



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

My letter this month is about a recent experience I just had. I have been planning this trip back to Minnesota for several months. Our bags were packed, sitting at the breakfast table knowing it was time to order a taxi cab to take us to the shuttle bus to the San Francisco Air Port. A simple call for a taxi was all I needed to

get us to the shuttle bus. The first taxi cab I called didn't answer, I tried the second taxi cab they were too busy, I tried the third taxi cab no answer. Less than 30 minutes to the bus departure time and I had to call for an Uber. After several attempts I found an Uber on the far east side of Santa Rosa. I watched the cab make several circling turns but never got on route to come pick me up. It was now 20 minutes before bus departure time. My app then showed an Uber leaving Sebastopol to come pick me up, it was now 15 minutes before bus departure time. I watched the Uber vehicle as it came east to pick me up, it was now 10 minutes before bus departure time. He arrived six minutes before a bus was to leave and now it was a mad rush to get to the shuttle bus stop. We arrived one minute before the bus was to leave.., the problem was there was no bus. There was a sign at the bus stop which read no bus pick up today during the State fair. My heart sank, I just couldn't believe what I was reading. As I was struggling with my inner most feelings, the northbound Xpress pulled in to discharge a wayward passenger. He knew by the look on my face that I was in trouble. He explained that the buses did not stop for southbound pick ups during the fair. He had this strange look on his face, and he went to his bus and talked to the southbound driver in Rohnert Park and explained that he had two passengers that needed to get to the airport, would he wait there and he would drive us to his stop. I couldn't find the words to thank him for his thoughtfulness for helping us out.

Sometimes in life we experience people giving of themselves to help others. I will always remember this experience that showed me how important it is to be sensitive to the needs of others. This was certainly out of the ordinary and a major effort was made to help me out, but often times some of the littlest things in life can have a major impact on the lives of others. I look forward to seeing you at our luncheons and our monthly Pub Crawl so that we can share with one another our little adventures in life.

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

Thursday, September 22, 2022
Buffet Luncheon at the
EPICENTER in Santa Rosa
11:00am ~ Dine at Noon

Guest Speaker: (None at time of publication)

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.

SEE “PUB CRAWL” PAGE No. 2

“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

“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.

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

Tuesday, September 6, 2022, 11:30am.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings.

Legislative Update– September 2022

Federal

Comprehensive Toxics Exposure Act -

Signed into law expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law provides help to generations of Veterans — and their survivors — with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

Major Richard Star Act - The Major Richard Star Act has reached a milestone goal of 290 co-sponsors in the House – the threshold for it to be placed on the chamber's consensus calendar. This significant accomplishment, along with ongoing efforts in the Senate, show clear progress in MOAA's work and teamwork with fellow service organizations. However, the Start Act may pass through amendment to the Senate version of the NDAA when it returns in September.

Military Pay - The amount of pay increase is still being debated in the NDAA. While it seems that it includes a 4.6% pay raise for the troops, with a 8.3% inflation, the raise leaves them short changed once more even though several House members pushed for more. Anyone wonder about a service recruiting problem with a 10,000 shortfall to be filled with in a month?

COLA for 2022 continues to rise. The July 2022 CPI-W is 292.219, 8.9 percent above the FY 2022 COLA baseline. The August data will be published o/a 13 September. Let's hope that Congress does not look here to make cuts to balance the budget.

State

Tax Exemption for Military Retired Pay -

We will not give up on getting tax exemption for military retired pay. Many thanks to all who submitted letters to Governor Gavin Newsome "prepping" him for the push for legislation to be presented during the upcoming legislative year.

This is only the start of our campaign. Next, we need to work to get more State Legislators to co-sponsor or support of the proposal. Other letters are being prepared to be sent to them. This is an "all hands" effort.

Vern McNamee, LTC, USA Retired

Legislative Chairman

Redwood Empire Chapter MOAA (CA30)

707 972-3066 ~ vernonmc@mcn.org

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

"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,

September 20th **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.

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

Buffet Luncheon, Thursday September 22, 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: Marinated Vegetable Salad. Fresh Rolls & Butter.

