

MOAA



VOICE

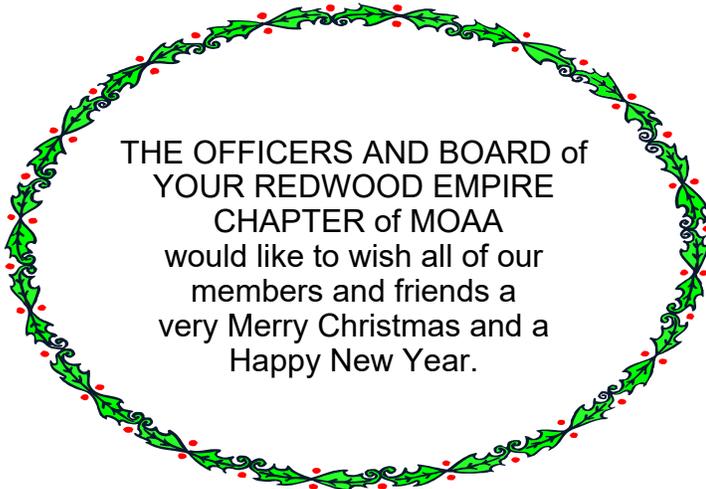
Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 51, NUMBER 12

"Serving Those Who Serve America"

DECEMBER 2021



THE OFFICERS AND BOARD of
YOUR REDWOOD EMPIRE
CHAPTER of MOAA
would like to wish all of our
members and friends a
very Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON SOCIAL

Our annual HOLIDAY LUNCHEON will be held at "Sally Tomatoes" in Rohnert Park. Socializing begins at 1:00pm and the buffet will be open at 2:00pm. Holiday music will be provided by Craig Matsuda.

NOTE BELOW: The cost is \$25.00 for the member and \$25.00 for one guest. Additional guest are \$30.00.

PLAN TO ATTEND, BRING A FRIEND, ANOTHER MEMBER OR POTENTIAL MEMBER.

If you need a ride, please call one of our Chapter Officers.

Robert Safreno, Chairman

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

Holiday Buffet Luncheon, Sunday December 5, 2021

Sally Tomatoes ~ 1100 Valley House Dr., Rohnert Park

Socializing 1:00pm; Lunch 2:00pm

Cost \$25.00 - (each for the first two people)

(\$30.00 each for each additional person)

Cold Buffet: Suzanne Salad ~ Rolls & Butter

Hot Buffet: Chicken Marsala ~ Grilled Salmon Picatta ~ Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans

Holiday Desserts: Homemade Cheesecake

Freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaf Coffee and a Selection of Teas. (NO HOST BAR AVAILABLE)

Enclosed is my check for my advanced reservation _____ persons (\$25.00 each for Two (2) persons), each additional guest is \$30.00 per person. Total money sent \$ _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for the Col. Brey Scholarship Fund (Fully Tax Deductible) and/or \$ _____ to help defray costs in the Chapter General Fund.

Entertainment: Christmas Music by **Craig Matsuda**, Starting at 1:00pm.

Name: _____, **Phone:** (____) _____

Guests: _____, _____, _____

Please list the names of all guests, so that we can make NAME TAGS for them, too. Thank you.

Make check(s) payable to: **REC MOAA**

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

SEE PAGE FOUR (4) FOR DIRECTIONS TO "Sally Tomatoes"



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Every month when I sit at my desk reflecting on a thought that I could write about for our news letter, I try to step outside of myself. To me that means opening up to things in the world around me. In years past I was interested in learning how to be a story teller. It gave me a vision of new experiences outside of myself.

I recently purchased a new book written by Jane Goodall, *The Eagle and the Wren*. I was looking for something to share with my grandchildren

It is a simple story about who can fly the highest. We all have goals and visions for ourselves as to what we want to accomplish in our lives. I think at times we focus too much on ourselves and the belief that we don't need the help of others. We were all given many gifts and strengths that lead us along life's pathway.

In the story the eagle climbs higher and higher into the sky passing up all of the other birds. He sees himself as the bird that can fly highest. As he gazed down upon the other birds he was surprised when a small Wren climbed out of his feathers on his back and flew higher than he could fly. The Wren looked down at the Eagle and said, "I couldn't have done it without your help."

