



## PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS

Dear Members,  
Hello to all.

An application for membership from George Pappas USMC, was unanimously accepted by the Board of Directors on March 4th. Let’s all give a warm welcome to Merle and

George.

Our wandering Treasurer, Tim Morgan, has returned from Africa. We can look forward to seeing the beautiful pictures he took. Some are available to see on Facebook. Welcome back Sharon and Tim.

I’m hoping for more sunshine than April showers this month. May you all have a joyful and blessed Easter.

The Pub Crawl is April 21st . We had a full table and lots of fun last month. Everyone is invited!

Try to be a rainbow in Someone’s cloud.

*Maya Angelou*



I never make the same mistake twice.  
I make it five or six times,  
you know, just to be sure.

*Anonymous*

**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, April 1, 2025, 11:30am.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

## Thursday, April 24, 2025 Buffet Luncheon at the EPICENTER in Santa Rosa 11:00am ~ Dine at Noon

~~~~~  
Guest Speaker: LTC Steve Countouriotis will be speaking on his military assignment on a **U.N Peace Keeping Operations** in the Country of **Cambodia**.  
~~~~~

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

By Tuesday, April 22, 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 our Chapters fun event lunch

We will meet at 12:00 noon the Poppy Bank Epicenter, April 21, 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

**Bruce Stahley, Phone: 415-328-9278**

### **“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 April 2025

## General Comments.

**Federal.** Many issues are still in limbo until the budget crisis gets worked out. However, there are some areas which we need to push on because they finally may get passed. A few of these follow:

**1. Maj Richard Star Act** introduced several times with strong support, but not enough to “pay the bill”, is near being reintroduced once again. As previously discussed, this bill removes the unjust financial penalty paid by the disabled combat veteran who has his retirement reduced dollar for dollar from his VA disability.

**2. BAH (Basic Allowance for Housing) Restoration.** This bill restores to 100% BAH considering the substandard housing military families have been forced to use during the past several years. Ask your Congressman to support H.R. 1956

**3. Military Spouse Hiring Act.** This measure gives incentives to employers by hiring military wives, currently at a 5% disadvantage compared to the national average and is tied to the Work Opportunity Tax Credit.

**4. Veteran Caregivers, Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act.** Serves to assist caregivers of combat wounded veterans.

**COLA.** Initial information shows that the COLA increase for 2025 will be higher than last year's.

## State.

**General:** On Wednesday, 12 March, we had a great day as all veteran bills passed in the first hearing of the year. The Senate Rev and Tax Committee passed SB 1 senate version of AB 53, SB 23, and SB 56 5-0 with no opposition. These bills are on their way to the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee for hearing on 17 March 2025 in the Assembly.

Details on these bills follow:

- **SB 1 (senate version of AB )** – Excludes military retirement and surviving spouse benefits from state income tax.
- **SB 23** – Expands the property tax exemption for disabled veteran homeowners.
- **SB56** – Property taxation: disabled veterans' exemption: household income.

**Call me 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 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

## CA Veteran Legislation Supporters,

It looks like there was an error in the link I used to create the QR code. Please find the QR code below that will bring you to a landing page with links to Veteran related legislative sites. All great information, **but please join our Discord discussion.** I've also included a link to a recent military retirement pay tax exemption article and a legislation update along with the campaign plan with links to submit letters of support.

**NOTE:** the MailChimp links used to generate the support email may not work on your computer but should work on a mobile device. But in any case, please engage...

Bill Nelson  
CALMOAA Legislative Affairs

### Recent article to share with your team:

California is the only state that doesn't exempt veterans' retirement from taxes. Is this the year that changes?  
by Sameea Kamal, March 19, 2025  
<https://calmatters.org/digital-democracy/2025/03/california-military-retirement-tax/>



To join the  
use the bot-  
“have ideas

discussion,  
tom link:  
to share....”

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

**Buffet Luncheon, Thursday April 24, 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:** Caprese Salad,

**Lunch:** Mini Meatloaves ~ Pesto Chicken Breast  
Penne with Marinara, Green Beans with Mushrooms.

**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:** LTC Steve Countouriotis 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



**Lew Wall** was the guest speaker at the February luncheon. His topic was *The Shenandoah Valley: A Good Place for Vacation*. And indeed it is. It's a beautiful valley in Virginia, nestled between the Allegheny Mountains on the west and the Blue Ridge Mountains on the east. Using a PowerPoint presentation, Lew took us through some major spots along the valley, many having interesting histories dating to the Civil War. We moved from Winchester and its beautiful gardens to the Belle Grove Plantation to the Luray Caverns. Then on to New Market Battlefield, which claims the best Civil War Museum in the valley. Civil War reenactments can also be seen here. From there Lew took us to Staunton, which is Woodrow Wilson's birthplace where you can visit his birth house and library. We then moved on to Lexington, the location of Virginia Military Institution and Washington and Lee University. Robert E. Lee is buried in Lexington. After seeing pictures of Safari Park and the Natural Bridge, The Shenandoah National Park completed our tour. Lew's presentation certainly encourages one to plan a trip to the Shenandoah Valley!

**SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 1**

**NOTE: FIVE(5) MEMBERS STILL  
NEED TO PAY THEIR DUES.  
ONLY \$25.00**

## 2025 DATES TO REMEMBER

- 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: (No Board meeting)  
 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**  
 18<sup>th</sup> **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00** noon  
 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Riverfront Regional Park, Annual BBQ  
 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
- November:  
 4<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 (Tuesday)  
 12<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**  
 17<sup>th</sup> **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00** noon  
 \*\* 21<sup>st</sup> Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building  
 26<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 27<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day
- December: (No Board meeting)  
 \*\* 7<sup>th</sup> Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 15<sup>th</sup> Monday, Holiday Social, Cattlemen's  
NO United Veterans Council meeting  
 15<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

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

### 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 Viglienza     | 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, April 9th. The lunch cost is \$26.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be chicken parmesan, Esquite, fried cauliflower with lemon pepper, broccoli 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.

Please join us for good food and camaraderie.

**Tina Lewis**, Publicity 707-578-9739, [tinalewis31@comcast.net](mailto:tinalewis31@comcast.net)

### Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2025

|                              |                              |              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| <u>President:</u>            | Donna Poulter                | 707-576-0513 |
| <u>1st Vice President</u>    | LTC Steve Countouriotis, USA | 707-763-5309 |
| <u>2nd Vice President</u>    | COL Bruce A. Stahley, USAR   | 415-892-2248 |
| <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 |
| 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  | <a href="mailto:blackcloudbrew@comcast.net">blackcloudbrew@comcast.net</a>    |
| Editor Mail Distribution | Bob Safreno | 707-795-3963                                                                  |
| E-Mail                   | Bob Safreno | <a href="mailto:Shadowbob1@juno.com">Shadowbob1@juno.com</a>                  |
| Online                   | .....       | <a href="http://www.redwoodwmpiremoaa.us">http://www.redwoodwmpiremoaa.us</a> |

**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**

