

**By-Laws of the Bradenton Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
February 9, 2026**

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be: Military Officers of America – Bradenton Chapter, hereafter referred to as the “Chapter”.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSES

The purposes of the Chapter shall be:

- a. To promote the purposes and objectives of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).
- b. To protect the rights and interests of active duty, retired, reserve, and National Guard personnel of the uniformed services, their family members, and their survivors.
- c. To provide useful services for Chapter members, their families, and survivors.
- d. To encourage and facilitate camaraderie among retired, active, and former members of the eight uniformed services and their National Guard and reserve components.
- e. To serve the community and the nation upholding the MOAA mantra “Never Stop Serving”

ARTICLE III. STATUS

Section 1. The Chapter shall operate as a non-profit organization exclusively for the purposes specified in Article II above. It shall function as an affiliate of National MOAA and the MOAA Florida Council of Chapters.

Section 2. Officers, directors, and appointed officials shall not receive any stated compensation for their services, but the Board of Directors may authorize reimbursement of expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

Section 3. Nothing herein should constitute members of the Chapter as partners for any purpose. No member, officer, or agent of the Chapter shall be liable for acts or failures to act on the part of any other member. Nor shall any member, officer, or agent be liable for acts or failures to act under these by-laws, excepting only acts or failures to act arising out of willful malfeasance or misfeasance.

Section 4. The Chapter shall use its funds only to accomplish the purposes specified in Article II above, and no part of said funds shall inure or be distributed to its members.

Section 5. In the event of dissolution of the Chapter and after discharge of all liabilities, the remaining assets shall be turned over to a non-profit organization whose purpose and objectives are like those of the Chapter, such organization to be designated by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING

Section 1. The membership of the Chapter shall be composed of men and women who are serving or have served on active duty or in one of the National Guard or reserve components as a commissioned or warrant officer in one of the eight United States Uniformed Services (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service); their spouses, the widows and widowers of any deceased individuals who would, if living, be eligible for membership; and non-commissioned officers of the military services serving on active duty or honorably discharged from active duty. Retired officers of Allied military services may be enrolled with approval from the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Subject to the provisions above of Section 1, the membership shall be of the following classes:

- a. Regular members – Officers, warrant officers, and spouses as described in Section 1.
- b. Associate members – Widows or widowers of any deceased individuals, who would, if living, be eligible for membership as associate members with full rights and privileges of membership.
- c. Affiliated members – Non-commissioned officers serving on active duty or honorably discharged from active duty may apply for membership and if approved by the Board of Directors as affiliated members with full rights and privileges of membership. National MOAA membership not available.
- d. Honorary members – Individuals who by their contributions to the community, state, or nation are deemed worthy of the honor by the Board of Directors and are not otherwise eligible for membership.
- e. Allied members – Officers of the militaries of Allied nations.

Section 3. Regular members are required to hold and maintain membership in national MOAA. Any member holding Chapter office who is eligible for national MOAA membership is required to hold and maintain membership in national MOAA. Associate, affiliated, honorary, and Allied members are not required to hold and maintain membership in national MOAA, but if eligible they are encouraged to join national MOAA.

Section 4. The Board of Directors, by a two-thirds vote, may drop any member for good and sufficient reason after that member has been given any opportunity by the Board to be heard at a meeting.

Section 5. Except as otherwise provided in these by-laws, all questions coming before membership shall be decided by a majority vote. All members present at a regular meeting of the Chapter shall constitute a quorum.

Section 6. Only members in good standing shall be entitled to vote. Proxy voting shall not be permitted.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

Section 1. The elected officers of the Chapter shall be President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Social Secretary. Each of these officers should be a Regular or Associate member of the Chapter.

Section 2. The officers shall be elected annually at a November general meeting of the membership based on the recommendations of the Board of Directors who will meet prior to the November general meeting. The officers shall serve a term of one year. They may serve consecutive terms if they desire and the Board of Directors agrees to submit their name to the general membership. Rotation of officers is desired.

Section 3. A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled automatically by the 1st Vice President. A vacancy in the office of 1st Vice President shall be filled automatically by the 2nd Vice President. Vacancies in the other offices should be filled as the Board of Directors may decide.

Section 4. The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Chapter. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter, Board of Director meetings, be ex-officio with right to vote, and be a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

Section 5. The 1st Vice President shall perform all duties of the President in the event of the President's temporary disability or absence and other such duties as directed by the President and/or the Board of Directors. The 1st Vice President shall be responsible for the Chapter luncheon programs and other such duties as directed by the Board of Directors.

Section 6. The 2nd Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in the event of the President's and the 1st Vice President's temporary disability or absence and other such duties as directed by the President and/or the Board of Directors.

Section 7. The Secretary shall provide timely written notification of all meetings of the Chapter and shall maintain records of all proceedings. Additionally, the Secretary should perform all duties required to administer the Chapter. This includes, but is not limited to, conducting all exchanges of routine correspondence.

Section 8. The Treasurer shall be responsible for receipt, safekeeping, and the disbursement of all Chapter funds. The Treasurer shall maintain adequate booking procedures and records for the foregoing.