The owl praised them both. "Together you have set a new record. With your strong wings and determination, mighty Eagle, and with your dreaming and your quick brain, little Wren, you have flown to a new height never reached by any bird before."

What the story said to me, was that when we work together we are able to reach new heights. The Redwood Empire Chapter of MOAA is ours to bring together and build upon the strengths and gifts of all our members

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

OUR MONTHLY LUNCH MEETINGS !!!!

One of the priorities of your board members is the research and provide the best facilities to hold our monthly lunch meetings. This is an ongoing and challenging priority. Your board members have given time and effort researching and looking for a facility that will provide for our needs. The things that we have to consider include the location, the size of the facility, the seating capacity, provisions to provide for our speakers, environment, and the menu. The menu is the most complicated because everybody wants and enjoyable meal, good selection, and last but not least a reasonable price. Other restaurants we looked at would increase our lunch cost to 45 to 55 dollars.

Added to that we must deal with the Covid restrictions. When dealing with all of the these factors, it limits our choices. The board needs your acceptance and understanding and know that we do our very best to meet your needs. We will stay with our current location until the end of the year, and early next year we will review our selection

Major Kenneth Johnson, USAF, President

DUES NOTICE FOR	2022	Make Checks Payable to: RECMOAA
<p>DUES Requirements: (For complete information check your current by-laws) Dues become due and payable on January 1st. Non-receipt of dues payment by March 1st, may result in removal from chapter rolls.</p>		
Annual dues	\$25.00	\$ _____
Wives club dues: (If wife a member)	\$25.00	\$ _____
Wife's name _____		
Donation to the General Fund: (to defray costs).....	\$ _____	
COL Brey Scholarship fund:		
Fully tax deductible contribution	\$ _____	
Thank You!	Total enclosed.....	\$ _____
NAME: (First & Last) _____		
<i>(Please Return this notice in envelope provided)</i>		

COPY OF DUES NOTICE

Shown above is a copy of 2022 Dues notice. It will be sent out by First Class mail, with a return envelope. If you do not receive a dues notice, you may not owe dues or it was missent. If you think you should be paying dues, but did not get a notice, contact your secretary for an explanation or the need for him to send you another dues notice.

Thank you, **ROBERT R. SAFRENO**
Redwood Empire Chapter Secretary

"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, December 7, 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– December 2021

Federal

Federal Budget . 2022 NDAA. As everyone pretty much knows, many details still need to be worked out, but with Congress going on recess, it's doubtful if anything will happen before the end of the year. While this delay has happened during the past couple of decades, currently, due to Increased party division, political grandstanding, decline of military experience in Congress, and other environmental factors have only worsened these trends.

S. 344 Concurrent Receipt - aka Major Richard Star Act. This legislative proposal would provide for full retirement benefits for those injured in combat and forced to retire before twenty years off service. Although it has received adequate support, it appears that it might not "make to cut" when the NDAA gets finalized because counter balancing budget line has not been found. Bummer!

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 — It looks like we will be getting a 5.9 percent raise. This is good news. Let's hope nothing gets changed until payday. However, on the downside of this increase is the corresponding increase in MEDICARE Part B and increases in copayments. It's not enough, but it will help because so far, the latest numbers show the numbers for the next raise are off the chart for October (factor for next year) at 1.2%.

State

Tax Exemption for Military Retired Pay. Things have started to move. Jeff Breiten, CALMOAA VP Legislative, has identified two assembly members who will sponsor a bill for this exemption. One is Assemblymember James Ramos from , the 40th District and the other, Assemblymember Megan Dahle from the 1st District. This is great news, however, **a lot more work** by all our members statewide to keep the ball rolling. Hopefully, some of you will make personal calls on our local legislators once a bill number gets assigned.

As I said before, this is a biggie. We are all in this together! Stay **tuned!**

Merry Christmas to All!

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

**Ted Puntillo, Director
Veteran Services
675 Texas Street, suite 4700
Fairfield, CA 94533
Phone 707-784-6590
FAX 707-784-0927**

Subject: 2022 COLA

There will be a **5.9%** increase for VA compensation and pension payments in 2022 due to a cost of living adjustment. Under federal law, the cost-of-living adjustments to VA's compensation and pension rates are the same percentage as for Social Security benefits.

