



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

This is a story with a message for all our members.

I was out for an afternoon walk and stopped into the local ice cream shop for my favorite banana split. I had just entered my spoon into the chocolate and strawberry ice cream when a young man and his dad approached and sat on the stool next to me. The young lad was quite excited and ordered his cherry sundae and soon was involved in the rapture of bright red cherries and succulent cherry syrup. I had not quite finished my banana split when he looked at me and casually asked me, "You're old, aren't you." I smiled and replied, "Yes, I am old but I'm very happy to be sharing my banana split with you, as you enjoy your cherry sundae."

"Well what did you used to do?"

"Many years ago I was a pilot in the Air Force. I got to travel to many interesting places in the world and I had many friends."

"Do you miss your old friends?"

"I do, but now I'm able to meet and make new friends who were once also in the military."

"Did they fly airplanes?"

"Some did, but we all have experiences we like to talk about, and now we have new stories and new adventures to share. Someday you'll have friends and stories to tell."

"How do you talk with your new friends?"

"We belong to a family of military officers who meet once a month, to share our old experiences and to talk about our new adventures in life. That way our circle of friends continues to grow. We have a monthly luncheon meeting where we get together, and we know that in the near future we will be able to gather for our in-person lunches."

You are backbone of our local chapter. We need your ongoing support and commitment to hold onto and build the values that for many years were such an important part of our life.

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

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**See "PUB CRAWL" on Page 2**

**Saturday, June 12, 2021  
Picnic at Two Rock Coast Guard base,  
IS CANCELLED.**

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Santa Rosa and all Veterans buildings in the County are shut down until mid June 2021

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Our Chapter Board of Directors has reserved Spring Lake, Lower Jack Rabbit area to have a **Picnic/BBQ on Saturday, JULY 17, 2021. Cost will be \$20.00**

**Menu: BBQ Chicken, Garlic Bread, Wine, Iced Tea, and Coffee. Salad, Baked Beans, and Dessert provided by the Wives Club. Please bring your own munchies, chips & dip, water, and soda.**

**NOTE:** In the July *MOAA VOICE* we will have all of the information needed for reservations and payments

**↑ INFO ON CHAPTER GET TOGETHER ↑**

**See "PUB CRAWL" on Page 2**

## **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, June 1, 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.

# Legislative Update – June 2021

## Federal

**COLA** - One does not have to be a rocket scientist these days to see or feel that prices are skyrocketing. Current COLA numbers are 3.1% over last year and probably will rise more before October.

However, with our deficit at 3.3 trillion, no doubt we will see work to “save” money through cuts, caps, sequestration, or more. We saw this in the past from the idea to defer increases until the retiree passes 62 years with no compensation for the lost years. Also, there was the COLA minus 1% plan as well as other plans. So, it behooves us to stay alert.

**NDAA - National Defense Authorization Act 2021-2022.** This is STILL work in process. MOAA currently has three priorities as shown below.

**S. 1488/ H.R. 2339 - Military Hunger Prevention Act.** This will provide for basic necessities for junior enlisted families that struggle to make ends meet - particularly with the pandemic, frequent moves, etc.

**H.R. 475 - Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act.** The bill will expand TRICARE for young adults under 26 years in line with civilian standards.

**Toxic Exposure Recognition Reform Act** - This will bring the toxic exposure situation currently faced by Soldiers in the Middle East and elsewhere to the similar standards as those exposed by Agent Orange.

**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.

Please open the MOAA webpage and “Take Action Now” on these issues.

## State

**AB 1400 California Guaranteed Health Care for All.** As was mentioned last month, this potentially unfavorable bill for veterans, military retirees, federal contractors and others working in California, is opposed by CALMOAA and is off the docket - for now - but can be presented again next year.

**AB 225 Boards -Military Spouses Licenses.** This law allow for the issuance of certain types of professional licenses to spouses or partners of active duty members of the Armed Forces of the United States who are assigned to a duty station in this state under official active duty military orders and the applicant holds a current, active, and unrestricted license that confers upon the applicant the authority to practice, in another state, district, or territory of the United States. These temporary licenses would extend expiration from 12 months after issuance to 30 months. It is supported by CALMOAA.

**AB 291 Income taxation - Exclusion of Military Survivor Benefits.** This bill, for taxable years beginning on

or after January 1, 2021, and before January 1, 2026, would provide an exclusion from gross income for all survivor benefits or payments received on or after January 1, 2021, and before January 1, 2026, under the federal Survivor Benefit Plan. CALMOAA supports this measure. With the current extra money in the State Treasury, perhaps this may be a win-win situation.

