

MOAA



VOICE

Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 50, NUMBER 5

“Serving Those Who Serve America”

MAY 2020



PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS

Members and associates
We continue to cope with the extraordinary measures of the Coronavirus response. While we cannot meet as a group, I encourage our members to reach out to one another by phone or email. For the more technically adept,

there are a number of ways for video meetings. Last Sunday my church streamed its services live with a virtual coffee hour after using Zoom. However you choose to do so, let’s take the opportunity to stay in touch with each other until our meetings resume.

Without knowing when things will be back to normal, we are unable to provide any future event schedules. We will alert the Chapter about our revised schedule once we have confirmation that meeting restrictions have been lifted.

With all of our time at home I learned of a very inspiring and useful new word: *Tsundoku*. No, this is not the puzzle (Sudoku). Rather, *tsundoku* is a Japanese word that means the stack of books on your nightstand waiting to be read. How timely is that? May we all utilize our shelter in place time to dig into our *tsundoku*.

Another reason to continue to stay in touch with each other is so that the Chapter can be aware of any needs of its members. Please communicate any notices of sickness or special needs to Myrna Hurst, our “Sunshine Lady”.

Fortunately, the impact on Sonoma County has been mild so far. Please continue precautions to avoid catching and/or spreading disease. Remember the new mask requirements on April 17. Let’s look forward to a large celebration when the lockdown ends.

LT William P. Matz, USN , President
707-837-2161 - matz@sonic.net

“Sunshine Lady”

Call Myrna Hurst, 707-468-0146,
if you know of anyone in the chapter who
might enjoy a get well or sympathy card.

MAY LUNCHEON IS CANCELLED.

THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY OF June 13th
PICNIC WILL ALSO BE CANCELLED

** POSSIBLE CANCELLATION** SATURDAY, JUNE 13th, PICNIC At Two Rock Coast Guard Base

At the present time Two Rock Coast Guard station is locked down. All facilities are closed. A retired service member may be able to get gas only.

They are trying to protect their students and do not want outside contacts at the present time.

If some wants to go out to the base, they should call someone to see if you can get on the grounds. 707-765-7211

NOTE: The Redwood Empire Chapter normally awards and honor our Col Brey Scholarship winner(s) at our June Picnic. Our Board will have to work out what we are going to do. We will notify our members at a later time..... rrs

MAY BOARD MEETING CANCELLED.

THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE JUNE 2nd
BOARD MEETING WILL ALSO BE CANCELLED



MOAA BOARD MEETINGS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Tuesday, June 2, 2020,
11:30am, In the Santa Rosa Vet’s Bldg Conference Room.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings.
Refreshments will be served.

Legislative Affairs – May 2020

GENERAL COMMENTS: FRAUD ALERTS

COVID-19:

With the massive and diverse information regarding COVID-19 being passed on ALL media sources including internet, there is ample opportunity for hackers, fraudsters and other criminal actors to threaten the integrity of our sources through misinformation, erroneous information, or pure lies. MOAA has published some guidelines to assist in protecting against fraudulent emails, telephone calls, etc.

First, is to know how legitimate organizations do business can give you a leg up on anyone who attempts to pull the wool over your eyes.

- Health officials you've never contacted will not email you or come to your door. If this happens, contact your local police department immediately. Legitimate health organizations will not intimidate you with repercussions if you do not do what is asked.
- As in previous years, if the IRS threatens you with arrest, prosecution, or confinement, you can safely know that the representative you are dealing with is a fraud.
- Similarly, hospitals will not contact you seeking money to provide an urgent service for a loved one. If there is any question, contact your local hospital or the family member for further confirmation.
- Your bank will not call you to offer investment alternatives or to move around funds during market uncertainty. Be especially suspicious if the contact comes from a financial organization that you do not have a relationship with.

Secondly, watch out for cyber threats. Scammers are emailing, calling, etc. advising that your computer has been hacked by a coronavirus and you need to have *their* help. At this time, there is no digital version of corona virus.