Periodically, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) makes cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) to VA compensation and pension benefits to ensure that the purchasing power of VA benefits is not eroded by inflation. Under federal law, the cost-of-living adjustments to VA's compensation and pension rates are the same percentage as for Social Security benefits.

COLAs are determined by an increase in inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). The Bureau of Labor Statistics determined there was a 5.9% increase in 2021. Therefore, the COLA for 2022 is 5.9%.

**James Little
Change Management Agent
Oakland Regional Office
Veterans Affairs**

Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2022

- President Maj Ken Johnson, USAF
- 1st Vice President (*None at this time*)
- 2nd Vice Pres. 1Lt Donald J. Nowacki, USANG
- Secretary Cpt Robert R. Safreno, USAF
- Treasurer LCDR Tim Morgan, USNR
- Directors ~ 2022
 - Martina Lewis
 - Susan Linch
 - LTC Gary Meagher, AUS
 - Mary-Gwen Neisingh
- Directors ~ 2022-2023 (2 yrs.)
 - Capt Lee R. Berry, USMC
 - Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst
 - Donna Poulter
 - CPT Lewis Wall, USA

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 57 properties in this state alone and is his own maintenance service. He does many kinds of things. He still offers a weeks worth of goods 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

Letter sent on August 27, 2021 to Epicenter.....

Dear Charles,

Thank you for hosting our group, MOAA. All were pleasantly surprised with the room and its natural light and simple order. When asked about the food, there were no complaints, so I think we were all happy with our first outing together. Your speech was very informative and interesting. Isn't it funny, how many of us did not know about the Epicenter before? We all appreciate your interest and care in dealing with us and we are looking forward to our next visit.

Sincerely,

Dayle Johnson and Ken Johnson, President of MOAA

"Pub Crawl" by Ken Johnson

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 have been 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 have chosen to have our event at the Graton Resort & Casino, in Rohnert Park. They have several restaurants but the one I like is called the Daily Grill. It has both indoor and outdoor seating and a very nice menu. They have three large parking lots so there's plenty of room for parking.

We will try again to meet on the third Tuesday, at 11:30am, December 21st. **NOTE: This is not just for the guys, the wives or spouses are more than 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 Johnson

DIRECTIONS TO SALLY TOMATOES

1100 Valley House Dr., Rohnert Park

Coming From the North:

Go south on Hwy 101

Exit at the Rohnert Park Expressway, turn left.

Turn right on Petaluma Hill Rd., then right on Valley House Dr.

Turn right just before a large office building complex; "**Sally Tomatoes**" is on the left.

Coming From the South:

Go north on Hwy 101

Take Exit 476, Old Redwood Hwy

Turn right on Redwood Hwy, then right on Main St., which becomes Petaluma Hill Rd.

Turn left on Valley House Dr., then right into a large office building complex.

"**Sally Tomatoes**" is the first building on the left.

Coming From the East:

Take Petaluma Hill Rd. south, either via Santa Rosa Ave.

Or take Bennett Valley Rd., turning right on Grange and then left on Petaluma Hill Rd.

Turn right on Valley House Dr., then right into a large office building complex.

"**Sally Tomatoes**" is the first building on the left.

Subject: History of a Common Word ~ Love the last line!

Manure: In the 16th and 17th centuries, everything for export had to be transported by ship. It was also before the invention of commercial fertilizers, so large shipments of manure were quite common.

It was shipped dry, because in dry form it weighed a lot less than when wet, but once water (at sea) hit it, not only did it become heavier, but the process of fermentation began again, of which a by-product is methane gas. As the stuff was stored below decks in bundles you can see what could (and did) happen. Methane began to build up below decks and the first time someone came below at night with a lantern, **BOOOOM**

Several ships were destroyed in this manner before it was determined just what was happening. After that, the bundles of manure were always stamped with the instruction 'Stow high in transit' on them, which meant for the sailors to stow it high enough off the lower decks so that any water that came into the hold would not touch this "volatile" cargo and start the production of methane.

Thus evolved the term ' **S.H.I.T** ', (Stow High In Transit) - "So it's really not a swear word" - it has come down through the centuries and is still in use to this very day.

You probably did not know the true history of this word. Neither did I - I had always thought it was a golfing term!

DUES NOTICE

All regular members should have received your dues notice by the time you get this bulletin by mail. The notices were sent First Class mail, with an envelope that could be used to return your payment of dues.

