

MOAA

Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter



VOICE

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 54, NUMBER 3

“Serving Those Who Serve America”

MARCH 2024

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.

It is essential that we have a President to continue the functioning of this organization

Someone must volunteer for the above positions.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS: AT THE MARCH 28th LUNCHEON MEETING WE WILL HAVE NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS FOR 2024. FINAL NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS WILL HAPPEN AT THE APRIL 25th LUNCHEON MEETING

SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 4

MOAA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

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

Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 11:30am.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

Thursday, March 28, 2024

**Buffet Luncheon at the
POPPY BANK EPICENTER**

in Santa Rosa

11:00am ~ Dine at Noon

Guest Speakers: Barbara and Bruce Wohler

From Trips4U, they will speak about traveling
And what they have to offer for our members.

**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. March 1, 2024 is Deadline.

“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.

Legislative Update - March 2024

General Comments. 2024 Presidential Primary Elections - stay tuned and keep your heads up particularly in regards to California State issues. Please note comments below under State comments.

Federal. With the NDAA funding still in a fluid situation, we will continue with the following legislative priorities listed below however, if you should so choose you may select other bill from the list from MOAA in Action.

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. Unfortunately, some staffers have indicated: "No one promised you full military honors at your funeral," said one staffer – a troubling indicator of the challenge faced by MOAA and other military and veteran advocacy groups when only 18% of lawmakers have served in uniform. We need to reach out to our Congress members to support this bill.

Please use the **MOAA Advocacy in Action** to follow up with our Representatives.

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.

The Major Richard Star Act - Concurrent Receipt for Combat Injured Veterans: two years in a row, Two-thirds of Congress has supported. has supported this bill for the past two years. This legislation would reverse an unjust offset requiring these combat-injured retirees to give up a dollar of DoD-earned retirement pay for every dollar of VA-provided disability benefits they receive. We need to get our legislators back on board for the upcoming year.

State.

California 2024 Presidential Primary Elections. I hope that you all in counties other than Mendocino County did not do the same thing as the "Frustrated Bank Robber" whereby several thousand erroneous ballots were mailed out by the printer to voters which necessitated remaining of corrected ballots. In Mendocino County's case, the Registrar of Voters has assured that the new ballots are correct. No comment!

Needless to say, after sifting through all of the personalities listed on your ballot, I believe that you should give a good look at **Proposition 1** Authorizing \$6.38 billion in bonds **to be repaid in 30 years.** Yes, that's thirty - count

'em years! If you look at it closely, it's nothing more than a "pea under a shell" game. Look at the numbers.

AB 46 Retired Pay Tax Exemption . This is NOT a dead issue - yet. We are on a "wait and see" status. Take a look at January's MOAA Voice regarding thing subject.

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 an waiver is granted to eliminate Medicare and private medical plans to be incorporated into a single payer system. **Heads up everyone!**

I am including a copy of the letter I sent to Assemblyman Jim Woods which you all can use and plagiarize as you want with no penalty. This is a BIG ONE with long lasting consequences.

*The Honorable Jim Wood
State Assemblyman - 2nd District
200 School St., Ste D
Ukiah, CA 95482*

Subject: Protection from 1332 Waiver outlined by SB 770.

Dear Assemblyman Wood,

As Legislative Affairs Chairman for the Redwood Empire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) - an integral part of the 2,300 member California Council of Chapters of MOAA, I am the principal chapter advocate for our chapter members in relation to concerns regarding proposed state or federal legislation.

Therefore, I am writing to you to share our concerns regarding a 1332 Waiver proposed by the recently passed SB 770 seeking to eliminate Medicare in California and establish a state run system. SB 770 requires that a 1332 Waiver be sought from the Health & Human Services Secretary which would pave the way for a massive health care tax being imposed on California residents and employers.

As I understand it, SB 770 proposes that the waiver be completed by the end of this year resulting in the elimination of Medicare and all private health coverage in California, replacing it with a costly, \$400 billion-dollar untested health system run by state government, and require the largest tax increase in state history. I am sure you are aware that previously, AB1400 mentioned a 15% payroll tax and an income based health care tax to help fund any short fall.

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.

Therefore, I respectfully request your support to exclude the aforementioned veterans, military retirees and their dependents under Tricare, active duty military personnel and families from the provisions determined by SB 770 due to probable hardships to those individuals.

