

MOAA



VOICE

Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 50, NUMBER 12

"Serving Those Who Serve America"

DECEMBER 2020



INTERIM PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

I wish I could be present with you as I share my thoughts. We are in a critical and emotional time in our society. We face hard decisions with unknown results. Do you care enough to want to make a difference? Should we just give up and say

the virus did it; the economy did it; the election did it. I want someone else to fix all my challenges in life. We belong to a dedicated group called the MOAA. What does that mean to us? What are we going to do to make our lives better. Can we forget our history? How We worked together to overcome a common challenges to protect and serve. Today we face challenges. Alone we struggle to succeed. Let us not give into those forces that will take away that which we value so much. We need each other to stand united, to stay strong; to stay a part of the MOAA. This organization is not going to succeed without your active participation. Your board is committed to serve you and your interest but without players there is no team. We need you we need to hear from you

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2020 HOLIDAY SOCIAL at the FLAMINGO RESORT, IS CANCELLED.

Santa Rosa and all Veterans buildings in the County are shut down thru January 2021

The Thursday January 21st 2021, Luncheon
At the Flamingo Resort & Spa
MAY ALSO BE CANCELLED

Election Results

As was announced at the November 3rd Board Meeting, based on votes received and meeting our quorum requirement in our Bylaws, all proposed Board of Director candidates were elected for there 2021 term. Additionally, the proposed change to our Bylaws was approved. Thanks to Donna Poulter and Myrna Hurst for acting as the phone contacts to receive our ballots during October.

NO CHAPTER DUES FOR 2021

Because of the COVID-19 virus and the fact that people had to shelter in place and we had no social gatherings, the Board of Directors has decided to waive the Chapter dues for 2021. We hope that our members will support the Chapter in the future. Our membership is down, and we do not want to lose any more of our members.

"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.

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

ZOOM ~ MOAA BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Tuesday, December 1, 2020, 11:30am. Tim Morgan will be sending information on how to join the meeting. If a member of the Chapter wishes to join the meeting, you must contact us by e-mail and we will give you the information needed.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings.

RECMOAA "Zoomers" Pub Meeting

Last year, our new Chapter President, Ken Johnson proposed monthly 'pub crawl' drop-in meetings to enjoy comradeship and further connection with interested members. Starting in December Tim Morgan will setup a monthly "Zoomer" Pub Meeting on the second Tuesday (for now) of each month at 4:00pm for about an hour or so. Attendance is purely optional. The access information for the first meeting on December 8th is as follows:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6103642462?pwd=TIIdaYXdwZ3I5OEJ4SGFVcHlwNjFjZz09>

Meeting ID: 610 364 2462

Passcode: 464646

Dial by your location: 1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Note: If the link above does not work for you, go to <https://Zoom.us/Join> and enter the Meeting ID and Passcode above, or for voice only, use the dial in number above.

Hope to 'see' some of you there in December.

About Zoom

Basics

Due to the COVID-19 face-to-face meeting limitations placed on our members this spring, as you should know all RECMOAA Chapter events have been cancelled until such time as it's considered safe again to meet in person. However, life and management of our Chapter continues to be needed. The Board of Directors (BoD) have been meeting once a month virtually using the popular application 'Zoom.' This meeting facilitation app is available free on the Zoom.us website at: <https://zoom.us/download>. The Zoom app can be used on computers (desktop, laptop, pads, etc.), smart phones, and plain old telephones (although on telephones only voice can be used).

To fully participate in a Zoom meeting you will need to have a web camera, speakers, and microphone available. Even if a web camera is unavailable, if a microphone is available, you should be able to participate as well. The app is available in a myriad of formats, PC and Apple for computers, and Apple iOS and Android for smart phones. There may be other formats available like Unix but I'm not sure of that.

Question: 'do I need to have the Zoom app on my device?'

Answer: No, as long as you are a participant in a Zoom meeting, the invitation to the meeting generated by the host (who has to have a Zoom account) has a link to the meeting and creates a temporary access to the Zoom meeting requiring only a user identification number (user id) usually a 6 or 7 digit number, and a password, these too are provided in the invitation to the Zoom meeting.

Question: 'what about telephones?'

Answer: Contained in the invitation are a list of call in numbers which can be used for voice access. These are not (usually) local numbers but, we've been using the closest one listed as in San Jose, CA. I believe all that's required for access is the meeting ID.

Question: 'is Zoom hard to learn?'

Answer: A little bit at first, but most people 'get it' shortly after first use. Tim Morgan can help with tutoring on this for most users.

Zoom for BoD meetings

As stated above, the BoD meeting have been conducted using Zoom since about June of this year. An invitation is sent out via email by Tim Morgan to the Board members and guests, a few days before the board meeting (held on the first Tuesday @ 11:30am), containing a link to the meeting, meeting ID, and password. If any member who has not received an invitation and wishes to attend our Board meeting, please contact Tim Morgan at blackcloudbrew@comcast.net, or phone number 707-695-9293.

Other Possible Chapter Uses for Zoom

While I truly hope we can return to safely meeting in person for both BoD and Chapter events, we are learning our way to possible other uses for Zoom. It's possible that we can hold periodic Chapter events as a webinar with a speaker, but we aren't quite ready to roll that out yet. We are going to try to have periodic afternoon agenda free 'pub' meeting to consume our favorite beverage and chat with members. There may be other ways to use Zoom and we will continue to evaluate that as time goes on.

LCDR Tim Morgan, Treasurer

LEGISLATION:

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
Federal**

Arlington National Cemetery. As a reminder, **Public Comment Period** finished on 16 November 2020 regarding Proposed Arlington Eligibility Changes. 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. However, you can still ask you Senators or Congressperson to intercede on your behalf. You can use the MOAA website – moaa.org/ANC to use MOAA’s prepared letters. Adding your comments to these letters would help.

