

# MOAA

Military Officers Association of America  
Redwood Empire Chapter



# VOICE

Post Office Box 2801  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 50, NUMBER 9

"Serving Those Who Serve America"

SEPTEMBER 2020



## DECEASED MEMBER



### LT William P. Matz, USN

President ~ August 16, 2020

THE REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER OFFICERS AND MEMBERS EXTEND OUR SINCEREST SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THEIR DEPARTED LOVE ONE

**\*\* MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW LATER \*\***

## Election Emergency

Our Chapter is at risk of being unable to fill all our Officer and Director openings. Deaths and COVID non-renewals have reduced our membership by about 20%, reducing our already small numbers. If we cannot fill all those offices, our Chapter will be at risk of folding. So please let our Secretary, Bob Safreno, know what office (s) you would be willing to assume. **NOTE:** E-mail and phone numbers are on page No. 4.

### REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER of MOAA MEMBERS THAT HAVE NOT PAID DUES FOR 2020 ARE LISTED BELOW

There are **15** members that have not paid their dues. Initials listed below:

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

Because of the COVID-19 virus we are still including you in our Chapter notifications, but only by **e-mail**. If you don't respond, you may be dropped at the end of this year.

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

## SEPTEMBER'S FRIDAY, LUNCHEON AT TWO ROCK USCG STATION IS CANCELLED.

The Two Rock Coast Guard Base is in lockdown. Because it is a training base for students that are to become future Coast Guard personal. They do not want to contaminate any of them from outside people with the COVID-19 virus.

At the present time the Two Rock Coast Guard Station, has locked down most of the activity on the base. If a retired Military person needs to get on the base for ID renewals or some other item, they need to call the base and make an appointment.

### THE October Luncheon dining at The Flamingo Hotel MAY ALSO BE CANCELLED

October is our Election of Officers for 2021, more information on that later

### "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.

**BOARD MEETING IS CANCELLED.** (There may be a ZOOM meeting) THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE OCTOBER 6th BOARD MEETING WILL ALSO BE CANCELLED. (NOTE: AN E-MAIL, VIDEO ZOOM or

SEPTEMBER IS CANCELLED

OCTOBER MAY BE CANCELLED ALSO

## MOAA BOARD MEETINGS

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Tuesday, September 1, 2020, 11:30am, In the Santa Rosa Vet's Bldg Conference Room.

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

(If meeting is a ZOOM meeting we will use time & date above)

## Legislative Affairs – August 2020

### LEGISLATION:

#### Federal

**Tricare Select Fees.** Starting January 1, 2021, many working-age retirees must start paying, or you'll be disenrolled from health care coverage. These fees affect retirees and their family members in the so-called Group A whose sponsor's initial enlistment or appointment was before Jan. 1, 2018. These retirees are generally working-age retirees under age 65.

Currently they don't pay enrollment fees, but under the National Defense Authorization Act of 2017, Congress required defense officials to start charging these working-age retirees enrollment fees. It also applies to Tricare Overseas Program Select Group A retirees.

**S. 4166 - Ensuring Survivors Benefits.** On July 2, 2020, Senators Kyrsten Sinema (AZ) and Senator Thom Tillis (NC) introduced S. 4166, the Ensuring Survivors Benefits during COVID-19 Act, which would address this issue by requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs seek a medical opinion in the case of any veteran who has a service-connected condition and who passes away due to the coronavirus. This medical opinion could be crucial in obtaining survivors' benefits. This legislation would ensure adequate compensation to the survivors of veterans whose deaths are held to be service connected.

Please help the DAV support this important legislation by asking your Senators Feinstein and Harris cosponsor S. 4166, to ensure that no surviving family members are denied entitlement to their benefits during this pandemic.

#### **Current Support Needed:**

**H.R. 5995 and S. 3393 Concurrent Receipt:** These two bills will provide for concurrent receipt of retired pay for those disabled due to combat wounds suffered before reaching normal retirement at 20 years.