Sincerely yours,

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



LONE SAILOR at the West side of the Golden Gate Bridge



The guest speaker for the January luncheon was Vic Trione. Vic wears many hats in and around Santa Rosa, but his talk at the luncheon focused on the United States Navy Memorial located in Washington, D.C. and particularly the Lone Sailor Project. The Navy Memorial holds many activities and programs, which could be reviewed in the pamphlets that were available to be taken. In 2002 a Lone Sailor statue was placed at Vista Point, located on the north side of the Golden Gate Bridge. About two million people visit it annually. There are currently nineteen Lone Sailor statues, with several more being planned. Vic brought with him a Lone Sailor replica and a 2002 article from the PD about the placement of the Lone Sailor statue at Vista Point.

Our Chapter of MOAA, presented a 20 oz Tumbler to him, with the Military Officers Association of America emblem on the Tumbler.

(Cup presented to guest Speaker)



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, March 18, 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 March 28, 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: Broccoli Salad and Fruit Salad

Lunch: Salmon ~ Chicken Parmesan ~ Penne with pesto

Dessert: Cookies. Water, Lemonade, 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: **Barbara and Bruce Wohlert, From Trips4U.**

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.**

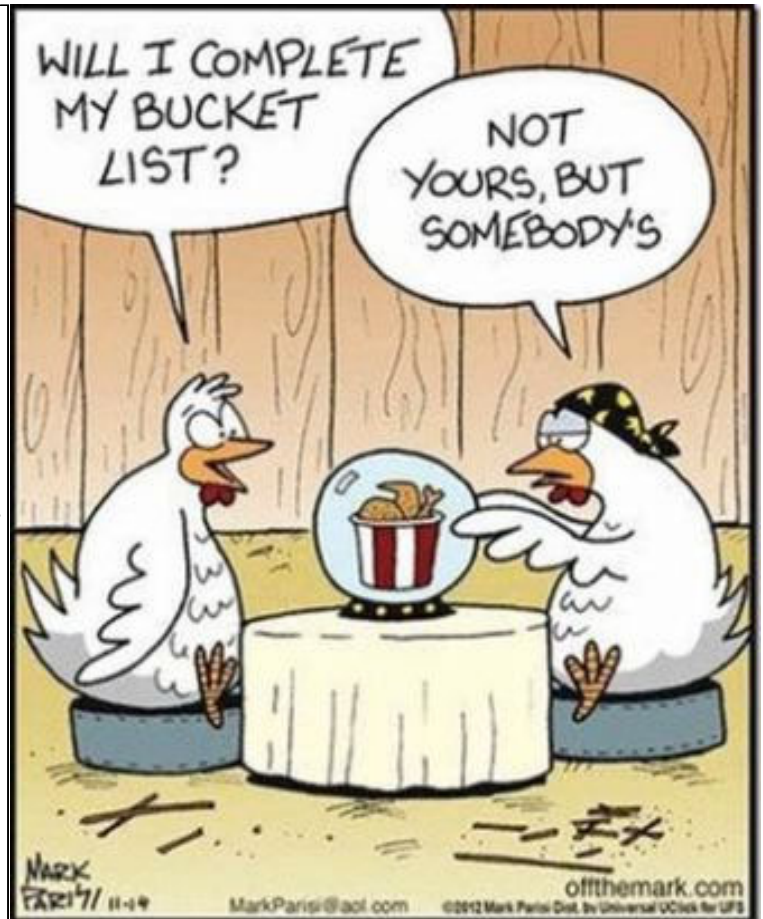
He realizes that the country is presently going through a rough time, because of the present COVID-19 virus and shelter in place, there are a lot of people with many different needs. He is offering to our members and any veterans organizations his help.

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

SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 4



2024 DATES TO REMEMBER

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
 18th 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:
 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, select a nominating committee
 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

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September:
 3rd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2025 officers
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 11th Wives Club Luncheon, Epicenter
 16th **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00 noon**
 20th - 22nd Air Show at CMS Airport?
 25th United Veterans Council meeting
 26th Luncheon, Epicenter

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October:
 1st BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 9th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 21st **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00 noon**
 23rd United Veterans Council meeting
 24th Luncheon Epicenter, Election of Officers for 2024

** = 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, March 13th. The price is \$25.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be chicken tacos, steak chili, esquite, Caesar salad, garlic parmesan bread, 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 speaker for March will be someone from Chop's Teen Club. In the 1990s the estate of Charles "Chop" DeMeo designated money to create a place for teenagers. Programs, workshops, drop-in classes, and workforce ready courses are offered.

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 2023-24
 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 2024-25
 LTC Steve Countouriotis, USA 707-763-5309
 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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SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 4