

THE COASTAL TIDE

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November/December 2025

Grand Strand Chapter Military Officers Association of America



CHAPTER MISSION/PURPOSE

A non-profit, non-partisan organization that fosters communications and mutual support among retired, active, reserve, National Guard, Public Health service, NOAA, and former officers of the uniformed services. Assists community organizations that support service members, patriotic and veteran organizations and their families; provide scholarship opportunities for area high school senior JROTC cadets; conducts fundraising events to support other service members and veterans' programs; conducts annual awards banquet and awards ceremony honoring local area's leading JROTC/ROTC cadets, senior JROTC Scholarship Recipients, and their guests; maintains a proactive chapter affairs program that supports members; promotes the aims and objectives of The Military Officers Association of America; and the aims and objectives of the South Carolina Council of Chapters.

President's Message

Merry, merry Christmas to all and may you all have a very happy holiday season. *Thankful, giving, joyous* are the hallmark adjectives of this holiday season and, as individuals and Chapter members, let us all experience them in full this time of year.

In keeping with those hallmarks, the Chapter has participated this season in a unique and intrinsic manner in two Standdowns: one at the Waccamaw Tribe Pau Wau and the other at the Vet Center's event in Market Common. In both instances the Chapter gave clothing, backpacks, blankets and gift cards to a total of 170 needy, local Veterans.

At our holiday dinner in December, we overwhelmingly contributed to the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots drive, as we do each year. In addition, we hosted a student quintet from Myrtle Beach High School, who not only were great entertainers but enjoyed a meal with us as well.

2025 GS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President/Vet Outreach: John Bradley
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727.771.3712

1st VP/Programs: Dean Brown
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843.318.6315

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978-660-3202

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Webmaster: Bill Stewart
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609.432.4255

Newsletter: Jo-Anne Poirier
jopoirior@comcast.net
978-660-3202

Immediate Past President: Tony Prince
Stephen.a.prince@gmail.com
703.304.7398

Veterans' Outreach: Truman Parmele
Okomfan44@gmail.com
703-258-2708

We enter 2026 with some rearranging of our officers. Our 1st VP is now Karl Jordan with Claude Poirier, Jim Offut, Lisa Rotte and yours truly maintaining their same offices. A few new Board members, some yet to be announced, will also be taking over some integral duties, led by Hans Polzer who will be our new Webmaster. Our newsletter editor, who you can tell is doing a superlative job, will continue to be Jo-Anne Poirier.

At our 13 January 2026 dinner meeting we are going to try something new: I, with the help of all our Board members, will be the speaker and will explain what the Chapter accomplished in '25, how we currently stand financially and what our goals and strategies will be for all of '26. We will do our best to enlighten everyone on just how we operate as an organization. I sincerely hope we have a record turnout.

As your returning President, I thank you for all your support, remind you that I am always open to new ideas and hope to see and speak with you all soon.



2025 Board Members (above L-R): Jim Albert, Bill Stewart, Jerry Terwilliger, Jim Offutt, Claude Poirier, John Bradley, Tony Prince, Karl Jordan, Dean Brown, Lisa Rotte, Larry Ballantine

2026 Executive Board Installation (below, L-R): 1st VP Karl Jordan, Secretary Lisa Rotte, Treasurer Jim Offutt, 2nd VP/Membership Claude Poirier, President John Bradley



Never Stop Serving!

John Bradley, CDR, USN (Ret.), President



November 2025 Meeting

First VP Dean Brown announced our newly elected chapter officers for 2026.

President: John Bradley

1st Vice President: Karl Jordan

2nd Vice President: Claude Poirier

Secretary: Lisa Rotte

Treasurer: James Offutt

Veterans Outreach Chapter director, Truman Parmele, spoke about the Stand Down held at the Aynor Wacamaw Indian reservation in October. 47 veterans were served. Special thanks to Del Webb for their generous donations of clothing to support this effort.

South Carolina Council of MOAA Chapters: It was announced that our own Jim Albert is now the South Carolina Council President, and Claude Poirier is the Membership Officer for the State Council. Jim and Claude were installed at the recent November 8 meeting in Greenwood, SC (see photos in following pages). Anyone interested in helping with any State MOAA efforts to support our state-wide veteran community can reach out to Jim by email at james.r.albert@att.net or by cell at 203-509-8555.