**MOAA Advocacy for DACA:** MOAA is advocating for the passage of legislation which will provide for permanent residency for those serving in the Armed Forces – particularly those 800 considered to be vital service such as translators or medical personnel.

#### **State:**

Hang on to your pocket books, the TAX WEAVEL is coming is coming in November! There will be 22 initiatives on the ballot to tempt your pay check.

**Proposition 15. Split Roll Property Taxes:** This proposition would amend California's 40-year-old Prop 13 property tax protections to exclude commercial and industrial properties. It would require business properties to be reassessed at full market

value, causing costs to go up on California businesses and then onto California consumers. This will cost everyone in California more for everyday goods and services. This is the largest tax increase proposed in California history. California is already one of the states with the highest cost of living in the country as well as one of the highest poverty rates.

This is a real estate broker's dream to put much more money in his pocket. Besides opening the door for future change to include taxes on YOUR home, this insidious proposal will seriously affect ALL small business owners, many of whom are veterans trying to make a living in this state. With the lock-down of the economy for almost three months, many small businesses will not survive.

**Proposition 19 Property Transfers.** Would require property transferred within families to be reassessed to market value as of the date of transfer, resulting in a huge property tax increase for long-held family homes. In effect, Prop 19 creates another 'death tax.' The only exception is if the children move into the home within a year and make it their principal residence. This is a billion-dollar tax increase on California families.

**Proposition 21: Rent Control :** Prop 21 repeals portions of California's rent control law that protects single family homeowners and has no plan to build affordable and middle-class housing or deal with the increasing problem of homelessness on our streets. There are no protections for renters, seniors, veterans or the disabled, and it has no provision to reduce rents. This is the same measure that was on the November 2018 ballot as Prop 10 which was opposed by most of the major veterans' groups and was defeated by 20% points.

**Proposition 23: Dialysis Reform:** Approximately 80,000 Californians with kidney failure rely on dialysis to stay alive. Proposition 23 would put dialysis patients' lives at risk and hurt all Californians by making the wait longer to see doctors and increasing health care costs by hundreds of millions annually. This is the same measure that was on the November 2018 ballot as Prop 8 which was opposed by most of the major veterans' groups and was defeated by 20% points

There will be more coming out in the next couple of months. **Advice of the day -**

**BE ALERT – FOLLOW THE MONEY!**

**Vern McNamee, Legislative Chair**

## NEW CREDIT CARD SCAM "YES, I Want A Receipt"

A LOT OF SHOPS (many, actually) NOW ASK IF YOU NEED A RECEIPT - otherwise you don't get one!!

LEAVES IT WIDE OPEN DOESN'T IT  
(I've noticed this lately)

**KEEP THE RECEIPT** . . . This is worth reading if shopping with a credit card . . . They do not automatically hand you a receipt anymore if the sale is under \$30. YOU MUST ASK FOR IT!!!

CHECK YOUR RECEIPTS BEFORE LEAVING THE CHECK-OUT!!!

An associate bought a heap of stuff the other day while on holiday (over \$450) & when he glanced at his receipt as the cashier was handing him the bags, he saw "cash out" of \$20.

He told her he didn't request any cash and to delete it. She said he'd have to take the \$20 because she couldn't delete it.

He told her to call a supervisor. Supervisor came and said he'd have to take it. He said "NO Bloody Way!" "because taking the \$20 would be a "cash advance" against his Credit Card and he wasn't paying interest on a cash advance!!! If they couldn't delete it then they would have to delete the whole order"

So the supervisor had the cashier delete the whole order and re-scan everything!

The second time he looked at the electronic pad before he keyed in his pin number and again . . . "cash-back of \$20" popped up!!!

At that point he told the cashier and she deleted it. The total then came out right. The cashier said that the Electronic Pad must be defective. Obviously... the cashier knew the electronic pad was defective; because she NEVER offered him any cash after either of the transactions.

Can you imagine how many people went through before him and by the end of her shift how much money she could pocket?

