



# THE DEFENDER

A monthly publication of the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association  
[www.nwfmoa.org](http://www.nwfmoa.org)

Vol. 22 No. 12 Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services DECEMBER 2016

## Lunch Meeting & Discussion

**When:** Thur, 1 December 2016  
**Time:** Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200  
 Program to follow  
**Place:** Ft. Walton Bch. Yacht Club  
 180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB  
**Program:** Opus One

Please:

- **MAKE A RESERVATION**
- Wear a name tag
- Bring proper change:  
 \$13.00 for everyone

Reservation deadline is Friday at noon prior to meeting. Go online at [www.nwfmoa.org](http://www.nwfmoa.org) and select the link where it says "Click here to make reservations", or email Dick Prater at [nwfrservations@gmail.com](mailto:nwfrservations@gmail.com), or call 850-613-6080 if you are attending.

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## Help Us Celebrate the Christmas Cheer!

By Scott Berry

It's that time of year again and Opus One will again be with us to celebrate this joyful time of the year. Make plans to join us for their annual visit. I am thrilled (and I'm sure you are too) that they have agreed to come back this year. For those of you just arriving from Mars, Opus One is the A-team of Niceville High School's choral department. Each December they are our special guests and perform for us their version of traditional seasonal songs.



Opus One

The holiday season begins and they start the season with us. This honor has been with us for quite some time and it will surely get you in the spirit. The chorus is lead by Director Michael Dye of Niceville High School. Michael Dye is in his 27th year as choral director at Niceville High School and his 41st (I think) year as a choral music educator. A native of Arkansas, he received the Bachelor of Music Education Degree from Henderson State University and the Master of Music Education from Arkansas State University. He conducts all six of the primary choruses at Niceville High School and is the director of the choral music program.

Most of you have heard me state in the past that Opus One doesn't get any government

subsidy at all—zero, nada, zilch. So.....I ask you bring a donation to offset the cost of their many performances—both in and outside the U.S. Small denomination bills will be fine—those with picture of Hamilton, Jackson, or maybe Franklin would work best but I'm sure they'll be grateful for the ones with George and Abe. These singers will be grateful for your support no matter how small or large your gift may be. If you have other questions about the choral program you may e-mail Mr. Dye at [dyem@mail.okaloosa.k12.fl.us](mailto:dyem@mail.okaloosa.k12.fl.us) or may call the chorus room office at (850) 833-4262.

With Veteran's Day and a tumultuous election behind us and Thanksgiving ahead, please take time to count your blessings! See you on the 8th!

# Do you have your tickets?

# From the President's Pen

By Scott Berry

Greetings!

Lots going on in the past and also in the future. Now that the election is over, I'm ALMOST able to watch the evening news without raising my blood pressure and am no longer deluged with Facebook posts with people who have a "tude."



Scott Berry

I've been reminded—again—that if you search long enough on the internet you can find someone or some blog site that will agree with you on virtually any subject. One blog site declared a presidential candidate was leading by 120,000 votes in Florida but it was almost a week before early voting actually started. You got to laugh about it because if you don't.....

But things are looking up. Opus One comes to us again and what a blessing they are to get ready for Christmas. We also have the Annual Military Ball where some of you will win great gifts at a fraction of their market price. And then there's our chapter elections with some new people coming on board. Much to my dismay, it looks like you'll have Scott Berry to kick around one more year as president. Thank God there's a strong board of directors to support me.

What happened to the interest to visit the Biophilia Center? See my article elsewhere in this issue for details.

Eileen Arpke has graciously offered to become the new Personal Affairs Committee chairperson. Thank you, Carol Baker, for your work in this area. I'm sure you'll be hearing more from Eileen but let me offer one thought: all of us are part of this committee in that we inform Eileen when a member might need our help or emotional support.

Continued on page 7

## PUBLIC RECORD

New Member:

Chaplain Tom Azar, LtCol, USAF

## HAVE A BALL

**Ticket Order Form for the  
NWFMOA Annual Military Ball  
to benefit the Scholarship Fund**

**WHEN:** 6 December 2016

**WHERE:** Fort Walton Beach Yacht Club

**DRESS:** Mess Dress, Gown or cocktail dress, formal or business suit.

**SOCIAL HOUR:** 1800; Pay-as-you-go bars will be open.

**DINNER:** 1900; **DANCING:** 2000 until 2200 with "Retroactive."

Dinner will include:

**First Course:** House Salad with Raspberry Vinaigrette

**Choice of Entrée:**

(1) 8 oz Beef Filet

(2) Chicken Marsala

**Sides:** Loaded Mash Potatoes and Broccoli with Cheese Sauce

**Dessert:** French Silk Pie

Dinners served with rolls, butter, iced tea, and coffee

**Ticket Purchaser's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHOICE OF ENTRÉE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ times **\$45.00** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ with check enclosed.

