

MOAA



VOICE

Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 52, NUMBER 11

"Serving Those Who Serve America"

NOVEMBER 2022



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Every month the Redwood Empire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America gather for our monthly meeting. We start our meetings with our Pledge of Allegiance and introduction by the president followed by a short prayer. This is the most important gathering of the month as it is an expression of our commitment to serve the needs and interests of our chapter and our fellow officers. In the past few months we have added a new monthly activity, It's known as the Pub Crawl !!! I'm not an historian, but after spending several hours in a local British Pub I'm sure that's where we came up with the expression Pub Crawl. We have listed this activity in the MOAA voice for the last several months, and I'm happy to say that our attendance is growing. What makes this gathering so interesting is the casual atmosphere. It is a light hearted exchange of some of our personal experiences that we've had over the past few years in the military. It is recalling times and places we may never get to visit again and it allows us to revisit those times and share those experiences with others. Not all those experiences were favorable, some are hard for us to talk about. When we share those experiences with others and we listen to their experiences our world seems to be much larger. I should add not all of those experiences were in the military. Some of our lifelong experiences were learning to adapt and adjust. There is more to share than stories. We have individual menus to order our lunch from with a wide variety of choices and a full bar. We have a semi private room and the service we have received has been excellent. Remember this is not just for the guys, wives or spouses and girlfriends are more than welcome. Our luncheon is at the Graton Resort and Casino and we are meeting in a restaurant called Daily Grill.

I wrote this article for the presidents comments because I think it is very important for us to come together in a casual and entertaining way that allows us to open up in an informal gathering god gives life thanks to our military community.

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

MOAA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

will be at the Santa Rosa Veterans building
in the Conference room.

Tuesday, November 1, 2022, 11:30am.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

SURF & TURF ANNUAL FEED LOBSTER and CROSS-RIB BEEF, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18th

Please see page No. 5 for the reservation form and information on the menu for the evening.

It's November! That means the annual MOAA Lobster Feed, Friday, November 18th, at the Veterans Building. Social hour begins at 5:00pm with a no-host bar and lots of schmoozing. Craig Matsuda will entertain you with music that will take you back to younger days. Dinner will be served at 6:00pm, or as soon as the lobsters stop wiggling. Accompanying the crustaceans will be cross-rib. And of course there will be a raffle after dinner.

But here's the really important thing! Because the lobsters come fresh off the plane from the east coast, we absolutely must have an accurate count by Monday, November 14th! The coupon for this popular event can be found on **page No. 5** of this issue of the **MOAA VOICE**. Cut it out right now and get your money in the mail to secure a place at the table. And speaking of money, the \$45.00 cost is amazingly reasonable considering what you're getting for your money.

You don't want to miss this fun event! If you get into trouble with a reservation, call Bob Safreno at Home: (707)795-3963 or Cell: (707)479-9374 But if you call him after November 14th, you might end up eating a \$45.00 hot dog.

See you at the Big Feed!

INFORMATION ON OUR ENTERTAINMENT FOR OUR SURF & TURF DINNER

CRAIG MATSUDA

Craig Matsuda is a Retired Air Force Officer, Lt/Col. He served for 25 years (1973 - 98). MSC (Medical Service Corps - Hospital Administration). His assignments were: Little Rock AFB, Eskesehir AB (Turkey - Remote), Soesterber AB (Netherlands), Hickam AFB, March AFB, Castle AFB, Offutt AFB and Camp Smith (Hawaii).

He will play music from the 1920s to the 1950s.

PLEASE GET YOUR **RESERVATIONS IN BY MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14th**. WE NEED TO HAVE A HEAD COUNT, SO THAT WE WILL HAVE ENOUGH LOBSTERS FOR THOSE DINING.

PLEASE BRING A RAFFLE PRIZE IF YOU CAN

"Pub Crawl" is CANCELED, See Page 4

Legislative Update- November 2022

Federal:

NDA 2022 - Funding will continue with a last minute **Continuing Resolution (CR)** which permits the government to continue. However, many items will get sidelined until the money is here.

Military Pay Raise will be only 4.6%. This combined with a runaway inflation, may have continued disastrous effects on retention as was shown by the latest shortfall. Fortunately, there have been several stopgap measures to attenuate some issues one of which is in BAH and support of our commissaries. Hopefully this will be resolved after the mid-term elections.

