

# MOAA



# VOICE

Military Officers Association of America  
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 54, NUMBER 11

"Serving Those Who Serve America"

NOVEMBER 2024



## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Dear Members,  
I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving. Many thanks to Lew Wall for his wonderful presentation of the Shendoah Valley last month. It's always nice to hear from our members.

Hats off to our Marines in celebration of the November 10<sup>th</sup> U.S. Marine Corps Birthday. And may we all be thankful and grateful for our beloved Veterans on November 11<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day and everyday.

I look forward to our wonderful and delicious Lobster Feed on November 15<sup>th</sup>. It is a large fundraiser for us, so invite your friends and relatives. See you there!

I am thankful that we have a slate of Officers to serve in 2025. You are appreciated.

~~~~~  
Never stop doing little things for others. Sometimes, those little things occupy the biggest Parts of their hearts.

*Unknown*

~~~~~  
Some days I amaze myself. Other days I put my keys in the fridge.



*Unknown*

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

707-576-0513 ~ donnaeaglette@yahoo.com

**SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 2**

## MOAA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

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

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

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

## SURF & TURF ANNUAL FEED LOBSTER and CROSS-RIB BEEF, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2024

~~~~~  
Please see page No. 5 for the reservation form and information on the menu for the evening.

It's November! That means the annual MOAA Lobster Feed, Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, at the Veterans Building. Social hour begins at 5:00pm. Dinner will be served at 6:00pm, or as soon as the lobsters stop wiggling. Accompanying the crustaceans will be cross-rib. And of course there will be a **raffle** after dinner.

But here's the really important thing! Because the lobsters come fresh off the plane from the east coast, we absolutely must have an accurate count by Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>! The coupon for this popular event can be found on **page No. 5** of this issue of the **MOAA VOICE**. Cut it out right now and get your money in the mail to secure a place at the table. And speaking of money, the \$50.00 cost is amazingly reasonable considering what you're getting for your money.

You don't want to miss this fun event! If you get into trouble with a reservation, call Bob Safreno at Home: (707)795-3963 or Cell: (707)479-9374 But if you call him after November 11<sup>th</sup>, you might end up eating a \$50.00 hot dog.

**NOTE: A BAR WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE.**

Wine will be available at **NO COST**. Guest can bring their own Alcohol, glasses and ice will be available.

See you at the Big Feed!



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

By Monday, November 11, 2024.

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

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

