

MOAA



VOICE

Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 7

"Serving Those Who Serve America"

JULY 2023



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

We are now halfway through our year and it's time to stop and look at the past six months, and the activities and challenges that will be before us in the next six months. All of your board members and special activity chair peoples have been giving their time and energy to build and maintain a strong MOAA chapter. Most of their time and energy is given to activities done in the background and not shared with the rest of the chapter. Because we have such a small chapter, many of these activities are done by a relatively few members. One of our board members who is responsible for several activities has asked for someone to step up and take over one of these projects.

The job description is titled Chapter National MOAA roster manager. The job requires reasonable computer skills and familiarity with Excel spreadsheets. In brief it is to maintain chapter roster of members and member positions on the MOAA.ORG web site, via their chapter module. Conduct a once monthly review of the National MOAA Near Real Time list. This is a very brief description of the requirements, but the past manager will assist in training. This job should not require more than a couple of hours a month. It is very important that we find somebody to serve in this position. If you are interested please call or text me and I will put you in touch with the person who presently is serving in that position.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize one of our members who serves as the Chapter Legislative Affairs Chairman, LTC Vernon D. McNamee. We are all aware of the significance of the passage of the AB 46 bill. Passage of this bill would include California with all the other states to exempt at least a portion of military retirement pay creating a win situation to retain high earning wage earners in this State. I hope all of our members have taken the time and effort to show their support for the passage of AB 46.

In closing I just want to express how important it is for the members of this chapter to get involved with chapter activities and to support those committees and individuals that are working to provide a better MOAA chapter. This chapter needs your active support.

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

SEE "Pub Crawl" on Page 3
About our interesting Chapter members:

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023

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

Guest Speaker: Gina Huntsinger, Director

She is the Director of the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center. She will be talking about the creator of "Peanuts" Comic strips.

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR DINING

This is needed for head counts for meals and the making name tags.

See page No. 3 for the Luncheon menu.

1st Lieutenant Donald B. Bibeault, USA retired

Don Bibeault received his military commission through the University of Rhode Island's ROTC program where he was the top ROTC Engineering graduate. His promising military career was cut short by severe service-connected hearing loss. He has had a distinguished civilian career in corporate turnaround management both as a medium size company CEO and adviser to several multibillion-dollar crisis companies for more than 40 years. Don makes his home in Marin County.

His 1979 Ph.D. dissertation and bestselling book, "Corporate Turnaround: How Managers Turn Losers Into Winners!" were the first expositions of every facet of the corporate turnaround cycle and its successful strategies. His book has been in print for more than twenty years and is widely regarded as the leading text in the field of turnaround management. He holds a BS in Electrical Engineering from the University of Rhode Island, an MBA from Columbia University, a Ph.D. from Golden Gate University as well as a Juris Doctor (honoris causa) from Golden gate University. In 2005 the Turnaround Management Association awarded him its first ever Lifetime Achievement Award.

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Legislative Update - July 2023

General Comments.

Debt Ceiling. As is common knowledge and after much mashing of teeth, gear grinding, the debt ceiling has passed. Now it remains to be seen where all the monies will end up. Our work is still not over. We need to continue with our push for support of priorities. Therefore, I am re-printing some of the high interest bills for your action. If you have any comments, please give me a call or send me an email.

Federal:

The Expanding America's National Cemetery Act (H.R. 1413), This is a significant piece of legislation protecting full uniformed services burial benefits introduced March 7 by Reps. Lisa McClain (R-Mich.) and Chrissy Houlihan (D-Pa.) is designed to preserve the option for full military honors now available at ANC and offers a long-term solution to Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) which would inevitably run out of room. It would authorize designating the next national cemetery location with equivalent honors to continue these benefits, rather than reducing eligibility at ANC.

Major Richard Star Act. (H.R. 1282/S.344) This act would **repeal this unfair offset**, allowing these disabled Veterans to receive both their retirement pay and their disability pay. This bill is being resubmitted with high hopes that it will pass as a stand alone measure or included in the 2024 NDAA. Rep. Huffman is a cosponsor as of 6/9/23.

Respect for Military Families Act (H.R. 3232/S.1588) This act would prevent the government from immediately recouping any overpayment of benefits and instead gives survivors the opportunity to repay the benefits over a 12-month period. It would also allow the secretary of defense to forgive the repayment

Your action is urged to use the "Take Action" on the MOAA website to ask your Congressman to support these measures. If you submitted it last month but received no answer — do it again! However, please check to see if your congressman is a cosponsor first.