COLA for 2022. The September 2022 CPI-W is 291.981, 8.7 percent above the FY 2022 COLA baseline. This increase should be reflected in our checks in January. I am sure that everyone is well aware of this.

State:

Tax Exemption for Military Retired Pay - Although I have nothing to show at this time, I assure you that this is not a dead issue.. **STAY TUNED!** However, I feel that it is worthwhile to republish a copy of the information extracted from our CALMOAA Legislative VP which can be used in your discussions with your state legislators:

“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 popula-**

tion 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”**

Follows is a **list of new laws** signed by Governor Newsom recently which may of interest.

SB-837 Driver's licenses: veteran designation (Sen Umberg): Repeals the fee issued for a driver's license or identification card to designate "VETERAN" be printed on the face of the driver's license or identification card, subject to verification of veteran status,

SB-984 Military service: leave of absence: pay and benefits. (Sen Archuleta): Requires that employee members of reserve military units and the National Guard required to perform inactive duty obligations be granted military leave of absence without pay as provided by federal law. Entitles an employee to receive compensation for short-term military leave of absence for National Guard active duty.

SB-1041 Sales and use taxes: general exemptions Navy Relief. (Sen Atkins): makes permanent the sales tax exemption for the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) and other qualifying organizations that provide financial, educational, and other assistance to members of the Armed Forces of the United States, their family members, and survivors.

SB-1237 Licenses: military service. (Sen Newman): Authorizes any licensee or registrant whose license expired while on active duty as a member of the California National Guard or the United States Armed Forces to reinstate the licensee's or registrant's license without examination or penalty.

AB-305 Veteran services: notice. (ASM Maienschein) "Ask the Question": Requires 13 state agencies to ask, "Have you or a family member ever served in the United States military?" on intake forms. Affirmatives will be sent to the Department of Veterans Affairs to be notified of eligibility for state and federal veterans benefits.

AB-1715 Space Force (ASM Muratsuchi): Includes the United States Space Force among the lists of Armed Forces, including members or veterans of those entities, for various purposes, including the allocation of merit points for civil service hiring practices and for state aid and protections for veterans.

AB-2509 Vehicles: vehicle license fee and registration fees: exemptions. (ASM Fong): Extends the registration fee and vehicle license fee exemptions to Purple Heart recipients.

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

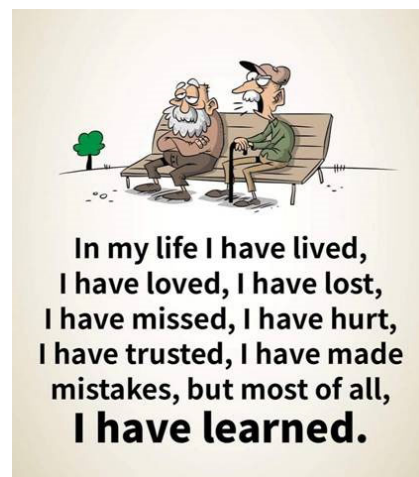
**Is offering his service to
members and veterans in need.**

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 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



WE NEED
YOU!



**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.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The application period for COL William G. Brey Scholarships will open on January 1, 2023, and will close on March 15, 2023. 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 officer, warrant officer, or auxiliary 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 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.

**“Pub Crawl” is CANCELED
by Ken Johnson**

We have been meeting at the **Graton Resort & Casino**, in Rohnert Park. They have several restaurants the one we like is called the **Daily Grill**. It has both indoor and outdoor seating and a very nice menu.

Our Chapter has been informed that the restaurants in the area we have been using will be going through extensive remodeling, and they will not be available for customers to dine in.

So for the present time, November and December 2022, we have canceled our “Pub Crawls” get together for fun and dining lunches.

Any other questions, please call our President Ken Johnson. (408)466-6764.

