



Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 8

“Serving Those Who Serve America”

AUGUST 2008



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

By the time you receive this edition of the MOAAVoice any chapter members will have experienced our second annual visit to Safari West. If last years' visit was any indication, this years' visit should also provide a pleasant experience, excellent food, great camaraderie and beautiful animals. Following on the heels of this event, the visit to the U.S.S. Hornet on August 8th, will also provide an exciting experience for chapter members. Our response was outstanding, with 50 members and guests signed up to go, as of 20 July, and the list is still growing. We have filled our allocation of seats on the bus, 34, and folks are still calling in. With the bus riders, and those opting to drive or car pool, we now have 50 reservations. If you think you might want to go, give me a call and asked to be put on the “Stand-by” list.

The annual Pacific Coast Air Show is on tap for August 16 -17, at the Charles Schultz Sonoma County Airport. The chapter will have an information booth at the event on both days. If you'd like to help staff this booth, say for about 4 hours on either day, give me a call. Last year we picked up several new members at this event.

Then comes the “WALL THAT HEALS,” replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall commonly referred to at “THE MOVING WALL,” August 28th - 31st at the Santa Rosa Memorial Park. Volunteers are needed to assist in the set-up of the wall, assist visitors in locating names, serve as docents, provide for 24 hour security, and dismantling. If you're interested and want to help, again, give me a call.

The chapter board, at it's July meeting, approved membership applications for four new members, Major Donald Mahler, USAF (Ret), Humboldt/ Del Norte Sub-Chapter; Captain Dennis Faulkner, CPT., USA., Commander, North Bay Recruiting Command, Sonoma County Main; LT. William P. Matz, USN., Sonoma County Main; LT. Genevieve P. Snow, USNR., Lake County Sub-Chapter. To our new members, WELCOME ABOARD!

And as a sad note, our chapter has lost a great member with the passing of COL Herc Swaney, USMC. Col. Swaney exemplified the true Marines' Marine. Col. Swaney passed away on July 3d, the day of the dedication of the Veterans Memorial at Santa Rosa City Hall, an endeavor he championed as a committee member for over 4 years. He will be missed.

COL Pete Peterka, President

Wings Over the Wine Country

The Pacific Coast Air Museum will host its annual Air Show at the Charles Schultz Sonoma County Airport on August 16th & 17th. Our chapter will have an information table at this event for both days. Most veterans groups staff information tables and provide information to interested air show attendees on their respective organizations, what they do, and generally recruit new members in this manner. At last years event we made several contacts and five new members joined the chapter.

I need several volunteers to take staff the table from 1000 to 1500 hours each day. Usually the shifts, comprised of 2 to 4 volunteers, run from 1000 to 1300 and 1200 to 1500, with an overlap during the 1200 -1300 period. It takes about 2 individuals to staff the table and the other two on the shift out watching the show, and spelling off the others.

Bennies for volunteering include - free admission to the air show, free water and soft drinks, and lunch. Volunteers must volunteer in advance, select day(s) and shift (s) desired, receive a wrist band to gain access to the show. If the volunteer has a uniform (that fits) then that would be the preferred dress...if not, sports attire.

If you're interested please let me know this next week and I will provide applications for your use in signing up.

Thanks, Pete

CHECK INSIDE



The mark with the ? in a square is to get your attention. Check the Address label above your name it indicates when your membership dues expires according to our records. After the word “Expires” will be the **month and year**. We value your membership, please continue you membership in our Chapter. Send in your check today if you are delinquent.



MENDOCINO SUB-CHAPTER

No Report
LTC Ben Booth, Commander

SONOMA VALLEY SUB-CHAPTER

We had an interesting and well-attended luncheon meeting on July 10, 2008. Our speaker this time was Frank Haeg, Chairman of the Luther Burbank Home & Gardens Board. Frank has extensive background and experience in local government planning and operations, and has generously volunteered his expertise in community affairs in Santa Rosa and Sonoma County since his retirement here some years ago. Frank's talk was informative and very interesting, highlighted by showing a DVD which included some historic still photograph and movie footage of Luther Burbank and his experimentation in development of new strains of fruits, flowers, and other plants, especially potatoes and plums. Frank encouraged all to visit the Luther Burbank Home & Garden facilities at Sonoma Ave. and Santa Rosa Ave. in Santa Rosa for docent-led tours of the historic grounds and buildings. Laurell and I have done so and found it very interesting.

