

MOAA



VOICE

Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 54, NUMBER 10

"Serving Those Who Serve America"

OCTOBER 2024



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Dear Members,
A special thank you to our 2nd Vice President, Steve Countouriotis, for arranging last month's speaker, Vincent Valenzuela. Vincent gave us a good report on our active American Red

Cross.

This month we are blessed to have our own Lew Wall speaking on Shenandoah Valley through the Civil War.

October 13th is the United States Navy Birthday. A salute to all of our Navy Veterans.

This month at the October 24th luncheon, we will have final nominations and election of Officers for 2025.

~~~~~  
Life is short. Break the rules,  
Forgive quickly, kiss slowly,  
Love truly, laugh uncontrollably,  
And never regret anything that Makes you smile.  
*Toby Keith*



~~~~~  
The easiest way to find something around
The house is to buy a replacement!

Unknown

~~~~~  
**Donna Poulter, President**

707-576-0513 ~ donnaeaglette@yahoo.com

**SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 1**

## MOAA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

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

Tuesday, October 1, 2024, 11:30am.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

**Thursday, October 24, 2024**

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

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Guest Speaker: Lew Wall, will speaking on The Shenandoah Valley through the Civil War.

~~~~~  
**PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR DINING,**

By Tuesday, October 21, 2024.

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

~~~~~  
See page No. 4 for the Luncheon menu.

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, October 21, 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

"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 October 2024

General Comments. As this is the last MOAA Voice before elections, it becomes imperative to become as well informed as possible regarding ALL candidates positions AND propositions presented on ballot measures before November 5th. This requires a lot of work or effort on each voter's part to be able to make an intelligent and informed vote.

In regards to the propositions, "following the money" oftentimes will furnish a clear picture of what interests are backing the measure. Cleverly worded propositions also are deceptive and not necessarily truthful.

Federal.

NDAAs 2025 is still in limbo and appears to be headed to a CR in order to keep the government running. Therefore, the list of legislative priorities will continue as in the past few months. There are significant differences between the House and Senate versions to be resolved before the end of September not to face a shut down or Continuing Resolution.

Veterans Benefits Administration VBA Shortfall. Of vital importance to our veteran community is 1) a short term shortfall of \$2.9 billion this year and a \$12 billion shortfall in 2025. If the \$2.9 billion bill is not paid starting after October, some pensions, caregiver support and survivor benefits will be affected. BUMMER!

The Major Richard Star Act - Concurrent Receipt for Combat Injured Veterans: Two-thirds of Congress has supported this bill for the past two years, however, the House version does not include this bill in the NDAA. Back door information by some lawmakers and staffers is that it "costs too much" pointing to the projected cost of the Major Richard Star Act (\$6 billion over 10 years) as a reason it has not moved forward.

Passage as an amendment to the NDAA by the Senate would more rapidly reverse the 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.

Military Housing and Barracks: Both the House and Senate NDAA include provisions to invest in deteriorating barracks, however, it does not "answer the mail" to more than partially solve the problem. Please ask your Senators and Congressmen to support full benefits.

Military Pay. The House and Senate versions are still far apart. A CR solution is a very bad solution.

Arlington National Cemetery (ANC): The Expanding America's National Cemetery Act of 2023, H.R. 1413, is not included in either version of the NDAA. The proposed eligibility reduction for ANC remains on hold in the federal rule-making process.

State.

General. This is an election year! Also, many extraneous measures will be on the ballot. I strongly encourage to keep informed of what each bill is "trying to sell". Follow the money to see where the interests lie.

I urge you all read the supporting information behind SB 770 shown as follows excerpted from an email from Jeff Breiten, CALMOAA:

SB 770 State Single Payer Health System/1332 Waiver, 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 care system run by state government, and require the largest tax increase in state history.

The \$400 billion-dollar numbers originated from **AB 1400**, introduced by Assemblymember Ash Kalra in 2022, which placed a \$400 billion-dollar cost on a proposed single payer, state run health care system in California.

AB 1400 also mentioned a 15% payroll tax and an income based "healthcare 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 "healthcare 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 changed. Military families may find themselves subject to a state healthcare tax for 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.

Please followup with your Assembly Person/Senator and Congressman.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Vern McNamee, LTC, USA Retired

Legislative Chair

Redwood Empire Chapter MOAA (CA30)

707 972-3066 vernonmc@mcn.org

