

MOAA



VOICE

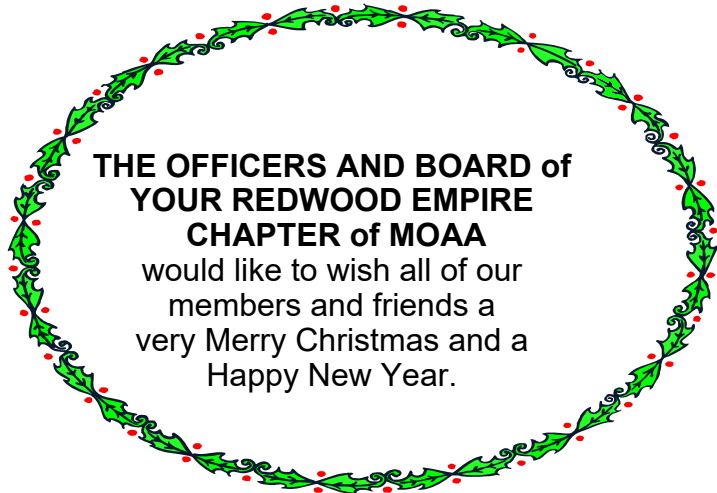
Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 54, NUMBER 12

"Serving Those Who Serve America"

DECEMBER 2024



**THE OFFICERS AND BOARD of
YOUR REDWOOD EMPIRE
CHAPTER of MOAA**

would like to wish all of our
members and friends a
very Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON SOCIAL

Our annual HOLIDAY LUNCHEON will be held at **DoubleTree Hotel** in Rohnert Park. Socializing begins at 1:00pm and the buffet will be open at 2:00pm. Holiday music will be provided by Craig Matsuda. The cost is **\$50.00** each.

**PLEASE NOTE BELOW ACTION NEEDED:
PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BY
NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 30th.**

Robert Safreno, Chairman

**SEE PAGE FIVE(5) FOR
DIRECTIONS TO DoubleTree Hotel**

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

Holiday Buffet Luncheon, Sunday December 8, 2024

DoubleTree Hotel ~ 1 Doubletree Drive, Rohnert Park

Socializing 1:00pm; Lunch 2:00pm

Cost \$50.00

Cold Buffet: Harvest Salad ~ Rolls & Butter

Hot Buffet: Prime Rib ~ Hunter Chicken ~ Butter Mashed Potatoes, Harrissa and Honey Roasted Carrots

Holiday Desserts: Lemon Meyer Curd Cake

Freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaf Coffee and a Selection of Teas. (NO HOST BAR AVAILABLE)

Enclosed is my check for my advanced reservation _____ persons (\$50.00 each) Total money sent \$ _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for the Col. Brey Scholarship Fund (Fully Tax Deductible) and/or \$ _____ to help defray costs in the Chapter General Fund.

Entertainment: Christmas Music by **Craig Matsuda**, Starting at 1:00pm.

Name: _____, **Phone:** (____) _____

Guests: _____, _____, _____, _____

Please list the names of all guests, so that we can make NAME TAGS for them, too. Thank you.

Make check(s) payable to: **REC MOAA**

To: Treasurer, MOAA, Redwood Empire Chapter, P.O. Box 2801, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

SEE PAGE FIVE (5) FOR DIRECTIONS TO DoubleTree Hotel



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Dear Members,
I look forward to our Holiday Social on December 8th at the DoubleTree Hotel. The December MOAA Voice is arriving

early as the hotel requires our number of attendees by November 30th. Please get your reservations in A.S.A.P.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year. Enjoy your friends and family and let us be thankful for all our blessings.

~~~~~

Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.  
*Mark Twain*