Special Guest Speaker, General Laura Richardson: Gen. Richardson gave us an overview of her career from her time in ROTC to commanding an assault helicopter battalion in the 101st Airborne Division in Iraq. General Richardson shattered barriers and set an example for future generations of service members. As General, she held multiple high-profile commands, including serving as the Deputy Commanding General of U.S. Army Forces Command and the first woman to ever lead U.S. Southern Command. She was appointed to U.S. Global Leadership Coalition National Security Advisory Council which includes nearly 270 retired three- and four-star generals and admirals among its ranks. The Coalition supports advancing America's national security by strengthening all the tools of national security — diplomacy and development, alongside a strong defense. Gen. Richardson gave a special thanks to the JROTC members who were present at our meeting.



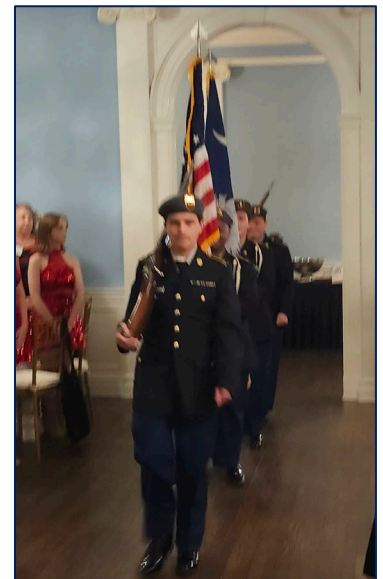
The Loris High School JROTC presented colors at our November meeting.

December 2025 Meeting

Our new officers were sworn in and the meeting got underway. President John announced that Pine Lakes Country Club offered the Chapter a 2026 contract for our dinner meetings with no increase in price. Great news!

Treasurer Jim Offutt reported that Chapter finances are in good shape; all bills are paid, 2025 expenses were close to budget, and we currently have approximately \$32,000 in our two accounts.

Veterans Outreach director Truman Parmele announced that the recent Stand Down held at the General Reid Center in Myrtle Beach served 123 veterans, making a total of 170 veterans served in 2025.



The Green Sea High School JROTC presented colors at our December meeting.



Special Guest Speaker, Jerry Hoover:

Jerry (a former U. S. Marine), with the help of his wife, Nancy, is the Horry County coordinator for the Toys for Tots program. Currently there are 800 donations boxes placed throughout the county. In 2024 over 58,000 toys were donated, which provided 20,000 kids with a gift at Christmas time. Toy collection includes a combination of locally donated toys, those purchased by the Foundation, and those donated by corporations. Jerry said that each toy is documented and each recipient is verified. Today, there are nearly 40,000 Marines,

Marine Corps League members, veteran Marines and volunteers involved in annual campaigns. Jerry said he lives by the motto, "A child for every toy, a toy for every child." Thanks to all our members who donated two full boxes of toys at our meeting.

Quilts of Valor: Quilt of Valor® (QOV) is a quality, handmade quilt that is machine or hand quilted. It is awarded to a Service Member or Veteran who has been touched by war. The Quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation." To use the term Quilt of Valor, Quilts of Valor or QOV, the quilt must be a specific size, must have a label with required information, it must be awarded (it is not a gift) and it must be recorded. We encourage any Chapter member who has not been awarded a Quilt of Valor to submit an application. Check out the eligibility requirements and complete an application online at [Quilts of Valor Foundation](https://www.quilts-of-valor.org/).

(Pictured at right: A recent recipient of a QOV receives his quilt at a special ceremony.)



After dinner, we were entertained by the talented Hawkapella Quintet singers from Myrtle Beach High School.

Military Trivia



(1) Fort Independence is a granite military structure and one of the oldest continuously fortified sites in the United States, operating since 1634. The Fort now lies within a state park on what island?

(2) “A pint of sweat will save a gallon of blood” is a quote attributed to which hero of World War II?

Answers below.

WHAT IS MOAA?