Our next meeting will be September 11, 2008 at a location still to be determined. BK, Ted and I are working on that, and we have a couple of what seem to be good possibilities under consideration. We are open to any suggestions from our members. I promise that I will send a letter to each member will in advance with details of a new location, so there are no surprises. It is possible that we may try more than one location before we settle on one which best meets our needs for the foreseeable future. Thanks to one and all for your patience and support during this process.

LTC Dennis Meredith, Commander

LAKE SUB-CHAPTER

No Report
LT Genevieve Snow

HUMBOLDT/DEL NORTE SUB-CHAPTER

No Report

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

General Comments:

CPI Increase Update. Last month we forecast that our CPI increase would exceed 5.0%. That has proven to be grossly underestimated with the current amount to be in excess of 5.7% with three months to go. This means that the CPI index could be more than 7.0% - the highest in more than 20 years. What does this mean for our incomes? Will it give us more buying power? No. The CPI increases are not retroactive and the only thing we can hope is to attenuate some of the loss during the past year. While on one hand, we will receive a healthy increase due to inflationary factors, we face a recession on the other, which we are seeing having an insidious effect on our buying power. Our suggestion is to follow the issues during the election campaigns this fall and vote accordingly – not only for President, but your Congress-persons as well.

Federal Issues:

FY2009 Defense Authorization Bill (H.R. 5658)

There are several amendments to this bill currently being proposed that are crucial to our members' interests that include:

- Stop inequities to surviving widows caused by the DIC offset for SBP widows. (Those who are feeling this know that they are losing up to \$1,000 per month).
- Provide fairer retirement credit for Guard and Reserve members who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. (This goes without saying – “give ‘em a break”).
- Protect military beneficiaries from disproportional TRICARE fee hikes. (We only slowed the “run” on the proposed fee increases last year).
- Expand eligibility for concurrent receipt payments. (This will permit full receipt of retired pay and disability pay).

Medicare/Tricare Physician Reimbursement Rates

The saga of the Medicare/Tricare reimbursement rates both the House and Senate flexed their "unveto" authority -- voting in overwhelming majorities to override the President's action. In doing that, Congress made sure several positive things happened:

Medicare resumed paying claims at the current rate, retroactive to July 1, without imposing the 10.6% cut for visits during the interim

period
TRICARE payments will continue at the current rate without interruption
Medicare and TRICARE rates will be increased 1.1% as of January 1, 2009
Medicare coverage for physical, speech and occupational therapy is restored for medically necessary care

However, the problem is far from over, it will come back with a vengeance next year, when we'll be facing a 21% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments as of January 2010 unless Congress act to fix the current statutory payment formula that imposes these crazy annual cuts. **Stay tuned!**

State Issues:

What we need to do. The national MOAA legislative staff works hard year-round to identify the issues, assist with the creation of bills designed to support the military community and its people, monitor legislation as it moves through the process, and appeal to members for support.
MOAA issues legislative alerts from time to time. In California much the same thing happens. The California State Commanders Veterans Council (CSCVC) works closely with the premier Sacramento lobbyist/advocate firm, Pete Conaty & Associates, to move bills important to veterans through the legislature. Pete Conaty, a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel with a strong interest in veterans affairs and a highly experienced professional at the capitol, carefully follows pending legislation and from time to time urges members to support specific bills. We will be working to do more here in our chapter for state legislative alerts.

Unauthorized Use of Federal Medals (SB 1482).

This bill, signed by Governor Schwarzenegger, will require that an elected officer of a city, county, or district to forfeit his or her office if convicted of a federal crime pursuant to the Federal Stolen Valor Act of 2005. **Bravo Zulu!**

Veterans Bond Act of 2008 (SB 1572) This act will be placed the on the Nov. 4, 2008 statewide ballot. If approved by voters, the measure would help thousands of veterans of recent conflicts (post Vietnam) to buy a home or farm through the state's CalVet Home Loan program. The bond act would have no impact on the state's General Fund because veterans repay the bond costs through low-interest mortgages.

State Budget. It looks like we may not see a State Budget before September or October because there

Appropriations Committee won't wrap up its work before the middle of August.

