



Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 51, NUMBER 8

“Serving Those Who Serve America”

AUGUST 2021



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

As I sit at my desk making notes to myself on what to write for our monthly newsletter, my thoughts come to my mind of the hardships we've had to deal with over the past many months. Now as our daily activities return to somewhat of a more normal status, we realize that things will never be the same as before. It's

not that our values have changed, but now we are being told we have to learn how to live with a health virus that can affect all of our lives.

In July some of our activities returned to a more normal status when we had our first get together at our picnic/barbecue at Spring Lake Park. It is the first in-person gathering we've had in over a year and a half. We had over **40** people in attendance. Our venue will be different this year than what we've experienced in the past, but we had to work with some limiting conditions. Your Board worked very hard to prepare for our first public gathering. Several Board members have been spending the past few weeks interviewing different facilities that can accommodate our in-person meetings. We're very pleased that in August we can meet at the Epicenter in Santa Rosa.

Your Board members have been meeting monthly via Zoom, but in August we will resume having our in-person board meetings at the Santa Rosa Veterans building.

We have one other monthly activity that we're trying to restart. We have been having monthly "Pub Crawl" meetings on Zoom. After taking a survey at the picnic to see if you're interested in continuing "Pub Crawl" meetings in person, it was decided to try an in-person "Pub Crawl". Look for more information in this publication.

It's important for me to say that these activities that I've written about reflect the commitment of your Board members to provide you with a viable and meaningful relationship with others who like you have served in our military.

This MOAA is your family of veterans who come together to show support for one another. One way to show this support is to participate in your local chapter activities.

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

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**See "PUB CRAWL" on Page 3**

## Thursday, August 26, 2021 Buffet Luncheon at the EPICENTER in Santa Rosa 11:00am ~ Dine Noon

**Directions** ~ Epicenter is on the corner of Coffey Lane. and Piner Road. Traveling West on Piner Road. from Cleveland Avenue, go through the traffic light at Coffey Lane and almost immediately turn left into the parking lot in front of the big blue building with **Epicenter** written on the front.

Traveling East on Piner Road from Marlow Road, turn right into the parking lot after the big blue building and before reaching Coffey Lane. We are in the "**Trophy Room**". Enter the building through the entrance closest to Piner Road, go through the "**Victory**" Restaurant on your left. The "**Trophy Room**" is at the back of the restaurant on the left side.

We will be having a Guest Speaker, Charles Roseneau. See Page 3, for more information.

**ALL MUST MAKE RESERVATIONS**, this is needed for head counts for meals and making name tags.

We hope to see many members there.

## MOAA BOARD MEETING

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Will be held in-person on Tuesday, August 3, 2021, 11:30am at the Santa Rosa Vet's Memorial. We believe the meeting will be held in the usual room but it may be held in the Club Room at the Vets. We will try to direct members to the correct location. Fully vaccinated members can attend with out a mask (unless you wish to wear one anyway) but we suggest bringing one. Hand washing and sanitation stations are available and social distancing of attendees will be in practice.

If you are unable to attend in-person, Tim Morgan will be sending information to Board Members, on how to join the meeting via Zoom. If a member of the Chapter wishes to join the meeting via Zoom, you must contact us by e-mail and we will give you the information needed. Note, we can't be sure that the Zoom setup will 1) work, and 2) be understandable as it may be hard to hear or see what is going on. We will give this alternate method a try this month.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings. **Again, we are meeting in-person with a Zoom backup.**

## "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.

# Legislative Update – August 2021

## Federal

**NDAAs - National Defense Authorization Act 2021-2022.** While negotiation continues regarding the budget, MOAA continues to push the following priority legislation:

**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.

**H.R. 2214 and S.1669 - The Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act.** Financial concerns and stress can be a terrible burden on top of an already stressful situation for a newly widowed spouse. For some, when they discover DFAS may take part or all of that last retirement check back, it can be an overwhelming event. will allow survivors to gradually repay the amount over the next 12 months and have an opportunity to request for debt forgiveness through DoD.

**COLA** — The June 2021 CPI is 266.412, 5.1 percent above the FY 2021 COLA baseline. However, it is highly possible the fight for our COLA, has just begun. During the past four decades, there have been many artifacts by which COLA has been reduced, proposed to be denied until after 62 years of age, etc. With a mounting national deficit already past \$3.3 trillion, and a national debt over \$27 trillion, we can expect deep budget cuts and extreme caps – sequestration will have a new life. This will put defense spending on its fiscal heels, fostering many ideas as to how to keep modernizing and where to find the money to do it. Stay alert!

**TRICARE** - If you have had issues in getting some of your meds being out of stock or being moved to Tier 4, help is on the way. MOAA is interested in hearing your complaints regarding TRICARE pharmacy program. Please share your feedback at [legis@moaa.org](mailto:legis@moaa.org).

## State

**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 and the current political situation, perhaps this may be a win-win situation. CALMOAA is gearing up an “all hands” effort to get something passed this year either with this bill or other. Stay tuned - your participation will be needed!