MOAA is a nonprofit, nonpartisan association of officers from America's uniformed military services and the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. We are active duty, retired, former, and National Guard and Reserve officers, and surviving

spouses, supporting all ranks and branches who serve or have served, as well as family members. MOAA advocates with Congress, DoD, the VA, and other departments to preserve and protect commitments made on behalf of a grateful nation to those who have served and those who continue to serve our country, fulfilling MOAA's promise to “Never Stop Serving.”

Military Officers Association of America
201 N Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
(800) 234-6622

EVENTS & REMEMBRANCES

December

- Dec. 1** Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary) Birthday
- Dec. 7** Pearl Harbor Day
- Dec. 9** Chapter Dinner Meeting Pine Lakes CC: 6:00 p.m.
- Dec. 13** National Guard Birthday
National Wreaths Across America Day
- Dec. 14** Hannukah Begins
- Dec. 25** Christmas Day
- Dec. 26** Kwanza begins
- Dec. 31** New Year's Eve

January

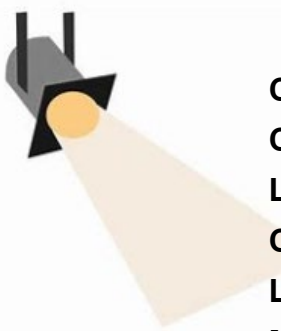
- Jan. 1** New Year's Day
- Jan. 13** Chapter Dinner Meeting Pine Lakes CC: 6:00 p.m.
- Jan. 19** Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

February

- Feb. 3** Four Chaplains Day
- Feb. 4** USO Birthday
- Feb. 10** Chapter Dinner Meeting Pine Lakes CC: 6:00 p.m.
- Feb. 16** Presidents Day
- Feb. 19** Coast Guard Reserve Birthday

Trivia answers:

- (1) Castle Island, Boston, Massachusetts
- (2) General George S. Patton



2025 New Chapter Members

CWO4 Kirk Atwood
Col Landis Cook
Lt James Douglas
CW4 Charles Felder
LtC George Mastromichalis
Maj Glenda Parker
LTG James Richardson
LtC Mark Singleton

LtC Christopher Beale
1Lt Don Cox II
LtC Mark Edwards
LTG Maria Gervais
CW4 Larry Murphy
LtC Raimondo Piluso
GEN Laura Richardson
Capt John Taylor

MEMBERSHIP

I respectfully ask all chapter members to assist me in recruiting potential new members. I have two simple recruiting tools that we can use. First, if you have an acquaintance who has served as an officer in the military and who may be interested in joining our chapter, please forward to me their contact information and I will reach out to them. Second, if you happen to live in a residential community and would like me to present the benefits of MOAA to a group, I will gladly add the event to my schedule.

CWO2 Claude Poirier, USCG (Ret.)
MOAA Life Member / GS MOAA Membership Chair
claudelsa@yahoo.com 978-660-3202

And remember, all new members get their first dinner on us!



TREASURER'S REPORT

Jim Offutt, Treasurer

Fiscal Year Report 2025

Income:	\$61,183.01
Budget:	\$59,780.00
Variance:	\$1,403.01
Expenses:	(\$69,843.03)
Budget:	(\$73,745.00)
Variance:	(\$3,901.97)
Net:	(\$8,660.02)
Budget:	(\$13,965.00)
Variance:	\$5,304.98

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Active Advocacy Campaigns

Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Improve and Enhance the Work Opportunity Tax

Credit Act: Military spouses face a 21% unemployment rate, five times the national average, due to frequent moves and challenges tied to military life. Congress must incentivize employers to hire military spouses by adding them as a target group under the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) program.

Halt TRICARE's Plan to End GLP-1 Coverage for TRICARE For Life: Support MOAA's efforts to protect GLP-1 weight-loss medications for retirees covered by TRICARE For Life.

Honor Veteran Caregivers: Veteran caregivers make profound personal and financial sacrifices to care for aging and disabled loved ones. Congress must pass the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act to provide these caregivers with the education, employment, and retirement support they deserve.

