

MOAA



VOICE

Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 50, NUMBER 10

"Serving Those Who Serve America"

OCTOBER 2020



INTERIM PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

My opening comments are to recognize the work and efforts that have been made by our board of Directors. Their commitment to serve the needs and interests of our MOAA Chapter, has given us a strong and resilient body of retired military officers

Recently, we lost our President to a serious illness. Bill inspired us to maintain the highest standards of performance that carried us along our successful path. To William P. Matz, we say, "Thank you."

I first became a member of MOAA in 1977. It was with the Fort Snelling Officers Club in Minneapolis that I entered into the core of the organization. A lot has changed since then. From a membership of hundreds strong to a much smaller group such as ours.

Our Chapter has worked to maintain the highest standards and commitment to serve the needs of our chapter. But now we need our members to step up to the plate and help us generate the energy to give our chapter the pro-active support it needs. We are all challenged by our worldly and personal events. It's not easy. We look forward to zoom meetings and possible zoom coffee clutches to stay connected.

Your board and I will continue to work to strengthen our chapter in this time of stress and challenge. I hope that you will share your thoughts and ideas with me and other board members. We look forward to hearing from you.

Major Kenneth Johnson, USAF, Interim President
408-466-6764 ~ kenthetraveler@gmail.com

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

THURSDAY OCTOBER 22, 2020 LUNCHEON IS CANCELLED.

October is our Election of Officers for 2021
And the Voting of By-Laws changes.

~~~~~  
The November Lobster Feed  
MAY ALSO BE CANCELLED  
~~~~~

NOTE:

See Page Two (2) bottom of ballot on how to vote for next years Officers and By-Laws changes.

"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 will be a ZOOM meeting)
THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE NOVEMBER
3rd BOARD MEETING WILL ALSO BE CANCELLED.**

OCTOBER IS
CANCELLED

NOVEMBER MAY BE
CANCELLED ALSO

MOAA BOARD MEETINGS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Tuesday, October 6, 2020,
11:30am, In the Santa Rosa Vet's Bldg Conference Room.

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

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

**NORMALLY OCTOBER 22nd WOULD BE THE
CHAPTER'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS
and DIRECTORS**

We can not meet this year because of the risk to our members with the Covid-19 virus.

The Nominating Committee, have submitted the following list of candidates for offices indicated. All have expressed a willingness to serve if elected.

**YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE
RECOMMENDED A CHANGE TO THE BY-LAWS**

(To be voted upon attached ballot)

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

- a. **Eligibility**
1. **Members:**
 2. **Spouses of Members:** *Are eligible to serve as chapter officer, director, or committee member, providing the Chapter Member is not a chapter officer, director, or committee member.*
 3. **Surviving Spouses Members:**
 4. **Surviving Spouses Members:**

**ARTICLE IX – BOARD OF DIRECTORS – COM-
POSITION AND DUTIES**

- a. The board shall supervise, control, and provide direction to the chapter consistent with these bylaws.
- b. *Eligibility to serve on the board: Regular members and surviving spouse members are eligible to serve as a member of the board. Spouses of members are eligible providing the Chapter Member is not a chapter officer, director, or committee member.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2021(1 yr)

(Information only, not subject to any vote)

Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst
Col Jack L. Krout, USAF
Donna Poulter
CPT Lewis Wall, USA

SUB-CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sub-Chapter leadership shall consist of a Commander, Vice-Commander, and Adjutant, augmented as desired by the respective Sub-Chapter membership, with elections and terms of office paralleling those of the Chapter. Each Sub-Chapter shall elect a Director to serve on the Chapter Board as prescribed in Article IX.E.,

FROM BY- LAWS (2018) - ARTICLE VI - VOTING

- a. **Certification** For the election of chapter officers and directors, and other matters brought to the chapter membership for vote, the right to vote shall be limited to chapter members in good standing. The Secretary will certify the eligibility of members to vote.
- b. **Quorum** Participation by at least ten percent (10%) of the chapter's total membership in good standing shall constitute a quorum. All those present to vote in person, plus those who have submitted valid absentee ballots, shall be counted toward the needed quorum.
- c. **Proxies** Proxy voting shall not be permitted.
- d. **Absentee Voting** For the general membership meeting, absentee ballots and the slate of nominees shall be provided to all members in good standing either through the October MOAA VOICE or otherwise provided at least twenty (20) days prior to the date of any scheduled meeting at which a vote will be taken.

**Redwood Empire Chapter
Military Officer's Association
of America**

BALLOT - 2021

CHAPTER PRESIDENT (Vote for One)

- [] Maj Ken Johnson, USAF
[] _____

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT (Vote for One)

- [] *None at this time, we could use a volunteer.*
[] _____

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT (Vote for One)

- [] 1/Lt Donald JH. Nowacki, USANG
[] _____

SECRETARY (Vote for One)

- [] CAPT Robert R. Safreno, USAR
[] _____

TREASURER (Vote for One)

- [] LCDR Tim Morgan, USNR
[] _____

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2021-2022 (2 yrs)
(Vote for Four)

- [] Martina Lewis
[] Susan Linch **
[] LTC Gary Meagher, AUS
[] Mary-Gwen Neisingh
[] _____
[] _____
[] _____
[] _____

VOTE CHANGES TO BY-LAWS

YES [] NO []

** NOTE: If majority of votes to the bylaw change are yes then director is legal.

THREE WAYS FOR MEMBERS TO VOTE

1. YOU CAN MAIL BALLOT TO THE POST OFFICE BOX.
2. YOU CAN E-MAIL BALLOT TO MYRNA HURST OR DONNA POULTER.
3. YOU CAN PHONE IN YOUR BALLOT TO MYRNA HURST OR DONNA POULTER.