From By-Laws: **Article VII, Section B.**

Annual dues shall become due and payable on the first day of January. Members who fail to renew their membership by that date shall be reminded of their overdue status and, if payment is not received by the first day of March, shall be dropped from the rolls. Membership may be reinstated upon payment of current dues.

Notices were sent only to members who need to renew their dues for 2022. There are still a few members who have not renewed their dues for 2019 as of the publication of this bulletin.

NOTE: Members should not pay Wives Club dues unless their wife is a member of the Wives Club. Every year your Treasurer receives additional payment for wives and then passes on payment to Florence Wall for the payment of dues for about 5 or 6 women who are not Wives Club members. She then has to call and inform them, or send checks back to the member that has paid his wives dues in error.

Please note members dues are \$25.00 a year.

**Wives dues are \$25.00, ONLY
if they belong to the Wives Club**

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The application period for COL William G. Brey Scholarships will open on January 1, 2022, and will close on March 15, 2022. 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 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 are available on our website (under Programs) and also may be obtained by writing to:

Secretary, Redwood Empire Chapter, MOAA
Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

or by directly contacting Scholarship Committee Chairman:

Susan Linch

4825 Glencannon Street,

Santa Rosa, CA 95405-7911 – Phone: (707)538-3342

or e-mail: srmomx5@comcast.net

Susan 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.



2021 DATES TO REMEMBER

November:
 2nd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 11th North Bay Veterans Day parade (Thursday)
 19th Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building
 24th United Veterans Council meeting
 25th Thanksgiving Day

December:
 5th Holiday Social at "Sally Tomatoes"
 7th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 7th Pearl Harbor Survivors program, a program is planned.
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
NO United Veterans Council meeting
 25th Christmas

2022 DATES TO REMEMBER

JANUARY
 1st Dues for 2022 are payable at this time
 ** 4th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am (ZOOM?)
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information.
 18th "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino
 26th United Veterans Council meeting
 27th Luncheon, **Epicenter** - Installation of Officers

FEBRUARY
 1st Proposed target date to publish the 2022 Roster
 ** 1st BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 15th "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino
 23rd United Veterans Council meeting
 24th Luncheon, **Epicenter**

MARCH
 1st BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 15th Deadline for submission Scholarship Applications
 15th "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino
 ** 23rd United Veterans Council meeting
 ** 24th Luncheon, **Epicenter**

** = Not Confirmed at this time ~ **CNX** = Cancelled ~ **UNK** = Unknown
 06/32/06

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 2022
 CALL OR E-MAIL SECRETARY
 ROBERT SAFRENO. (707) 795-3963 ~
shadowbob1@juno.com

SEE "Pub Crawl" on PAGE 4

SEE PAGE FOUR (4)
 FOR DIRECTIONS TO
 "Sally Tomatoes"

"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

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

ABOUT TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES! ONLY \$25.00

Mail check to Florence Wall at 655 Chardonnay Place, Windsor, CA 95492

If you want to get a jump on things and get this off your mind, you can start paying dues for 2022. We hope you will also come to the luncheons, fully vaccinated of course. We all want to be safe.

As it has been forever, we do not have a luncheon in December. Instead, we will join the Chapter for the annual Holiday Luncheon. This year it's being held at **Sally Tomatoes** in Rohnert Park on Sunday, December 5th. Directions to the restaurant can be found elsewhere in this issue of the VOICE.

We hope you will all come to this festive event! Don't wait till the callers contact you because they don't do this in December. You make the reservation yourself by filling out the coupon found in this issue of the VOICE. Please mail it in early because the restaurant needs an accurate account.

Tina Lewis, Publicity 707-539-5546, tinalewis31@comcast.net

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,	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 1

Chuck Jamison

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

Co-Editor	Tim Morgan	707-695-9293
E-Mail	Tim Morgan	blackcloudbrew@comcast.net
Editor Mail Distribution	Bob Safreno	707-795-3963
E-Mail	Bob Safreno	Shadowbob1@juno.com
Online	http://www.redwoodwmpiremoaa.us	

Publication Title: MOAA VOICE is a newsletter of the Redwood Empire Chapter, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). **Statement of Frequency:** Published monthly. **Authorized organization's name and address:** MOAA Redwood Empire Chapter, PO Box 2801, Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801. Cost of publication: **FREE**