

MOAA



VOICE

Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 55, NUMBER 2


"Serving Those Who Serve America"

FEBRUARY 2025



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Dear Members,

We celebrate the birthdays this month of Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. And of course, Valentines Day as well. 

Our speaker this month is Lew Wall. He will provide additional information about the beautiful Shenandoah Valley.

If you have any suggestions for guest speakers, please notify our newly installed 2nd Vice President, Bruce Stahley.

See you at the Pub Crawl!

~~~~~  
If you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours. *Connie Stevens*



The devil whispered in my ear, "You're not strong enough to withstand the storm."  
Today I whispered in the devil's ear,  
**"I AM THE STORM."** *Unknown*

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

MOAA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

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

Tuesday, February 4, 2025, 11:30am.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

Thursday, February 27, 2025

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

~~~~~  
Guest Speaker: **Lew Wall** speaking on Part 2 of his presentation of the Shenandoah Valley during the Civil War.

~~~~~  
PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR DINING,
By Tuesday, February 25, 2025. this is needed for head counts for meals and making name tags.

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See page No. 5 for the Luncheon menu.

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**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, February 17, 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

"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

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.

Legislative Update FEBRUARY 2025

General Comments.

Federal. Although **NDAAs 2025** is in a “must pass” situation, we are still operating under CR state and I feel we really won't know how the numbers will play out until after 20 January. 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! There a bright light in the East! 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.

Governor Gavin Newsom has included a 2025 -26 state budget item proposal to grant uniformed retirees and their survivors a state exemption on

their military pensions thanks to the diligent work by Assembly Member James Ramos during the past three years working closely with the governor and his staff.

In the meantime, 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

AB 53 is jointly sponsored by the American Legion-Department of California, the Marine Corps League-Department of California, the California Association of County Veteran Service Officers, California Military Officers Association of America, the Enlisted Association of the California National Guard of the United States and the California State Commanders Veterans Council.



SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 1



From left: Norma Viglienzone, Treasurer, Tina Lewis, Secretary, Donna Poulter, Vice President, Susan Linch, President





The guest speaker at the January MOAA luncheon was **Kathleen Mink**, Outreach Specialist/Health Systems Specialist with the Department of Veterans Affairs in San Francisco. Ms. Mink is a social worker in the Office of Strategic Planning. Using a PowerPoint presentation, she outlined the many benefits offered to veterans under the PACT Act of 2022, PACT standing for Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics. And comprehensive it is. Services offered include hearing aids to in-house care to mental care to dental insurance, and countless more. The list is endless. To see what you qualify for, contact the County Veteran Service Offices at 3725 Westwind Blvd., Ste. 100 in Santa Rosa. The phone number is 707-565-5960. You can also contact Ms. Mink with questions by calling 415-254-6842 or emailing her at:

Kathleen.Mink@va.gov

Some of you know that I'm going back to Africa on Safari very soon. I thought I'd share a few of my pictures from my first trip in 2017. That Land Rover was how we traveled and took pictures. Enjoy. Tim Morgan



Also occurring at our January luncheon was the investiture of our Chapter Officers and Board members.

Immediate Past President Ken Johnson, administered the oath to Board Members (present) for another year of service to the Chapter.

From the L to R:

Dayle Johnson, Director

Donna Poulter, President

Tim Morgan, Treasurer

Steve Countouriotis, 1st Vice President

Lew Wall, Director

Susan Linch, Director and Scholarship Committee Chair

Tina Lewis, Director

Rosemary Rizzo, Director

Absent were Board Members:

Bob Safreno, Bruce Stahley, Gary Meagher, Mary-Gwen Neisingh, and Myrna Hurst

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

Buffet Luncheon, Thursday February 27, 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: Iceberg Wedge Salad,

Lunch: Pork Tenderloin ~ Fried Chicken with Sausage Gravy

Oven Roasted Red Potatoes ~ Diced Grilled Vegetables with Balsamic Vinegar

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: Low 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



2025 DATES TO REMEMBER

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
 26th United Veterans Council meeting
 27th Luncheon, **Epicenter**

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
 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**

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

June:
 3rd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 ** 14th Saturday, Picnic Spring Lake, Lower Jackrabbit Area
 Honor Scholarship Recipients?
 16th **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00** noon
 25th United Veterans Council meeting

July:
 9th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 21st **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00** noon

23rd United Veterans Council meeting
 24th Luncheon, Epicenter

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

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

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

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

MOAA WIVES CLUB

(Sonoma County Main - All members welcome)

2025 Officers

President: Susan Linch 707-538-3342
 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

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

Mail check to Norma Viglienzzone at
 1651 Cunningham Way, Santa Rosa, CA 95403-2357

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, February 12th. **The lunch cost is \$26.00.** Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will chicken and bacon ranch wrap, wonton tacos, green beans with mushrooms, French fries, Caesar 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 were 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

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

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