



## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

My newsletter this month is less about world events or those events that take us outside of our own personal life. It's all about finding time, or a space in our daily lives that we can stop and listen and take in some of life's special moments. For many of us our routines are influenced by our needs to get certain things done. Some of us still have full-time employment or commitments to businesses and other organizations that require us to focus on the needs of others. Our home life is often filled with other commitments and activities that never allow us to relax. For many this is a very normal life.

I would like to share an experience that I've had for the past several weeks.

After dinner and in the early evening hours I sit out on my front porch and become present to the world around me. It's a quiet neighborhood and I am impressed by the people I meet and observe. It might be a couple walking hand-in-hand out for an evening stroll, or someone taking their dog out for their nightly exercise. I see a neighbor walking home with a bag of groceries and a friendly smile. People I never see in the daytime, but my evening world brings my neighborhood to life. A simple nod or a friendly good evening

About that time I see a single black bird flying across the sky. I watch them as they fly overhead soon to be followed for a small group of 10 or 20 more blackbirds. Within a matter of minutes that small group is replaced by a huge band many hundreds of blackbirds crossing overhead flying to their nightly roost. Not just one band but two or three more. The sky is alive like I've never seen it before. It's just a moment in time, but it's something I would not have experienced had I not taken the time to sit on my porch.

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

**SEE "Pub Crawl" on Page 5**

**Thursday, October 26, 2023**  
**Buffet Luncheon at the**  
**EPICENTER in Santa Rosa**  
**11:00am ~ Dine at Noon**

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**Guest Speaker: None at time of publication**  
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**PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS**  
**FOR DINING,**

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

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See page No. 5 for the Luncheon menu.

**IMPORTANT:** Legislative Chairman **Vern McNamee**, requests that those members getting the **MOAA VOICE**, download the letters on pages No. 3 and No. 4, and mail them to our Governor as soon as possible. We need to keep AB46 alive and get it passed next year.

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**OCTOBER 26th**  
**CHAPTER GENERAL MEETING**  
**ELECTION of OFFICERS**  
**and DIRECTORS**

At our luncheon meeting on Thursday, October 26th we will be electing new officers and directors. Come out and support your Chapter with your presence and your vote. If you can't attend the actual meeting, please complete and mail in the following absentee ballot. See Page No. 2

**"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, October 3, 2023, 11:30am.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

## Legislative Update ~ October 2023

**General Comments.** A final decision on the NDAA is yet to be finalized - to have a final bill passed - or, to have temporary Continuing Resolution (CR). Without a solution by the end of the month, things could get quite messy in government operations. In the meantime, we should continue with the same priorities presented during the past months

### **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 Congressmembers 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 .** This has been our priority during the past year. Fortunately, the bill has been granted another year's reprieve. You will be hearing much more in the coming months.

As a starter you have been requested to sign a letter to Governor Gavin Newsom detailing the benefits of correcting the inequity. This will be done through a mass mailing directly to his office. Let's hope!

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

## Redwood Empire Chapter Military Officer's Association of America **BALLOT - 2024**

### **CHAPTER PRESIDENT**

*(Vote for One)*

[ ]

[ \* ] \_\_\_\_\_

### **FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT**

*(Vote for One)*

[ ]

[ \* ] \_\_\_\_\_

### **SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT**

*(Vote for One)*

[ ]

[ \* ] \_\_\_\_\_

### **SECRETARY**

*(Vote for One)*

[ ] CAPT Robert R. Safreno, USAR

[ ] \_\_\_\_\_

### **TREASURER**

*(Vote for One)*

[ ] LCDR Tim Morgan, USNR

[ ] \_\_\_\_\_

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2024-2025 (2 yrs)**

*(Vote for Four)*

[ ] Mrs Myrna M. Hurst

[ ] Donna Poulter

[ ] CPT Lewis Wall, USA

[ \* ] \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] \_\_\_\_\_

\* Indicates positions that need to be filled in order to have a working Board for our Chapter of MOAA

**Volunteers are desperately needed to fill the positions listed above. If you want to continue to have a Redwood Empire Chapter of MOAA, Please help us out.**

### **Directors-at-large - Term 2023-2024**

Martina Lewis, Susan Linch, LTC Gary Meagher, AUS  
Mary-Gwen Neisingh



## The Military Officers Association of America REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER

POST OFFICE BOX 2801, SANTA ROSA, CA 95405-0801

October 2, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Governor Newsom,

As a member of the Redwood Empire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, I would like to express my concern that California is the only State of the Union that does not recognize the years of unselfish service by military retirees to the country as well as by their families. Therefore, the following information is provided for your favorable consideration to correct this inequity

