



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Summer will soon be over and many of us are looking forward to the future. This past summer has not been an easy one for many reasons. Between world wars, excessive heat, an economy that is struggling to stay alive, and political unrest, we face many challenges. The

past will never go away, but today we need to look forward to the future. There is no way for any of us to know what the future will bring, so where do we find our inner strength? We need the love and the support of one another. It was once said that no man is an island. We can read newspapers, or watch the television, but nothing is more supporting than the community of people we live with. We have family, we have friends. We are all members of our local chapter of the MOAA. We have the opportunity and the privilege of sharing our time together with others of common values and common experiences. The members of your local board meet monthly and are always looking for ways to strengthen that relationship and to provide for the needs of this organization. We welcome your input and encourage you to participate in all of our monthly activities.

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

Thursday, October 27, 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.

Col JACK L. KROUT, USAF

(Deceased ~ July 08, 2022)

OUR MEMBERS of the Redwood Empire Chapter of MOAA have been invited to attend the Graveside services for Jack Krout it will be with a Military honor guard on Friday, October 7, 2022 at 11:00am. In the Military section of Cypress Hill Memorial Park. 430 Magnolia Avenue, Petaluma

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

Tuesday, October 4, 2022, 11:30am.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings.

Legislative Update– October 2022

Federal:

NDAAs 2022 - Congress is still playing games with the distribution of money proposed in this act. Three major concerns at this time are: passage of the Major Richard Star Act, Military Pay increase resolution, and TRICARE health benefits for adult dependents of sponsors. As an aside, Major Star was buried in Arlington on 9.14.22.

Military Pay - While the amount of pay increase is still being debated in the NDAA that includes a 4.6% pay raise, with 8.3% inflation, the raise leaves them short changed once more. This is brought vividly home with the Basic Needs Allowance (BNA) which should exclude Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH), but doesn't in the current NDAA. Therefore, nothing has changed except the army has proposed to issue food stamps to lower enlisted grades. **Food Stamps** for 24% of our Soldiers who face food insecurity! No comment.

COLA for 2022. The August 2022 CPI-W is 292.219, 8.6 percent above the FY 2022 COLA baseline. The August data will be published o/a 13 October. 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 signed letters to the Governor explaining the proposal to exempt military retired pay from state income tax. This is only the start of our campaign. Follows is a copy extracted from our CALMOAA Legislative VP which can be used in your discussions with your state legislators:

Exemption of Military Retirement from CA. State Taxes

California is currently the only state in the country, that does not provide some form of exemption for military retirement pay from state income taxes.

A recently released 2021 study conducted by the California Research Bureau, California State Library on "**National Economic Impacts Study**" states; California is home to the nation's largest concentration of military personnel and other national security activity and goes on to state "**In fiscal year 2020 military and other national security activity in the state generated an estimated \$168.7 billion in economic activity, approximately 5.4% of California's economy**".

Department of Defense (DOD) Actuary reports California had 165,501 retirees in 2010, reduced to 149,430 2020; in the same period Arizona went from 54,286 to 58,586 and Nevada went from 27,386 to 30,371. DOD Actuary numbers show that California's military retiree population has had a steady decline for over a decade. **DOD Actuary numbers for 2021 show that California's decline continues and now number 128,561 military retirees in California. Down from 165,501 in 2010**

When military retirees relocate to other states (upon reaching retirement age, average 42 years old) they take federal funds from the Veterans Administration, Social Security, Medicare and Tri-Care to those other states, resulting in loss of those federal funds and service reductions from those agencies in California. An example, fewer number of military retirees receiving treatment at a California VA Hospital results in personnel being reassigned to VA Hospitals with increase in patients seeking treatment.

Military retirees provide valuable "work force development" to the state they choose to retire in. Military retirees who served as Physicians, Nurses, Aero Space Engineers, Nuclear Propulsion Engineers, First Responders, Vocational Trades and others leave military service and bringing those skills to the state's work force.

The San Diego Military Advisory Council engaged the Fermanian Business and Economic Institute to conduct an analysis considering a full exemption of military retirement pay in California. **The study showed a gain of \$518 million to state and local tax revenues, which would continue to grow each year by retaining military retirees in California.**

Exemption of military retirement from California state income taxes is supported by;

- California State Commanders Veterans Council
- American Legion-Dept of CA
- AMVETS-Dept of CA,
- CA Association of County Veterans Service Officers,
- Military Officers Association of America-CA Council Chapters,
- Vietnam Veterans of America-CA State Council,
- Marine Corps League-Dept of CA

- Peace Officers Research Association (PORAC)
- San Diego Military Advisory Council
- San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
- City of San Bernardino Retired Public Employees Association (CSBRPEA)
- San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors
- Solano County Board of Supervisors
- City of Highland

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, October 18th **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 October 27, 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: House Salad. Fresh Rolls & Butter.