(Price includes Meal & Gratuity)

**Spouse/Guest's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHOICE OF ENTRÉE** \_\_\_\_\_

When paying with cash, please provide full mailing address.

When ordering by mail include a **stamped self-addressed envelope**,  
a check payable to NWFMOA, and this form to:

**NWFMOA, PO Box 1213, Shalimar, FL 32579.**

Allow sufficient time to get your tickets returned by mail.

Ticket Order Form must be **RECEIVED** by **November 25, 2016**.

Table reservations may be made for groups of eight by contacting

**Scott Berry at (850) 582-0839 or email: [swberry@cox.net](mailto:swberry@cox.net).**

List names of people at your table. If you are to be seated at someone's reserved table please coordinate with the reservation holder.

+++++

You are encouraged to make a charitable contribution to the Scholarship Fund by supplying an additional check made payable to:  
NWFMOA Scholarship Fund.

*All proceeds from raffle ticket sales go to providing scholarships for JROTC cadets.*

**Raffle tickets & Silent Auction are CASH or CHECKS only, please.**

## SUPPORT MOAA

Do what you can to support our national organization. To learn what's going on and to find out what you can do go to: <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/> We all will benefit from your efforts.

# NWFMOA Community Outreach

By Dave Parisot

An upcoming event is the trip to the **E.O. Wilson Biophelia Center**, 4956 State Hwy 20 East. Freeport FL 32439 on Saturday, December 10th which has been arranged by Scott Berry. (See article on page 6 of the November Defender.) I was there about four years ago for a RESTORE Act meeting



and plan to go again. It is a very interesting place involved with various types of wildlife, plants, and environmental activities. The tour will be from 9:00AM – 11:30AM. Call or email Scott [(850) 582-0839 or [President@nwfmoo.org](mailto:President@nwfmoo.org)] if you plan to attend. This will be a great carpool opportunity.

**Veterans Day** was Friday, November 11th. Our NWFMOA chapter had a float (see photo) in both the Crestview and Mary Esther parades to honor military veterans. The



Crestview and Baker High Schools JROTC detachments both had cadet units marching in the Crestview parade. The enthusiasm of the crowds along the parade routes was fantastic. We are truly blessed to live in such a community which so enthusiastically supports our military.

There was a good turnout of our Chapter members at the Veterans Day service at the Beal Memorial Cemetery also. The speaker was BG-Select Sean Farrell of AFSOC. Prior to the service, the JROTC cadets of Fort Walton Beach High School placed over 1,600 U.S. flags at veterans' gravesites.

## Hear Yea Hear Yea

*Hear Yea Hear Yea.* The end of the year is rapidly approaching; there are less than 60 days left when you read this. For most of us that means that it is time to renew our Chapter membership. (those of you that have Life or 3 year memberships not expiring can skip the rest of this. Look at the mailing label on your Defender and it will give you the expiration date of your membership.) I know that you do not want to end your association with our great MOAA Chapter.

There are many excellent events during the year where we gather to enjoy each other's company and to hear entertaining and educational speakers. Every monthly meeting features an outstanding speaker. I would not think that you would want to miss any of these. Where else can you meet "The Geek" and get to ask him questions in person. Or hear a great speech from General Horner. Where else can you gather with your fellow officers for the periodic [Officers Call](#) at Shalimar Cheers.

And, as you know, our monthly meetings are now held at noon at the Ft Walton Beach Yacht Club. If you have not eaten one on their meals you have missed some great food.

**Membership Renewal** 1yr—\$25.00, 2 yr—\$48.00, 3 yr—\$65.00

Get your membership renewed now and **avoid the year end rush**. Mail to NWFMOA, PO Box 1213, Shalimar, FL 32579-1213

# Surviving Spouse Corner

## Being Thankful

**By Sharon A. DeVaney,  
Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee member**

We will celebrate Thanksgiving the fourth Thursday in November. But this was not always the case.

Here's a little history: The first Thanksgiving was celebrated by the Pilgrims in 1621 after their first harvest in the New World, and the feast lasted three days, with 90 Native Americans and 53 Pilgrims in attendance. On Oct. 3, 1789, President George Washington proclaimed the first official Thanksgiving to be held Nov. 26 of that year. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day should be observed the last Thursday in November. This again changed Dec. 26, 1941, when President Franklin Roosevelt signed a bill into law declaring that Thanksgiving should fall on the fourth Thursday of November.

