



## PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS

Like many of us I was looking forward to a year of progress and a brighter outlook for our future. If I had written this a week ago it would've been a little more optimistic. After this week I have to go deeper into my inner self to find some positive reflections for our future. No one can see the future or what our lives will be like. That being said, it is for our own long-term best interests that we believe in ourselves and believe there is a good and strong future for us. We come together to put our strengths and insights together.

We can't rely on someone else for making us feel good. So many parts of our society are struggling to keep up with the challenges of a country with so many needs. It will be difficult going forward in a country divided. We all want answers and ways to find peace and order. I believe it starts with each one of us doing some soul-searching and looking inward to work on our own actions. Our nation is founded on the belief that all men are created equal. Let us find room for acceptance and the willingness to work together.

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

## 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.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021 LUNCHEON at the FLAMINGO RESORT, IS CANCELLED.

~~~~~  
Santa Rosa and all Veterans buildings in the County are shut down thru February 2021  
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The Thursday March 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:vernonmcnamee@mcn.org)  
Cell: 707 972-3066

## SEE “PUB CRAWL” Page 4

### “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, February 2, 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](mailto: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.

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### LETTER FROM RECIPIENT OF THE COL BREY SCHOLARSHIP

Dear MOAA Redwood Empire chapter

I have just finished my first trimester at the Milwaukee school of engineering majoring in civil engineering. After arriving on campus, I joined Engineers Without Borders an organization that makes a difference for the engineering projects that empower communities to meet basic human needs. Along with the Engineers Without Borders, they became part of the American Society of Civil Engineers where I have been hearing and learning from many industry experts and companies about the structural and construction field. One of the companies that is piquing my interest is a general contracting firm named Hensel Phelps. After participating in the career fair and interviewing with Hensel Phelps, I received an internship offer for the summer of 2021 at the Pleasanton California office.

Your financial support has helped make it possible for me to achieve all of the above in the first three months that I have been attending the Milwaukee school of engineering, and I'm very grateful for the generosity of the MOAA Redwood Empire chapter. I plan to seek out even more challenging opportunities that will allow me to learn and grow while becoming a well prepared civil engineer

Sincerely

Lily Swanson

**NOTE:** The recipient is the Grand daughter of  
Ken & Dayle Johnson

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# Legislative Affairs – February 2021

## LEGISLATION:

### General Information

**Responses to Questions.** For those who took the time to call or email me in response to my query regarding your thoughts concerning legislative actions, my sincere thanks. So, here comes some of my answers:

**DIC-SBP “Widows Tax” Offset.** This has been a very thorny issue for many years and finally legislation passed in 2019 to start to take effect in 2021.

With the new law, starting in January 2021 ending in January 2023, beneficiaries will have the offset reduced in three phases and only affect SBP and SSIA payments issued by DFAS. The changes do NOT affect Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payments from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Eligible surviving spouses will continue to receive the full amount of DIC from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

To try to help understand how this works, let's look at the **following example**: - A service member's beneficiary gets a \$1500/month retirement based on her husband's retired pay but he had been awarded \$1000/disability (DIC) paid by the VA. Upon his death, his wife will receive the DIC of \$1000/month however her SBP of \$1500 will be reduced by the DIC offset leaving \$500 of SBP.

- With the new law starting in January, one third of the offset up to \$327 per month increasing for three years until the offset is eliminated. This offset will be deposited in a separate payment to her SSIP (Special Survivors Indemnity Account) monthly until 31 December 2022 at which time the account will be closed leaving everything paid through the SBP annuity. The full DIC payment will continue with no interruption.

**South Korean Peace Medal.** Although this medal was awarded several years ago, effort is being made to find out if this award can still be available for those individuals who, due to administrative lapse, did not receive their medal.

**New California Tax Proposals.** There have been some questions regarding new tax proposals to pay for the budget shortfalls. These ideas are real.

