncheon is December 9th.

COMMITTEES/DIRECTORS:

Webmaster: Ken Dold was not in attendance.

Kin LaFate: Kin discussed steps on acquiring JROTC Scholarship grant money and Healing Through Expression from Benevity Causes. He has updated our applications

and keeps tweaking our submittals. But not getting much feedback. Thus nothing coming through for our scholarship program.

As we were meeting, he received a note from Nell at American Legion. She stated the grant money was received and wanted an update on our application. Nell indicated they want to be more involved.

2026 Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD). Management working on a date.

Bob Brogan: He has reviewed JROTC supplies (to include Dark Blue Medal pouches). He discussed the need for volunteers to present upcoming 2026 MOAA medals to JROTC schools. BB to try to match up member addresses with schools and discussed the status of an updated JROTC Instructor Roster. BB has a contact with the OCSB to get the updated list.

Lorraine owes Dean Ptaszynski information about the quarterly Combined Professional Associations Group (CPAG) at Central Florida Tech Grove, Research Center near UCF. With Dean's background in and after his service, he is wired more appropriately than Lorraine's mind for this council!

Next BOD meeting to be Dec 15th, 2025, at 0900. We thank Mike Gillett for being so accommodating and willing to host this month's Zoom!

Healing Through Expression (HTE):

Lt Col Schroeder noted it's been quiet with respect to "Healing Through Expression." The proposed event at Doubletree is not feasible and is postponed until next year.

Marybeth Verbinski has not produced a flyer with upcoming dates for free VA Open Studio Art Clinic at Lake Nona. Marybeth Verbinski is the VA Recreational Therapist POC for veterans.

HTE is supporting a NFCU event on Nov 7th at Orlando Regional Realtor Assoc 5421 Diplomat Cir, Orlando 9am-2pm. Veteran artist Kathy will be showing her artwork.

Military History Museum Nov 22 "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans" event. VSO's exhibit during the day and there is a dinner later in the day. BoD agreed to pass on supporting this event.

No word on the Orlando Shakes event. There hasn't been any appreciable increase in ticket sales for the theatre.

Done at 11:41