~~~~~  
**SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 1**



Redwood Empire Chapter  
Military Officer's Association  
of America

## BALLOT - 2025

**CHAPTER PRESIDENT**

*(Vote for One)*

[ ] Donna Poulter

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

**FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT**

*(Vote for One)*

[ ] LTC Steve Countouriotis, USA

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

**SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT**

*(Vote for One)*

[ ] COL Bruce A. Stahley, USAR

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

**SECRETARY**

*(Vote for One)*

[ ] CAPT Robert R. Safreno, USAR

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

**TREASURER**

*(Vote for One)*

[ ] LCDR Tim Morgan, USNR

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2025-2026 (2 yrs)**

*(Vote for Four)*

[ ] Martina E. "Tina" Lewis

[ ] Susan Linch

[ ] LTC Gary Meagher, AUS

[ ] Mary-Gwen Neisingh

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

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

**Ballot can be mailed to the Post Office Box, or  
in person at the October luncheon.**

Guest speaker for the September 26th Luncheon at the Epicenter in Santa Rosa.

Vincent Valenzuela's journey with the Red Cross began in 2018 as a Disaster Program Manager for Solano and Marin Counties. In this role, he successfully built strong internal connections with the volunteer base while also establishing partnerships throughout the community, working closely with the local Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) in the North Bay Chapter. He has supported the Red Cross mission with multiple local and national disaster deployments to hurricanes, wildfires, floods and home fires.

Vincent has over 20 years of non-profit experience and is dedicated to supporting communities, families and building connections. In his new role as Chapter CEO, Vincent will work to bridge our Red Cross leadership to the volunteers carrying out the mission on a daily basis, facilitating the free flow of information and sharing of ideas. He will also focus on developing even stronger connections with our donors and recruiting partners and board member prospects.

A North Bay resident, Vincent enjoys adding to his vinyl record collection, cheering for the, 49ers and Warriors, and spending time with family and friends.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2025 (Continued from 2024)**

Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst  
Dayle Johnson  
Rosemary Rizzo  
CPT Lewis Wall, USA

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

## Buffet Luncheon, Thursday October 24, 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:** Caesar Salad,

**Lunch:** Fried Ravioli with Marinara Sauce ~ Pesto Chicken Breasts  
Garlic Parmesan Bread ~ Green Beans with Bacon

**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: **Lew Wall**, will speaking on The Shenandoah Valley through the Civil War.

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

### This could be any of us ..

Couple in their nineties are both having problems remembering things. During a check-up, the doctor tells them that they're physically okay, but they might want to start writing things down to help them remember.

Later that night, while watching TV, the old man gets up from his chair, "Want anything while I'm in the kitchen?" he asks, "Will you get me a bowl of ice cream?" "Sure." "Don't you think you should write it down so you can remember it?" she asks. "No, I can remember it." "Well, I'd like some strawberries on top, too. Maybe you should write it down, so as not to forget it?" He says, "I can remember that. You want a bowl of ice cream with strawberries." "I'd also like whipped cream. I'm certain you'll forget that, write it down?" she asks. Irritated, he says, "I don't need to write it down, I can remember it! Ice cream with strawberries and whipped cream - I got it, for goodness sake!"

Then he toddles into the kitchen. After about 20 minutes, the old man returns from the kitchen and hands his wife a plate of bacon and eggs. She stares at the plate for a moment. "Where's my toast?"

A little old man shuffled slowly into an ice cream parlor and pulled himself slowly, painfully, up onto a stool... After catching his breath, he ordered a banana split. The waitress asked kindly, "Crushed nuts?" "No," he replied, "Arthritis."

**SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 1**

### 2024 DATES TO REMEMBER

- September:  
 3<sup>rd</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2025 officers  
 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**  
 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Show at CMS Airport?  
 25<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 26<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- October:  
 1<sup>st</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 9<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 21<sup>st</sup> **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00 noon**  
 23<sup>rd</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 24<sup>th</sup> Luncheon **Epicenter**, Election of Officers for 2025
- November:  
 5<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 11<sup>th</sup> North Bay Veterans Day parade (Monday)  
 13<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**  
 15<sup>th</sup> Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building  
 18<sup>th</sup> **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00 noon**  
 28<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day
- December:  
 \*\* 7<sup>th</sup> Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??  
 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Holiday Social, Doubletree Hotel in Rohnert Park  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 16<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

### This could be any of us ..

An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen.

