

MOAA



VOICE

Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 54, NUMBER 2

"Serving Those Who Serve America"

FEBRUARY 2024



PAST PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

In the last article of the MOAA voice I stated that this would be the last article I would write as president. Besides me, other board members have reached out to our membership wanting somebody to take over as president. Neither I nor the board has found anybody willing to take over that role. I feel like the captain of the Titanic. I see the iceberg in front of me, and I know that when I strike that iceberg it's going to be the end of my ship. So in some ways I feel like that Captain. I see the potential end to our organization, which has meant so much to all of us. Our organization cannot exist without a president. Without a president we are much the same as that captain of the Titanic as he saw the approaching iceberg. He couldn't avoid a collision, and he experienced the loss of his ship. It's much the same way today. I feel that same glooming loss of our MOAA organization. Without a leader, we cannot exist.

This is your organization. It cannot exist without the support and participation of all its members. The board members and I all work to make this a meaningful and successful organization. Now it's up to you. The Redwood Chapter of the MOAA needs your active support and participation.

I would be willing to talk with anyone who is interested in becoming our next president. We have a very strong staff, with our secretary and treasurer and board members providing great support to our organization. We meet twice a month, once with the general membership meeting and once for the board meeting.

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

SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 4

Thursday, February 22, 2024
Buffet Luncheon at the
POPPY BANK EPICENTER
in Santa Rosa
11:00am ~ Dine at Noon

Guest Speakers: Philip McGough and Gabe Marlow, from the Sonoma County Library.

They will speak about all the services and resources that the library has to offer.

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS
FOR DINING,

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

See page No. 7 for the Luncheon menu.

CHAPTER DUES FOR 2024

Chapter Dues are \$25.00 and they are effective on January 1, 2024. A notice was sent in the December *MOAA VOICE*. The Dues mailing has been sent out to all Chapter member on our Roster, with a return envelope. A few of our members have already paid and if you do not get a notice it may not be an error. Please check with your Chapter Secretary for further information.

"GOOD SPEAKERS ARE NEEDED"

Chapter members:

Who do you want to hear from?

Please send your suggestions to

Bob Safreno, (707)795-3963, Cell: 707-479-9374

or by e-mail: shadowbob1@juno.com

"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, February 6, 2024, 11:30am.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

Legislative Update - February 2024

NOTE: This is the second time this SB 770 has been put in MOAA VOICE if no action is taken you can blame yourselves for what happens

SB 770 California State Run Health System/1332 Waiver. We are facing another attack on our military/retiree health care benefits -TRICARE/CHAMPUS/TRICARE FOR LIFE. This plan would put everyone under the State run health program with no exceptions if a waiver is granted to eliminate Medicare and private medical plans to be incorporated into a single payer system. **Heads up everyone!**

Fortunately, our very active CALMOAA and in particular the 3rd VP for Legislative Affairs Jeff Breiten has published an Op-Ed in the California American Legion State Newsletter which is transcribed *in verbs* below:

"Disabled Veterans, Veterans on Medicare and active duty-military families MUST be protected from a 1332 Waiver proposed as outlined in SB 770"

"SB 770 was recently signed into law by Governor Newsom (September 2023 and now a proposal, which seeks to eliminate Medicare in California and establish a "state run health care system", is moving its way through the State Legislature. SB 770 requires that the State of California prepare a proposal to seek a 1332 Waiver from the Health & Human Services Secretary, which would pave the way for a massive health care tax being imposed on California residents and employers.

SB 770 has set in motion that a 1332 Waiver proposal be completed by the end of 2024, that will result in the elimination of Medicare and all private health coverage in California, replace it with a costly, \$400 billion-dollar untested health system run by state government, and require the largest tax increase in state history. AB 1400, introduced by Assembly member Ash Kalra in 2022 placed a \$400 billion dollar cost on a proposed single payer, state run health care system in California. AB1400 also mentioned a 15% payroll tax and an income based health care tax" to help fund a single payer health care system in California.

California's disabled veterans, who are entitled to no cost health care from the Veterans Administration, could find themselves paying an imposed "health care tax" based on that disabled veteran's income or spouse's income. Disabled veterans who are self-employed or small business owners could find themselves subject to a payroll tax, to fund a single payer health care system in California.

Veterans who are entitled to Medicare could find themselves paying an additional health care tax based on income, above the dollar amount that Medicare already sets each year. Military retirees who are entitled to Tricare for Life would experience a massive disruption to their Tricare medical benefits, currently provided by the federal government.

Our active-duty military families stationed at installations throughout California would have their Tricare medical benefits disrupted and current coverage's changed. Military families may find themselves subject to a state health care tax the federal Tricare benefits earned while serving our country. A self-employed military spouse may find themselves subject to a 15% payroll tax.

