



Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 55, NUMBER 11

"Serving Those Who Serve America"

NOVEMBER 2025



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Dear Members,
Daylight Saving Time ends Nov. 2nd. Turn your clocks back. Ah, love that extra hour of sleep!

Hats off to our Marines in celebration of the November 10th U.S. Marine Corps Birthday.

And may we all be thankful and grateful to our beloved Veterans on November 11th Veterans Day and every day.

I look forward to our wonderful and delicious Lobster Feed on Friday, November 21st. It is our largest fundraiser. Please bring something to raffle and invite as many guests as you can. See you there with my bib on!

I wish you all and your loved ones a very Happy Thanksgiving.

We are blessed to have a full slate of Officers for 2026. You are all greatly appreciated.

~~~~~  
"You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough."  
*Mae West*

~~~~~  
All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt.



Charles. M. Schulz

~~~~~  
**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 4, 2025, 11:30am.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

### SURF & TURF ANNUAL FEED LOBSTER and CROSS-RIB BEEF, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2025

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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 21st, 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 17th! 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 \$60.00 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 Tim Morgan on his Cell: (707) 695-9293. But if you call him after November 17th, you might end up eating a \$60.00 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 17, 2025.

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

# Legislative Update November 2025

## General Comments:

**Member Security** - While it is common knowledge that cyber attacks on your personal information is becoming increasingly prevalent every day, a reminder is important to remind everyone to stay alert so that no one falls prey to these most vicious attacks. During this upcoming holiday season, utmost caution is a must - in bank accounts, emails, personal messages, etc. When in doubt, call the sender to verify the subject.

## Federal:

**Budget Matters** - Everything is **STILL** complicated by the lack of partisan agreement and a complete government shutdown, however, we urge you to contact your legislators to support the:

**Pay Our Troops Act** which ensures our troops including NOAA, Coast Guard, Uniformed Public Health will get paid.

**Major Richard Star Act - H. R. 2102/ S.1032.** Authorizes combat-injured veterans to receive their earned DoD retirement pay for years of service and their VA disability compensation for lifelong injury. This has been a long term priority with overwhelming support, but has never passed. To reduce earned retirement pay because of a combat disability is an injustice; the compensation for these injured veterans is not the place to achieve savings. Senator Alex Padilla has cosponsored S.1032, however, your help with Representative Huffman regarding HR.2192 is urged.

**PACT Act - VA Benefits.** This act was a historic step forward, but its work isn't complete. Many exposed veterans wait over 34 years on average before receiving presumptive service connection and the care they've earned. Congress needs to make a commonsense reform will cut through red tape, improve VA accountability, and end the long wait faced by millions of veterans'

**Basic Allowance for Housing Act (BAH). H.R. 1965** This measure will reduce the impact of military personnel being transferred to a "high cost" area where they must be debt ridden to severe in that area - by order, not by choice.

**Military Spouse Hiring Act H.R 2033** To reduce the impact of spouses losing employment opportunities due to their military situation. Employers are reluctant to hire them because of the fact that they will move in a few years. The act gives employers financial benefit of hiring them through tax cuts. Again, while Senator Padilla is onboard as a cosponsor of S.1021, Rep representative Huffman is not of the House bill.

## State:

**Major Victory** A well known accomplishment is this legislative year was in the final passage of a partial exemption of Military Retirement Income which includes the **U.S. Armed Forces, Public Health Service, and NOAA**, as well as surviving spouses receiving annuities under the Department of Defense's SBP.

However, there is still much more to be done on this issue plus a strong effort to support the **California State Commanders Veterans Council (CSCVC)** in the following areas:

- **SB 694. Protection of Vets** from being charged fees from illegal offers.
- **SB 56. Remove Disability** income from calculation of Property Tax.

- **AB 511 Fast Track** for Gypsum Canyon Veterans Cemetery.

