

# MOAA



# VOICE

Military Officers Association of America  
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 55, NUMBER 1

“Serving Those Who Serve America”

JANUARY 2025



## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Dear Members,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and are looking forward to a joyous New Year.

We had a lovely Holiday Social at the DoubleTree. Thanks to all who attended.

My profound gratitude to all members who served on the Board and as Officers last year. You helped to keep our chapter functioning and intact.

On January 23rd our installation of 2025 Officers will be conducted by Past President Ken Johnson. I look forward to your attendance in support of our new Officers.

A reminder that it's time to pay membership dues.

Please join us for our awesome Pub Crawl on January 20th .

~~~~~  
May sunshine and loving thoughts  
Carry you through your day *Unknown*  
~~~~~



Lead me not into temptation ———  
Oh who am I kidding! FOLLOW Me  
I know a shortcut.  
*Unknown*  
~~~~~

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

## Thursday, January 23, 2025 Buffet Luncheon at the EPICENTER in Santa Rosa 11:00am ~ Dine at Noon

~~~~~  
Guest Speaker: Possibly **Kathleen Mink** from the SF VA. The topic will be the PACT Act of 2022. If unable we may have **Lew Wall** speaking on Part two version of Shenandoah Valley during the Civil War.  
~~~~~

### **PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR DINING,**

By Tuesday, January 21, 2025. this is needed for head counts for meals and making name tags.  
~~~~~

See page No. 5 for the Luncheon menu.

**NOTE: LUNCHEON PRICES ARE  
NOW \$27.00 EACH.**

## **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, January 20, 2025. 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**

## **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

## **“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.

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, 2025, and will close on March 15, 2025. 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. Sponsors must be participating members. 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.

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**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

# Legislative Update JANUARY 2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

## General Comments.

### Federal.

Although **NDAAs 2025** is in a "must pass" situation there still a lot of water pass under the bridge and numbers crunched even further before we final results. 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.

**Great News! Is there a bright light in the East?** Perhaps, but we will have to wait and see. Once more, and for the umpteenth time, Assembly Member James Ramos et. al. introduced **AB 53** recently which will exempt military retirement and SBP from state income taxes.

The American Legion-Department of California, the Marine Corps League-Department of California have agree to sign on as sponsors. CALMOAA is also expected to sign on as sponsor.

The good news is that for the first time, the governor will support AB 53 with the bill's delayed implementation date of January 2027. This light in the East, hopefully will give us time to make contact with our respective legislators to ask them to co-sponsor this bill. We did well during the last attempt, we are cautiously optimistic.

More will follow later. In the meantime, let me know if you have any questions,

A summary of the proposed legislation follows:

## "LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST"

"**AB 53**, as introduced, Ramos. **Personal income taxes: exclusion: Military Services Retirement and Surviving**

## **Spouse Benefit Payment Act.**

"The Personal Income Tax Law imposes a tax on individual taxpayers measured by the taxpayer's taxable income for the taxable year, but excludes certain items of income from the computation of tax, including an exclusion for combat-related special compensation.

"This bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2027, and before January 1, 2037, would exclude from taxable income retirement pay received by a taxpayer from the federal government for service performed in the uniformed services, as defined, during the taxable year. The bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2027, and before January 1, 2037, would also exclude from taxable income annuity payments received by a qualified taxpayer, as defined, pursuant to a United States Department of "Defense Survivor Benefit Plan during the taxable year. The bill would make related findings and declarations.

"Existing law requires any bill authorizing a new tax expenditure to contain specific goals, purposes, and objectives that the tax expenditure will achieve, detailed performance indicators, and data collection requirements, as provided.

"This bill also would include the information required for any bill authorizing a new tax expenditure. The bill would require the Franchise Tax Board and the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide any data requested by the Legislative Analyst to write a report, as provided, and would make taxpayer information received by the Legislative Analyst subject to a limitation, a violation of which is a crime, on that information's collection and use. By expanding the scope of a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

"The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

"This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

"This bill would take effect immediately as a tax levy."

