

# MOAA



# VOICE

Military Officers Association of America  
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 52, NUMBER 5

“Serving Those Who Serve America”

MAY 2022



## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

As each new month rolls around I sit at my desk, gather my thoughts, and try to find the words that I can put on paper which will be interesting, and have some meaning for our members. In the world we live in today we are given many options as to what to read, what to watch on TV, or which friends we want to listen

to. At the end of the day this could put us into a mental overload. What we are most likely to remember, or respond to are those values which we personally support. Our values are formed over time, they are a result of our personal experiences. I am influenced by these same experiences, but what has given me a strong foundation for my life's values, has been my military career. Being a pilot was a major part of my career, but it also taught me how to listen to others, to respect others and the value of being open to new experiences.

My career ended over fifty years ago, and today I am thankful for being part of one of the nation's most respected and honored military organizations. Today you and I have the opportunity to gather monthly to share with one another not only our past military lives but to create new and meaningful experiences. Your chapter is supported by men and women that you voted to put into office. They give their time and energy to provide for you an opportunity to spend time with one another in a social and entertain way. For most of us this past year has been anything but normal. We have been influenced by severe health considerations and lack of facilities where we could gather.

Many of our past limitations have been lifted and now we are free to get together for our in person activities. I'm asking all of our members to show interest and support our Redwood Empire Chapter monthly activities. Your presence is important If we are to remain a strong and viable organization. There is a limited opportunity for our organization to grow as there are few new military candidates in our area to add to our membership. I look forward to seeing you at our chapter activities.

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

### “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.

**THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2022**

**Buffet Luncheon at the  
EPICENTER in Santa Rosa  
11:00am ~ Dine at Noon**

**Guest Speaker:** At the time of this publication we do not have a guest speaker. If one becomes available for the May luncheon, you will be notified by email.

**PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR DINING**, this is needed for head counts for meals and making name tags.

See page No. 3 for the Luncheon menu.

### “Pub Crawl” by Ken Johnson

Please join us at our 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 had 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 are meeting on the third Tuesday, at 11:30am, May 17h. **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 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.

**MOAA BOARD of DIRECTORS will be  
MEETING at the Santa Rosa Veterans  
building in the Conference room.**

Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 11:30am.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings.

## Legislative Update- May 2022

### Federal

**Federal Budget . 2022 NDAA.** MOAA annual Advocacy in Action has been launched and we, in California, have a big part! The 2022 NDAA funding is still being worked on so MOAA has established a priority list of legislation for our legislators to consider. Therefore, CalMOAA and its chapters will work extensively through in-person meetings with our respective congress members, virtual meetings through Zoom, telephone meetings, or lastly direct mail with the approved talking points.

Three National MOAA priorities are:

**S. 344/ HR 1282 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 with more than 212 cosigners, it might not "make to cut" when the NDAA gets finalized unless a counter balancing budget line has been found. Happily, **Congressman Jerad Huffman** is a cosigner, however, **Congressman Mike Thompson** is not at this time.

**H.R. 4824 Stop Copay Overpay Act- TRICARE Mental Health Copayments.** Support for mental health is increasingly important, and the issue is getting attention on the Hill due to pandemic impacts and the effects of social media on children's well-being. This bill seeks to remedy TRICARE's financial barrier to care when it is available will benefit our currently serving families on TRICARE Select and our working-age retirees and their families.

**Military Pay Raise at 4.6%.** This proposal should be included in the FY 2023 NDAA based on the President's guidance and input from the Armed Services Committees in both chambers. However, some legislators are interested in adjusting pay for junior enlisted. No details are available at this time. However, although a 2.7% pay raise is included, it does not meet the requirements of the Employment Cost Index (ECI) which is 4.6% for all ranks due to a 2.6% gap from previous years. This issue is significantly important to those who are about to retire.

**COLA continues to rise.** The latest information available shows it 5.5% above the baseline.

**GET INVOLVED!** Please tear out the letters to our legislators from the latest issue of the Military Officer and send to the addressees. With inflation rampant, we all need cover the backs of each other.

### State

We need to send kudos to our **CalMOAA President Fred Green and VP Legislative Jeff Breiton** for their herculean efforts in organizing the state support of the National MOAA's Advocacy in Action as well as their timely efforts to get **AB1623 Tax Exemption for Military Retired Pay** passed after more than 15 years of trying, Friends, this is one of the several reasons why we belong to CalMOAA. If you are not a member now, join the Redwood Empire Chapter now; if you know someone who could be a member, ask them to join!

**AB 1623 Tax Exemption for Military Retired Pay** continues to be our major thrust this month to keep this issue in front of our Assembly members and Senators eyes.

The good news is that the bill has passed the **Revenue and Taxation Committee** and will go to the Appropriations Committee before going to the floor for a vote. There is still a lot of work to do, so now is not a time to re-

lax.

