



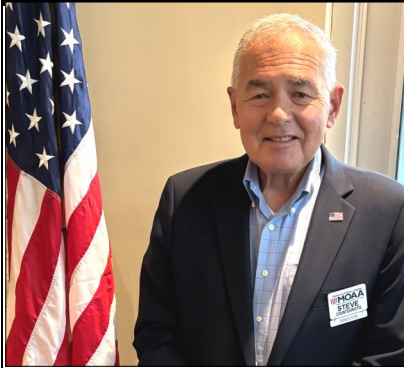
Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 56, NUMBER 9

"Serving Those Who Serve America"

SEPTEMBER 2026



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Dear Members,
September has long held a notable place in United States military history, marked by events that shaped both the nation's identity and its role on the world stage. Two such moments stand out for their

lasting significance.

The first is the **Battle of Antietam**, fought on **September 17, 1862**, during the Civil War. Antietam remains the single bloodiest day in American military history, with thousands of casualties on both sides. Although tactically inconclusive, the battle halted the Confederate Army's advance into the North and provided President Abraham Lincoln the strategic momentum he needed to issue the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. This shift reframed the war's purpose and discouraged foreign powers from recognizing the Confederacy, altering the course of the conflict and the nation's future.

A second significant military event that occurred during the month of September was the **Global War on Terror** which was in response to coordinated attacks on **September 11, 2001** by the terrorist group al-Qaeda. These terrorist attacks in New York City, Washington DC, and Pennsylvania killed nearly 3,000 people. Within a few weeks of the attacks, the United States initiated military operations in Afghanistan to dismantle terrorist networks and prevent future attacks. The Global War on Terror ended on August 30, 2021 when the last U.S. military personnel departed Afghanistan.

A Nomination Committee comprised of four of our chapter's members will meet in August to prepare a slate of candidates to fill Officer and Director positions for 2027. Anyone interested in serving in one of our MOAA Chapter's leadership positions is invited to contact me or First Vice President, COL Bruce Stahley, USAR (Ret).

I look forward to seeing you at the Pub Crawl on Monday, September 21st and at the MOAA Chapter luncheon on Thursday, September 24th. Both events are at the Epicenter in Santa Rosa.

Respectfully,

LTC Steve Countouriotis, USAR (Ret) President

MOAA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

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

Tuesday, September 1, 2026, 11:30am.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

Thursday, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026 Buffet Luncheon at the EPICENTER in Santa Rosa 11:00am ~ Dine at Noon

Guest Speaker: Carl Molesworth - Topic: He's the author of 16 books covering various aspects of Military Aviation WWII. He specializes in telling the stories of American and Chinese fighter units in the China-Burma-India theater and in the operations of the Curtiss P-40 Warhawk fighter plane worldwide.

**NOTE: WE NEED YOUR RESERVATIONS IN
BY TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd.**

So we can make name tags
and by enough food for every one.

See page No. 3 for the Luncheon menu



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, September 21, 2026. 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!!

***** **PLEASE HELP!** *****

Our MOAA Chapter was founded in 1964 by COL William Brey. In the more than six decades since, our members have made treasured friends and enjoyed countless luncheons, picnics, barbeques, lobster feeds and special events. We have also awarded hundreds of scholarships to deserving college students. Unfortunately, our membership has declined, and, as a result, we have a financial crisis.

Most of our yearly expenses are fixed, though we can reduce them slightly. Our income derives solely from dues and the raffle at our functions. Obviously, that income has been greatly impacted by the decline in membership.

Therefore, the Board is asking auxiliary members (widows of former officers) to voluntarily pay the yearly dues of \$35. This is something we have resisted until now but most chapters require. The Chapter will also thankfully welcome any donations to its bank account that its members choose to make.

Hopefully, with your help, we will continue to enjoy our Chapter for many more years.



The guest speaker for July was Retired Flight 1LT, British RAF Eric Walter, who was Aide-de-Camp to Air Commanding Royal Air Force Hong Kong from 1962-1965. A U.S. citizen, he was born in Harwich, England and served in the Royal Air Force during the Korean Conflict. Using a PowerPoint presentation, he shared experiences during the years he lived in Hong Kong.

(A version of this article originally appeared in the August 2026 issue of [Military Officer magazine](#).)