**-California Wealth Tax** could become first of its kind in US under new proposal AB 2088, which would create a first-in-the-nation wealth tax. The tax rate would be 0.4% of net worth, excluding directly held real estate, that exceeds \$30 million for single and joint filers and \$15 million for married filing separately. Filers would have to report all assets including stock in publicly and privately traded corporations; interests in partnerships, private equity or hedge funds; cash, bonds and savings accounts; mutual funds, futures and options; art and collectibles; offshore financial assets, pension funds, non-mortgage debt, real property and mortgage debt.

- Surcharges of 1% to incomes (joint or single) between roughly \$1 million and \$2 million, 3% on income between \$2 million and \$5 million, and 3.5% on income greater than \$5 million, bringing the top rate to 16.8%. California's top rate today, at 13.3%, is already the highest in the nation.

**-Moving out of State Tax** tied onto AB 2088 would not only impose the nation's first state wealth tax, it also seeks to continue assessing that tax for ex-Californians up to *ten years* after they've moved away. As legal experts and fellow lawmakers have pointed out to the sponsors of AB 2088, this proposed exit tax is likely to be struck down in court if it is enacted.

**-Retroactive Tax – AB1253** increases income tax rates for high income earners from 13.3% to 16.8% retroac-

tively to January 1, 2020. Unfortunately, this can affect successful small business owners.

### Federal

#### **NDAA (National Defense Authorization Act)**

passed over President's veto on January 1. There are many areas where we, as members need to stay alert. While the NDAA has passed, it only authorizes, *it does not necessarily fund* a particular item. Therein comes the sticky part – getting the \$\$\$\$\$. We face many challenges this year and will every member's support.

With a rising national debt of more than \$27 trillion, and a deficit of more than \$3 trillion, we can plan on vigorous attempts to control federal budgets, reduce or eliminate expenditures or entitlements. **Stay tuned!**

#### **National MOAA Objectives** several of which follow:

- **Concurrent Receipt** to provide concurrent receipt of retired pay for those disabled due to combat wounds suffered before reaching normal retirement at 20 years.

- **Protect Military Honors Arlington National Cemetery** through new language in the NDAA that will direct expansion of our national cemetery, protect full military honors for 20-year retirees and prevent reduction of current eligibility.

- **Ensuring Survivors Benefits by requiring the VA to 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.

- **Protect Healthcare and Service Earned Benefits** which will be targeted during fiscal rollout during 2021.

- **TRICARE for Life/TRICARE Prime** enrollment fees, increases to costs for active-duty family members will also be targeted in 2021.

- **Achieve Equity of Benefits, Protections and Administrative Support** to eliminate pay, benefit, and retirement credit inequities to honor the vital role of our Guard/Reserve service members.

- **Sustain Pay Raises for Service members and COLA Raises for Retirees** as these represent a commitment on behalf of our government to recognize their service and sacrifice, past and present. Budget challenges often focus on reducing such outlays to help fund weapons acquisition and other programs. No doubt such challenges will appear in coming years

### State

**Early Assessment** of the coming year for the State has been presented at the top of this article.

**CALMOAA** is working up a list of legislative priorities based on the latest budget proposal to be shared shortly.

**Stay tuned!**

LTC Vernon McNamee, USA Ret  
Legislative Affairs Chairman

## RECMOAA Zoomers Pub Meeting

Our first Pub Meeting using Zoom on January 12<sup>th</sup> 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's or jokes.