**Voter Voice.net** There will be another Voter Voice "tap and send" letter ready shortly sponsored by the CSCVC urging our State Legislators to support AB 1623. It is critically important to keep this issue in front of them. **Stay alert!**

**Vern McNamee, LTC, USA Retired**  
Legislative Chairman  
Redwood Empire Chapter, MOAA (CA30)

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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 59 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

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## COL WILLIAM G. BREY SCHOLARSHIPS

(Five Scholarships Awarded read below)

The Scholarship Committee, in concordance with the Board of Directors, is extremely pleased to announce the winners of the 2022 Brey Scholarships. All applicants are highly qualified and should do very well in their future endeavors. A total of **\$18,000** has been awarded to Mac-dalah Fry, granddaughter of Wally McCall; Jessica Nowacki, granddaughter of Don and Barbara Nowacki; Anna Linch, granddaughter of Don and Susan Linch; Zoe Phan, granddaughter of Don and Susan Linch; and Adinath Lane, grandson of Jeannine Lane.

My grateful thanks to Lee Hoskins, Mary Gwen Neisingh, and Laurell Meredith for their efforts, work and input on behalf of these students.

A special thank you also to Pete Rizzo for redacting pages and pages of the applications.

**Susan Linch**, Scholarship Committee Chair

**"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

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

## Buffet Luncheon, Thursday May 26, 2022

**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:** Fruit Salad. Fresh Rolls & Butter.

**Lunch:** Roasted Chicken with Herbs and Chicken Gravy, Teriyaki Beef Strips, Rice, Glazed Carrots

**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: **None at time of publication.**

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.”

## PLEASE PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES THEY ARE ONLY \$25.00 PER YEAR

### SEE IF YOURS IS MISSING BELOW

### THE FOLLOWING 18 MEMBERS HAVE NOT PAID THEIR DUES FOR 2022.

(AND THEY MAY BE DROPPED)

WLA,MB,CDB,DWC,RNC,LE,NMH,MAH,HWH,JK,WWL,MPM,JAP,SS,DLT,AU,TU,NDW

### Have You Heard or Seen?

#### God's Aging Plan

The Truth hurts: Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys and other things, thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose co-ordination so they would drop things, requiring them to bend, reach, and stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature, requir-

ing more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you may mutter under your breath.

### Nine Important Facts to Remember as We Grow Older

- Death is the number 1 killer in the world.
- Life is sexually transmitted.
- Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
- Men have 2 motivations: hunger and hanky panky, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich.
- Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.
- Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.
- All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.
- In the 60's, people took LSD to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.
- Life is like a jar of jalapeno peppers. What you do today may be a burning issue tomorrow.

## 2022 DATES TO REMEMBER\*

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

April:  
5<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners  
10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
19<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino  
27<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
28<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, **Epicenter**

May:  
3<sup>rd</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners  
10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
14<sup>th</sup> Armed Forces Day – Rose Parade, Santa Rosa  
17<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino  
25<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
26<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, **Epicenter**  
30<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Ceremonies

June:  
7<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
18<sup>th</sup> Saturday, Spring Lake at Lower Jack Rabbit site.  
Honor Scholarship Recipients.  
21<sup>st</sup> "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino  
22<sup>nd</sup> United Veterans Council meeting

July:  
5<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – selection of nominating committee  
10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
19<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino  
27<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
28<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, **Epicenter**

August:  
2<sup>nd</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
16<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino  
13<sup>th</sup> Saturday, Riverfront Regional Park, Annual BBQ  
24<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting

September:  
6<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2023 officers

10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> Air Show at CMS Airport?  
20<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino  
16<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> ?? Friday, Luncheon, Two Rock USCG (\$10.00?)  
28<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting

October:  
4<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
18<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino  
26<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
27<sup>th</sup> Luncheon or Dinner?, **Epicenter**, Election of Officers for 2023

November:  
1<sup>st</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 (Friday)  
15<sup>th</sup> Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building  
23<sup>rd</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
24<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day

December:  
6<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
7<sup>th</sup> Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??  
4<sup>th</sup> / 10/11<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Holiday Social ??  
10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
**NO** United Veterans Council meeting  
20<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino  
25<sup>th</sup> Christmas

\*\* Not Confirmed at this time ~ CNX = Cancelled ~ UNK = Unknown  
All Meals at **Epicenter** will be Buffets 06/32/06

## 18 MEMBERS NEED TO PAY DUES

## SEE "PUB CRAWL" PAGE No. 1

### MOAA WIVES CLUB

(Sonoma County Main - All members welcome)

#### 2022 Officers

President: Dayle Johnson	408-466-6764
Vice President: Liz Warren	707-763-6957
Secretary: Tina Lewis	707-758-9739
Treasurer: Florence Wall	707-837-7389
Parliamentarian: Donna Poulter	707-576-0513

The next meeting of the Wives Club will be a buffet lunch at the Epicenter on Wednesday, May 11th. The price is \$25.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be mini meat loaf topped with mushroom gravy, boneless chicken wings with barbeque sauce, smashed red potatoes, esquite (Mexican corn), Greek salad, and cookies.

If the Telephone Committee does not contact you, you may make a reservation up to the day before the meeting; however, cancellations must be made by Monday preceding the meeting. For either situation, call Susan Linch at 707-538-3342.

The guest speaker in May will be Madeline O'Connell from the YWCA. She will tell us about programs the Y has for women and the homeless.

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

### Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2022

<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 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 2022-2023

Capt R. Lee Berry, USMC	707-308-4160
Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst	707-468-0146
Donna Poulter	707-576-0513
CPT Lewis Wall, USA	707-837-7389

#### Directors Representing Sub-Chapters:

<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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