Section 9. The Social Secretary is responsible for planning, scheduling, and coordinating all Chapter functions.

Section 10. The appointed officers of the Chapter shall be the Chaplain, the Historian, and other such officers as the Board of Directors may deem necessary for the operation of the Chapter.

ARTICLE VI. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of all elected officers, the immediate two Past Presidents and the Chairpersons of all committees.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall have supervision, control and direction of the affairs of the Chapter; shall determine its policies or changes within the limits of the by-laws; shall actively pursue its purposes; and shall have discretion in the disbursement of its funds. It may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of the Chapter's business as may be required and appoint such committees as it may deem necessary.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall not be authorized to adopt resolutions or establish positions in the name of the Chapter.

Section 4. The Board of Directors shall meet upon the call of the President at such times and places as maybe designated. The Board of Directors may also be called upon to meet when requested by a majority of Chapter members.

Section 5. A majority of the entire Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting.

Section 6. All motions coming before the Board of Directors shall be decided by a majority with each member of the Board present being entitled to one vote. Proxy voting shall not be allowed.

ARTICLE VII. ELECTIONS

Section 1. No later than September each year, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee, chaired by an appropriate member of the Board of Directors, consisting of a total of at least three members of the Chapter to nominate candidates for elective office. The Nominating Committee should make its report on candidates to a subsequent general meeting at which additional candidates for office can be nominated. The Board of Directors shall present the slate of officers for a vote at the November general meeting. The election of Chapter officers will be held at the November general meeting.

Section 2. Installation of elected Chapter officers should take place at the December general meeting.

ARTICLE VIII. DUES

Section 1. The annual dues for all members shall be determined by the Board of Directors at a meeting in the fall of the year in preparation for announcement at the December general meeting and via electronic means.

Section 2. The annual dues are for the calendar year. The payment of dues should be paid by January 31 and will become delinquent if not paid by February 28 of the calendar year.

Section 3. The Board of Directors may determine if any actions regarding individuals who do not pay their dues would be appropriate, including authorizing their membership to continue if they pay the annual dues during the calendar year.

ARTICLE IX. FINANCES

Section 1. No member, officer, or committee shall have the authority to obligate funds by agreement either verbal or written except by express authority of the Board of Directors. Arrangements for regular luncheons, dinners, or parties may be made by the appropriate committees appointed by the President.

Section 2. MOAA-BC Charitable Fund Inc. exists within the Chapter. Its purpose is to solicit and distribute funds to deserving people or agencies as determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. MOAA-BC Endowment Trust is a separate agreement created by the Chapter. This trust supports the charitable goals of the Chapter including the JROTC Scholarship Program. It is administered by trustees who are Chapter members. An Endowment Trust Committee is established as a Standing Committee of the Chapter to oversee the relationship with the Manatee County Foundation who holds the trust. The investment income supports the Manatee County High School JROTC Program Scholarships.

ARTICLE X. COMMITTEES

Section 1. The President, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint such standing and special committees as may be required by the by-laws or be advisable.

Section 2. The Standing Committees of the Chapter should be Membership, JROTC Support, Endowment Trust, Legislative, Community Engagement, and Surviving Spouse.

ARTICLE XI. MEETINGS

Section 1. Board of Director Meetings. The President should call Board of Director meetings to proceed General Meetings. These meetings should conduct appropriate Chapter business and provide results to the members at the General Meeting and through electronic means.

Section 2. General meetings shall typically be held monthly except for the summer months of July and August. Dates, times, and locations will be determined by the Board of Directors. The date and time of meetings will be distributed electronically to the membership.

ARTICLE XII. APPROVAL AND AMENDMENTS

Section 1. The by-laws should be approved by a vote of a majority of the members in attendance at a General Meeting.

Section 2. Amendments to the by-laws should be approved by a vote of a majority of the members in attendance at a General Meeting.

Section 3. By-law approval and amendments should be provided electronically to Chapter members in advance of General meetings.

ARTICLE XII. PROCEDURES

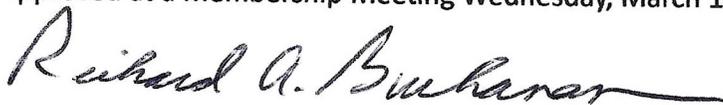
Section 1. The Chapter will comply with Robert's Rules of Order whenever conducting meetings.

Section 2. The American Flag will be displayed and honored at all General meetings of the Chapter.

Section 3. Attendance at national MOAA convention meetings or at Florida Council of Chapters meetings will normally be at personal expense. The Board of Directors has the authority to approve funding for these meetings at Chapter expense when it is deemed to be in the best interest of the Chapter.

Section 4. Reservations at Chapter luncheons are requested 48 hours in advance for notification to the facility hosting the luncheon. Refunds for payment will not be provided within 48 hours of the event.

Approved at a Membership Meeting Wednesday, March 18, 2026



Richard A. Buchanan, RADM US Navy (Retired) Chapter President