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

**SURF & TURF
LOBSTER and CROSS-RIB BEEF,
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18th**

Veterans Memorial Building (Dining Room) - 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa

Menu: *Maine Lobster 1 1/4 lb or larger and Cross-Rib Beef
Baked Potatoes, Caesar Salad, Garlic bread.
Red and White wine will be available. Dessert*

\$45.00 each

5:00 pm: Social, No Host Bar About 6:00 pm: Lobster served - (if ready)

Enclosed is my check for _____ persons @ \$45.00 each. \$ _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for the Col. Brey Scholarship Fund

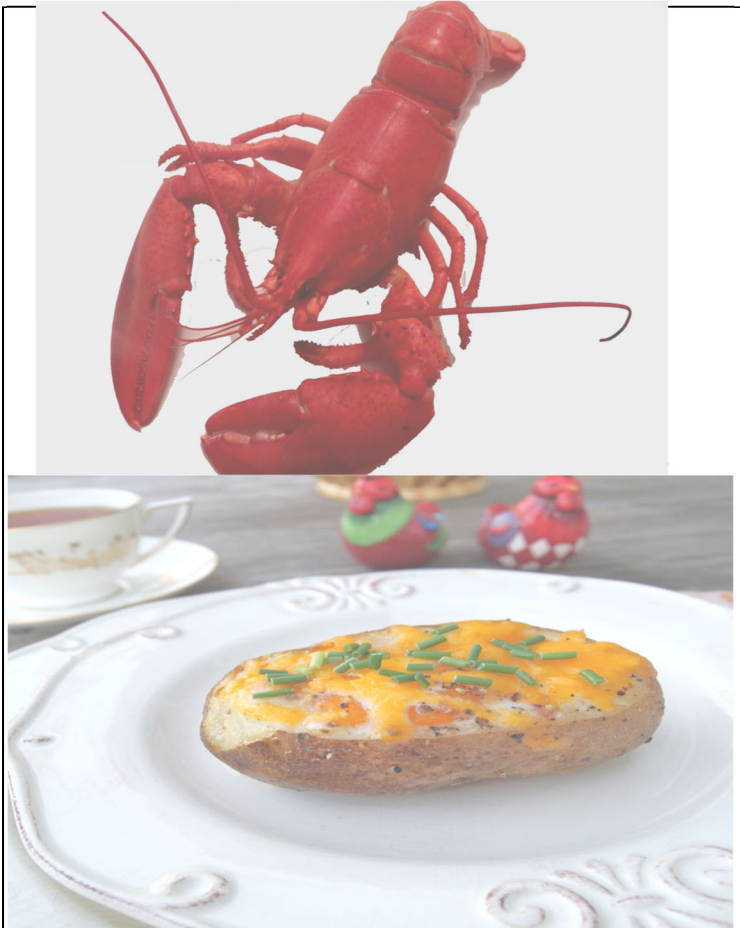
Name: _____, Phone: (_____) _____

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

******* PLEASE BRING A RAFFLE PRIZE IF YOU CAN *******



2022 DATES TO REMEMBER*

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

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
- CNX 7th Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
NQ United Veterans Council meeting
- CNX 20th "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino
- 25th Christmas

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

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"Pub Crawl" is CANCELED, See Page 4

"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.

CHAPTER DUES FOR 2023

Chapter Dues are \$25.00 and they will be due January 1, 2023. A notice will be in the December *MOAA VOICE*. There will also be a mailing sent out to all Chapter member on our Roster, with a return envelope.

"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)

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, November 9th. The price is \$25.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be mini meatballs, chicken alfredo with noodles, oven roasted potatoes, glazed carrots, and broccoli salad.

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.

Our guest speaker in October was Madeleine O'Connell, CEO of YWCA Sonoma County. Her talk was informative and inspirational about what the YWCA is doing to help abused men and women. Madeleine urged everyone to participate in a drive to donate children's clothing and also coats for all ages on Sunday, November 13, from 11:00-2:00 at 19670 8th St. E in Sonoma. If you have questions, call Cindy at 707-303-3545.

Friday, November 18th, is our annual chapter Lobster Feed at the Veterans Building. It will be surf and turf (lobster and beef) dinners. Details can be found in this issue of the *VOICE*. To make a reservation, use the coupon provided, as this event is not done through the Wives Club. Please come to support our chapter. The food is delicious and the camaraderie is wonderful!

Our Wives Club program for November will be the ever-popular Bingo!

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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|--------------------------|---|--|
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