On Aug. 31, 2025, TRICARE [ended coverage of GLP-1 medications](#) for TRICARE For Life (TFL) beneficiaries being treated for obesity-related medical conditions. Thousands of military retirees and family members suddenly faced a difficult choice: Pay hundreds of dollars each month out of pocket or discontinue treatment.

For many, the decision felt especially painful because coverage remains available to other TRICARE beneficiaries.

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Reinstate TFL Coverage of GLP-1 Medications](#)]

More Than a Weight-Loss Drug

GLP-1 medications such as Wegovy and Zepbound are treatments approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for serious conditions including cardiovascular disease, obstructive sleep apnea, and metabolic-associated steatohepatitis.

TFL beneficiaries previously had access to these medications through the [TRICARE Pharmacy Program](#). That changed in 2025, when TRICARE ended coverage for obesity-related conditions for TFL beneficiaries, even as coverage continued for TRICARE Prime and Select enrollees and for all patients with Type 2 diabetes.

MOAA seeks to restore this coverage not just to allow beneficiaries to continue effective, doctor-prescribed treatment plans without unexpected costs, but to ensure the TRICARE Pharmacy Program does not become a two-tracked system, with separate formularies for TRICARE and TFL users.

Meanwhile, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is testing initiatives to expand access to GLP-1 medications for Medicare beneficiaries, highlighting the growing disparity facing many military retirees. Because these programs require Medicare Part D enrollment, [they exclude most TFL beneficiaries](#).

Buffet Luncheon, Thursday September 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 \$30.00**

Salad: Chopped Salad.

Lunch: Grilled Flank Steak Roasted Red Potatoes, Fried Cauliflower

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

Enclosed: is my check for my advanced reservation____ persons @ \$30.00 each. \$_____

Note: All must make **RESERVATIONS** Please Pre Pay if possible. (Late options only **Pay At Door**).

Donations: Col. Brey Scholarship Fund (Fully Tax Deductible). \$_____ **TOTAL:** \$_____

Guest Speaker: Carl Molesworth Topic: Military Aviation WWII. (See Page 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**

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**

**Geezer
Picked**



"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. 1

2026 DATES TO REMEMBER

August:

17th **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00 noon**

September:

1st BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2025 officers

10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information

9th Wives Club Luncheon, Epicenter

21th **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00 noon**

24th Luncheon, Epicenter

October:

6th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am

14th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**

10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information

19th **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00 noon**

22nd Luncheon Epicenter, Election of Officers for 2026

November:

3rd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am

10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information

11th North Bay Veterans Day parade (Wednesday)

11th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**

16th **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00 noon**

13th Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building

26th Thanksgiving Day

December: (No Board meeting)

** 7th Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??

10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information

14th Monday, Holiday Social, **Cattlemens**

15th **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00 noon??**

25th 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)

**2026
Officers**

President: Susan Linch 707-538-3342
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

The next meeting of the Wives Club will be a buffet lunch at the Epicenter on Wednesday, September 9th. The lunch cost is \$26.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be beef Stroganov, penne with garlic sauce, green beans with bacon and crispy onion rings, and fruit salad.

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.

Tim Morgan will show amazing pictures he took of the Southwestern United States.

Tina Lewis, Publicity 707-758-9739, tinalewis31@comcast.net

HUMOR



The Retirement Village People

Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2026

President: LTC Steve Countouriotis, USA 707-763-5309
1st Vice President COL Bruce A. Stahley, USAF 415-328-9278
2nd Vice President COL Bruce A. Stahley, USAF 415-328-9278
Secretary: Cpt Robert R. Safrano, USAF 707-479-9374
Treasurer: LCDR Tim Morgan, USNR 707-695-9293
Imed. Past President: Donna Poulter 707-576-0513

CAL-MOAA Director, Area I

Cpt Tom Walther, USAF 530-673-5499

Directors-at-large - Term 2026

Martina Lewis 707-758-9739
Susan Linch 707-538-3342
Mary-Gwen Neisingh 707-481-7614
Florence Wall 707-837-7389

Directors-at-large - Term 2026-27

Dayle Johnson 408-466-6764
Sandy Paxton 707-696-0107
Maj Ken Johnson, USAF 408-466-6764
CPT Lewis Wall, USA 707-837-7389

Sunshine Committee: Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst 707-468-0146

MOAA VOICE

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