NOTE: Both are listed in your roster for 2020, also phone numbers are on page No. 4.

While committees are not elected positions, we continue to seek volunteers for our committees, which are essential to our chapter functioning. Committees include Membership, Personal Affairs, Scholarship, and several more, as detailed in your 2020 Chapter Roster.

Legislative Affairs – October 2020

LEGISLATION:

General Notes: This is probably the last Legislative Update before elections on the 3rd of November. Therefore you are urged to study carefully all of the candidates for public offices – not only for the highest office in the land, but for local offices as well. However, you should take the time to research the 22 initiatives on the ballot because your pocket-book will be affected. Take a good look at who is pushing these initiatives and FOLLOW THE MONEY!

Federal

Arlington National Cemetery. Public Comment Period Begins for Proposed Arlington Eligibility Changes. The public comment period for proposed changes to eligibility for burial at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) opened Sept. 15th and runs through Nov. 16th. The proposal up for comment would dramatically reduce the number of people who qualify for in-ground burial, forcing many families to change long-held plans. If you are concerned, please go to the MOAA website which will direct you to comment on the Federal Register. Comments must be made before November 16, 2020.

Make Your Voice Heard. Because the NDAA is still in limbo as the House and Senate work out their differences, it is vitally important for our voices be heard. Once more, I ask that you go to the MOAA website, search Legislative Updates, and “Take Action” as shown. It’s easy and effective. The proposed letters are already prepared and will be automatically sent to your Congressperson or Senator. As former Senator Barbara Boxer once said, “They look at the quantity not necessarily the quality.” Follows are some of the issues which need to be supported.

Toxic Exposure and Access to VA Benefits The Senate version includes an amendment, put forward by Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and passed Wednesday afternoon, which would add bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinson’s-like symptoms to the list of veterans’ diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange. Unfortunately, the House NDAA does not include a similar amendment

Commissary-Exchange Merger The House version of the NDAA seeks an updated business case analysis for the Defense Resale Enterprise’s proposal to consolidate the commissaries and exchanges after the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found significant problems in the proposed merger. Unfortunately, the Senate version stayed silent on this issue. MOAA is focusing its efforts on the Senate to ensure the House language is adopted in conference.

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 corona virus. 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.

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.

State:

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 with 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. THIS IS ANOTHER RIPOFF and is **worthy of a NO vote!**

Proposition 18. 17 Year Old's Voting. This initiative would allow 17 year old’s to vote. There seems to be no consideration to the fact that a 17 year old is still a minor. This combined with other proposals floating around are aberrations and defy common sense. **NO!**

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. Worthy of a NO vote!

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 22: Exempts APP-Based Transportation and Delivery Companies from Providing Employee Benefits to Certain Drivers: The only YES vote should be on Prop 22 which protects independent gig contractors. If you look at it you will see that it is strongly supported by the unions to receive more dues. Most independent contractors like working independently. **Vote Yes!**

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. **Vote YES! NO!**

Advice of the day - BE ALERT – FOLLOW THE MONEY!

Vern McNamee, Legislative Chair

2020 DATES TO REMEMBER

- 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
 CNX 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
 CNX 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 ~ CNX = Cancelled ~ UNK = Unknown
 All Meals at Flamingo will be Buffets 06/32/06

William Paul "Bill" Matz

"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



Dec 14, 1948 - Aug 18, 2020

William Paul "Bill" Matz, 71, died peacefully in Santa Rosa, CA on August 18, 2020. Bill was born December 14, 1948 in Eureka, California to Melvin and Margaret Matz. He received a Bachelor's Degree from the United States Naval Academy and then a Master's Law Degree from San Diego State University. Bill retired as a First Lieutenant after 16 years of service in the United States Navy and then founded Master's Touch Mortgage Corp. in Windsor, which he ran until his death. He met and Married Erica Jayne Asrican in 1995. He was a faithful member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Healdsburg, and then St. John's Anglican Church in Petaluma.

Bill is survived by his loving wife, Erica, and their wonderful son, Phillip. Friends are invited to attend visitation Wednesday, September 2, 2020 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Windsor Healdsburg Mortuary, 9660 Old Redwood Highway, Windsor, CA 95492. A committal service will take place with military honors on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 12:30 p.m. at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, 5810 Midway Road, Dixon, CA 95620. More information can be obtained by visiting whcmortuary.com or by calling 707.838.6000.

(The PRESS Democrat ~ September 3, 2020)

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

Well, there's not much to say except we hope we'll one day soon be able to get together again. I know we all miss the amazing camaraderie we enjoy.

Thanks again to the officers for agreeing to serve another year.

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

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

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

Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2020

<u>Interim President:</u>	Maj Ken Johnson, USAF	408-466-6764
<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

MOAA VOICE

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