



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

The tide has turned and now we're getting ready to set sail. Your crew has been working hard these past few months to prepare for our next voyage. We have our sights set on an exciting and rewarding experience, the problem is we don't have any passengers. We

know it has been a difficult and challenging experience for all of us. But now it is time for us to come together and enjoy in the Fellowship of our local chapter of MOAA.

At this time we are not able to reserve a location for our luncheon venues as we don't have any idea how many people will be there. We have sent out surveys, made personal telephone calls to the membership and we are still collecting data to find out how many people will be available for our future meetings.

Our first get together is likely to be a social get together in one of our local parks. In the next few weeks we will be identifying the best place to meet and then we will publish that information with the time and place in the next issue of the *MOAA VOICE*.

We need your support and interests to help put the ship back on course again. At this time we are looking for the latter part of June 2021 to have our first get together.

Welcome on board,

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, MAY 27, 2021 LUNCHEON at the FLAMINGO RESORT, IS CANCELLED.

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

Our Chapter Board of Directors is trying to have a picnic on **Saturday, JUNE 12th or 19th 2021**, arrangements are not confirmed at the time of this publication. We will try and let every one know when we have confirmation.



DECEASED CHAPTER MEMBER CAPT Roman Schneider, USA



Passed away on Thursday, March 4, 2020. The memorial service for Roman will be Saturday, May 22, 2021 at 10:30am. Location will be at St. Rose Catholic church, 398 10th, Santa Rosa. There will be a reception afterwards.

MILITARY DISCOUNTS

One of our chapter members was surfing on the Computer and information on Military Discount. To access information on military discounts, you only have to Google **military discounts**. The website that was most helpful is **militarybenefits.info**. If interested try it out you may find some great deals.

See "PUB CRAWL" on 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, May 4, 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.

Legislative Update – May 2021

Federal

NDAAs - National Defense Authorization Act 2021-2022. This is still a WIP with many budget details to be worked out. MOAA has submitted its list of priorities which has been published in the Military Officer and is the basis for any talks with our representatives.

In case you did not participate in MOAA's webinar on 6 April, the tug of war for money is just beginning. So, when National MOAA Hq asks to submit the letters in the magazine, please do so.

S. 344/H.R.1282 Major Richard Star Act. These two bills are being reintroduced *again* to provide for concurrent receipt of retired pay and VA disability payment for those injured in combat who have not completed 20 years service. We urge your action to make sure our Congressmen and Senators are on board supporting this urgent legislation.

State

AB 1400 California Guaranteed Health Care for All. This is a potentially dangerous bill for all of us - active, retired military, reservists and civilian federal contractors. Stay tuned! Let's not get lulled into a blind situation as is shown below regarding Proposition 19 that's covered in the next topic. It's a lot easier to make a bill correct before it becomes law and is more complicated to change.

Follows is an excerpt of an email from Jeff Breiten, VP Legislative Affairs, CALMOAA. Sent to our lobbyists in Sacramento on 8 April and shows the work being done to protect your interests - i.e., your pocketbooks.

"Seth/Dana, CALMOAA formally opposes AB 1400, see Fred's email below. The bill is very vague and ambiguous. It does not address its impact on military dependents residing in CA who rely on Tri Care for health benefits or those who utilize Military Health Care Facilities. It fails to address how it would impact health care for active-duty military assigned to independent duty (such as recruiting duty, Inspector Instruct or Duty at Reserve Centers ect.). What impact would it have on our disabled veteran's who receive care through the VA Health Care System in CA."

"AB 1400 does not identify how the program would be funded, other than to seek a waiver to receive federal Medicare funds. It alludes to future taxes but fails to mention who and how the taxes would be levied. Would our disabled veterans who receive health care free of charge through the VA be taxed in the future by CA to fund their health care? Would our active-duty military families and retired military on Tri Care and Tri Care for Life, residing in CA be now required to pay a tax to fund CA health care system under AB 1400. The bill in its current form simply states it will explore funding options. If CA is granted a waiver to receive all Medicare funds, how would that impact military retirees Tri Care for Life? How would AB 1400 impact federal employees residing in CA who use FEDVIP? Finally there is no clear funding source outlined in the bill. Way too many unanswered questions!"

Jeff,

From: Fred Green <fred.green@me.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 12:34 AM

To: Semper Fi <breitenj@msn.com>

Subject: Re: AB 1400

Jeff,

I agree.

After reading this 66 page Bill being proposed I could not see how this would be a benefit. I found myself reacting

negatively when I read the establishment of the California Guaranteed Health Care for All program, or CalCare and that it would seek all necessary waivers, and agreements to allow various existing federal health care payments to be paid to CalCare. Why do we need another agency to govern our health care. There are more than 9 counties in California. I wonder how they came up with the magic number of 9 voting members and an 11 advisory commission for Long Term Services.