## Grassroots Advocacy:

**What we need** is an "all hands" - veteran, spouse, friends to get involved in any small way to call, meet, or email information to our local legislators. More calls, the better because our contacts at the local level can help move the process helping the priority.

**"Silence is NOT golden."**

**Therefore, to help to stay involved, I adding two committees and its members:**

### **Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee**

Senator Bob Archuleta, Chair  
Senator Shannon Grove, Vice Chair  
Senator Jerry McNERney  
Senator Caroline Menjivar  
Senator Thomas J. Umberg

**Committee Office:** 1020 N Street, Room 251, Sacramento, CA 95814 ~ **Phone:** (916) 651-1503 ~ **Chief Consultant:** Bill Herms

### **Assembly Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs (2025)**

Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez, Vice Chair (District 36)  
Assemblymember Anamarie Ávila Farías (District 15)  
Assemblymember Juan Carrillo (District 39)  
Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez (District 53)  
Assemblymember Avelino Valencia (District 68)  
Assemblymember Laurie Davies (District 74)

**Committee Office:** 1020 N Street, Room 389, Sacramento, CA 95814 ~ **Phone:** (916) 319-3550 ~ **Chief Consultant:** Patty Patten

### **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 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!!

**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
- Note that the Brey Scholarship is limited to a maximum of **two** awarded scholarships per applicant.

The application period for COL William G. Brey Scholarships will open on January 1, 2026, and will close on March 15, 2026. This 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.

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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 63 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](tel:707-331-0366) 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 21st**

**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*

**\$60.00 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 @ \$60.00 each. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Guests: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

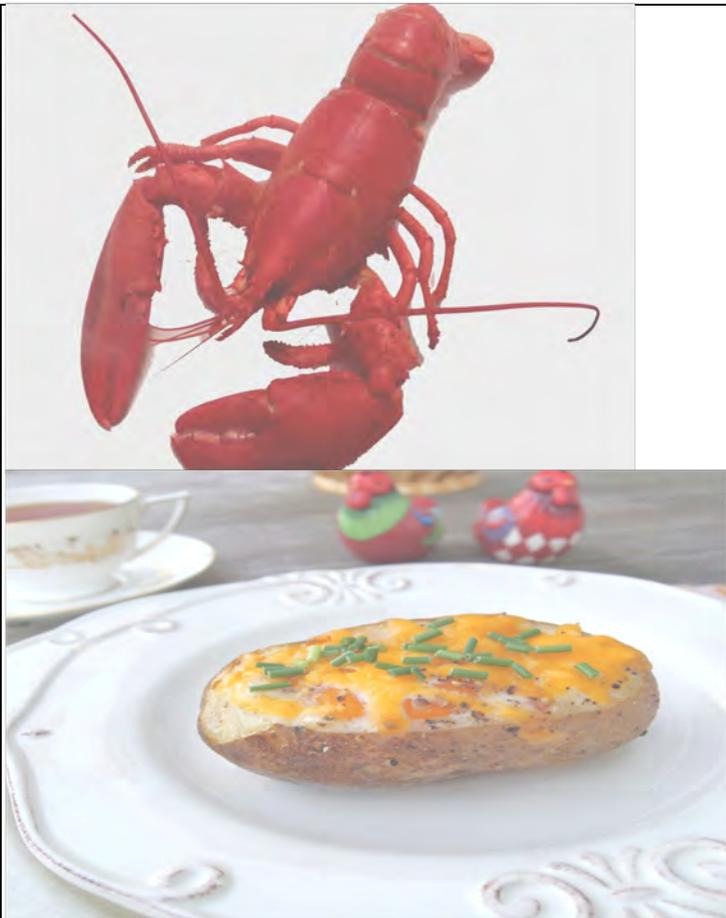
\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_  
Please list the names of all guest, so that we can make **NAME TAGS** for them too, thank you.

**Make check (s) payable to: RECMOAA**

**Mail to:** MOAA, Redwood Empire Chapter, P.O. Box 2801, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

**RAFFLE:** We will be having a Raffle to help with our funds.  
If you are able bring a Raffle Prize

**Please  
Bring a Raffle Prize  
If you are able**



## 2025 DATES TO REMEMBER

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 **ZOOM** meeting\
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Luncheon, Epicenter

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 **ZOOM** 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 in Rohnert Park  
NO United Veterans Council meeting
- NO Pub Crawl** this month 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 2025

Chapter Dues are **NOW \$35.00** and they will be due January 1, 2026. A notice will be in the December **MOAA VOICE**. There will also be a mailing sent out to all Chapter member on our Roster, with a return envelope.

**NOTE:** 2026 Budget was submitted to the Chapter Board by our Treasurer Tim Morgan. Based on the increase of Dues we are still in an \$800 shortage of a balanced budget. This is one of the reasons that there was a need to increase our dues. We are still looking for more cuts to have a balanced budget.

### "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

The next meeting of the Wives Club will be a buffet lunch at the Epicenter on Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. The lunch cost is \$26.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be grilled flank steak with chimichurri sauce, smashed red potatoes, esquite, 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 for November will be Tim Morgan, who will show the amazing pictures he took while in Africa.

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

**SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 2**

### Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2025

|                              |                              |              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
|                              | 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   | 415-328-9278 |
| <u>Secretary:</u>            | Cpt Robert R. Safreno, USAF  | 707-479-9374 |
| <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 2025-26

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Martina Lewis         | 707-758-9739 |
| 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> |                                                                            |

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**UP COMING  
EVENTS**



**SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL  
SURF & TURF ~ LOBSTER MEAL**

**It is scheduled for  
Friday, November 21, 2025**

**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  
Monday, December 15, 2025**

**At the  
Cattlemen's in Rohnert Park  
More information later**