Lunch: Chili Dogs and Cheeseburgers with Fries, also Fruit Salad

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: (____) _____

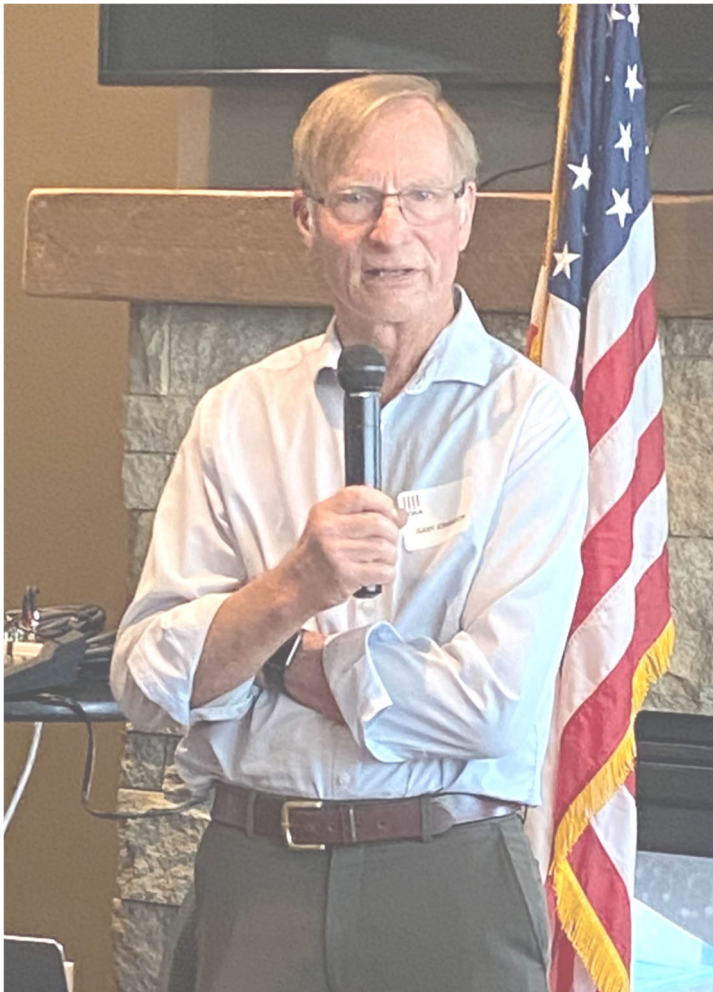
Guests: _____, _____, _____, _____

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.”



PALLIATIVE AND HOSPICE CARE TOPIC OF JULY LUNCHEON

The guest speaker at the July MOAA luncheon was Dr. Gary Johanson, Retired Medical Director, Memorial Hospice, Providence St. Joseph Health. The title of his talk was “Contemporary Hospice and Palliative Care.”

With a PowerPoint presentation, he carefully explained the steps in caring for people with life-threatening or terminal diagnoses. Roughly speaking, palliative care is the umbrella. The spokes are comfort care; hospice; pain management; and curative and life-prolonging treatments. This was projected on the screen in the form of various shaped circles within the large circle labeled palliative. This means that palliative care is defined as “improving the quality of life for life-threatening illness or injury.” So hospice is a special kind of palliative care.

Dr. Johanson’s talk was very well received, with many follow-up questions. When asked if there is somewhere people can find more information, he suggested going to getpalliativecare.org. “But better yet,” he said, “talk to local people who are familiar with the program.”

2022 DATES TO REMEMBER*

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

September:

- 6th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2023 officers
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- CNX ~ Air Show at CMS Airport?
- 20th "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino
- 22nd Luncheon, **Epicenter**,
- 28th United Veterans Council meeting

October:

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

November:

- 1st BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- ** 11th North Bay Veterans Day parade (Friday)
- ** 18th Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building
- 23rd United Veterans Council meeting
- 24th Thanksgiving Day

December:

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

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

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**SEE "PUB CRAWL" PAGE No. 2**  
**A WORD OF NOTE**

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

This is a special note of thanks to all of those who put forth the time and the effort to support the needs of our chapter. There is no one in particular who makes it happen, It is a team effort!! To that end it's not those who put 20 more hours a month into their respective assignments, or the values of our leaders that want to do whatever is needed to make our organization a meaningful experience for all of our members, but how you respond to their time and efforts. Have you ever reached out and thanked your leaders for their commitment to serve your needs and interests. I believe the best you can do, is to support their efforts by participating in our programs and activities that hopefully will be a meaningful time for you. If you have any special interest that you would like to see us bring to our meetings let us know and we will work to meet your needs.

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

## 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, September 14<sup>th</sup>. The price is \$25.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be spaghetti and meat sauce, combination flat-breads, seasonal vegetables, Greek tomato 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.

Following lunch, Barbara Confer will lead us in a movie trivia game. It promises to be fun and challenging. May the force be with you.

**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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| Online                   | http://www.redwoodwmpiremoaa.us |                            |

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