- So, watch out for attachments or links. What I do if I have a doubt, it to call the person who sent it – friend, bank, or credit card – and ask them if they sent it. Sometimes, if a stranger calls, ask them some questions that only your friend or bank would know. If they hang up, you will have removed any doubt.
- The Army CID has identified some sites which may possibly be carrying malware.
-coronavirusstatus.space ~ -coronavirus-map.com ~
-blogcoronacl.canalcerodigital ~ -coronavirus.zone ~
-coronavirus-realtime.com ~ -coronavirus.app
-bgvfr.coronavirusaware.xyz ~ -coronavirusaware.xyz

CENSUS-2020

All veterans are urged to complete the 2020 Census Survey ASAP because it can make a difference in the amount of money the state will get for veterans' programs. However, you need to avoid scams online, so look out for some of the following scams:

Phishing is a criminal act in which someone tries to get your information by pretending to be an entity that you trust. Phishing emails often direct you to a website that looks real but is fake—and may be infected with malware.

Websites A key way to identify scam websites is to look at the website address. All valid Census Bureau websites will always have ".gov" at the end. 2020census.gov provides key information about the 2020 Census and how to respond. My2020census.gov is the direct website address you can use to respond to the 2020 Census online. 2020census.gov will also direct you to my2020census.gov to respond.

It is important to know that the Census Bureau will not send unsolicited emails to request your participation in the 2020 Census. You won't receive Census Bureau emails unless you have signed up to receive them. Remember, the Census Bureau will never ask for your information via email. Further, during the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau will never ask for:

- Your Social Security number.
- Your bank account or credit card numbers.

- Anything on behalf of a political party.
- Money or donations.

LEGISLATION: Federal:

Chapter 61 of Title 10 – Retirement or Separation for Physical Disability.

In 2004, Congress approved concurrent receipt for retirees who are rated 50 percent disabled or greater prior to which military retirees could not receive both retirement pay and disability pay.

However, this left those who were medically retired prior to completing 20 years of military service could not receive this benefit which today represents more than 200,000 service members. They are called "Chapter 61 Retirees" which is an injustice

LEGISLATION: State:

It is clear that the Legislature will focus on the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic and social effects once it returns to Sacramento. Legislators are being told to reduce the number of bills they are authoring and to restrict the remaining few to issues that relate to COVID-19. Some committees have announced they will not hear any bill that is not COVID-19 related.

While this looks like a real uphill battle, I feel we need to keep our priorities on top. Otherwise, they will die of coronavirus quickly. It's the case of the squeaky wheel getting oiled.

Military Retired Pay Exclusion.

We will try again to get some form of tax exemption for military retirement. Granted that this idea is a long term wishful thinking. However, there are now only TWO states, California and Vermont that do not grant, at least a partial exemption to military retirees and/or SBP recipients.

SB 1071 (Sen Wilk) proposes a phased in exemption over several years and SB 1007 (Sen. Huseo) which will phase in in 2021. We need to get our State Senator McGuire on board. I will try to get to talk to him once I get some more talking info.

AB2380 (Choi) Proposes exclusion of military survivor benefits for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2020, and before January 1, 2025.

AB 2688 (Cervantes') This bill proposes \$11 million for county VSO support. This is a vitally important need since budgets have sacrificed the county VSOs, particularly in the northern counties.

STAY SAFE, STAY HEALTHY!

Vern McNamee, Legislative Chairman

Redwood Empire Chapter member WILLIAM ANDERSON

Has offered the following:

Do any of our members need help? As a landlord I can repair many house issues for our members. **FREE!**

Can I transport supplies? I live in Santa Rosa; I own 46 properties in this state alone and I am my own maintenance service. The kinds of things I can do are:

- Replace faucets
- Water heaters
- Toilet rings
- Light switches
- Door locks
- Hang blinds
- That kind of stuff
- Members pay for Parts
- Labor is **FREE**
- Trim brush, tree limbs
- General stuff

This list is not inclusive, and anyone can call.