His wife went into a Kohl's Warehouse last week. She had her items rung up by the cashier. The cashier hurried her along and didn't give her a receipt.

She asked the cashier for the receipt and the cashier seemed annoyed but gave it to her.

She didn't look at her receipt until later that night when back at their Hotel. The receipt showed that she had asked for \$20 cash. SHE DID NOT ASK FOR ANY CASH, NOR WAS SHE GIVEN ANY!

So she contacted Kohl's who investigated but could not see that the cashier had pocketed the money.

They then spoke with a friend who works for one of the banks; they were told that this was a NEW SCAM that was bound to escalate.

The cashier will key in that you "asked for cash back" and then hand it to one of her friends when they next come through the check-out line.

This is NOT limited to Kohl's; they are just one of the largest retailers to have the most incidents.

I wonder how many "seniors" have been, or will be, "Stung" by this one???

To make matters worse ... THIS SCAM CAN BE DONE ANYWHERE, AT ANY RETAIL OR WHOLE-SALE LOCATION!!!

IT COULD HAPPEN ANYWHERE. SO, "CHECK YOUR RECEIPT " BEFORE LEAVING THE CHECK-OUT . . . . .

. . . CHECK YOUR RECEIPT!!!!

PASS THIS ON TO YOUR FRIENDS, KIDS, LOVED ONES - let's not get ripped off!!!

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## THOUGHTS FOR THE THOUGHTLESS

### What ifs?

- If you attempt to rob a bank you won't have any trouble with rent/food bills for the next 10 years, whether or not you are successful.
- Do twins ever realize that one of them is unplanned?
- What if my dog only brings back my ball because he thinks I like throwing it?
- If poison expires, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?
- Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C?
- The letter W, in English, is called double U. Shouldn't it be called double V?
- Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you and it just takes 75-100 years to fully work.
- Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty.
- The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims".
- Intentionally losing a game of rock, paper, scissors is just as hard as trying to win.
- 100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.
- Your future self is watching you right now through memories.
- The doctors that told Stephen Hawking he had two years to live in 1953 are probably dead.
- If you replace "W" with "T" in "What, Where and When", you get the answer to each of them.
- Many animals probably need glasses, but nobody knows it.
- If you rip a hole in a net, there are actually fewer holes in it than there were before.
- If 2/22/22 falls on a Tuesday, we'll just call it "2's Day".

## 2020 DATES TO REMEMBER

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

September:  
 1<sup>st</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2020 officers  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 \*\* 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Air Show at CMS Airport?  
 23<sup>rd</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 CNX 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> ?? Friday, Luncheon, Two Rock USCG (\$10.00?)

October:  
 6<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 \*\* 22<sup>nd</sup> Luncheon or Dinner?, Flamingo, Election of Officers for 2021  
 28<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting

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

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

\*\* Not Confirmed at this time ~ CNX = Cancelled ~ UNK = Unknown  
 All Meals at Flamingo will be Buffets 06/32/06

## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CHAPTER

## MEMBERS

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO BE FUTURE OFFICERS OF THE CHAPTER TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE MEMBERS ON OUR BOARD AND GIVE THEM YOUR NAME AS A POSSIBLE CANDIDATE FOR THE YEAR 2021.

CALL OR E-MAIL SECRETARY  
 ROBERT SAFRENO. (707) 795-3963 ~  
[shadowbob1@juno.com](mailto:shadowbob1@juno.com)

## "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](mailto: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

Once again, no MOAA activities during the month of September. In fact, it's pretty clear that we won't be meeting at all this year. Because of the lack of activity for almost all of 2020, President Dayle Johnson contacted the officers, all of whom graciously agreed to serve another year. So the above names will roll over into 2021. Thanks, everyone!

The message is the same: Stay safe. Stay well  
 Keep laughing!

**Tina Lewis, Publicity 707-539-5546,**  
[tinalewis31@comcast.net](mailto: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

Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst	707-468-0146
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	707-468-0146
<u>Sonoma Valley:</u>	Maj B. K. White, USMC	707-996-1335

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