FYI. Did you know that, according to an recent study, more than 56% of MOAA members have contacted their Representative or Senator four or more times during the past 12 months? **Congratulations if you are one of those!**

BGEN Keith Kerr and LCOL Vern McNamee
Legislative Affairs Co-Chairmen

VA Announces Online Claims

Week of July 28, 2008

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will now accept online applications from veterans, survivors and other claimants for disability compensation, pension, education, and vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits without the additional requirement of submitting a signed paper copy of the application. VA will process applications received through its VONAPP online application website without the claimant's signature. The online application also provides a link to apply for VA health care benefits and much more. For more information about VA benefits, go to VA's Website or call the toll-free number (800) 827-1000.

MOAA BOARD MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Aug 2, 2008, 0930 hours - Santa Rosa Vet's Bldg Conference Room.

NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Saturday, October 4th, 2008, 0930 hours - Santa Rosa Vet's Bldg Conference Room.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings.
Coffee and donuts will be served.

Discussion Group

The Discussion Group will met on Tuesday, August 12th at Omelette Express, 112 4th Street in Santa Rosa. We will meet again at Playa Azul Restaurant at 6576 Oakmont Drive in Oakmont on Tuesday, August 26th. Both starting times are 11:30 a.m. Questions?

COL Mal Rivkins, 996-3783

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BOARD APPROVES CAP ON MILITARY SUPPORT FUND

At the July Chapter Board meeting, the Board approved a recommendation to place a cap of \$2500 on the Military Support Fund (MSF), a fund that was established to provide funding in support of military activities. Examples of funding for which these funds have been committed include, but not necessarily limited to: donations to MOMS to help pay postage for parcels mailed to troops serving in the Mid-East; contributions in support of bringing the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Moving Wall to Sonoma County; advertising for the Support The Troops Rally; MOAA wreath for Memorial Day Ceremonies; materials and maintenance of MOAA float; etc. Fund activity for the period 1 Jan 08 through 30 June 08 was - Receipts/Donations \$1,013.00, Disbursements \$1,034.91.

The balance in the MSF will be reviewed quarterly and any amount on hand above \$2500, not obligated or committed, will be transferred to the Col. Brey Scholarship Fund.

COLA Count in Rarefied Air

Three-quarters of the way through the counting period toward the January 2009 federal retiree COLA, the indicated adjustment stands at 5.7 percent, following an increase of 1.1 percentage points in June in the inflation index used to set the adjustment. At that level, the COLA would be the largest since the 8.7 percent payout in 1982.

Military Humor

As the test pilot climbs out of the experimental aircraft, having torn off the wings and tail in the crash landing, the crash truck arrives, the rescuer sees a bloodied pilot and asks "What happened?". The pilot's reply: "I don't know, I just got here myself!" - Attributed to Ray Crandell (Lockheed test pilot)

MOAA Voice

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 email Tim Morgan blkcloud@sonic.net
 Online <http://www.redwoodwmpiremoaa.us>

Donations Made in June and July 2008

Scholarship Fund

Benny Booth
 George Connors
 Blanche McQuaid
 Hal Warren
 Bob Wicklund

Military Support Fund

Claire Butler
 Tom Poulter
 Owen Reeves

CHANGES TO 2008 ROSTER

Listed below are recent changes. We recommend that you mark the changes by the names in your roster, then clip and save these changes in the back pages of your roster for references. If you did not receive a copy, contact your Secretary Bob Safreno and he will send you one.

