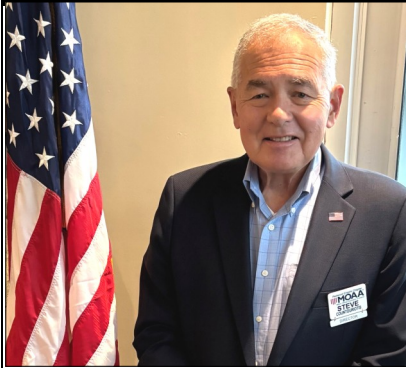




PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Dear Members,

The month of October has been the setting for several important events in United States military history. Two events of great significance are the Battle of Yorktown in 1781 and the Cuban Missile Crisis in

1962. Both events greatly influenced our nation's future and demonstrated the importance of military readiness and strategic decision making.

The **Battle of Yorktown** concluded on **October 19, 1781**, when British General Charles Cornwallis surrendered to General George Washington and the combined American and French forces. This overwhelming victory effectively ended major fighting in the American Revolution and paved the way for the Treaty of Paris in 1783, which officially recognized the independence of the United States of America. Yorktown remains one of the most celebrated military victories in American history.

Another major October event was the **Cuban Missile Crisis**, which began on **October 16, 1962**, after U.S. intelligence assets discovered Soviet nuclear missile sites in Cuba. The U.S. military entered a period of heightened readiness while President John F. Kennedy ordered a naval quarantine around the island nation. For nearly two weeks, the world was on the brink of nuclear war. The crisis ended peacefully on October 28 after diplomatic negotiations, with the Soviet Union agreeing to remove its missiles from Cuba.

These two October events highlight different aspects of military history - one secured American independence through battlefield victory, while the other demonstrated the value of military strength combined with skillful diplomacy.

I look forward to seeing you at the Pub Crawl on October 19th at 12:00 noon and at the MOAA Redwood Empire Chapter luncheon on October 22nd. Both events are at the Epicenter in Santa Rosa.

Respectfully,

LTC Steve Countouriotis, USA (Ret) President

MOAA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

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

Tuesday, October 6, 2026, 11:30am.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

Thursday, OCTOBER 22, 2026

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

Guest Speaker: Tim Morgan - Topic: Family Travel Highlights. He will be showing pictures he has taken on various locations and explaining them.

**NOTE: WE NEED YOUR RESERVATIONS IN
BY TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20th.**

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

See page No. 3 for the Luncheon menu

JOKE: During a visit to a mental asylum, I asked the director, "How do you determine whether or not a person or patient should be institutionalized." "Well." Said the director, "We fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup, and a bucket to the patient, and ask him or her to empty the bathtub." "Oh, I understand." I said. "A normal person or patient would use the bucket because it is bigger than the teaspoon, and the teacup." "No." Said the director. "A normal person or patient would pull the bath plug. Do you want a bed next to the window?"

**AT THE OCTOBER LUNCHEON,
WE WILL BE HAVING FINAL
NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF
CHAPTER OFFICERS
FOR THE YEAR 2027**

"Pub Crawl"

Chapter members, Friends and Guests: "Pub Crawl" lunch, We will be meeting at 12:00 noon the Poppy Bank Epicenter, October 19, 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!!

Legislative Update OCTOBER 2026

Advocacy: The Legislature has completed its work for the year, and our Veteran community has much to recognize. Some measures advanced to the Governor, while others did not make it through the final stages of the legislative process. Among the measures we tracked closely, [SB 296 – Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption](#) was enrolled and presented to the Governor on August 27. The bill would provide additional property-tax relief for qualifying 100% disabled Veterans.

Unfortunately, the August 13 Appropriations suspense process ended several other tax-relief measures we had been following, including [SB 888 – Disabled Veteran Disability Pay Exclusion](#), [SB 1407 – Military Retirement Pay and Survivor Benefit Plan Tax Exclusion](#), and [AB 2022 – Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption](#). Not every bill made it to the finish line, but that does not diminish what our collective advocacy accomplished this year. Every letter, phone call, meeting, and testimony helped ensure that California's Veterans, service members, surviving spouses, and their families had a voice in Sacramento.

CALMOAA is also continuing to broaden its advocacy partnerships. CALMOAA has joined the coalition supporting [SB-795 Air pollution: gasoline vapor control systems: ethanol blends](#), adding CALMOAA's voice alongside other organizations working on behalf of California's Veteran community.