Everyone needs to voice their concerns to both state and federal legislators that any 1332 Waiver submitted to the Secretary of Health & Human Services MUST contain language to exempt and protect our disabled veterans, veterans entitled to Medicare and our nation's active-duty military families stationed at installations in California, from any future imposed taxes to fund a state-run health care system.

A policy advocate for the California Chamber of Commerce, Preston Young recently wrote:

For those who think dismantling our health system is a good idea, here are a few specific concerns to consider: SB 770 / single payer proponents seek to eliminate all private health coverage in California and force all Californians into a new untested health system – with no ability to opt out or choose private coverage instead. Study after study shows Cali-

fornians like their health coverage and Medicare, and strongly support protecting their right to choose it, and strongly support protecting the Medicare coverage seniors have earned.

The waiver sought by SB 770 would redirect roughly \$200 billion annually to the new single payer health system. But that system is projected to cost more than \$500 billion/year. The missing \$300+ billion a year would be raised by new, higher taxes on payroll, employers, and the goods and services Californians purchase."

"I agree that every resident in California should have access to affordable and quality health care. I agree there are changes that can be made to improve the access and cost in California. A state run, single payer health care system, will not only be disruptive and much too costly, but also take away your right to "choose your medical provider and impact the quality of medical care available in California. California is already on the road of ensuring health care for all Californians and seeking a 1332 Waiver and establishing a state run health care system at the cost of over \$400 billion dollars is not the answer." Jeff Breiten

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

ATTENTION CHAPTER MEMBERS

WE NEED SOME OF YOU TO STEP UP AND BECOME OFFICERS IN OUR CHAPTER, AT THE TIME OF THIS PUBLICATION WE DO NOT HAVE A PRESIDENT. IF YOU WANT THIS CHAPTER TO SURVIVE PLEASE HELP US OUT.

See Page No. 3 for Tim Morgan's letter

MOAA Redwood Empire Chapter: Officer Vacant Positions and Duties

President:

- Preside over monthly chapter membership meetings.
- Preside over Board Meetings
- Appoint committee members of standing committees (with board approval)
- Maintain liaison with Cal MOAA and National MOAA.
- Write article for MOAA Redwood Empire Chapter monthly Newsletter.

1st Vice President:

- Preside over chapter and board meetings in the absence of the President.
- Arrange and coordinate meetings venues and menu items for the general membership.
 - Maintain custody and responsibility for the flags, colors and insignia of the chapter and ensure their presence at appropriate meetings.

2nd Vice President:

- Arrange for speakers at general membership meetings.
- Assume duties of the 1st VP and President in that persons absence.
- Prepare, maintain and publicize press relations for the chapter.

Letter to Chapter Members:

January 14, 2024

Our chapter is at a crossroad. We cannot continue without a president. Our previous president, Ken Johnson, having served as President since summer of 2020, has stepped down, and as of this date no one has stepped up to become president. I want to personally commend Ken Johnson for his service to the chapter and his efforts to increase chapter membership, his interest and participation, and his many attempts to find a replacement.

Most on the current Board of Directors have served the chapter for long periods of time, and while tired, we want to keep the chapter going, but we need others to relieve us. Appeals for new leadership have appeared in the last few issues of the MOAA Voice to no avail. Also, no one on the current Board is willing to assume the position as president, and without a chapter president we can't continue to operate. I believe most Board members have the same questions. So, what do we do?

On the positive side, our chapter is financially sound, both our normal operations and events. Our Brey Scholarship funds, while slowly declining, are sufficient for at least several years of scholarship awards.

The primary problem is our declining membership which stands at 57 members. Several years ago, we had upwards of 90 members, and while we have picked up a few new members, these few do not offset our losses. I can speculate about some of the causes for this decline: 1) our members are aging, 2) our chapter functions were affected for several years due to COVID concerns, 3) people seem to be either less interested in joining/participating/growing similar organizations or just too busy with life, and 4) many of our members' military service ended long ago with most having served prior to the 1990s. Our decline is by no means unique, as other organizations or clubs are seeing similar trends. The side effect of this decline is that our chapter leadership is declining also. Our chapter has been without a 1st Vice President for three to four years, our 2nd Vice President position is now vacant, and we also have a Director's position open. Even with these vacancies, our Board has continued to function over the past four years, mostly by the current Board members simply continuing to serve well beyond their terms just to keep the chapter going. Not only that, but five of our eight Board members are auxiliary members.

Secretary CPT Bob Safreno has been the chapter Secretary for all my 21 years with this organization, and while I expect he is willing to serve a few more years as a volunteer, he puts in a lot of time each month just to keep us going. For myself, I'm happy to continue as Treasurer for a while longer because transitioning either of our positions is not a simple process.