So.....we'll do it again on the second Tuesday in February 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 meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup> is as follows:

### Join Zoom Meeting

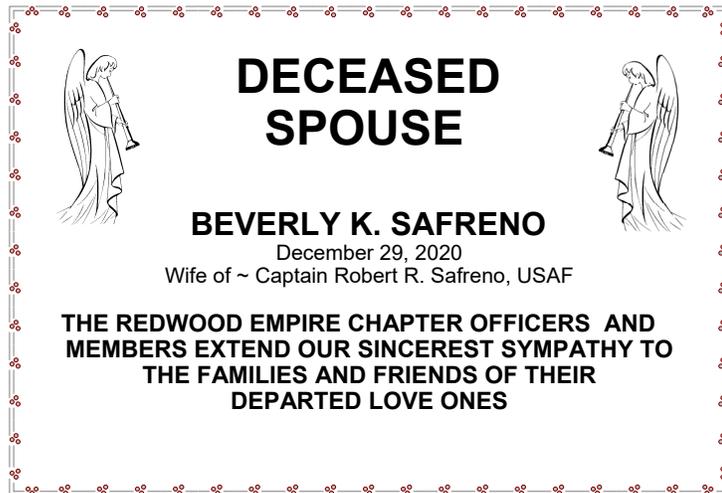
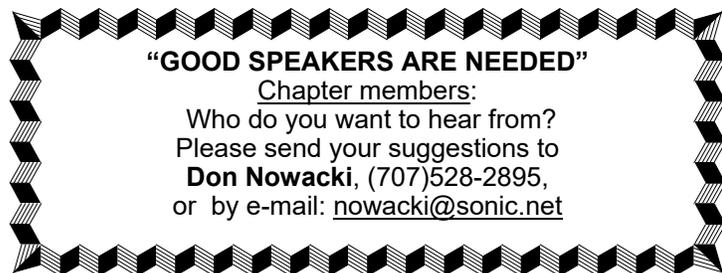
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6103642462?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6103642462?pwd=TlIdaYXdwZ3I5OEJ4SGFVcHIwNjFjZz09)  
[pwd=TlIdaYXdwZ3I5OEJ4SGFVcHIwNjFjZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6103642462?pwd=TlIdaYXdwZ3I5OEJ4SGFVcHIwNjFjZz09)

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 February.

Major Kenneth Johnson, President



Bev 2018

Bev 1958



## 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

Dear Military Officers Association

I am in receipt of the monthly newsletter. Thank you for inclusion of my notice of assistance,.

To date I have a member scheduled for assistance this week.

It is important to have a cell phone or the ability to electronically transmit a photo of the problem. This assists with facilitating a resolution to the problem.

Please alert the membership, via this letter, that caller ID should be disabled. I can NOT return calls if there is no number available.

My family has rebuilt a burned home in 22 days that USAA stated would take a year! In addition, we acquired and refurbished (rebuilt) nine more properties. We have two more escrows planned to close early January ;and several more offers filed.

My children are performing well. William at 15 just completed 100 credits at SRJC with a likely 4.0. Today he will be applying to SSU for Fall. Audrey ships to Basic training mid March but completed Fall SRJC with a projected 4.0. She will start OCS after completion of her training. Ermingard my youngest continues with her language training but she requires a new Russian tutor.

We ae still willing to provide a weeks rations and 5 gallons of fuel for those in need.

Happy New Year. Truth and Courage

William Anderson

Cc: SAR, American legion, VFW, SF Assoc.

## **MISSION STATEMENT FROM MOAA**

MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.

With more than 350,000 members from every branch of service - including active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retired, former officers, and their families - we are a powerful force speaking for a strong national defense and representing the interests of military officers at every stage of their careers.

MOAA's highest priority is providing first-class service to our members. We are the leading voice on compensation and benefit matters for all members of the military community. We provide expert advice and guidance to our members.

### **Purpose**

While the association does advocate a strong national defense, it does not, as an association, become involved in matters pertaining to military strategy or individual weapons systems of the various services. The association's board of directors has long believed that such decisions can be made only by those who have all of the facts available to them: today's actively serving military leadership.

The association plays an active role in military personnel matters and especially proposed legislation affecting the career force, the retired community, and veterans of the uniformed services. MOAA's overarching goals are captured in its resolutions, which reflect the views of the entire membership. The membership provides input and votes on resolutions every two years (on even years).

While MOAA is permitted by law to lobby - and does so actively - its status as a tax-exempt veterans organization precludes it from participating in political activities, which are defined as intervening directly or indirectly in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Stated briefly, the association may advocate issues, but it may not advocate the election or defeat of particular candidates or political parties.

### **History**

MOAA was founded in Los Angeles, Calif., on Feb. 23, 1929. The first leaders of the association hoped that by joining together they could provide assistance and advice to other military officers. This concern for others fostered natural fraternal relations among members from all branches of the uniformed services.