Everyone has different Thanksgiving traditions. Maybe you will begin the day with a church service. You might help to cook and serve a meal at a charitable organization or on a military post or base. Maybe you will celebrate at home with family and friends. Or perhaps you'll be busy making a plan for your Black Friday shopping excursion. However you spend your time, if you have loved ones serving overseas, I am sure your thoughts will be with them and their fellow servicemembers.

For me, this day always has been about finding recipes for my favorite dishes, shopping for groceries, and planning how to prepare the meal. My husband's agenda for the day includes a run followed by a turkey dinner and watching football games. When we were overseas, we went to the mess hall for Thanksgiving. There were several benefits: 1) The mess hall was decorated; 2) the meal was wonderful and someone else had done the work; and 3) we could visit with all our friends without having to cook, serve, and clean up after the feast. I want to thank all the dining hall chefs and staff everywhere for making Thanksgiving so enjoyable for families far away from home.

However you spend your day, remember to give thanks for our servicemembers all over the world. I hope you have a happy holiday.

# Legislative Issues

**By Dave Parisot**

I am now the new Legislative Liaison for our Chapter. As such, I plan to monitor legislation that is "inching its way" through Congress, in particular those issues that are part of MOAA's legislative agenda. I will also monitor any military issues and bills that are proposed by the Florida Legislature. Occasionally there may be a "call for action" requesting that you to contact various Senators and Representatives (both national and state). The 2017 Florida Legislature will meet for its 60-day session in April-May 2017.

A very good way to stay current with MOAA legislative issues is through the [www.MOAA.org](http://www.MOAA.org) website and by signing up to receive MOAA's weekly newsletters by email. Periodically MOAA will provide 'suggested letters' to send to our local Congressional senators and representatives. Please review these and mail in if you agree with the comments. I usually write-in some additional comments to "personalize" the letters rather than just sending the pre-printed version.

In case you are not already aware, this year's COLA adjustment to military retired pay and social security benefits will be a 'whopping' 0.3 percent. This means monthly benefits of \$4,000 will be increased by \$12 (before taxes).



By Chaplain Tom Azar, USAF Retired

Ahh the sounds of the holiday season are back again. Every major religion celebrates their leader or religions importance in their unique way. How many years have we been celebrating and each year notice the evolution of our Judeo-Christian heritage shrinking and evolving towards the politically correct standard?

As a Christian pastor, chaplain and counselor I celebrate with others our Creator God's breaking into human history and gifting us forgiveness and love through grace His only begotten Son who was born of a virgin. Jesus the Christ taught, healed, guided and brought us into a reconciled relationship what the Almighty God for the forgiveness of our sins. One man nurtured 12 who reached out and multiplied their numbers to build a worldwide church. Of course there were failures but we still see the fruits of their labors in our family and military core values.

So let's make it personal. Is there any way this Christmas can be spiritually different for you and your family? Is there something we could say or do that brought the true spirit of Christ back into our world in a new and fresh way to those we will encounter this December? As God broke into human history is there a way you can break into that history of another person by showing them the fruits of our Christian life—Peace Joy Kindness Goodness Love Patience Gentleness and Love?

Yes it is always memorable to decorate a tree and surround it with gifts as you prepare a special meal for those closest to us. Now if Jesus came to your house this month what encouragement would he offer you and what enlightenment would he share if He held up a mirror before you?

What gift would you bring him and what would you say to Him in Thanksgiving?

In this final season of our earthly life I pray we can touch others with the essential gifts that produce eternal results in another life, and our own. Have a blessed Christmas.

**HEF** Howard E. Fisher, D.D.S.  
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By: Reid Goldsboroug

As we have experienced in the just concluded election season, the issue of truth versus falsity has been taken to new heights - or, perhaps, depths. The online world also has a history of misinformation, disinformation, urban myths, rumors, conspiracy theories, and deception. But just as the internet is a fount of falsehood, it's also a source of tools for verifying statements and alleged facts. Some helpful sites include:

- Emergent
- FactCheck
- Hoax Slayer
- PolitiFact
- Skeptic's Dictionary
- Snopes - for getting to the bottom of urban legends, folklore, myths, rumors, and misinformation.
- Truth or Fiction
- Wikiquote - for checking the accuracy of quotes.

Keep in mind, anybody can play expert online, and many do. You frequently see, for instance, lay people playing lawyer, offering legal opinions about complicated subjects and advising others on what's legal and what's not when it's clear all they've done is Googled to find a statute or court case. Then there are the outright lies and similar statements that show no regard for the truth or falsity of the matter, only the agendas and biases of those behind them.