# Legislative Update November 2024

## General Comments.

### Federal:

**NDAAs 2025** is operating under a **CR** in order to keep the government running well into December. Don't hold your breath for any results, we will continue with the list of legislative priorities as in the past few months.

**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 1 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.** By the time you get this Voice, the elections will be over (I hope) and we will see what cards with which we can play in the near and distant future. As an interest in counter-terrorism activities - *both domestic and international* which have been amply divulged by the media, I include an excerpt from State Senator Thomas Umberg's press release on September 30, 2024 as follows:

#### **"Umberg Measure Combating Extremism in the Military"**

"(Sacramento, CA) – **Senator Thomas J. Umberg (D-Santa Ana)** announced that his measure, Senate Bill 901, which combats extremism in California's National or State Guards was officially signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom on Friday evening.

"In 2021, the Defense Department Inspector General reported 281 extremism investigations. In last year's Annual Threat Assessment published by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the U.S. intelligence community deemed racially or ethnically motivated violent extremism -- with adherents such as white supremacists, Nazis and other racist groups -- the "most lethal threat" to Americans and are recruiting members of the military.

"Just this year, the media exposed a public school

teacher and member of the Arizona National Guard as a neo-Nazi," said Senator Umberg, a retired US Army colonel and member of the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs. "In life or death situations, members of the military must be able to trust each other implicitly without fear of discrimination or disparate treatment. And, in an emergency, all members of the public must be able to trust our National and State Guard."

"Last December, the Pentagon published an in-depth report on prohibited extremist activities in the U.S. Department of Defense. The report found that the Pentagon's effort to counter extremism was mired in a hodgepodge of sometimes contradictory policies, security clearance reviews that struggled to weed out extremists, and data collection efforts that were flawed and produced "inconsistent data at best." The problems uncovered by the report appear to be even more acute in the National Guard, where the members are far more attached to their communities than the military and its policies of equal inclusion.

"To counteract this murkiness, SB 901 enacts provisions at the state level to prevent enlistment or require an administrative discharge for members of the California National and State Guard if a person engages in extremist activity.

"California's flag, our military, our laws - our nation -- all stand for the defense of freedom, safety, and equality," added Senator Umberg. "People who do not share these beliefs should not be allowed to represent California locally or nationally, especially with a weapon in hand."

"Governor Newsom signed SB 901 into law, making it Chapter 774 of the Statutes of 2024, in a package of measures designed to improve services for California's veterans. The provisions of SB 901 take effect on January 1, 2025."

"(Senator Thomas J. Umberg is Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and represents the 34<sup>th</sup> Senate District. Umberg is a retired U.S. Army Colonel, former federal prosecutor and small businessman. He and his wife, Brigadier General Umberg, USA (ret) live in Orange County)".

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

## 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, November 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

WE NEED  
**YOU!**



**COMING SOON!!!!  
THE COL BREY  
SCHOLARSHIP AND  
MERIT AWARDS  
HAVE 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.