Stop the 34-Year Wait - Deliver Toxic-Exposed Veterans the Care They've Earned:

Millions of veterans exposed to toxic substances during their service are forced to wait decades –more than 34 years, on average – before they can access VA care and benefits for service-connected illnesses. Congress must pass legislation to bolster the legal framework for creating presumptive conditions, ensuring toxic-exposed veterans receive timely care.

Ask Congress to Address the Hazardous Unaccompanied Housing Conditions Rampant in the Military: Thousands of servicemembers live in unsafe, substandard military housing due to years of underfunding and lack of oversight. Congress must require DoD to publicly report the condition of unaccompanied housing and ensure funding is used for necessary improvements.

Fix TRICARE's IVF Coverage Gap for Servicemembers and Their Families: Provisions in the House and Senate versions of the FY 2026 NDAA would require TRICARE to cover assisted reproductive technology, including in vitro fertilization (IVF), for active duty servicemembers and their families.

Fix the TRICARE Young Adult Coverage Gap: This bill would expand TRICARE eligibility to young adult dependents up to age 26, bringing TRICARE in line with commercial plan requirements.

Ensure Servicemembers Can Afford Housing—Restore Full BAH: Our troops don't get to choose where they serve—but they should always be able to afford a home. Tell Congress to restore full Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) and support military families.

Love Lives On: Protect Surviving Spouses' Right to Remarry: Contact your representative and senators and urge them to support the Love Lives On Act to secure the right for surviving military spouses to remarry at any age and retain their benefits.

Reach out to your lawmakers today [via MOAA's Legislative Action Center](#), and keep up with the latest on this legislation and other MOAA priorities at the [advocacy news page](#).

VETERAN OUTREACH REPORT

GS MOAA held its second Veteran Stand Down on November 24 at the General Reid center at Market Commons. Our members registered 123 veterans and provided winter jackets, hoodies blankets, boots and civilian clothing. A total of 170 veterans were served through our services this year. Thanks to our many volunteers whose dedication made these Stand Downs a success. Our chapter has successfully conducted 28 Stand Downs in the last 6 years, a total that few, if any, MOAA chapters have conducted.

Volunteers for this important outreach service are needed. Please contact Truman Parmele at 703-258-2708 or via email okomfan44@gmail.com. Thanks to all.

~ Truman Parmele



Grand Strand MOAA volunteers at the Myrtle Beach Stand Down in November.

Reminder: Our own Truman Parmele has been selected to receive a MOAA Changemaker Award for 2025. He will be featured in the January issue of MOAA Magazine; be sure to check it out. Congratulations and thanks to Truman for all his hard work and dedication!



JROTC/ROTC Update

Our chapter supports 16 high school JROTC programs throughout the year. Currently, two more high schools are adding Army JROTC units which will bring our support to 18 schools.

Note: As Karl steps into his new role as 1st Vice President of our Chapter, we are in need of someone to take over the JROTC/ROTC liaison for our local schools. It does not require a lot of time, and Karl will assist in the transition. Please consider offering your assistance to this important cause.

~ Karl Jordan



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Thank you very, very much.

Something started me thinking about gratitude when I realized it was November already. Maybe it was turning the calendar page or roast turkey and cranberry sauce? Whatever, it prompted me to rehearse my favorite song from the Broadway musical "Scrooge."

Thank you very much!

That's the nicest thing anyone's ever done for me

It sounds a bit bizarre

But things the way they are

I feel as if another life's begun for me

Thank you very, very, very much!

I'll sing it for you next time we meet if you'd like.

Feeling grateful is a simple and profound concept. "Thank You" is easy to say but we don't hear it enough. But, when we do, it makes me feel tingly. Long ago in the olden days people used to write little notes (in cursive) to people who gave them birthday presents and stuff. What happened?

Fortunately, I still experience easy pleasure for many personal blessings: family, yellow roses, all kinds of sports (except duckpin bowling), my electric blankie, peach pie, pecan pie, cherry pie, Thursdays, church, anything painted blue, thunderstorms, classical music, puppies that don't bite, morning coffee, and some other things.

You can be grateful for avocados and computers since they are not on my list.

Mostly, I'm of the appreciation factor because I'm certain gratitude comes from God Who gives all. He it is who makes thankfulness delightfully simple and mysteriously profound. I tell Him so every day. And that makes us both happy in November.