Current regulations by the federal government, state, county, and city have increased medical care cost to the citizens of our state. At this time I did not see anything benefits for the citizen of our state. I did however see another bureaucracy begin established and another source of revenue being created for someone who may and/or may not be a medical professional. At no point did it qualify if the members were Health Administrators, Nurses, Medical Doctors, etc. Currently our state does not need to set up another roadblock that may and/or prevent affordable medical care. I admit I am reflecting on the impact BOEING felt when Long Beach, CA increase the cost to maintain their facility. When the last C-17 was built they closed the plant. That plant was the second largest employer in the Long Beach Area. Which is why I find it hard to believe **"The bill would provide the board with all the powers and duties necessary to establish CalCare, including determining when individuals may start enrolling into CalCare, employing necessary staff, negotiating pricing for covered pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, establishing a prescription drug formulary, and negotiating and entering into necessary contracts."**

CALMOAA does not support California AB-1400

Respectfully,

E Fred Green, Jr.

President of California Council of MOAA"

~~~~~  
**Proposition 19 Transfer of Property to Heirs.** This bill was passed last November, quietly, with indications that it would protect those seniors who wanted to move and still maintain their benefits from Proposition 13. Sadly, their heirs were not protected and woke up to find that their inheritance would be taxed at the current value unless it became a primary residence. Follow the money - this is real estate brokers dream. If you think you may have a future problem, talk to your tax people. This could mean thousands of dollars for those subjected to this situation.

**AB 225 Department of Consumer Affairs: boards: veterans: military spouses: licenses.** This bill would permit spouses of service members to practice their professions in California for 30 months rather than 12 months.

Last month, I listed our local representatives - State Senators and Assemblymen in the Voice. Please note the information and follow-up with them on these issues.

**Vern McNamee, LTC, USA Retired**  
**Legislative Chair, Redwood Empire Chapter, MOAA**

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

## “PUB CRAWL”

### RECMOAA Zoomers Pub Meeting

Our Pub Meeting using Zoom on April 13<sup>th</sup> went well with about 9 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. We had a treat Craig Matsuda played and sang three songs from the 1930s and 1940s. It is too bad more of our members did not join us for this fun time.

So.....we'll do it again on the second Tuesday in May 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 May 11<sup>th</sup> is as follows:

#### Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 610 364 2462

Pass code: 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 on May 11th.

Major Kenneth Johnson, President

#### “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)

## 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

### Addendum to Legislative Update -May 2021

#### SB 661 CaVet Home Loan Program:

Most veterans organizations in California including California State Commanders Veterans Council, CalMOAA, et.al. have asked our member support to reinforce support for the measure. SB 661 will modernize the CalVet Home Loan Program, making it easier for veterans to achieve the dream of homeownership. Since its inception, the CalVet Home Loan Program has helped nearly 425,000 veterans purchase their homes.

Despite the many changes in California's housing market, CalVet's Home Loan Program hasn't been updated in 45 years. SB 661 modernizes this vital program by allowing veterans to refinance their CalVet loans with better interest rates, take out loans with shorter payback terms, and other quality of life updates.

Will you please take a few minutes to [send a letter in support of SB 661](#) today? It will only take a couple of minutes of your time. (Just click on the blue "send a letter ...", fill out the form and voila! The letter is sent.)

However, if you prefer, call or send your letter to:

#### Senator Mike McGuire

2<sup>nd</sup> District

200 School St. Ste K

Ukiah, CA 95482 Telephone: 707 468-8914

Any questions, please call me at 707 972-3066 or email to [vernonmc@mcn.org](mailto:vernonmc@mcn.org),

**Vern McNamee**, Legislative Chair

## 2021 DATES TO REMEMBER\*

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

April:  
 6<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 CNX  
 CNX  
 May:  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa  
 28<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 4<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
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 June:  
 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  
 1<sup>st</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
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 \*\*  
 July:  
 23<sup>rd</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 6<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – select nominating committee  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
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 \*\*  
 August:  
 28<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 3<sup>rd</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 \*\*  
 \*\*  
 \*\*  
 September:  
 14<sup>th</sup> Riverfront Regional Park, Annual BBQ  
 25<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 7<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2020 officers  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
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 \*\*  
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 October:  
 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> ?? Friday, Luncheon, Two Rock USCG (\$10.00?)  
 22<sup>nd</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 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  
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 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 |

Good news! Sonoma County is in the orange at this writing! This means we may be able to have a picnic in June! The chapter board is busy working on this. I think this is the fourteenth month that we haven't been able to meet as a group. Hope we can recognize each other when we do get back together.

In the meantime, stay vigilant, stay safe, stay in touch. And, as always, don't forget to laugh.

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

## 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

|                              |                               |              |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| <u>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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| E-Mail                   | Bob Safreno                                                                   | <a href="mailto:Shadowbob1@juno.com">Shadowbob1@juno.com</a>               |
| Online                   | <a href="http://www.redwoodwmpiremoaa.us">http://www.redwoodwmpiremoaa.us</a> |                                                                            |