William Anderson at 707-331-0366

Chapter Event Refund Policy

By Tim Morgan, Treasurer

Over the past year, due to several different reasons, no shows at chapter events (Luncheon, Dinners, etc.) have become a problem for accounting. For events held at the Flamingo Hotel, we are required to provide the hotel an estimate of the expected attendance at the event. We are typically charged by the Flamingo a fee based on our estimate of this number. When a prepaid member is unable to attend the event, for whatever reason the Chapter is expected to pay the Flamingo for that meal. If we know ahead of time (any time prior to 10am on Wednesday before the Thursday event), that the member can't make it (and/or the number of guests change), we can adjust the head count estimate to the Flamingo and avoid this problem. At the February 2020 Board meeting, a policy on no show refunds was determined. The policy is as follows:

RECMOAA – Event Refund Policy

For members who have paid in advance for an event and for any reason, determine that they will be unable to attend that event, a refund will be provided to the member, if the chapter Secretary is contacted prior to 10am on the Wednesday before the event. Upon request the member also may optionally indicate to the Secretary that funds be directed to the Col. Brey Scholarship Fund in lieu of a refund. After 10am Wednesday, should a prepaid member fail to show at the event, the funds will be directed to the Chapter General Fund.

If there are any questions about this policy, please contact Tim Morgan, Treasurer (707-695-9293).

VA » Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs » News Releases
Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs
April 17, 2020

VA Partners with Treasury Department to Deliver Economic Impact Payments to Veterans and Survivors

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today it is working directly with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and U.S. Treasury Department to ensure delivery of 'Economic Impact Payments' to Veterans and survivors who receive Compensation and Pension (C&P) benefit payments from VA without additional paperwork or IRS filings.

The 'Economic Impact Payments,' authorized by the Treasury Department under the [2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#), will be issued automatically to recipients of non-taxable VA benefits who did not file annual income tax returns for 2018 or 2019. VA and the IRS have been collaborating since the passage of the CARES Act to ensure Veterans receive their EIP.

"Many have expressed concern that Veterans

and their beneficiaries would be overlooked during the distribution of Economic Impact Payments from the CARES Act simply because they don't file an annual tax return," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "This collaboration will ensure our Veterans receive CARES Act payments without any additional action or paperwork required."

Economic Impact Payments will be automatic for non-tax filing VA beneficiaries. For VA beneficiaries who filed a Form 1040 for 2018 or 2019, those payments will also be automatic. No further action is needed. They can track the status of their payments on the Get My Payment tool on IRS.gov. For non-tax filing VA beneficiaries, please note their information will be loaded on this tool within the next few weeks.

For VA beneficiaries who didn't file a tax return in 2018 or 2019 and have a dependent, there is a special step they need to take, and the sooner the better. They should visit ***the Non-Filer: Enter Payment Info Here*** tool on IRS.gov. By quickly taking steps to enter information on the IRS website about them and their qualifying children, they can receive the \$500 per dependent child payment in addition to their \$1,200 individual payment.

VA recognizes that many non-tax filing beneficiaries have already begun using the [IRS' EIP payment portal](#) to provide the necessary data to IRS to receive their EIP. There will be no interruption to payments being processed using the IRS portal, and Veterans with internet access are encouraged to continue providing information and track their EIP through the IRS portal.

For those who do not have access, or choose not to use the IRS portal, their EIP will be processed without further action on their part.

While no date for distribution has been set at this time, VA is securely sharing necessary beneficiary data with Treasury which will allow Treasury to begin issuance of Economic Impact Payments.

For more information on CARES Act 'Economic Impact Payments,' visit: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/economic-impact-payments-what-you-need-to-know>.

MAY BE LAST MOAA VOICE FOR SOME MEMBERS THAT HAVE NOT PAID DUES FOR 2020

There are **18** members that have not paid their dues. Initials listed below:

FAB,RNC,HFC,SDiii,RBD,LE,DE,WJH,
HWH,BPK,LDC,JAM,JAP,RAR,AS,DLT,
MGW,NDW.