A Doctor was addressing a large audience in Tampa... "The material we put into our stomachs is enough to have killed most of us sitting here, years ago. Red meat is awful. Soft drinks corrode your stomach lining. Chinese food is loaded with MSG. High fat diets can be disastrous, and none of us realizes the long-term harm caused by the germs in our drinking water. However, there is one thing that's the most dangerous of all and we all have eaten, or will eat. Can anyone here tell me what food it is that causes the most grief and suffering for years after eating it?" After several seconds of quiet, a 75-year-old man in the front row raised his hand, and softly said, "Wedding Cake." □

A man went to church one day and afterward he stopped to shake the preacher's hand. He said, "Preacher, I'll tell you, that was a damned fine sermon. Damned good!" The preacher said, "Thank you sir, but I'd rather you didn't use profanity." The man said, "I was so damned impressed with that sermon I put five thousand dollars in the offering plate!" The preacher said, "No shit?" □



Redwood Empire Chapter Military Officer's Association of America

BALLOT - 2027

CHAPTER PRESIDENT (Vote for One)

[] LTC Steve Countouriotis, USA

[] _____

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT (Vote for One)

[] COL Bruce A. Stahley, USAR

[] _____

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT (Vote for One)

[] _____

[] _____

SECRETARY (Vote for One)

[] CAPT Robert R. Safreno, USAR

[] _____

TREASURER (Vote for One)

[] CDR Dennis Viglienzzone, USN

[] _____

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2027-2028 (2 yrs) (Vote for Four)

[] Martina E. "Tina" Lewis

[] Susan Linch

[] Mary-Gwen Neisingh

[] Florence Wall

[] _____

[] _____

Ballot can be mailed to the Post Office Box, or
in person at the October luncheon.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2027 (Continued from 2026)
Dayle Johnson
Sandy Paxton
Maj Ken Johnson, USAF
CPT Lewis Wall, USA

Buffet Luncheon, Thursday October 22, 2026

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**

Lunch: Smoked Wings with Lemon Rosemary Rub, served with Ranch Dressing.
Mac N Cheese, Cole Slaw and Cornbread.

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: Redwood Empire Chapter of MOAA (Administration) \$ _____ **TOTAL:** \$ _____

Guest Speaker: Tim Morgan Topic: Family Travel Highlights (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: **REC MOAA**

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

Groups of Americans were traveling by tour bus through Switzerland . As they stopped at a cheese farm, a young guide led them through the process of cheese making, explaining that goat's milk was used. She showed the group a lovely hillside where many goats were grazing.

"These," ☐ she explained, "are the older goats put out to pasture when they no longer produce." ☐ She then asked, "What do you do in America with your old goats?" ☐
A spry old gentleman answered, "They send us on bus tours!" ☐

A 65-year-old man decides it's finally time to get in shape, so he joins a high-end local gym. On his first day he spots a stunning, high-tech exercise machine with dozens of glowing digital screens and complex cables. Puzzled, he flags down a young, muscular personal trainer. "Excuse me," the man asks, pointing at the machine. "I'm trying to impress my wife. Which machine in this entire facility should I use to make me look attractive to a woman?"

The trainer looks at the complex equipment, looks back at the man, and says, "Try the ATM in the lobby."

"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.



SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL

**** HOLIDAY SOCIAL ****

It is scheduled for

Monday, December 14, 2026

At CATTLEMANS in Rohnert Park

More information later

SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 1

2026 DATES TO REMEMBER

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**
- 13th Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building
- 16th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, 12:00 noon
- 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**
- 25th Christmas

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

SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 1



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

It is scheduled for
Friday, November 13, 2026

In the
Santa Rosa Veterans building
More information later

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, October 14th. The lunch cost is \$26.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be smoked turkey breast, succotash, Caesar salad, fresh fruit and veggies served with Ranch dip, 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.

Tim Morgan will show amazing pictures he took in Oaxaca, Mexico.

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

HUMOR



Bob, a 70-year-old, extremely wealthy widower, shows up at the Country Club with a breathtakingly beautiful and very sexy 25-year-old blonde-haired woman who knocks everyone's socks off with her youthful sex appeal and charm and who hangs over Bob's arm and listens intently to his every word. His buddies at the club are all aghast. At their very first chance, they corner him and ask, "Bob, how'd you get the trophy girlfriend?" □ Bob replied, "Girlfriend? She's my wife!" They're knocked over, but continue to ask: "So, how'd you persuade her to marry you?" "I lied about my age," □ Bob replied. "What? Did you tell her you were only 50?" Bob smiled and said, "No, I told her I was 90." □

Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2026

President: LTC Steve Countouriotis, USA 707-763-5309
1st Vice President COL Bruce A. Stahley, USA 415-328-9278
2nd Vice President COL Bruce A. Stahley, USA 415-328-9278
Secretary: Cpt Robert R. Saffreno, 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

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