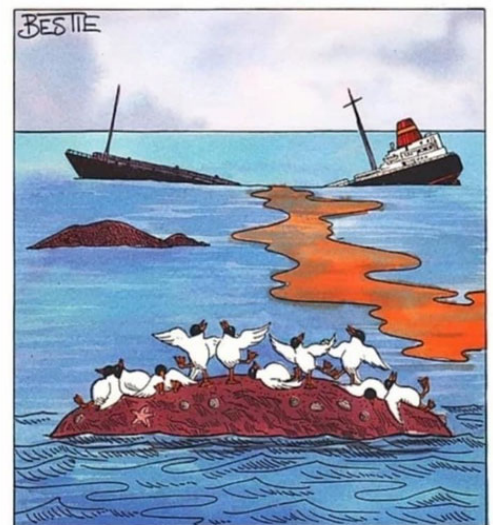
**Vern McNamee, LTC, USA Retired**

Legislative Chair

Redwood Empire Chapter MOAA (CA30)

707 972-3066 vernonmc@mcn.org

SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 1



AFTER 50,000 GALLONS OF WHISKY  
LEAKED INTO THE SEA, NO TERN  
WAS LEFT UNSTONED





Right: Gladys & Sam Walker, Gary Meagher, Don & Barbara Confer.

Second Row: Top: Bob Safreno & Sandy Paxton, Dianne & Craig Matsuda. Lower: Mary & Bill Denson.

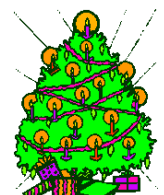
Third Row: Florence & Lew Wall, Susan Linch

Fourth Row: Ken & Dayle Johnson, Tina Lewis, Sharon & Tim Morgan, Mary-Gwen Neisingh.

Fifth Row: Tim Morgan,



Mary-Gwen Neisingh and President Donna Poulter.





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

## Buffet Luncheon, Thursday January 23, 2025

**Epicenter, 3215 Coffey Lane, Santa Rosa**

Socializing 11:00 to 11:45 am, Meeting starts, Lunch 12:00 noon

Cost (including tax and tip) - **New Price \$27.00**

**Salad:** House Salad,

**Lunch:** Tempura Shrimp ~ Lemon Chicken  
Esquite ~ Angel Hair Pasta with White Wine and Butter

**Dessert:** Cookies. Water, Iced Tea, Hot Tea and Coffee

**Enclosed:** is my check for my advanced reservation \_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$27.00 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:** Kathleen Mink from the SF VA. Or Lew Wall (see page one (1) for more information).

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

### SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 1



SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 1

**2025 DATES TO REMEMBER**

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

February:  
 1<sup>st</sup> Proposed target date to publish the 2025 Roster  
 4<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 12<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 17<sup>th</sup> Pub Crawl at Epicenter, **12:00** noon  
 26<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 27<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, **Epicenter**

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

April:  
 1<sup>st</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners  
 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**

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

June:  
 3<sup>rd</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am

10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 \*\* 14<sup>th</sup> Saturday, Picnic Spring Lake, Lower Jackrabbit Area Honor Scholarship Recipients?  
 16<sup>th</sup> **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00** noon  
 25<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting

July:  
 9<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**  
 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

August:  
 5<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am, select a nominating committee  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 13<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**  
 \*\* 16<sup>th</sup> Saturday, Riverfront Regional Park, Annual BBQ  
 18<sup>th</sup> **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00** noon  
 27<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting

September:  
 2<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2025 officers  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 10<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, Epicenter  
 15<sup>th</sup> **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00** noon  
 \*\* 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Show at CMS Airport?  
 24<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 25<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, Epicenter

October:  
 7<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 8<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 20<sup>th</sup> **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00** noon  
 22<sup>nd</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Luncheon Epicenter, Election of Officers for 2026

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

**SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 1**

**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 Viglienzzone 707-542-1458  
 Parliamentarian: Donna Poulter 707-576-0513

**ABOUT TIME TO**

**YOUR DUES!  
 ONLY \$25.00**

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

**PAY**

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, January 8th. **Starting in January the lunch cost is \$26.00.** Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be salmon, roasted chicken with gravy, penne with creamy pesto, Victory House salad, fruit 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 2025 officers will be installed at the January meeting: Susan Linch, President; Donna Poulter, Vice President; Tina Lewis, Secretary; Norma Viglienzzone, Treasurer. Donna Poulter will continue as Parliamentarian.

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

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

President: Donna Poulter 707-576-0513  
1st Vice President LTC Steve Countouriotis, USA 707-763-5309  
2nd Vice President COL Bruce A. Stahley, USAR 415-892-2248  
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

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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