Page 8 - (Delete no Dues) **CLABAUGH, RONALD S. LT USN**
 Page 8 - (Chg E-Mail) **CONFER, DONALD D. CDR USN**
3don2confer1@att.net
 Page 8 - (Delete no Dues) **DELWICHE, ZAC MAJ USA**
 Page 8 - (Delete no Dues) **ESSIG, ROBERT W. MAJ USAF**
 Page 9 - (Delete no Dues) **GIBBARD, PATRICK R. CPT USMC**
 Page 9 - (Delete no Dues) **GILCHRIST, ROBERT E. LCOL USA**
 Page 9 - (Delete no Dues) **GINN, HARRY L. LCOL AUS**
 Page 9 - (Delete no Dues) **GRAHAM, CLAUD A. LCOL USAF**
 Page 10 - (Delete Deceased) **KEMP, ROBERT LCOL USA**
 Page 12 - (Delete no Dues) **MONAHAN, JOHN B. LCOL USAF**
 Page 12 - (Delete no Dues) **MULLEN, STEVEN F. MAJ USA**
 Page 13 - (Delete no Dues) **QUOCK, STANLEY L. COL USAR**
 Page 13 - (Delete no Dues) **RICHARDS, JOHN L. CAPT USNR**
 Page 14 - (Delete Deceased) **STARK, ROBERT COL USMC**
 Page 14 - (Add) **STARK, MRS ROBERT a SHARON - 707-585-1394**
 601 NASON STREET, SANTA ROSA, CA 95404-3307
 Page 14 - (Delete Deceased) **SWANEY, HAROLD O. COL USMCR**
 Page 14 - (Add) **SWANEY, MRS HAROLD O. a BLANCHE -**
 707-538-3655 - 6499 MEADOWRIDGE DRIVE, SANTA ROSA, CA
 95409-5822
 Page 15 - (Chg moved) **TROMBETTA, MRS VALENTINE a VALEN-**
TINE - 707-542-0605 - 1401 FOUNTAIN GROVE PKWY UNIT 230 -
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403-5761
 Page 15 - (Delete no Dues) **ULLMAN, MARTIN L. 2LT USMC**
 Page 15 - (Chg moved) **WEAVER, ARTHUR T. LCDR USNR r ANNE**
 1800 ATRIUM PKWY #121-123, NAPA CA 94559-4837
 Page 19 - (Delete no Dues) **ASHE, ELISA CORONA CPT ARNG**
 Page 19 - (Delete no Dues) **BENNETT, MILTON CAPT USN**
 Page 19 - (Delete no Dues) **CASTALDI, ALFONSE E. MAJ**
 Page 19 - (Delete no Dues) **DUNCAN, HARVEY J. CAPT USA**
 Page 19 - (Delete no Dues) **HUTCHENS, CLYDE M. LCOL USAF**
 Page 19 - (Delete no Dues) **PEAKE, GLENN E. LCOL USAF**
 Page 19 - (Delete no Dues) **RATKOWSKI, GENE MAJ USAF**
 Page 22 - (Delete no Dues) **DANIELS, JOHN G. CDR USN**
 Page 22 - (Delete no Dues) **DONNELSON, A. R. DON CPT USMC**
 Page 22 - (Delete no Dues) **EDWARDS, CECIL CPT USA**
 Page 22 - (Chg moved) **FAIRLIE, PHILIP G. LCDR USN r BERNICE**
 707-263-4063 - 1246 WRIGLEY STREET, LAKEPORT, CA 95453
 Page 25 - (Delete no Dues) **BELTRAMI, ALBERT CDR USNR**
 Page 25 - (Delete no Dues) **BLOHM, ROBERT A. LCOL USAF**
 Page 25 - (Delete no Dues) **KARABENSH, JEROLD 1/LT USAF/MSC**
 Page 25 - (Delete no Dues) **LITTLE, HERBERT E. LCOL USAF**
 Page 26 - (Delete no Dues) **TERRY, ROBERT W. CWO2 USA**
 Page 28 - (Delete no Dues) **CRONIN, RICHARD F. LCOL AUS**

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

To Secretary, MOAA, Redwood Empire Chapter, P.O. Box 2801, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

BARBEQUE, SATURDAY August 23, 2008, 4:30pm
LOWER JACK RABBIT PICNIC AREA
Spring Lake Park, Santa Rosa

Name: _____ **NO MENU CHOICES— Menu is Pork Ribs or Chicken,**
wine, coffee, potato salad, garlic bread, dessert

Phone Number: _____

Enclosed is my check for _____ persons @ \$20.00 each \$_____

Please make name tags for:

_____ **Reservation must be received not later than August 19th.**

Enclosed is \$_____ for the Col. Brey Scholarship Fund And/or \$_____ for the Military Support Fund

Note the County Board of Supervisors has approved our waiver for parking fees. When you arrive at the park gate, ask for the MOAA Parking Pass.

