

Captain's Call – September 2011

As we are still without a newsletter editor, I am asking our Secretary, Gary Runyon, to forward this to everyone so that you will all be up to date prior to our September luncheon meeting.

First: the joint luncheon at the Citrus Hills Golf and Country Club was 1st class! The food was delicious, the company enjoyable and our guest speaker thoroughly held our attention. Although I must confess that the news brought to us by Sheriff Jeff Dawsy was a bit unsettling, it was spot on for providing the membership information of importance as well as interest. It's sad to realize that the same technology which brings pleasure and productivity to our daily lives is also enabling pedophiles to be more aggressive and pervasive. Our thanks go out to Sheriff Dawsy and his force for their diligence in protecting our community from the scum of the world.

Congratulations to J.J. Kenney and his committee for another outstanding job in the selection of the recipient of the Bud Wise Scholarship. Cadet Devan Brown from the Crystal River High School Navy JROTC is an extraordinarily fine choice. Devan and her mother sat at the table with Sheriff Dawsy, Committee Members RADM McLeod and Col Marge Blunk, and me. I was very impressed with her poise and maturity. She was clearly very comfortable in surroundings that would have made a lesser person uneasy. We wish Devan the very best in her pursuit of an engineering degree. I am confident that she will succeed.

This year's Florida Council of Chapters Convention was terrific. The convention, hosted by the Cape Canaveral Chapter was a cruise! We managed to get all the Council business accomplished while at sea and enjoyed port visits to Coco Cay, St Thomas and St Maarten. Participating this year were Radm Mac McLeod, Marge Blunk, Tom and Pat Green, Sharon Richie-Melvan and Michael Melvan and Tim and Joy Holme. We sailed from Cape Canaveral and returned eight days later. We all had a really great time and I think this cruise thing could become a habit. Just ask Tom and Pat. ☺

July found us back at our old stomping ground, the Riverside resort in Old Homosassa for Sumer Time Blues. We had another great turnout with over 30 members and guests present just for food and fun. Joy's sister Carolee provided some very attractive patriotic center pieces for the tables which were awarded to several attendees in our free raffle. The food was good as usual and it was nice to catch up on news from folks we hadn't seen since early May. I understand that it was Ron and Cynthia Resare who started this event some years back. I think it was a great idea and look forward to next year's gathering.

Our first meeting of the year will be September 1st at the Emperor's garden. I have invited our newest Chapter member, Commander Garfield Jones, USPHSR, to be our guest speaker at this meeting. Gary Runyon and I met Commander Jones at Congressman Nugent's veterans fair at Nature Coast High School and talked him into joining our Chapter. Commander Jones is currently working with Central Florida

Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (FLESGR). I am looking forward to hearing what's going on with the effort to find employment for our folks returning from deployment and seeking civilian employment. If you have friends with the local Guard and Reserve programs, be sure to invite them to lunch on the 1st.

I am pleased to announce that our Chapter is once again a recipient of a Level of Excellence Award from MOAA. Our award was first announced as a Four Star award for Chapters with 200 – 299 members (Category III) when it was submitted as Category V (less than 120 members). FCOC President Don Freese and I questioned the award but were informed that it didn't affect the level of award. MOAA has corrected their announcement and I hoping to have the award presented by Don at our October meeting. Don has also been invited to be our guest speaker on that occasion as we are scheduled to receive our 30 Year certificate as well.

Our speaker for November will be Paula A. Welenc, LMSW, who is a member of MOAA and the Manager of the James A Haley Veterans' Hospital Fisher House is Tampa. She will discuss the operation of the Tampa Fisher House and will update us on the plans for a similar project for Gainesville.

I have extended the Chapter's invitation to be our guest speaker and installation officer at our December 1st Installation Dinner to Congressman Richard Nugent, FL (5). We won't know until much closer to that date if he will be able to join us. Hopefully he can get away from Washington on a Thursday to join us.

Lastly, please come to the September luncheon prepared to volunteer and encourage others to do so as well. In addition to needing a new Chapter Secretary (Gary says 15 years is long enough), we also need someone to assume Newsletter responsibilities, and someone who can help me with luncheon program planning would especially welcome. We need to put together the entire slate of officers well prior to the November luncheon.

See you on the 1st.

Tim