

# MOAA

Military Officers Association of America  
Redwood Empire Chapter



# VOICE

Post Office Box 2801  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 51, NUMBER 3

“Serving Those Who Serve America”

MARCH 2021



## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

As I was preparing to write my article for this month's MOAA VOICE, I thought back to this writing which was sent to me. I believe it is relevant to all of us at this time in our lives, so I'd like to share it with you.

### A message for the new year:

I wish you courage to say enough. I wish you to forgive and forget. I wish you the ability to close doors and open windows. I wish that you don't settle, and that you don't hold on to guilt. I wish you to be daring and to take chances. I wish that you truly love yourself. I wish you lots of laughter and craziness and magic. I also wish that you make mistakes so you can learn from them. I wish you colors for those days when you feel blue, and an umbrella for the life storms. I wish you lots of "I miss you." I wish you hugs... the kind that last for a long time when you close your eyes. I wish you new travels and new memories. I wish that someone makes you feel important. I wish that you are loved without being needed. I wish you lots of dancing, and a new favorite song, and a new important date that makes you smile. I wish you passionate kisses. But most importantly, I wish you the will: the will to keep moving.

**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.

## What would you like?

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

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

The Thursday April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021, Luncheon  
At the Flamingo Resort & Spa  
MAY ALSO BE CANCELLED

## What would you like? Your Comments - Please.

I have been our chapter Legislative Affairs Chairman 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.

**LTC Vern McNamee, USA Ret**

**Email:** vernonmcnamee@mcn.org ~ **Cell:** 707-972-3066

## SEE "PUB CRAWL" Page 3

### "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, March 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.

### “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)

### SCHOOL DAY'S !!!

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, 'When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah'.

The teacher asked, 'What if Jonah went to hell?'

The little girl replied, 'Then you ask him'

A teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of the blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, she said, 'Now, class, if I stood on my head, the blood, as you know, would run into it, and I would turn red in the face.'

'Yes,' the class said.

'Then why is it that while I am standing upright in the ordinary positions the blood doesn't run into my feet?'

A little fellow shouted, 'Cause your feet ain't empty.'

## SEE “PUB CRAWL” Page 3

## Legislative Affairs – March 2021 LEGISLATION:

### Federal:

NDAA is still a work in progress with many details needing to be settled. The first of which is, "Who is going to pay the bills?" With a mounting national deficit already past \$3.3 trillion, and another \$1.9 trillion on the table plus a national debt over \$27 trillion, we can expect a reprise of budget cuts and extreme caps such as sequestration, COLA caps, delay in payment of benefits, etc.

Right now, our crystal ball is very cloudy. You all need to stay tuned to what is happening, not only in regards to the military programs, but in every area as well and extrapolate what is happening to see what may happen in the near future.

With this in mind, you are encouraged to stay tuned at [MOAA.org](http://MOAA.org) and through [The MOAA Newsletter](#) for up-to-date information and calls to action to avoid any unpleasant surprises,

COLA increase has started out this year with a 0.7% increase so far. We hope that COLA increase will not become jeopardized to balance the budget as has been done in previous years.

### State:

**AB 225 - Professional Licensing** - Veterans and Active Military Spouses. This bill will require state regulatory board to grant licenses to honorably discharged veterans and spouses of active duty military members so long as they hold a current, active, and unrestricted license in another state.

This can be a real plus, not only for honorably discharged veterans and active military spouses, but for the State of California as well with the increased tax base. It's a win-win situation for all and can affect several thousand professionals.

**Military Retired Pay Exemption** - At this time, there will be no action to propose this legislation this year due to the local budget and pandemic crisis. In other words, there is no political climate to act.

To move into a more favorable climate, we will need to launch a song "grass roots effort" get our legislators on board to help. This will need everyone's help with almost a one on one effort. More information will be published later.

LTC Vernon McNamee, USA Ret  
Legislative Affairs Chairman

## CAPT Stewart Briefing

On 4 Feb 2021 Capt Joel Stewart gave an presentation of Maritime Prepositioning Ships Squadron Two to members of the Miramar Chapter and invited anyone interested to watch. If you are interested, please go to this <https://youtu.be/44TnraJZ3fg> link of his presentation. Note the link is UNLISTED. It was a great presentation and shows how we can stimulate participation through ZOOM, In addition to this, copy of his slide presentation can be made available.

LTC Vern McNamee, USA Ret

Email: [vernonmcnamee@mcn.org](mailto:vernonmcnamee@mcn.org) ~ Cell: 707-972-3066

## "PUB CRAWL" RECMOAA Zoomers Pub Meeting

Our second Pub Meeting using Zoom on February 9<sup>th</sup> went well with about 12 members attending for most of an hour. It was nice to just chat about various things and most of us shared a funny stories or jokes.

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

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6103642462?pwd=TlIdaYXdwZ3I5OEJ4SGFVcHlwNjFjZz09>

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' more of you there in March.

Major Kenneth Johnson, President

## 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.



**DECEASED  
SPOUSE**

**ALICE PETERKA**  
February 14, 2021  
Wife of ~ COL Louis "Pete" Peterka, USA (*Deceased*)

**THE REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER OFFICERS AND  
MEMBERS EXTEND OUR SINCEREST SYMPATHY TO  
THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THEIR  
DEPARTED LOVE ONES**

## 2021 DATES TO REMEMBER\*

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

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  
 24<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 25<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa  
 CNX  
 CNX  
 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 Brey Scholarship Applications**  
 24<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 25<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa  
 CNX  
 CNX  
 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>rd</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

Here it is March, a full year since the lockdown. The hope is that we can all get vaccinated and back to some kind of normal. When that will be is anyone's guess. We just hope it'll be sometime this year!

We were saddened to learn that Alice Peterka died in her sleep during the night of Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. The end of Valentine's Day. Alice was a valentine to all of us. She was an important part of the Wives Club for many years. She lived alone to the end, always alert, cheerful, and just plain wonderful. She would have been 100 years old this coming November. RIP, dear friend.

And as usual, I end the message with the same thing: 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 OFFICERS OF THE CHAPTER AND TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. AT THE PRESENT TIME (2021) WE DO NOT HAVE A **FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**. PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE MEMBERS ON OUR BOARD AND GIVE THEM YOUR NAME AS A POSSIBLE CANDIDATE TO FILL IN FOR THIS YEAR. 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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