Make check (s) payable to: **MOAA, Redwood Empire Chapter**

----- Check here if you will be able to bring a Raffle Prize.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- AUG:** 11th Sonoma County Veteran's Memorial Building Advisory Committee, S.R
13th MOAA Wives Club Luncheon, Hungry Hunter, S.R
15th Deadline for MOAA-VOICE Submissions
15-16th Pacific Coast Air Show, Sonoma County Airport
23rd BBQ, Jack Rabbit Park, S.R.
28-31st Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Moving Wall, Santa Rosa Memorial Park
- SEP:** 6th Executive Committee Meeting
10th MOAA Wives Club Luncheon, Hungry Hunter, S.R
15th Deadline for MOAA-VOICE Submissions
26th Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building
30th Executive Committee Meeting
- OCT:** 4th BOARD MEETING - Scholarship winners
15th Deadline for MOAA-VOICE Submissions
23rd Luncheon, Election of Officers for 2009
- NOV:** 1st Executive Committee Meeting
15th Deadline for MOAA-VOICE Submissions
- DEC:** 6th Executive Committee Meeting
14th Sunday, Holiday Social
15th Deadline for MOAA-VOICE Submissions

A BIG WELCOME to a NEW MEMBER of the REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER

CPT DENNIS W. FAULKNER, USA
Spouse LORI
MAJ DONALD MAHLER, USAFR
LT WILLIAM P. MATZ, USN
LT GENEVIEVE P. SNOW, USN

DECEASED MEMBERS

LCOL ROBERT M. KEMP, USA
May 1, 2008
COL ROBERT W. STARK, USMC
May 16, 2008
COL HAROLD O. SWANEY, USMCR
June 30, 2008



Secretary/Treasurer - MOAA, Redwood Empire Chapter
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MOAA WIVES CLUB

(Sonoma County Main - All members welcome)

Connie Miller, President 568-3811
Barbara Confer, V. President 763-8198
Tina Lewis, Secretary 539-5546
Shirley Reeves, Treasurer 539-7839
Terry Silva, Family Services 544-6445

The regular meeting of MOAA Wives will be at Hunter Steakhouse on Wednesday, August 13. Luncheon will be served promptly at noon. Menu choices are Prime Rib Sandwich or Beer Battered Shrimp. Garden Salad, Beverage and Freshly Baked Bread are included with tax and gratuity, for \$16. If the Telephone Committee is not able to reach you, you may make reservations (or cancellations) with Susan Linch at 538-3322. We will be playing Bingo with Barbara Confer serving as Mistress of Ceremonies (for which we are all most grateful!). We had an excellent turnout for Verna Kraut's fascinating account of her life as a Pheasant Farmer. Verna looked VERY cute in her scarlet "pfarmer" overalls and it is amazing that this tiny lady was able to mother/doctor/discipline thousands of the beautiful birds. INCREDIBLE! Sally Wright served as hostess in July and decorated the tables with very attractive Aroma Infusers. Our Family Services Chairman, Terry Silva, learned that Shirley Dubell has passed away and has sent a condolence card to the family. Delores Comalli is recovering from surgery and Terry has sent her our best wishes.

Connie Miller, Publicity, 568-3811 conkrest@aol.com

Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2008

President:	COL Louis Peterka, USA	542-4076
Vice President:	CPT Tom Poulter, USA	576-0513
Secretary:	CPT Robert R. Safreno, USAR	795-3963
Treasurer:	LCOL Pete Rizzo, USA	539-3346
Past President:	LtCol Robert G. Reinking, USAFR	575-7873
Membership:	Vacant	
CAL-MOAA Director, Area 1:	LCOL Mort Jarvis, USAF	530-673-8402
Directors-at-large - Term 2007-2008		
	COL Tom Kelly, USAFR	542-3373
	Martina E. Lewis, AUX	539-5546
	LCOL Gary T. Meagher, AUS	544-4089
	LCDR Tim Morgan, USNR	C:695-9293
	LCOL Robert G. Reinking, USAFR	575-7873
	CWO-4 Robert J. Silva, USCG	544-6445
Directors-at-large - Term 2008-2009		
	CDR Don Confer, USN	763-8198
	CDR Leighton M. Royston, USN	578-4464
	COL Harold R. Warren, USMCR	763-6957
	LCOL Kevin Connolly, USAR	544-9338
Directors Representing Sub-Chapters:		
Humboldt/Del Norte:	LCDR Benjamin D. VanZandt, USNR	442-5898
Lake:	CAPT Daniel W. Christensen, USNR	263-3297
Mendocino:	Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst, AUX	468-0146
Sonoma Valley:	LCOL Dennis M. Meredith, USA	996-8819