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

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

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## 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

(A Sonoma County Main Chapter event; all members are more than welcome)

## Buffet Luncheon, Thursday August 26, 2021

**Epicenter, 3215 Coffey Lane, Santa Rosa**

*Socializing 11:00 to 11:45 am, Meeting starts, Lunch 12:00 noon*

Cost (including tax and tip) - **Price \$26.00**

**Salad:** House salad available. Fresh Rolls & Butter.

**Lunch:** Barbecue chicken breast or Beef and mushrooms. French fries are also included along with Seasoned Vegetables.

**Dessert:** Cookies. Water, Iced Tea, Hot Tea and Coffee

**Enclosed:** is my check for my advanced reservation \_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$26.00 each. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** All must make **RESERVATIONS** Please Pre Pay if possible. (Late options only **Pay At Door**).

**Information** is needed for head counts for meals and making name tags.

**NO RESERVATION or Walk-Ins will cost \$30.00 per person.**

**Donations:** Col. Brey Scholarship Fund (Fully Tax Deductible). \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Speaker: Charles Roseneau, Manager of Epicenter.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_, Phone: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Guests: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the names of all guest, so that we can make **NAME TAGS** for them too, thank you.

Make check (s) payable to: **RECMOAA**

To: MOAA, Redwood Empire Chapter, P.O. Box 2801, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

"Contact the Chapter Secretary @ 707-795-3963, prior to 10:00am, Tuesday

before the Thursday event to request a refund on prepaid meals."

### INFORMATION ON EPICENTER

The Chapter has confirmed that our luncheon will take place on the fourth Thursday of each month beginning at 11:00am and lasting until about 2:00pm. We will be in the **TROPHY** room and we have estimated our guests at about 30 diners. Their normal minimum to feed is 25 persons, but they are willing to work with us if there are less.

The cost per person will be about \$26.00, but this is not firm yet.

Each lunch comes with water, ice tea, and coffee. It is a buffet line and we will have a choice of two entrées and a side and one salad.

Our menu for this month will be a house salad and a choice from two entrées. The entrées this month will be Barbecue chicken breast or Beef and mushrooms. French fries are also included along with Seasoned Vegetables. We have until three (3) days before the lunch to notify them of changes in quantity.

We did find a speaker for our first indoor luncheon, after our interview with the managers at the **Epicenter**, we have asking one of the managers there to give us a brief history on what it's been like this past year for lack of participating customers. Everybody knows it's been challenging, but it was interesting hearing his outlook on the future.

### "PUB CRAWL"

**by Ken Johnson**

I'm not a Brit, but I enjoy a cold beer, especially in the company of good friends. Please join us as we start an in person event for all our Chapters MOAA members. No agenda, just a place and a time where we can gather and share a beer or two and talk about items of interest to all of us. We're looking for a place that is easy for all of us to get to, and someplace that's quiet so we can gather in our own little corner and just talk and have time together. We are setting our next event at the **Toad in The Hole** pub (bar) located at 116 5th Street in Santa Rosa. They have a good selection of beer and a great menu for fish and chips. We will try again to meet on the second Tuesday, at 4:00pm, August 10th. **NOTE: This is not just for the guys, the wives or spouses are more that welcome.** Our time and date for future meetings will be up to the needs of interested members. This is just the start of a fun way to get together and have great times together. A few of our members had a good time doing this by **ZOOM** meetings in the past. However I'm open to any input and suggestions, so call me if you have any questions at 408-466-6764. .... Ken

## 2021 DATES TO REMEMBER\*

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

July:  
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  
25<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
26<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, **Epicenter**, Two Rock USCG (\$10.00?)

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?  
23<sup>rd</sup> Luncheon, **Epicenter**, 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, **Epicenter**, Election of Officers, 2022

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 ??  
\*\* December, Holiday Social to be determined  
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

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## NOTE

The Lobster feed date has been confirmed on Friday, November 19, 2021

Chapter is currently working on a December Holiday Social Luncheon event. As of this publication nothing has been reserved.

### "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 CRAWL"  
on Page 3

## 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 |

Our chapter outing in Spring Lake Park on July 17<sup>th</sup> was a huge success! How great to see so many of us in person again. And! We're almost ready for the Wives Club luncheons to start meeting in person! We're not meeting in August, but in September we'll meet for lunch at the Epicenter in Santa Rosa. So watch this space closely in the September MOAA VOICE for details. Our last luncheon was on March 11, 2020. Seventeen months of not seeing each other for a Wives Club luncheon? Enough already. See you in September!

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

## 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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| Editor Mail Distribution | Bob Safreno                                                                   | 707-795-3963               |
| E-Mail                   | Bob Safreno                                                                   | Shadowbob1@juno.com        |
| Online .....             | <a href="http://www.redwoodwmpiremoaa.us">http://www.redwoodwmpiremoaa.us</a> |                            |

## 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)