## **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

The application period for COL William G. Brey Scholarships will open on January 1, 2024, and will close on March 15, 2024. Closing date is firm. Those eligible to apply for scholarship assistance are children, wards, and grandchildren, natural or adopted, of living or deceased officer, warrant officer, or auxiliary members of the Chapter. Scholarship eligibility is limited to those pursuing undergraduate academic and professional certificate 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](mailto:srmomx5@comcast.net)

Susan will provide them immediately to all interested parties by fastest means available.

**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](mailto:William.Anderson) at 707-331-0366



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

**SURF & TURF  
LOBSTER and CROSS-RIB BEEF,  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15th**

**Veterans Memorial Building (Dining Room) - 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa**

**Menu:** *Maine Lobster 1 1/4 lb or larger and Cross-Rib Beef  
Baked Potatoes, Caesar Salad, Garlic bread.  
Red and White wine will be available. Dessert*

**\$50.00 each**

**5:00 pm: Socialize, (Bar not available) About 6:00 pm: Lobster served - (if ready)**  
Guest can bring their own Alcohol, glasses and ice will be available.

Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_ persons @ \$50.00 each. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the Col. Brey Scholarship Fund

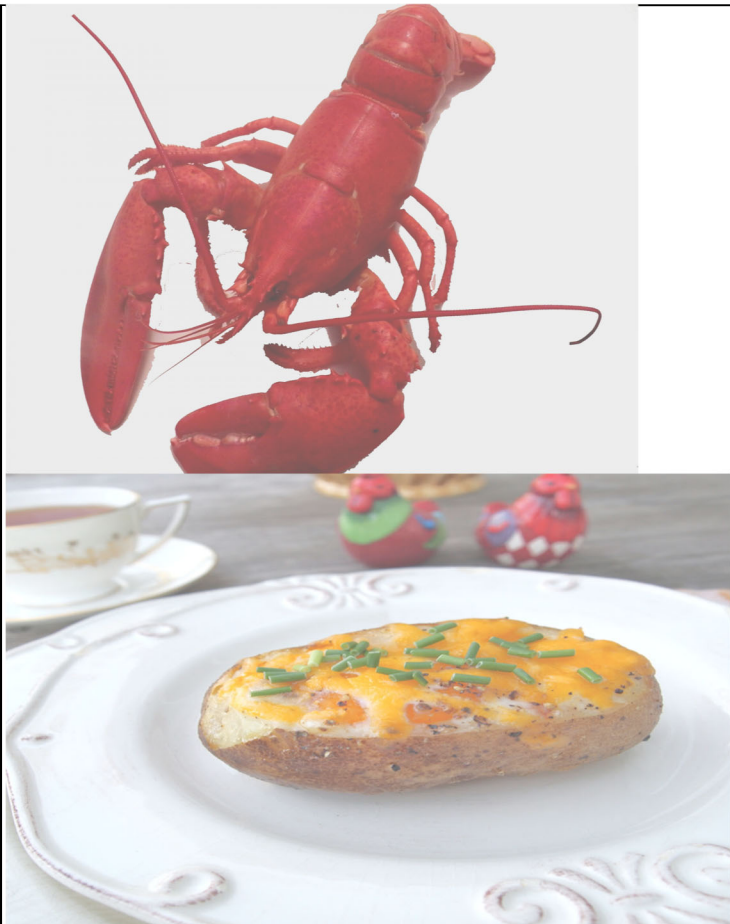
Name: \_\_\_\_\_, Phone: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

**\*\*\*\*\* PLEASE BRING A RAFFLE PRIZE IF YOU CAN \*\*\*\*\***



**2024 DATES TO REMEMBER**

- 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

**CHAPTER DUES FOR 2024**

Chapter Dues are \$25.00 and they will be due January 1, 2025. A notice will be in the December **MOAA VOICE**. There will also be a mailing sent out to all Chapter member on our Roster,

**“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.

**“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](mailto:shadowbob1@juno.com)

**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

**ABOUT TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES!  
 ONLY \$25.00**

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

If you want to get a jump on things and get this off your mind, you can pay your dues for 2024. 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, November 13th. The price is \$25.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be mini cheese quesadillas, boneless chicken wings with buffalo sauce, fried onion rings, fit and fun fruit and vegetable skewers, Victory 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.

The guest speaker in November will be Mickey Remy from the Senior Center.

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

**Redwood Empire Chapter  
 Officers and Directors for 2024**

**President:** Donna Poulter 707-576-0513  
**1st Vice President** Mary-Gwen Neisingh 707-481-7614  
**2nd Vice President** LTC Steve Countouriotis, USA 707-763-5309  
**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  
 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**

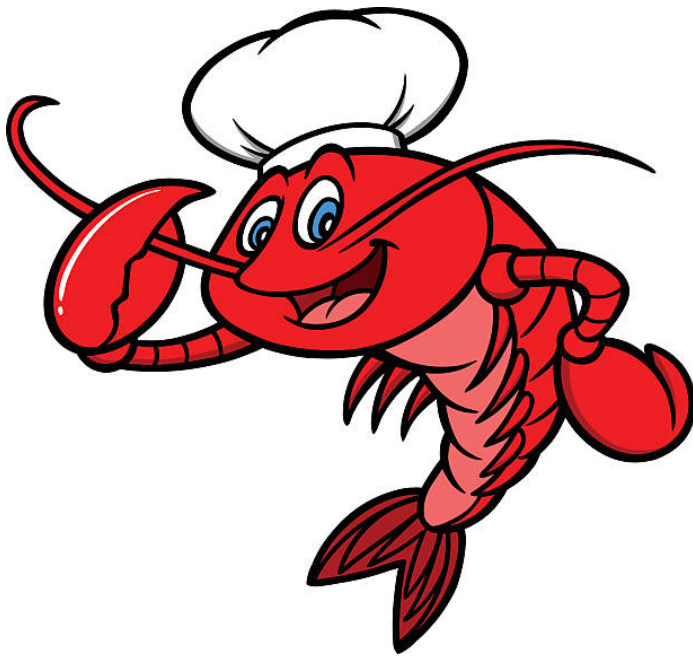
Co-Editor Tim Morgan 707-695-9293  
 E-Mail Tim Morgan [blackcloudbrew@comcast.net](mailto:blackcloudbrew@comcast.net)  
 Editor Mail Distribution Bob Safreno 707-795-3963  
 E-Mail Bob Safreno [Shadowbob1@juno.com](mailto:Shadowbob1@juno.com)  
 Online ..... <http://www.redwoodwmpiremoaa.us>

**SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 2**

**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**



**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**

**Guests can bring their own Alcohol**

**NO BAR will be available**

**Glasses and ice will be available.**



**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**