By the beginning of World War II, MOAA's leaders realized that they needed to reorganize and expand to become an effective force on behalf of their members. In what turned out to be a wise deci-

sion, MOAA moved to Washington, D.C., in 1944 with a membership of 2,600.

After a membership vote in September 2002, the association changed its name from The Retired Officers Association (TROA) to the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), on January 1, 2003. Through an act of Congress in 2009, MOAA was granted a federal charter. This gave MOAA an expression of congressional support for all of the group's activities as a veterans service organization. It also enabled all state-level MOAA affiliates to represent veterans on governor-level veterans advisory councils.

Today, MOAA has grown to a membership of more than 350,000 members and is the country's largest military officers' association. MOAA's purpose also has grown to include career transition assistance, improved member products, military benefits counseling, educational assistance to children of military families (to include enlisted), and strong involvement in military professionalism activities.

### **Leadership**

The association is governed by a board of directors consisting of 36 officers from the seven uniformed services. Four of the association's national officers - the chairman of the board and three vice chairmen - are elected by the board of directors. Also elected as association officers by the board of directors (from outside the board membership) are the president, chief financial officer, and secretary, all of whom serve on MOAA's professional, salaried staff.

The president and staff directors conduct daily business from the headquarters in Alexandria, Va.

### **Membership**

Membership is open to active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retired, and former commissioned officers and warrant officers of the following uniformed services: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Memberships also are available for surviving spouses of deceased officers.

## 2021 DATES TO REMEMBER\*

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

January – 2021  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information.  
 CNX 25<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 CNX 26<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa – Installation of Officers  
 February:  
 1<sup>st</sup> Proposed target date to publish the 2021 Roster  
 2<sup>nd</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am (ZOOM)  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 CNX 24<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 CNX 25<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa  
 March:  
 2<sup>nd</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 15<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission Scholarship Applications  
 \*\* 24<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 \*\* 25<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa  
 April:  
 6<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 \*\* 22<sup>nd</sup> Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa  
 \*\* 28<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 May:  
 4<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 \*\* 15<sup>th</sup> Armed Forces Day – Rose Parade, Santa Rosa  
 \*\* 26<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 \*\* 27<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa  
 31<sup>st</sup> Memorial Day Ceremonies  
 June:  
 1<sup>st</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 \*\* 5<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> Saturday, Picnic at Two Rock? Honor Brey Scholars  
 \*\* 23<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 July:  
 6<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – select nominating committee  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 \*\* 22<sup>nd</sup> Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa

\*\* 28<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 August:  
 3<sup>rd</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 \*\* 14<sup>th</sup> Riverfront Regional Park, Annual BBQ  
 \*\* 25<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 September:  
 7<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2020 officers  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 \*\* 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> Air Show at CMS Airport?  
 \*\* 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> ?? Friday, Luncheon, Two Rock USCG (\$10.00?)  
 \*\* 22<sup>nd</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 October:  
 5<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 \*\* 27<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 \*\* 28<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa, Election of Officers, 2021  
 November:  
 2<sup>nd</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 (Thursday)  
 \*\* 19<sup>th</sup> Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building  
 \*\* 24<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 25<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day  
 December:  
 7<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 \*\* 7<sup>th</sup> Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??  
 \*\* 4<sup>th</sup> or 11/12<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

## 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

As of February, our new slate of officers takes over. Oh wait. It's the same as last year's. Thanks to everyone for agreeing to serve another year. We look forward to being vaccinated, and to when this virus can be under control enough to allow regular luncheons to be held.

Same message as always: stay safe, stay well, keep in touch. And don't forget to laugh.

**Tina Lewis, Publicity 707-539-5546,**

## 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)

## Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2021

President: Maj Ken Johnson, USAF 408-466-6764  
1st Vice President (NONE AT THIS TIME)  
2nd Vice President 1/Lt Donald J. Nowacki, USANG 707-595-1047  
Secretary: Cpt Robert R. Safreno, USAF 707-795-3963  
Treasurer: LCDR Tim Morgan, USNR 707-695-9293  
Imed. Past President: 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:

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

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