

MOAA



VOICE

Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 51, NUMBER 1

“Serving Those Who Serve America”

JANUARY 2021



PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS

Christmas greetings to all my fellow veterans. This would normally be a time to reflect on our many blessings. This would be a time for family and friends to gather and celebrate our many times together. But these are not normal times. That being said, we are needed even more

as a moral and loving compass. We have lived full lives, with ups and downs; with disappointments and thrilling moments; with everyday enjoyments shared with our favorite people and pets. Yet, there has never been a time in our history when it's been more imperative for us to stand strong in our beliefs and to provide wisdom learned through our years of committed work. We must stay strong.

I wish you and your families a season of joy and shared traditions and memories. Although these times are far from normal, it is still a time to celebrate lives lived and to create this season anew. Our gifts to family and friends require us to be grounded and to love.

Have strength to preserve though the next months knowing the future holds a move towards normalcy.

“Happy New Year”

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

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021
LUNCHEON at the FLAMINGO RESORT,
IS CANCELLED.**

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

**The Thursday February 25th 2021, Luncheon
At the Flamingo Resort & Spa
MAY ALSO BE CANCELLED**

What would you like?

I have been our chapter Legislative Affairs Chair off and on since the last part of the XX Century. However, I have asked a few times for your inputs before with little result, now in this period of crisis, I would like to know what you like or dislike of the articles I write. Write, call or email your thoughts. Don't worry about offending me - I have a thick skin developed through the ages.

At any rate, I wish everyone a Happy and Safe New Year!

LTC Vern McNamee, USA Ret
Email: vernonmcnamee@mcn.org
Cell: 707 972-3066

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.

ZOOM ~ MOAA BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Tuesday, January 5, 2021, 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.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The application period for COL William G. Brey Scholarships will open on January 1, 2021, and will close on March 15, 2021. Closing date is firm. Those eligible to apply for scholarship assistance are children, wards, and lineal descendants (including grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren, natural or adopted) of living or deceased officer, warrant officer, or auxiliary members of the Chapter. Scholarship eligibility is limited to those pursuing undergraduate academic and professional certificate programs. Applications will not be accepted for support of graduate studies.

Our experience is that it can take some time for prospective applicants to gather all the required supporting documentation, then prepare and submit the completed application before the cutoff date. We therefore recommend that Chapter members advise eligible family members of scholarship availability and contact information early enough to give them sufficient reaction time.

Application forms are available. They may be obtained by writing to:

Secretary, Redwood Empire Chapter, MOAA
P. O. Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

or by directly contacting Scholarship Committee Chairman:

Lee P. Hoskins
P. O. Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801 – Phone: (707)328-2316
or e-mail: leehoskins@live.com

Lee will provide them immediately to all interested parties by fastest means available.

COMING SOON!!!! THE COL BREY SCHOLARSHIP AND MERIT AWARDS HAVE BEEN REVISED TO REFLECT GRADES, MERIT, AND HUMANITY!!! OPEN TO:

High school seniors or High school graduates

- to pursue a college degree
- to enroll in a professional training program such as fire prevention, electrician, police protection, auto mechanics, culinary school, or comparable training programs.
- college undergraduates
- previous applicants of the Brey Scholarship

The Brey Scholarship is limited to a maximum of **two** awarded scholarships per applicant.

“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

REC MOAA Zoomers Pub Meeting

Our first Pub Meeting using Zoom on December 4th went well with about 10 members attending for most of an hour. It was nice to just chat about various things and most of us shared a funny story or joke.

So...we'll do it again on the second Tuesday in January at 4pm. Tim Morgan will again setup a monthly Zoomer Pub Meeting. Should last about an hour and attendance is purely optional. The access information for the first meeting on January 12th is as follows:

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6103642462?
pwd=TIlaYXdwZ3I5OEJ4SGFVcHlwNjFjZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6103642462?pwd=TIlaYXdwZ3I5OEJ4SGFVcHlwNjFjZz09)

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 January.

Major Kenneth Johnson, President



Legislative Affairs Update

January 2021

General:

CAL MOAA is alive and well. During the recent annual meeting, 20-21 November, I was impressed with the dynamic changes in this organization during the past twenty years. In those early years, I was not really convinced that it was anything other than a toothless old crony group that was not able to get done any significant benefits for the members.

However, I am most pleased to see a tremendous change in CALMOAA's use of professional lobbyists to act in benefit of our members and that of our colleagues in other services and veterans. This change could only be achieved with the active support of our chapters and its members providing "more bang for our buck" in Sacramento.