State:

AB 46 Retired Pay Tax Exemption . AB 46 has passed from the Governance and Finance Committee with a 7-0 vote and will go to the Senate Military Committee. **Stay tuned!!**

Vern McNamee, LTC, USA Retired
Legislative Chairman

Redwood Empire Chapter MOAA (CA30)
707 972-3066 vernmc@mcn.org



The speaker at May's luncheon was John Doolittle, whose military service had been a colonel in the USAF. He showed pictures and discussed his book, *Khoda Hafez... Goodbye Iran*, a journal of what happened when in 1978 he moved his family to Tehran when he took a job as a senior engineer for American Bell International. What was supposed to be just a regular seven-month foreign assignment and enjoyable venture into another culture turned into witnessing a revolution, demonstrations, and riots that marked the last ruling day of the Shah of Iran. The title of his book literally means "May God be your guardian," but used by everyday people in the country, Khoda Hafez means "Goodbye." His book is available on amazon.com.

SEE "Pub Crawl" on Page 3

"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 MEETING

will be at the Santa Rosa Veterans building
in the Conference room.
Tuesday, July 11, 2023, 11:30am.
Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

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

Buffet Luncheon, Thursday July 27, 2023

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: Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, ~ Lemon Chicken, Green Beans with Mushrooms

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: **Gina Huntsinger**. She is Director of the Charles M. Schulz Museum

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."

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

"Pub Crawl"

Chapter members, Friends and Guests: "Pub Crawl", is back on our event calendar.

We will meet at 11:30 at the **Epicenter**. July 17, 2023. Always on the **THIRD** Monday of each month. Our pub crawls are a great place to relax and share our past experiences. We all have stories to tell!!! **NOTE:** Last month we had 10 in attendance.

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

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In 1995, he founded the **Donald B. Bibeault Endowed Scholarship** at Columbia University, New York City. The scholarship is available only to veterans attending the Graduate School of Business at Columbia University and excludes 98% of MBA non-veteran students. Since its founding, the Donald Bibeault Endowed Scholarship has made scholarship grants totaling more than \$450,000 to veterans of the United States Armed Services. During this time 12 recipients earned their commission through ROTC, ten at West Point, nine at Annapolis, and one through OCS. Six of the nine Naval Academy graduates chose to serve in the United States Marine Corps.

One Bibeault scholar is a female graduate of West Point, who served as a Combat Engineer Unit Commander, as did Don Bibeault. She served in Iraq. Another attended Notre Dame University on a Naval ROTC scholarship, at the same time as a rare "walk-on" player making Notre Dame's football team.

The two current (2023) scholarship recipients are the 30th and 31st Bibeault Scholars since its founding, and each will receive a scholarship of approximately \$20,000.

2023 DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE:
 6th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 17th Saturday, Picnic Spring Lake, Lower Jackrabbit Area
 Honor Scholarship Recipients?
 19th "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, 11:30 am
 28th United Veterans Council meeting

JULY:
 ** 11th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – select a nominating committee
 12th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 17th "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, 11:30 am
 26th United Veterans Council meeting
 27th Luncheon, **Epicenter**

AUGUST:
 1st BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 9th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 20th Sunday, Riverfront Regional Park, Annual BBQ
 21th "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, 11:30 am
 23rd United Veterans Council meeting

SEPTEMBER:
 5th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2024 officers
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 13th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 18th "Pub Crawl" at Epicenter, **11:30 am**
 ** 15th - 19th Air Show at CMS Airport?
 27th United Veterans Council meeting
 28th Luncheon, **Epicenter**

OCTOBER:
 3rd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 11th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 16th "Pub Crawl" at Epicenter, **11:30 am**
 25th United Veterans Council meeting
 26th Luncheon Epicenter, Election of Officers for

NOVEMBER:
 7th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 8th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**

** 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 11th North Bay Veterans Day parade (Friday)
 17th Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building
 20th "Pub Crawl" at Epicenter, **11:30 am**
 ** 22nd United Veterans Council meeting
 23rd Thanksgiving Day

DECEMBER:
 5th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 ** 7th Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??
 17th Sunday, Holiday Social, Sally's Tomatoes
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
NO United Veterans Council meeting
 ** 18th "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, 11:30 am ??
 25th Christmas

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

06/32/06

THE FOLLOWING 5 MEMBERS HAVE NOT PAID THEIR DUES FOR 2023.
 (AND THEY HAVE BEEN DROPPED)
SEE IF YOURS NAME IS THERE

WLA: Windsor, **RLA:** Santa Rosa, **LCM:** Finley,
AU: Penngrove, **BKW:** Sonoma

MOAA WIVES CLUB

(Sonoma County Main - All members welcome)

2023 Officers

President: Dayle Johnson	408-466-6764
Vice President: Barbara Confer	707-763-8198
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, July 12th. The price is \$25.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be fried chicken with gravy, mini meatloaves, roasted potatoes, esquite, and Caesar 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.

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

Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2023

<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
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Directors-at-large - Term 2023-2024

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

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

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