



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

I would like to quote a sentence that is published in the MOAA website. "Those who belong to the MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers". To me that means being a part of an organization like our chapter of

the MOAA. For our chapter to meet the needs and interest of our members we have an organization with people who have accepted the responsibility to serve our chapter in various ways. This past week I read a very interesting article on the octopus and I couldn't help but compare the life functions of the octopus to the organizational structure that we use to run our chapter.

First off octopuses are generally considered among the most intelligent of invertebrates. They have one head and all of the vital organs are in the head (the president!!), great for problem-solving and organizing meetings, and giving directions. They are also ranked number six in the top 10 smartest animals, and about 2/3 of their neurons are in their arms not their head. It should be noted that each of their eight arms has a mind of its own, and that and we have eight positions in our chapter organization, (with a mind of their own). Secretary, treasurer, membership committee, sunshine committee, scholarship committee, legislative, hospitality, and programs committee. Each of these committees is served by people committed to give their best.

So what this means is we are a functioning body, people who come together with common interests, common values and a desire to recognize and help meet the needs and interest of our fellow members. It also means we are looking for new people with new ideas, new voices and a willingness to take an active part. The future of our organization relies on people who are willing to step up and be an active part of our team. It should be noted that anyone who wants to be a part of our team, will work with the existing team member until they are comfortable to take over.

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

SEE "Pub Crawl" on Page 5



Thursday, September 28, 2023

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

Guest Speaker: Jen Wall, Winemaker.
She has over 20 years in the industries.
She will be speaking about the
Biology and Technology of making wine

**PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS
FOR DINING,**

this is needed for head counts for meals and
making name tags.

See page No. 5 for the Luncheon menu.



The guest speaker at the July luncheon was Gina Huntsinger, Museum Director at the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center. Her PowerPoint presentation covered the life of Charles (Sparky) Schulz. Drafted into the army in 1943 when he was twenty years old, he became a staff sergeant. His time in the military was a formative time, influencing his life and work. There will be a special Veteran's Day event on November 10th at the museum. All veterans are welcome. In July a new museum exhibit opened: "Snoopy in Orbit". This exhibit will last until January 2024. At the end of her talk, Ms. Huntsinger gave everyone a free pass to the museum

**Colonel Brendan P. Kearney,
U. S. Marine Corps (Ret)
1558 Manzanita Ave
Santa Rosa, CA 95404**

17 August 2023

Major Ken Johnson, USAF
c/o Redwood Empire Chapter, MOAA

Dear Ken,

I just wanted to drop you a quick note regarding our fellow Member, Capt William Anderson, whose notice of offered assistance has been appearing in our newsletter for years.

Very recently, I ran into a significant home maintenance issue. I'm not very public about this, but my wife and I are full-time caregivers for my 45 year old son, James. He is a stroke victim so requires 24 hour companionship and in this recent hot weather, some degree of comfort with portable air conditioning, etc.

Anyway, we ran into continuing problems with our home's circuit breaker. My initial reaction was to call an Electrician, but then recalling our newsletter offers of assistance, I decided to reach out to William for advice as to a recommendation for a reputable Electrician. In reaching out, little did I realize that he would mobilize a fire-team – within a couple of hours - of experts and then show up on site to evaluate what ended up being a circuit overload situation.

To say that I was thrilled is an understatement! These last months have been an ordeal for our family as we work through a bureaucratic nightmare to get services for our son. This fellow MOAA Members efforts has reminded us that there are still some good men out there who will take the extra step to assist those in need. Kudo's to William "Van" Anderson!

Please do not hesitate to contact me if further amplification is desired. I can be reached at the above mailing address or by email at: brendanpkearney@outlook.com or by mobile at 650-452-3072.

Respectfully,

//s//Brendan

Brendan P. Kearney

MOAA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

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

Tuesday, September 5, 2023, 11:30am.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

"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.

SEE "Pub Crawl" on Page 5

Legislative Update-September 2023

General Comments. Yes, we are waiting and it looks like we will wait some more. So, in the meantime let's not give up! We must keep our legislators aware of our priorities. Follows is a partial list of NDAA funding priorities. Don't feel restricted by the Federal Legislative List.

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 Houlahan (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. We need to reach out to our Congress members to support this bill.

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. We need co-sponsors from our representatives and senators.

Military Spouse Hiring Act (H.R. 1277). This act will help spouses who are currently discriminated against for employment due to their husbands frequent transfers. Both Senators are on board as co-sponsors, however, we need to get our Representatives on board.

TRICARE Pharmacy Network Report. After the [October 2022 departure](#) of approximately 15,000 independent pharmacies, the Defense Health Agency (DHA) dropped the minimum number of network pharmacies from 50,000 to 35,000 as a cost-cutting measure, allowing Express Scripts to construct the narrowed network. The NDAA requires reporting of the effects.