Attacks on Military Retired Pay. Moves on Capitol Hill and at DoD aimed toward reducing outlays for retired military pay. This will involve capping COLA , changing commissary/exchange benefits as well as other budget cuts. After all, someone has to pay for the multi-trillion dollar bank overdraw.

NDAA. The National Defense Authorization Act is still having details being worked out between the House and Senate, most notably of which is over the unification of the commissary and PX.

State:

Well, the election is over, some issues came out well. Proposition 15 did NOT pass so our property taxes are protected once more – for a while. However, the problem **will** be back. The tax opportunity is too lucrative for the “tax grabbers” not to keep trying.

Also keep your eyes open for the state to exploit more insidious tax opportunities..

Income Tax Exclusion California only one of two in the U.S. which do not give at least a partial exemption on military retired pay. Please note the colored map on right side: Red is only in California and Vermont (map in black in white should be the darkest image).

Vern McNamee, Legislative Chair

**Redwood Empire Chapter member
CPT WILLIAM ANDERSON, USA**

**Is offering his service to
members and veterans in need.**

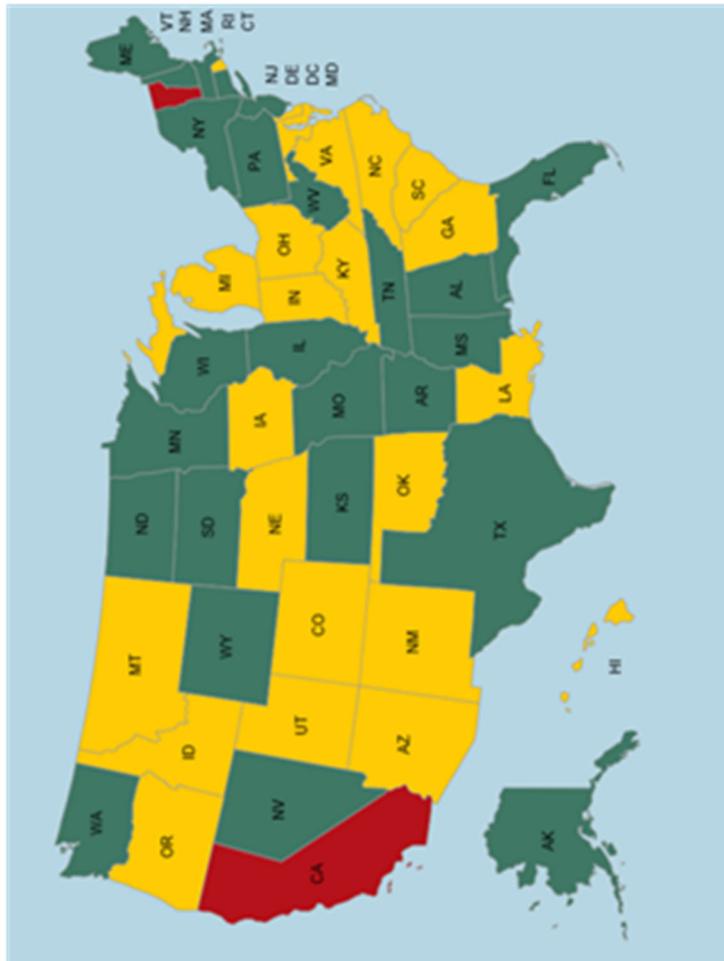
He realizes that the country is presently going through a rough time, because of the present COVID-19 virus and shelter in place, there are a lot of people with many different needs. He is offering to our members and any veterans organizations his help.

As a landlord he can repair many house issues for our their members. **FREE!** They only need to pay for parts.

He can transport supplies. He lives in Santa Rosa. He owns 46 properties in this state alone and is his own maintenance service. He does many kinds of things.

Anyone can call him and he will give you more details.

Call: William Anderson at 707-331-0366



2020 DATES TO REMEMBER

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

December:
 1st BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 UNK 7th Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??
 CNX 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

TRIVIA & JOKES:

- It takes 6,000 gallons of paint, 60 people and 4 months to paint the Eiffel tower.
- Queen Anne of England (1665 – 1714) had 17 children, she outlived them all.
- 15% of drivers get 76% of all traffic tickets.
- Man Struck By Lightning: Faces Battery Charge. He probably IS the battery charge! If found guilty, maybe they should put him in a dry cell!
- Kentuckians, Tennesseans and West Virginians will no longer be referred to as "HILLBILLIES."
- Back in the days of our bluegrass bar adventures one of our boys we knew used the term, "Hilligans" for folks from "back home." We picked up on it & added it to our lexicon, but never heard it in any other setting... just in the beer joints of our (comparative) youth.

- I don't think it's safe to come out of the bum shelter yet, but the mushroom cloud may be diminishing....
- What medical term would you apply to two young women walking down the sidewalk without masks? Double mastectomy.
- Marriage Counselor: "Your wife says you never buy her flowers. Is that true?" Him: "To be honest, I never knew she sold flowers."
- Never sing in the shower! Singing leads to dancing, dancing leads to slipping, and slipping leads to paramedics seeing you naked.
- My wife asked me to take her to one of those restaurants where they make the food right in front of you. So I took her to Subway and that's how the fight started.
- During the middle ages they celebrated the end of the plague with wine and orgies. Does anyone know if there is anything planned when this one ends?
- I didn't think the therapist was supposed to say "Wow" that many times in your first session, but here we are

"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

Here it is December and no sign of when we can meet as a group. I know we really miss this, but I guess we just have to be patient. As stated last month, the dues for 2021 have been waived.

The Wives Club hopes you enjoy the holidays safely and in good health. Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas.

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

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

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

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	

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