Call Secretary for more information
Bob Safreno ~ 707-795-3963 / 707-479-9374

2020 DATES TO REMEMBER

May:
 5th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 16th Armed Forces Day – Rose Parade, Santa Rosa
 25th Memorial Day Ceremonies
 27th United Veterans Council meeting
 28th Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa

June:
 2nd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 13th Saturday, Picnic at Two Rock. Honor Brey Recipients
 24th United Veterans Council meeting

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 July:
 7th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Pick a nominating committee
 4th Parade in Calistoga
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 22th United Veterans Council meeting
 23rd Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa

August:
 4th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 15th Riverfront Regional Park, Annual BBQ
 26th United Veterans Council meeting

September:
 1st BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2020 officers
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information

**
 19th - 20th Air Show at CMS Airport?
 23rd United Veterans Council meeting

**
 18th or 25th ?? Friday, Luncheon, Two Rock USCG (\$10.00?)

October:
 6th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information

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 22nd Luncheon or Dinner?, Flamingo, Election of Officers for 2021
 28th United Veterans Council meeting

November:
 3rd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 11th North Bay Veterans Day parade (Wednesday)
 20th Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building
 25th United Veterans Council meeting
 26th Thanksgiving Day

December:
 1st BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 7th Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??
 6th Sunday, Holiday Social Flamingo Resort & Spa
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 NO United Veterans Council meeting
 25th Christmas

** Not Confirmed at this time

All Meals at Flamingo will be Buffets

06/32/06

“GOOD SPEAKERS ARE NEEDED”

Chapter members:

Who do you want to hear from?
 Please send your suggestions to
Don Nowacki, (707)528-2895,
 or by e-mail: nowacki@sonic.net

MOAA WIVES CLUB

(Sonoma County Main - All members welcome)

2020 Officers

President: Dayle Johnson	408-466-6764
Vice President: Liz Warren	707-763-6957
Secretary: Tina Lewis	707-539-5546
Treasurer: Florence Wall	707-837-7389
Parliamentarian: Donna Poulter	707-576-0513

The next meeting of the Wives Club
 scheduled for Wednesday, May 13th
 has been canceled.
 Stay safe, everyone!

Tina Lewis, Publicity 707-539-5546,
tinalewis31@comcast.net

Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2020

<u>President:</u>	William P. Matz, USN	707-837-2161
<u>1st Vice President</u>	Maj Ken Johnson, USAF	408-466-6764
<u>2nd Vice President</u>	1/Lt Donald J. Nowacki, USANG	707-595-1047
<u>Secretary:</u>	Cpt Robert R. Safreno, USAF	707-795-3963
<u>Treasurer:</u>	LCDR Tim Morgan, USNR	707-695-9293
<u>Imed. Past President:</u>	CPT Lee P. Hoskins, USA	707-328-2316

CAL-MOAA Director, Area I

Cpt Tom Walther, USAF	530-673-5499
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Directors-at-large - Term 2020

CDR Donald D. Confer, USN	707-763-8198
Martina Lewis	707-539-5546
LTC Gary Meagher, AUS	707-544-4089
Mary-Gwen Neisingh	707-481-7614

Directors-at-large - Term 2020-2021

LTC Robert L. Ayers, Jr.	707-230-2571
Col Jack L. Krout, USAF	707-762-8613
Donna Poulter	707-576-0513
CPT Lewis Wall, USA	707-837-7389

Directors Representing Sub-Chapters:

<u>Lake:</u>	CAPT Daniel W. Christensen,	707-263-3297
<u>Mendocino:</u>	Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst, AUX	707-468-0146
<u>Sonoma Valley:</u>	Maj B. K. White, USMC	707-996-1335

MOAA VOICE

Co-Editor	Tim Morgan	707-695-9293
E-Mail	Tim Morgan	blackcloudbrew@comcast.net
Editor Mail Distribution	Bob Safreno	707-795-3963
E-Mail	Bob Safreno	Shadowbob1@juno.com
Online	http://www.redwoodwmpiremoaa.us	