All of that said, I know that some of the same factors affecting our membership decline are probably reasons why few appear interested or available to serve on the Board and/or lead the chapter, but we are rapidly approaching a point where we can't go on.

Members, please consider all of this. We need new people and new ideas. What do you want this chapter to do? We really are rapidly approaching a point where we can't go on. If you have thoughts about this, please direct them to any of the Board members

Tim Morgan

Tim Morgan
Treasurer, RECMOAA

WE NEED
YOU!



**COMING SOON!!!!
THE COL BREY
SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION
HAS 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.

THE COL BREY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION HAS BEEN REVISED

The application period for COL William G. Brey Scholarships opens November 1, 2023 and will close March 15, 2024. All applications **must** be post-marked by March 15, 2024. Those eligible to apply for scholarships are children, grandchildren (natural or adopted), and wards of living or deceased members of the Chapter. Living members must be a member in good standing for a minimum of one year and a participating member at the time the application is submitted. Deceased members must have been in good standing at the time of death. Scholarship eligibility is limited to those pursuing undergraduate academic and professional certification 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”

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

We will meet at 12:00 noon the Poppy Bank Epicenter, February 19, 2024. 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!!

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

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

Buffet Luncheon, Thursday February 22, 2024

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: Wedge Salad.

Lunch: Mini Meatloaves ~ Loaded Mac and Cheese Bowl---BBQ
Smashed Red Potatoes ~ 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 Speakers: **Philip McGough and Gabe Marlow, from the Sonoma County Library.**

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

Left to Right: Wives Club Officers 2024
President Barbara Confer,
Vice President Donna Poulter,
Secretary Tina Lewis,
Treasurer Norma Viglienzone



2024 DATES TO REMEMBER

January – 2024

- 1st Dues for 2024 are payable at this time
- 2nd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information.
- 10th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 15th Pub Crawl at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
- 24th United Veterans Council meeting
- 25th Luncheon, **Epicenter** – Installation of Officers

February:

- 1st Proposed target date to publish the 2024 Roster
- 6th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
- 14th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 19th Pub Crawl at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
- 22nd Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 28th United Veterans Council meeting

March:

- 5th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 13th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 15th Deadline for submission Scholarship Applications
- 18th Pub Crawl at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
- 27th United Veterans Council meeting
- 28th Luncheon, **Epicenter**

April:

- 2nd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 10th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 15th Pub Crawl at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
- 24th United Veterans Council meeting
- 25th Luncheon, **Epicenter**

May:

- 7th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners

- 8th Wives Club Luncheon, Epicenter
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 11th Armed Forces Day – Rose Parade, Santa Rosa
- 20th **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00 noon**
- 22nd United Veterans Council meeting
- 23rd Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 27th Memorial Day Ceremonies

June:

- 4th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 15th Saturday, Picnic Spring Lake, Lower Jackrabbit Area
Honor Scholarship Recipients?
- 17th **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00 noon**
- 26th United Veterans Council meeting

July:

- 2nd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am, select a nominating committee
- 10th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 15th **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00 noon**
- 24th United Veterans Council meeting
- 25th Luncheon, Epicenter

August:

- 6th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 14th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 17th Saturday, Riverfront Regional Park, Annual BBQ
- 19th **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00 noon**
- 28rd United Veterans Council meeting

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

06/32/06

MOAA WIVES CLUB

(Sonoma County Main - All members welcome)

2024 Officers

President: Barbara Confer 707-763-8198
 Vice President: Donna Poulter 707-576-0513
 Secretary: Tina Lewis 707-758-9739
 Treasurer: Norma Viglienze 707-542-1458
 Parliamentarian: Donna Poulter 707-576-0513

TIME TO

YOUR DUES! ONLY \$25.00

Mail check to Norma Viglienze at
1651 Cunningham Way, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

It's time to pay your dues. You can either pay in person at a luncheon or mail a check to Norma. Make the check payable to MOAA Wives Club. The next meeting of the Wives Club will be a buffet lunch at the Epicenter on Wednesday, February 14th. The price is \$25.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be beef Stroganov, lemon chicken, angel hair pasta with white wine butter, glazed carrots, house 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.

Officers for 2024 were sworn in at the January meeting. The program was Bingo. The program for February will be Mary Gwen Neisingh telling us about her exciting trip to South Africa.

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

PAY

Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2024

President: (NONE AT THIS TIME)
1st Vice President: (NONE AT THIS TIME)
2nd Vice President: (NONE AT THIS TIME)
Secretary: Cpt Robert R. Safreno, USAF 707-795-3963
Treasurer: LCDR Tim Morgan, USNR 707-695-9293
Imed. Past President: Maj Ken Johnson, USAF 408-466-6764

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
(NONE AT THIS TIME)
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

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**

SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 4