~~~~~

I know I'm a handful, but that's Why you got two hands.
Unknown



~~~~~

**Donna Poulter, President**  
donnaeaglette@yahoo.com  
707-576-0513

### "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.

**SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 5**

## MOAA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

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

Tuesday, January 7, 2025, 11:30am.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |             |                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>DUES NOTICE FOR</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>2025</b> | Make Checks Payable to:<br><b>REC MOAA</b> |
| <p><b>DUES Requirements:</b> (For complete information check your current by-laws)<br/>Dues become due and payable on January 1<sup>st</sup>.<br/>Non-receipt of dues payment by March 1<sup>st</sup>, may result in removal from chapter rolls.</p> <p>Annual dues .....\$25.00 \$ _____</p> <p>Wives club dues: (if wife a member) .....\$25.00 \$ _____</p> <p><b>Wife's name</b> _____</p> <p>Donation to the <b>General Fund:</b> (to defray costs) .... \$ _____</p> <p><b>COL Brey Scholarship fund:</b><br/>Fully tax deductible contribution ..... \$ _____</p> <p><b>Thank You!</b> <b>Total enclosed</b>..... \$ _____</p> <p><b>NAME:</b> (First &amp; Last) _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Please Return this notice in envelope provided)</i></p> |             |                                            |

## COPY OF DUES NOTICE

Shown above is a copy of 2025 Dues notice. It will be sent out by First Class mail, with a return envelope. If you do not receive a dues notice, you may not owe dues or it was missent. If you think you should be paying dues, but did not get a notice, contact your secretary for an explanation or the need for him to send you another dues notice.

Thank you .....ROBERT R. SAFRENO, Redwood Empire Chapter Secretary

### \*\*\*\*\*Elected Chapter Officers for 2025\*\*\*\*\*

#### Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2025

- **President** Donna Poulter
- **1st Vice President** LTC Steve Countouriotis, USA
- **2nd Vice Pres.** COL Bruce A. Stahley, USAR
- **Secretary** Cpt Robert R. Safreno, USAF
- **Treasurer** LCDR Tim Morgan, USNR
- **Directors** ~ 2025-2026 (2 yrs)
  - Martina Lewis
  - Susan Linch
  - LTC Gary Meagher, AUS
  - Mary-Gwen Neisingh
- **Directors** ~ 2025
  - Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst
  - Dayle Johnson
  - Rosemary Rizzo
  - CPT Lewis Wall, USA

# Legislative Update December 2024

**General Comments.** The elections are over we all hope that things will get done without extreme bickering and political fighting.

We have witnessed an extraordinary example of Civics *in situ* watching the Constitution survive one more attack - turbulent times perhaps, but shining brightly on one of the major precepts contained in the preamble to that document written more than 240 years ago. This proves in no uncertain terms who are the makers stating **“We the people —”** are sovereign in their acts.

**Federal. NDAA 2025** is in a “must pass” situation. Therefore, we will continue with the list of legislative priorities.

**Veterans Benefits Administration VBA Shortfall.** Of vital importance to our veteran community is a VBA shortfall. Therefore, some pensions, caregiver support and survivor benefits may be affected.

**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.

**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.** It appears that the NDAA in regards to pay raise will come up short. Let’s see after the dust settles following the elections - say later next month after the new Administration starts to work.

**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.

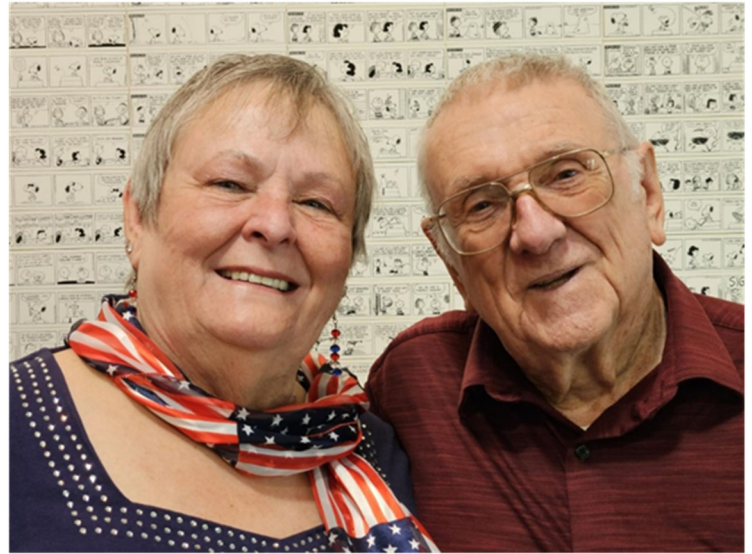
## State.

**General.** The elections are over, so we need to wait until the dust settles. In the meantime I would like to focus attention on SB 770 which forms a stakeholder committee which will present a 1332 Waiver to the Secretary of Health for permission to exclude federal health beneficiaries from federal health benefits like TRICARE, Medicare, etc to be covered exclusively by CALCARE the state one payer health system. I will try to keep all informed as much as possible because for most of us, this a true BUMMER.

Other items such as Income Exclusion will be presented as they develop.

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



Redwood Empire Chapter of MOAA member, Secretary Bob Safreno married Sandy Paxton on November 12, 2024



“He was very romantic when we first got married, but you know how men change.”

SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 5



**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



**DIRECTIONS TO DoubleTree Hotel**

Use Hwy 101 if you are traveling North or South, turn towards the **East** on **Golf Course Drive**. Cross the railroad tracks, continue to second turn on Doubletree towards the Hotel.

Park at the end of the building by the tennis courts and enter via the door by the Bacchus Restaurant, which is the first door you will come to.

We will be in the Cotati/Bodega room.