As a reader, it's good to be skeptical, not cynical, about information you come across and don't believe everything you read.

In asking yourself "Is it true?" also ask:

- Who's behind the information? Different sources employ different levels of thoroughness in research and fact-checking and different levels of objectivity.
- Why is the person or organization presenting the information? Individuals and organizations often have agendas, sometimes explicit, sometimes hidden. Advocacy groups and companies, for instance, have different reasons for putting out information than news organizations.

Continued on page 6

# Scholarship Fund

By Dave Parisot, Chairman

I want to thank our Chapter members who answered my “plea” and brought donations of wine and spirits for the raffles at the Military Ball on December 6th to the November luncheon: **Loren Bartley, Nick Marotto, Larry Bush, George Colton, and Dave Parisot.** My special thanks to **Charlotte Eschmann** who donated a gift basket and a boxed gift set of Dewars for the raffle at the Ball in addition to wine and to **Fred Westfall** who brought gift certificates for 4 rounds of golf with cart from **Gator Lakes Golf Course.**

**We can use more donations of wine, spirits, gift cards, or other products for the Scholarship Fund raffles at the Ball. Please bring them to the December luncheon meeting on the 1st.**

The **Eglin Federal Credit Union** has renewed its Business Silver donor with a contribution of \$250 and the **Gator Lakes Golf Course** at Hurlburt is a new Business Bronze donor. Please support these businesses.

The 50/50 raffle at the November luncheon was won by Rich Comer with \$65 going to the Scholarship Fund. This was our last 50/50 for 2016 (no raffle at December meeting in deference to the collection for the Opus One choral group). The total proceeds from the 50/50 raffles for 2016 is \$787, enough to fund one-half of a \$1,500 scholarship. Thank you to all who bought raffle tickets throughout the year.

We have two new members of the Century Club in November, **Pete Peterzen** and **Jean Dutton** along with two membership renewals by **John Feldman** and **Howard Fisher.** Thank you for supporting our scholarship program.

Here’s the complete list of Century Club members (\$100 minimum donation) for the most previous 12 months of 2015/2016 along with our Business Donors:

**BG Frank Glunn Century Club:** October 2015: Frederick Rall. November 2015: Dick Prater. December 2015: Carol Baker; Karl Eschmann. January 2016: Clyde Locke (Renewal); Dan Brown (Renewal). February 2016: Mel Bryant (Renewal); Charlie Brown; John Holt; Bill Ryan. March 2016: Fred Westfall (Renewal); William Colgan; Dave Parisot (Renewal).

Continued on page 7

# Tech Tactics (cont.)

Continued from page 5

- Is the information paid for? Ads and advertorials are inherently less reliable than other information.
- Does the information diverge from my current understanding? If it diverges widely and might affect an important business, health, or family decision, try to verify the same information with at least two other sources. Your local librarian can be a valuable resource here.
- Is the information new or old? A lot of deadwood data is floating around in cyberspace at websites that haven't been updated in several years. If the site doesn't include a "Last updated" line or otherwise date its content, check out some of its links. If more than a few are no longer working, the information at the site might no longer be up-to-date either.

Whether online or off, the byword is, and likely always will remain, caveat lector: Let the reader beware.

# What’s a Biophilia?

Many of you got the answer to this question when Paul Arthur gave a presentation earlier this year. When I took a straw poll vote after the presentation I got a fair number of hands raised. We’re set for 12/10 at 0900. But you know what? **I have only five people who have signed up!** By the time you read this it’ll only be several weeks before the tour, so PLEASE contact me soonest and let me know if you wish to attend.



# Scholarship Fund (cont.)

Continued from page 6

May 2016: Kristine Sams. June 2016: Fred Boyer (Renewal); Eileen Arpke (Renewal); Larry Bush (Renewal). July 2016: Beryl Brenner (Renewal). August 2016: Tom Churan (Renewal)); October 2016: Ruth Cullen (in memory of William Cullen); John Feldman (Renewal). November 2016: Pete Peterzen; Jean Dutton; Howard Fisher (Renewal).

**2015 Business Platinum Donor** (\$750 minimum donation): April/November 2015: Eglin Federal Credit Union

**2015/2016 Business Silver Donors** (\$250 - \$499): May/December 2015: Shalimar Pointe Golf Club (In-kind); November 2016: Eglin Federal Credit Union.

**2015/2016 Business Bronze Donors** (\$100 - \$249): November 2015: Merrill Lynch Wealth Management; May/December 2015: Tommy Mattonie's Coastal Café (In-kind); December 2015: Tammy's Journeys (In-kind); Mary's Kitchen (In-kind); November 2016: Gator Lakes Golf Course.