- California is home to 103 Veterans Medical Facilities, the largest number in the country, with Texas having the 2nd largest number of VA Facilities at 93. A state's veterans' population has a direct impact on funding allocations to keep those facilities open and operational. According to the National Center for Veterans' Analysis and Statistics California's veteran population in FY 2010 was at 2.2 million. That same organization has listed California's FY 2020 veteran population as 1.6 million. The loss of those veterans has resulted in millions of federal dollars no longer coming into California's economy. As the patient population decreases those medical professionals who staff the VA Medical Facilities are transferred to other states, no longer paying income tax to California on their salaries or taxes to the local economies.
- A recent article in Wall Street 24/7 they reported that California ranked #1 in military personnel population, edging out #2 Virginia. Department of Defense payroll spending was over \$57 billion dollars (Military and Civilian) in 2022.
- In a letter written in support of AB 46 to the California Senate Appropriations Committee on June 30th 2023 by Congressional representative Adam Schiff, ***Representative Schiff wrote" A single decade of exempting retired military pay alone from state taxation will help California and the country add thousands of jobs, millions of dollars in personal income, billions of dollars in gross domestic or state product and even more in business sales tax"***

Representative **Schiff went on to write "Our state was one of only 5 that saw a reduction in the size of its veterans' population over the past decade and a half citing a 17 percent decrease between 2000 and 2016.**

- A recently released 2021 study conducted by the California Research Bureau, California State Library on "National Security Economic Impacts Study states "California is home to the nation's largest concentration of military personnel and other national security activity. In fiscal year 2020, military and other national security activity in the state generated an estimated \$168.7 billion in economic activity - approximately 5.7% of California's economy.
- During the California Senate Appropriations Committee Hearing held on August 14th 2023 the State Finance Department stated that AB 46 would result in the loss of \$150 million in revenue by 2025. The analysis completed by the State Franchise Tax Board and presented to the State Senate Governance and Finance Committee stated the cost would only be \$50 million. What was not presented in either hearing was the fact that the continued decline in the military retiree population since 2013 has already resulted in the loss \$220 million dollars in tax revenues. This dollar amount does not include the loss tax revenue from a military retiree's 2nd career or their spouse's income.
- A developer invests millions of dollars in a project before making a single dollar in profit. That developer knows that his investments today will result in much greater returns in the future. By keeping our military retirees in California today, any immediate loss of revenue will be made up in the future by increased revenues. A recent study by the San Diego Military Advisory Council confirms that fact. So do local Chambers of Commerce who have come out in support of AB 46.
- Department of Defense Actuaries Data shows a steady decline in California's military retiree population dating back to 2010. That same DoD data states that military retirees brought over \$ 4 billion to California's economy.

Please contact me for any further information if needed.

Respectfully,

Member, Redwood Empire Chapter, MOAA

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

## Buffet Luncheon, Thursday October 26, 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:** Fruit Salad. Fresh Rolls & Butter.

**Lunch:** Shrimp Tempura ~ Pesto Chicken Breast

Angel Hair Pasta with White Wine and butter, Seasonal Vegetables

**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

## 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 12:00 noon (**NOTE: NEW TIME**) at the **Epicenter**. October 16, 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

### OCTOBER:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
- 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 11<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 16<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
- 25<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting
- 26<sup>th</sup> Luncheon Epicenter, Election of Officers for

### NOVEMBER:

- 7<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
- 8<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 11<sup>th</sup> North Bay Veterans Day parade (Friday)
- 17<sup>th</sup> Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building
- 20<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
- NO United Veterans Council meeting
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Thanksgiving Day

### DECEMBER:

- 5<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
  - \*\* 7<sup>th</sup> Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??
  - 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Holiday Social, Sally's Tomatoes
  - 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
  - NO United Veterans Council meeting
  - \*\* 18<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, **12:00 noon??**
  - 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas
- \*\* = Not Confirmed at this time ~ **CNX** = Cancelled ~ **UNK** = Unknown

06/32/06



## 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, October 11th. The price is \$25.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be beef Stroganov, pork tenderloin, smashed potatoes, glazed carrots, spinach 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.

The guest speakers at the September luncheon were Lisa Diaz and Elizabeth Quiroz from Redemption House. They educated us about human trafficking happening right here in our own backyard. The guest speakers for October will be Phillip McGough and Scott Jones, Adult Services librarians from the Sonoma County Library.

**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. Saferno, 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

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