1. This brings up the point: Why belong to a local MOAA chapter? Besides following National MOAA's mission statement and providing camaraderie, there are many other cogent reasons to belong to a local chapter and CALMOAA. First and foremost, we need help to guarantee our rights by bringing our needs to our State Legislators. National MOAA already does a magnificent job at the national level with its 355,000 members as a leader in the Military Coalition. However, National MOAA does not cover individual states. Therefore we need the clout presented by CALMOAA with its 2500 members represented by its 30 chapters. Small chapters like ours of less than 100 members do not provide significant clout until we present ourselves as part of the larger state membership.
2. Through CALMOAA's efforts in conjunction with other military service organizations and the local VA, the closure of the Barstow Veterans Home was deferred pending further study.
3. Another big issue is the exemption of military retired pay. California and Vermont are the only two states which do not, at least give a partial exemption of military retired pay. While there are naysayers saying that this won't happen because it's been tried before with no results. Friends, to give up is **not an option**. If we keep trying, sooner or later, we will get results. This why we need your membership to increase our clout. You will benefit from this effort when we finally succeed. Please stay with us or join us if you are not a member.
4. Cash benefits are also obtained with educational scholarships for your children, grandchildren, etc. This is a tax free award.
5. Many other issues are resolved annually through CALMOAA's lobbyist work in Sacramento.
6. **If you have let your membership lapse, please come back! If you know someone who could be a member, bring them in! We all need you!**

Federal:

Arlington National Cemetery Changes. Although comment period is over with almost 2000 comments made in the Federal Register and MOAA has made its comments, it's still not too late to have your voices heard. Now, is an excellent time to get you Legislators involved. To do this, go to the MOAA website and follow the "Advocacy" to find the prepared letter to your Congressperson. It's easy and costs nothing. Will they get it? Yes, they will. I checked and, believe it or not, Congressman Jared Huffman received everyone I sent on each and every issue. However, you may

have to do a bit of follow-up to get a response you're looking for.

National Defense Authorization Act - NDAA. This bill was passed on November 9th inspired of President Trumps threat to veto it. We need to see how it works out after any changes. Watch for later news.

State

General:

The elections are over, or are they? New issues are being developed to pay for the massive trillions of dollar bailouts and are looking at *our pocketbooks* to pay for it.

I believe that we will be seeing state legislative actions during this coming year. Already we can see three ideas which are being floated around which could have an impact:

1. **Wealth Tax.** This idea will tax not only income, but total assets as well. This would another first in the nation for the Golden State.
2. **Moving Out of the State Tax.** If you have the idea that you will save money by leaving the state, just wait. They will tax you on these savings.
3. **Retroactive Tax.** So, if you get out of the state without paying, they will come and get you for the unpaid taxes retroactively.

While we need to wait and see what will happen during the next year, we believe that a form of **retired military pay** will be reintroduced. Also, the subject of the keeping open the **Barstow Veterans Home** will be revisited during the budget negotiations.

We probably will not see what happens after January 9, 2021.

LTC Vernon McNamee, USA Ret
Legislative Affairs Chairman

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

2021 DATES TO REMEMBER*

*COVID-19 Virus could change all these events and dates!

January – 2021

1st Dues for 2021 are waved by Board action
 5th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am (ZOOM)
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information.
 CNX 25th United Veterans Council meeting
 CNX 26th Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa – Installation of Officers

February:

1st Proposed target date to publish the 2021 Roster
 2nd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 ** 24th United Veterans Council meeting
 ** 25th Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa

March:

2nd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 15th Deadline for submission Scholarship Applications
 ** 24th United Veterans Council meeting
 ** 25th Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa

April:

6th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 ** 22nd Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa
 ** 28th United Veterans Council meeting

May:

4th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 ** 15th Armed Forces Day – Rose Parade, Santa Rosa
 ** 26th United Veterans Council meeting
 ** 27th Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa
 ** 31st Memorial Day Ceremonies

June:

1st BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 ** 5th or 12th Saturday, Picnic at Two Rock? Honor Brey Scholars
 ** 23rd United Veterans Council meeting

July:

6th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – select nominating committee

10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 ** 22nd Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa
 ** 28th United Veterans Council meeting

August:

3rd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 ** 14th Riverfront Regional Park, Annual BBQ
 ** 25th United Veterans Council meeting

September:

7th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2020 officers
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 ** 18th - 19th Air Show at CMS Airport?
 ** 17th or 24th ?? Friday, Luncheon, Two Rock USCG (\$10.00?)
 ** 22nd United Veterans Council meeting

October:

5th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 ** 27th United Veterans Council meeting
 ** 28th Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa, Election of Officers, 2021

November:

2nd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 ** 11th North Bay Veterans Day parade (Thursday)
 ** 19th Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building
 ** 24th United Veterans Council meeting
 25th Thanksgiving Day

December:

7th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 ** 7th Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??
 ** 4th or 11/12th 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

MOAA WIVES CLUB

(Sonoma County Main - All members welcome)

2021 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

Happy New Year everyone! I hope that sometime during 2021 we can again gather as a group. Ordinarily, our officers would change in February, but this year the existing ones will serve throughout the year. Also, dues are being waived for 2021.

Stay safe, stay well, keep in touch. And don't forget to laugh.

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 2021

<u>Interim President:</u>	Maj Ken Johnson, USAF	408-466-6764
<u>1st Vice President</u>	(NONE AT THIS TIME)	
<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 2021-2022

Martina Lewis	707-539-5546
Susan Linch	707-538-3342
LTC Gary Meagher, AUS	707-544-4089
Mary-Gwen Neisingh	707-481-7614

Directors-at-large - Term 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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