Please support our local businesses that have contributed to our scholarship program.

NWFMOA Scholarship Fund, Inc.: "Helping to build future military officers and leaders."

## SCHOLARSHIP DONATION FORM

Please accept this gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund (Donations of \$100 or more will be recognized in the B/Gen Frank Glunn Century Club).

Donor Information (if not printed on check):

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Gift is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

This gift is a memorial in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please inform the following of this gift:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, ST ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Make payable to: **NWFMOA Scholarship Fund**, and mail to: David Parisot, President; 56th 11th St, Shalimar, FL 32579

NWFMOA Scholarship Fund, Inc is a 501c(3) corporation. Donations are tax exempt as provided by law. Registration # CH20374. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the FL Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Services by calling toll free (800) 435-7352 within the State of Florida or via their website of [www.800helpfla.com](http://www.800helpfla.com). Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.

## President's Message (cont.)

Continued from page 2

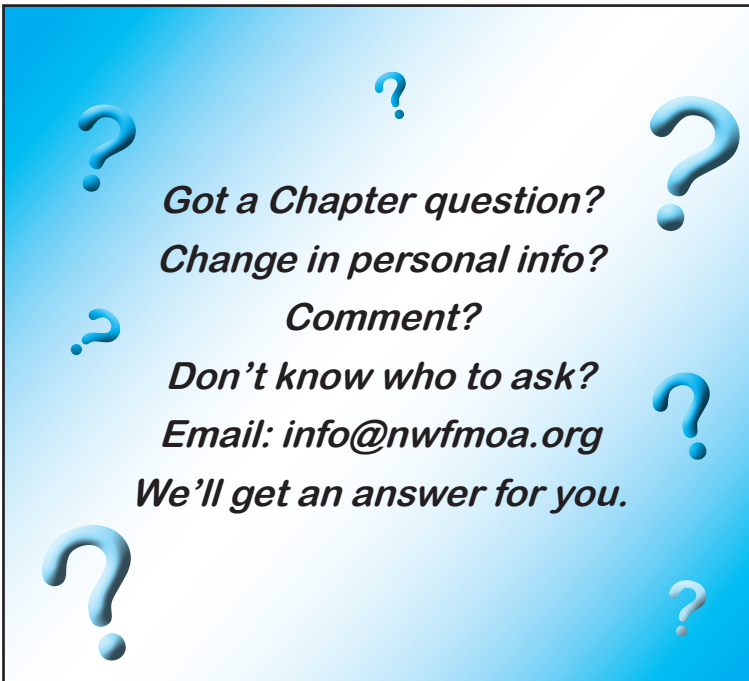
Please keep her informed so she can better do her job and we can offer help to chapter members.

Have a bless Turkey Day and be mindful of all we've received.

Berry "OUT"

### EDITORIAL POLICY

The Defender is a monthly publication of the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association. The purpose of this publication is to communicate with, inform, and educate chapter members. The national MOAA, this local chapter, and this publication are totally nonpartisan.



*Got a Chapter question?  
Change in personal info?  
Comment?  
Don't know who to ask?  
Email: [info@nwfmoa.org](mailto:info@nwfmoa.org)  
We'll get an answer for you.*

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*AN INVITATION TO YOU: The membership of NWFMOA extends a sincere invitation to join us in our social, cultural, professional and service activities that extend from the local to national levels.*

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 Address                      City                      State & Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address

Rank                      Service                      MOAA Mbr. No

Regular     Reserve     National Guard     Active Duty     Retired

**This application is for:**

Life Member     New Member     Renewal     Auxiliary     Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to NWFMOA** or to Northwest Florida Military Officers Assn., Inc. Check here if you do not want your  name,  phone number or  email address listed in printed chapter directories. **Membership includes a subscription to The DEFENDER for the dues period.** We are a charter member of MOAA and recommend that our members belong to the national organization. Our association is also a member of the Florida Council of Chapters, itself an affiliate of MOAA.

\*\*The spouse of a deceased life member is automatically an auxiliary life member.

**Membership Application/Renewal**

**New Members joining this year receive membership through December 31 next year for \$25.00.**

**Membership Renewal**  
 1yr—\$25.00, 2 yr—\$48.00, 3 yr—\$65.00

Life Membership Dues**			
Age	Dues	Age	Dues
101+	Free	71-75	240.00
96-100	50.00	66-70	275.00
91-95	75.00	61-65	295.00
86-90	110.00	56-60	335.00
81-85	150.00	51-55	360.00
76-80	195.00	-50	395.00

**Auxiliary Members**  
 Pay half of the above rates