Lunch: Fried Chicken with Sausage Gravy ~ Marinated Pork Tenderloin
Smashed Red Potatoes ~ Green Beans with Mushroom

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: _____, _____, _____, _____

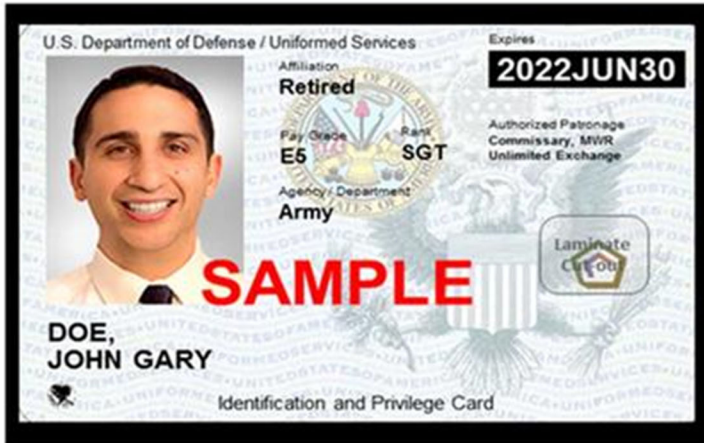
Please list the names of all guest, so that we can make **NAME TAGS** for them too, thank you.

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.”

Time to Renew? DoD Retirees and Dependents Now Getting Redesigned ID Cards



Military retirees and family members renewing or getting their first military identification cards this year are nearly guaranteed to receive the Next Generation Uniform Services Identification, or USID, Card, the first update to Defense Department IDs for [non-active duty beneficiaries in nearly 30 years](#).

According to Pentagon data, 97% of the DoD's ID renewal offices, known as Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification Card System, or RAPIDS, sites worldwide are issuing the new cards, which more closely resemble Common Access Cards used by troops and DoD civilians.

More than 200,000 new cards had been issued as of Feb. 28, according to data provided by the Pentagon.

The USID cards are more durable than the previous

laminated cards since they are hard plastic and feature advanced security measures that make them less susceptible to counterfeiting and being used for fraud, according to defense officials.

The cards are being issued to new retirees and family members, as well as beneficiaries whose cards have expired. The transition to the new cards is expected to be completed by January 2026.

Those eligible for the ID cards include dependents of active-duty troops; Reserve members; retirees and their dependents; [Medal of Honor](#) recipients and their dependents; 100%-disabled veterans and their dependents; and dependents of Reserve members activated for 30 days or more.

As anyone with a military ID knows, the cards are necessary to access military bases easily, shop at commissaries and exchanges, and use on-base amenities.

In April, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, [Pentagon officials announced that dependent and retiree cards](#) that were to expire in 2020 had been extended automatically through September. This allowance has been extended again through June 2021 to help eliminate the need to visit a RAPIDS site in person.

Beneficiaries who have the current ID card should not seek a new card solely for the purpose of obtaining the new style, DoD officials said. The old style ID cards will remain valid through their expiration date, according to the Pentagon

EDITORS NOTE: This is the WEB site to go to

<https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco>

YOU CAN GO TO TWO ROCK COAST GUARD BASE

2022 DATES TO REMEMBER*

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

- October:
 4th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 12th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 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
 9th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 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**  
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"Kids today don't know how easy they have it. When I was young, I had to walk 9 feet through shag carpet to change the TV channel."

Growing old is hard work...
 The mind says "yes" but, the body says "what the hell are you thinking"

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, October 12th. The price is \$25.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be teriyaki beef strips, BBQ chicken with crispy onions, esquite, herbed pasta, Caesar salad with shrimp, 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 for October will be Madeline O'Connell from YWCA. She will speak about domestic violence. Since 1987, October has been observed as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. She will elaborate on this. We hope you can all attend to hear this very important topic.

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

Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2022

President: Maj Ken Johnson, USAF 408-466-6764
1st Vice President (NONE AT THIS TIME)
2nd Vice President 1/Lt Donald J. Nowacki, USANG 707-595-1047
Secretary: Cpt Robert R. Safreno, USAF 707-795-3963
Treasurer: LCDR Tim Morgan, USNR 707-695-9293
Imed. Past President: CPT Lee P. Hoskins, USA 707-328-2316

CAL-MOAA Director, Area I

Cpt Tom Walther, USAF 530-673-5499

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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:

Mendocino: Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst 707-468-0146
Sonoma Valley: Maj B. K. White, USMC 707-996-1335

MOAA VOICE

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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**