So, let me celebrate the autumn festival with you by assuring our Chaplains Corner viewers (all three of you) for who you are, for what you've given America, for your family and mine, and for your MOAA friendship.

Thank you very, very much.

~ Chaplain Bernie Calaway

"The Most Wonderful Time of the Year"

My wife and I recently took a trip to Germany for a 14 day whirlwind tour of the many Christmas Markets that major cities conduct every year. We started in Berlin, where I happened to begin my Army career as a young, enlisted man stationed in what was then "West" Berlin and lived at Andrews Barracks. We then ventured to Dresden, Leipzig, Nuremburg, among other smaller cities and ended our time in Munich. NOTHING in the world compares to the remarkable efforts the German people put into these markets. Currywurst, pommes frites, gluhwein and thousands of decorations adorn all the stalls. It's a very festive time.

But something else struck us as we visited. Much of Germany is now a "reconstructed" Germany. Extensive bombing in WWII left most of these cities 75% or more destroyed. But they recovered. They rebuilt. In many cases they took what was left of some structures, particularly Churches, and used what remained to erect new buildings as almost exact copies of what was there before, restoring their historical significance.

I sometimes think we need to do the same thing in life. Lots of things come against us in life, maybe a difficult relationship, family complications, difficult jobs, or the challenges of retirement. I believe that at this time of year, we have the chance to do some rebuilding of our lives. And maybe we can do what the Germans did, take bits of the vestiges of what was left and rebuild them into something new. We can make this time of year a time for new beginnings and make it truly the "Most wonderful time of the Year."

May the God of us all bless you greatly during this holiday season!

~ Chaplain Len Kircher

SURVIVING SPOUSES CORNER

Christmas can be difficult when you are alone. The loss of a loved one is particularly hard, and that can be intensified around the holidays. Spending Christmas alone doesn't always feel festive. Advertisements show big family dinners and matching pajamas, while your reality might look like takeaway on the sofa or a quick long-distance call at best. But being alone doesn't have to feel painful or lonely. Christmas can feel much easier and much calmer when you take away expectations and focus on what

makes *you* feel good. Christmas alone doesn't mean you're unloved or forgotten. It simply means you have full control over the day — your food, your pace, your plans, your peace. It can be a relief when you stop comparing and start designing a holiday that puts your wellbeing first. Here's a couple ideas:



1. **Do Things That Bring You Joy.** Joy doesn't need to be big or performative. Small pleasures help ease loneliness and keep your energy balanced.
2. **Practice Self Care.** This is the perfect time for a soft, soothing self-care day.
3. **Do A Creative Festive Project.** Creativity shifts your focus and helps calm your mind. If you're struggling with how to survive Christmas alone, hands-on projects offer comfort and distraction.
4. **Enjoy Some Festive Movies Or Books.** I never miss that old "Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer" Movie or "It's a Wonderful Life!"

But know this. We at MOAA care about you and your well-being. We are here for you. Please join us for our monthly dinners! We love seeing you and you are always welcome!

And most of all, have the merriest of Holidays this year!

Chaplain Len Kircher
Surviving Spouse Representative
Grand Strand MOAA



MOAA members were honored on the field at the CCU Football Game on Nov. 8, 2025.

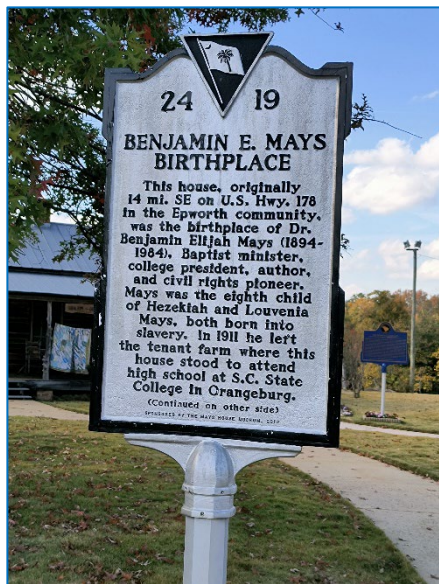
Members in the photos (L to R): Karl Jordan, Jerry Terwilliger, Randy Dymond, Pete Brzezinski, Randy Rotte, Larry Ballantine, Don Cox, Charles Felder, Joe Davis, and the CCU Mascot! Also attending the game were David Thompson and Richard Thompson, as well as spouses and guests of members: Cherie Jordan, Lisa Rotte, Karen Terwilliger, Mary Davis, Gwen Cox, and Gemma Gallovich.