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 co-sponsor as of 6/9/23. Both Senators are on board as co-sponsors of S.344

State

AB 46 Retired Pay Tax Exemption . Unfortunately, AB 46 was passed to the Suspense File on August 14. No, it's not dead - yet - but it's on critical life support. A final decision (depending on the back room negotiations), will be on August 31. We have sent out a number of emails to all the committee members, their staffs, the Governor's and Lt Governor's offices urging them to re-look at the facts we presented, not merely the opposition presented by the Director of Finances.

Enclosed is a copy of E. Fred Green's letter rebuttal to the Senate Appropriations Committee's decision to send AB 46 to the Suspense File.

"All,

"According to U.S. Census Bureau data more than 500,000 U.S. Military Veterans have vacated California since 2020. During the same period states that fully exempt military retirement from state income taxes have seen increases in their veteran population. Those states realize an infusion of federal dollars that no longer exist for California. How come no one ever lays out how many millions of dollars California has lost to other states since the decline of the military retiree population dating back to 2010.

"California can no longer afford to be the ONLY STATE that does not provide an exemption on military retirement. During the Senate Appropriations Committee Hearing on August 14th 2023 the State Finance Representative was quick to point out anticipated loss revenue related to the passage of AB 46. That same State Finance representative did not speak to what the impact the loss of 500,000 veterans has had on the state's economy. There was no data on the income lost due to fewer patients being treated at VA Hospitals in California, resulting in Doctors,

Nurses and other medical professionals being transferred to VA Hospitals in other states. Many of those individuals make well over \$100,000 per year and also the income of their spouses.

“The data presented on August 14th did not take into consideration the 4.1 billion dollars military retirees bring to California or the income taxes the military retiree contributes from their 2nd career, which far exceeds their military retirement income. The income their spouses generate from their employment. The dollars they spend to send children to school, property taxes, vehicle registration fees, that all follow the military retiree to other states. I did not hear a word mentioned about this lost income going to other states. Why? Department of Defense Actuaries all support the decline of military retirees in California, which results in the loss of property tax revenue, vehicle registration fees, local taxes paid, dollars going to out of state colleges and the list goes on.

“Continue to tax military retirement, when every other state provides an exemption, and it does not take a rocket scientist or highly educated accountant to explain that in the coming years California will lose out of much higher dollar amounts than the State Finance Representative reported as the cost of AB 46 today in the Senate Appropriations Committee. Shame on that person for not reporting on the dollars California has already lost since 2020 and will continue to lose in the future.

“Vote yes on AB 46 and in the long term those costs presented today will turn into economic growth for California”

“Respectfully,

*“E. Fred Green, Jr
“Vice Chair, California State Commanders Veterans Council
“Personal Cell (619) 787 - 2244”*

Vern McNamee, LTC, USA Retired
Legislative Chairman
Redwood Empire Chapter MOAA (CA30)
707 972-3066 vernonmc@mcn.org

COL BREY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Dear MOAA Scholarship Committee and Donors,

I sincerely thank you for the generous

scholarship you have provided me. I am honored to have been selected to receive the Colonel William Brey Scholarship which will help support me during my academic endeavors while attending Arizona State University. This award will enable me to focus on my education and my journey of becoming a Registered Nurse.

Becoming a nurse is something that I have always dreamt of and I am extremely thankful for your confidence in me. My ambition is to positively impact others' lives and do my part in making the world a better place. I know that nursing is what I am meant to do and the support I am being provided will help me strive to accomplish my goals.

Once I graduate from Arizona State University, I aim to gain experience in the field and begin working as a traveling nurse. I plan to use my education and experience to make a difference in people's lives and provide unconditional care and support to those who are in need. I have a passion for traveling and experiencing unique cultures across the world so I am thrilled that this job will allow me to do so while also helping others. There is so much to learn from individuals worldwide and I value the opportunity to expand my knowledge and become a well-rounded nurse.

I would also like to thank the scholarship committee and donors for all of the hard work and time you have contributed to making this scholarship possible. Your efforts do not go unnoticed. Your generosity has made such a positive impact on my experience while in college and continues to motivate me to put in the hard work now so I can become an excellent nurse in the future. Thank you again for this opportunity

Sincerely,
Anna Linch

SEE “Pub Crawl” on Page 5

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

Buffet Luncheon, Thursday September 28, 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: Chili Dogs ~ Cheeseburgers
French Fries Potatoes ~ Esquite

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: **JEN WALL, Winemaker** ~ See page No. 1 for more information

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

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 60 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**. August 21, 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.



2023 DATES TO REMEMBER

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

SEE "Pub Crawl" on Page 5



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, September 13th. The price is \$25.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be pesto chicken, penne with marinara, green beans with mushrooms, broccoli salad, and iceberg edge 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.

The program for September will be speakers from Redemption House, an organization founded by and for women who have been trafficked, both for sex and for drugs.

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

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

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