The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, "Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great I would recommend it very highly." The other man said, "What is the name of the restaurant?" The first man thought and thought and finally said, "What's the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know, the one that's red and has thorns." "Do you mean a rose?" "Yes, that's the one," replied the man. He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, "Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?"

Hospital regulations require a wheel chair for patients being discharged. However, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he didn't need my help to leave the hospital.

After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator. On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him. "I don't know," he said. "She's still up-stairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown."

### 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 Viglienzone   | 707-542-1458 |
| Parliamentarian: Donna Poulter | 707-576-0513 |

The next meeting of the Wives Club will be a buffet lunch at the Epicenter on Wednesday, October 9th. The price is \$25.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be fried chicken with gravy, pork tenderloin, glazed carrots, fried cauliflower with lemon pepper, chopped wedge 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.

Everyone enjoyed playing Bingo at the September luncheon. Winners picked a prize from a grab bag. Prizes were from Oliver's. As of this writing, there is no speaker for October.

**Tina Lewis**, Publicity 707-539-5546, [tinalewis31@comcast.net](mailto:tinalewis31@comcast.net)

**SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 1**

### Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2024

|                              |                              |              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| <u>President:</u>            | Donna Poulter                | 707-576-0513 |
| <u>1st Vice President</u>    | Mary-Gwen Neisingh           | 707-481-7614 |
| <u>2nd Vice President</u>    | LTC Steve Countouriotis, USA | 707-763-5309 |
| <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> | 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  
 1/Lt Donald Nowacki, USANG 707-595-1047

Directors-at-large - Term 2024-25  
 Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst 707-468-0146  
 Dayle Johnson 408-466-6764  
 Rosemary Rizzo 707-539-3346  
 CPT Lewis Wall, USA 707-837-7389

Directors Representing Sub-Chapters:  
Mendocino: Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst 707-468-0146

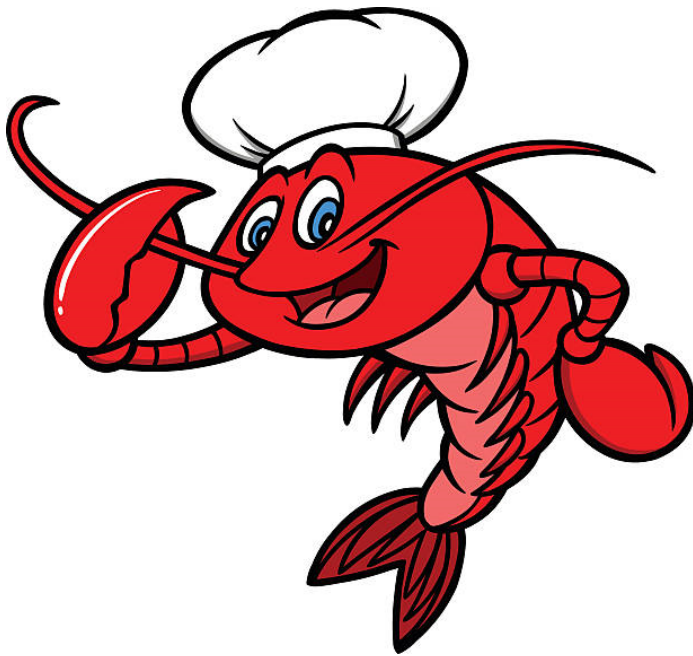
#### MOAA VOICE

|                          |                                                                               |                                                                            |
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**UP COMING  
Future  
EVENTS**



**SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL  
SURF & TURF ~ LOBSTER MEAL**

**It is scheduled for  
Friday, November 15, 2024  
In the  
Santa Rosa Veterans building  
More information later**



**SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL  
\*\* HOLIDAY SOCIAL \*\***

**It is scheduled for  
Sunday, December 8, 2024  
At the  
Doubletree Hotel in Rohnert Park  
More information later**