**Grand Strand MOAA members at the
Veterans Day ceremonies at Warbird Park, Myrtle Beach.**



South Carolina Council of MOAA Chapters Biennial Conference Greenwood, SC • November 8, 2025

While in Greenwood, some of our members enjoyed tours of the Railroad Historical Center Museum and the Benjamin Mays Historic Site.



MOAA Insurance Plans

Help protect your family's medical and financial needs with MOAA-endorsed life and health insurance plans. Includes TRICARE Supplement Insurance, Life Insurance, AD&D Insurance, Hospital Indemnity & Short-Term Recovery Insurance, Pet Insurance and Long-Term Care Insurance.

South Carolina Council of MOAA Chapters Biennial Conference Greenwood, SC • November 8, 2025

Grand Strand members attending the conference were Jim and Denise Albert, Truman and Dot Parmele, Claude and Jo-Anne Poirier, John Bradley, and Jim Offutt. Jim Albert was installed as President of the State chapter, and Claude Poirier was installed as the Membership Advisor.



MOAA Vacations

Thinking about an adventure? You've come to the right place. MOAA Vacations can assist with every cruise line, ship, and tour company in the world, plus airfare and hotels. Choose among countless opportunities, and experience full concierge service and satisfaction guaranteed with MOAA Vacations.



[Application Form](#)

GRAND STRAND CHAPTER
OF THE
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

www.grandstrandmoaa.org



ONE POWERFUL VOICE

Grand Strand Chapter MOAA: ☐ Application/Renewal ☐ Change of address /contact info

Chapter Annual dues: \$20.00 for regular membership or \$50 For 3 year membership.

For NEW MEMBERS: \$20 1st Quarter; \$15, 2nd Quarter; \$10, 3rd Quarter; \$20, 4th Quarter (Good for Following Year).

Make check payable to: "Grand Strand MOAA". Mail to: MOAA Grand Strand Chapter, P.O. Box 15842, Surfside Beach, SC 29587.

Last name _____ First name _____ MI _____

DOB _____ Rank _____ Service _____ Spouse's name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

Email address (please print clearly !!) _____

Are you a member of National MOAA? ☐ If yes, please provide membership number: _____

Status: ☐ Retired ☐ Active ☐ Reserve ☐ National Guard ☐ State Guard ☐ Former Officer ☐ Auxiliary ☐ ROTC ☐ JROTC

{My signature below verifies that the above information may be shared in a Members Only Directory and that I am eligible for MOAA Chapter membership.}

Amount: \$ _____ Check ☐ Cash ☐ For year(s) _____ Signature _____

Additional amount (donation) for this year's scholarship awards: \$ _____

Current employment (optional): _____

Professional skills (optional): _____

- If Auxiliary member or applicant, please indicate your spouse's full name, military service affiliation, rank, and current status: _____
- Interested in a Chapter leadership/committee position? If yes, what? _____ (continue on reverse)

MOAA Mission/Purpose: To foster fraternal relations (and mutual support) among retired, active duty, and former officers of the uniformed services and their National Guard and Reserve counterparts, ROTC cadets, their families and survivors; Assist community organizations that support service members and veterans and their families; to provide funds for college scholarships for area high school seniors (normally JROTC students); conduct fund-raising to support other service member and veterans' programs (e.g. Wounded Warrior visits); provide annual MOAA leadership awards to graduating cadets in all area high school approved/active JROTC programs; participate, collaboratively, in coastal community events and activities, as priorities and resources permit; Maintain a proactive chapter affairs program that supports members during health and other family emergencies; promote the aims and objectives of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA); and, the aims and objectives of the SC MOAA Council of Chapters. MOAA and its affiliated Chapters and Councils are non-partisan.

USE TO RENEW AND/OR SIGN UP A NEW MEMBER