~~~~~  
IMPORTANT RESERVATION DEADLINES FOR HOTEL DININGS

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BY NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 30th.

Mail, E-mail, Phone, etc.

**Tim Morgan: 707-695-9293
 blackcloudbrew@gmail.com**

Post Office Box is on front page.

Lew Wall was the guest speaker at the October luncheon. His subject was the 500,000,000-year-old Shenandoah Valley. He gave a brief history of it, from the Indigenous people who settled in the valley to the middle of the 19th century when the valley was flourishing to the years of the Civil War. In the later years of the Civil War, the North realized the strategic value of the valley, destroying everything to cut off the South's resources in order to aid in winning the war. During Reconstruction the North resurrected the valley to its original condition.

"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

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, December 16, 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



"Mental note, the yellow tank is helium."

2024 DATES TO REMEMBER

November:
 5th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 11th North Bay Veterans Day parade (Monday)
 13th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 15th Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building
 18th **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00 noon**
 28th Thanksgiving Day

December:
 ** 7th Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??
 8th Sunday, Holiday Social, DoubleTree Hotel in Rohnert Park
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 16th **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00 noon??**
 25th Christmas

** = Not Confirmed at this time ~ **CNX** = Cancelled ~ **UNK** = Unknown
 06/32/06

2025 DATES TO REMEMBER

January – 2025
 1st Dues for 2025 are payable at this time
 7th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information.
 8th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 20th Pub Crawl at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
 22nd United Veterans Council meeting
 23rd Luncheon, **Epicenter** – Installation of Officers

February:
 1st Proposed target date to publish the 2025 Roster

4th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 12th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 17th Pub Crawl at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
 27th Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 26th United Veterans Council meeting

March:
 4th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 12th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 15th Deadline for submission Scholarship Applications
 17th Pub Crawl at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
 26th United Veterans Council meeting
 27th Luncheon, **Epicenter**

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

May:
 6th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners
 14th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 16th Armed Forces Day – Rose Parade, Santa Rosa
 19th **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00 noon**
 28th United Veterans Council meeting
 22nd Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 26th Memorial Day Ceremonies

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

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

Mail check to Norma Viglienze 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 Viglienze. Make the check payable to MOAA Wives Club.

As usual, the Wives Club does not meet in December. Instead, we join the Chapter on December 8th for a holiday luncheon at the DoubleTree Hotel in Rohnert Park. We urge the Wives Club members to attend. All the details can be found elsewhere in this issue of the VOICE.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

Tina Lewis, Publicity 707-539-5546, 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

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