**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:** vernonmcmnamee@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=TDIldYXdwZ3I5OEJkSGFVcHlwNjFjZz09>

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

### \*\*\*\*\* RAPID SUPPORT NEEDED \*\*\*\*\*

We need your help to waive fees on “veteran” designated driver's licenses.

The DMV offers a “veteran” designation on driver's licenses and identification cards, allowing veterans to easily

access benefits available to them without having to present their discharge papers. The DMV, however, charges \$5.00 for designated driver's licenses and identification cards. AB 1151 (Smith) would waive this fee.

Will you take a few minutes to send a letter in support of AB 1151 today?

Veterans have made significant sacrifices to serve this country and should not have to pay for the distinction of possessing a "veteran" designated driver's license of identification card.

Please help us tell the Assembly that the veterans' community strongly supports AB 1151! Use our simple, fast, online letter-writing tool to send a letter to your Assembly Member today.

Thank you for your support! It's easy, just use the "online letter-writing tool". Thanks,

**Vern McNamee, LTC Ret** 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 56 properties in this state alone and is his own maintenance service. He does many kinds of things. He still offers a weeks worth of good and 5 gallons of gas to needy members, vets and classmates.

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

Call: William Anderson at 707-331-0366

## **COL BREY SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

The Scholarship Committee met in March and evaluated five applications for the Col Brey Scholarship. All the identities were redacted. One of the applicants did not qualify for the scholarship. The committee evaluated the four remaining applicants and decided they were very close and could not be put in a ranking order. After an online Board meeting, it was decided that \$16,000.00 was available for this year's awards.

The following four applicants were awarded \$4,000.00 each: Ms. Joella Canto Adams (Daughter of LtCol Bill & Sabine Adams, USMC); Ms. Macdalah Fry (Granddaughter of Wally McCall); Ms. Zoe Phan (Granddaughter of CDR Donald & Susan Linch, USN) and Ms. Lily Swanson (Granddaughter of Maj & Mrs Ken Johnson, USAF).

Congratulations to all the recipients.

***The letter attached below was from one of our Scholarship applicants to the Redwood Empire Chapter of MOAA:***

Dear Redwood MOAA Scholarship Committee:

Thank you for the time and consideration that you took to review my application. I am extremely grateful and honored to have been selected as a recipient of the Colonel William G. Brey Scholarship.

The Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) has become my home away from home. My experiences during my first year have surpassed my expectations at every step. I was placed on the dean's list with high honors my first two quarters in recognition of my academic achievements. In addition, I have been nominated by school faculty for the Civil and Architectural Engineering Departments' Bill Nash Award which honors a first year student who excels academically and is involved in departmental extracurricular activities. Being a recipient of the Colonel William G. Brey Scholarship in 2020 has helped make it possible for me to achieve all of the above. I am very grateful for the continuous generosity of the MOAA Redwood Empire Chapter.

As my sophomore year at MSOE comes to a close, I look forward to pursuing my career goals at Hensel Phelps this summer in Pleasanton, California as a Field Intern. This opportunity will not only allow me to learn about being a civil engineer but also learn valuable industry skills that I would not otherwise be able to learn in a classroom. After this summer, I will return to the MSOE campus in the fall to begin my Junior year.

Through your generous financial support, it is possible for me to continue to achieve my educational and career goals.

Sincerely,

**Lily Swanson**

Lily Swanson

(Granddaughter of  
Maj & Mrs Ken Johnson, USAF).

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**See "PUB CRAWL" on Page 2**

## 2021 DATES TO REMEMBER\*

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

May:  
CNX 15<sup>th</sup> Armed Forces Day – Rose Parade, Santa Rosa  
CNX 26<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
CNX 27<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa  
CNX 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  
CNX 5<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> Saturday, Picnic at Two Rock? Honor Brey Scholars  
UNK 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  
17<sup>th</sup> Picnic/BBQ, Spring Lake, Lower Jack Rabbit area  
28<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting

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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

### "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)

See "PUB DRAWE" on Page 2

## 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 |

Get your picnic clothes out of mothballs! Oh wait. You've probably been living in picnic clothes for the past umpteen months. The good news is we're having a picnic/BBQ on July 17<sup>th</sup> at Lower Jack Rabbit area in Spring Lake Park! The Wives Club will do its normal part in bringing salads, baked beans, and deserts. Tune up your ears for your phone to ring in July so you can tell the caller what you'll bring! Details of the picnic will be in the July VOICE. Hope to see you in July! In person! Finally!!

**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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