



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Lots of activity this past couple of months, more scheduled for October and, thanks to all the members and wives who pitched in to help, the Chapter has managed to participate rather significantly. I had the opportunity to represent the U. S. Army at the Armed Forces Indy Grand Prix at Infineon Raceway on the 23rd. This race

was in honor of the new program, **“Troops to College”** a program designed to assist returning veterans in gaining the skills essential to gain employment in the work force. Col. Bucky Peterson, of our Sonoma Valley Sub-Chapter, was selected by Governor Schwarzenegger to serve as Program Chairman.

The chapter annual chapter barbeque was blessed with nice weather and great food, thanks to Gary Meagher, Bob Silva and Don Linch for all their efforts in the food category. It's doubtful they had anything to do with the weather but the food was outstanding. The turnout was low, only about 30 members, wives and guests, but we all had a good time and plenty to eat.

I had the honor to represent the U. S. Army at the Armed Forces Indy Grand Prix at the Infineon Raceway on the 23^d of August. This race was in honor of a new program, **“Troops to College”** a program co-sponsored by the Governor's office and the 143 campuses of the University of California and California State Colleges, with a goal of enhancing returning veterans opportunity to gain employment in the work force. Colonel Bucky Peterson, a member of the Sonoma Valley Sub-Chapter was selected by Governor Schwarzenegger to serve as Program Chairman.

The Moving Wall, a half-sized replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., arrived in Santa Rosa on the 27th of August, thanks to the sponsorship of the United Veteran Council. The Memorial Wall proved to be a huge and very emotional attraction, with over 150 people attending the opening ceremony. The WALL exhibit remained open, 24 hours

daily, from the 28th of August through the closing ceremony on the 31st. The visitation was unbelievable, people coming to visit the WALL at all hours of the day and night. It truly lived up to its name - **“THE WALL THAT HEALS.”**

The POW/MIA Recognition Day was held on Saturday, September 20th, at the Santa Rosa Vet's Memorial Building. The Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #223, conducted the ceremony this year. We gave them a high mark to shoot for, with attendance at last year's ceremony, conducted by the RECMOAA, at over 160 in attendance. I sincerely hope the attendance this year surpassed the 2007 mark.

Next comes the general membership meeting, Thursday, October 23rd, and Election of Officers. I urge you to show your support to the chapter. Come out, vote, and participate. Serve on a committee! The chapter needs the support and the support of all its' members.

COL Pete Peterka, President

ARMY SWITCHES FROM GREEN TO BLUE FOR CLASS A UNIFORM

It's official...the U. S. Army is retiring the Green Class A and the Dress White uniforms, and replacing them will be the Dress Blue Class A uniform. This all takes place, beginning in 2009, when Army recruits will be issued Blues in lieu of Greens. Phase out period for the Green Uniform and the Dress Whites is 2014. Paratroopers, Rangers and Special Forces troops will wear Blue Uniform with trousers bloused in black paratroop boots.

MOAA BOARD MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Sept. 30, 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.



MENDOCINO SUB-CHAPTER

The September 20th Luncheon Meeting, held at 11:30 am, at the Hill House Inn, was well attended. The members, spouses and guests enjoyed a delicious lunch and each other's delightful and charming company. Several new members joined us for the luncheon. Due to a prior duty commitment, our scheduled guest speaker, Sergeant First Class Eric Kolezar, Chief of the US Army Recruiting Station, Ukiah, could not attend, to speak on his tour of duty as an Honor Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns, in Arlington National Cemetery. We hope to have Sergeant Kolezar speak at a later meeting. We are always looking for interesting guest speakers, so please feel free to call or email me, with your suggestions. The next Luncheon meeting will be held at 11:30 am on Saturday, 15 November 2008, at Jensen's Restaurant, 1550 Lover's Lane at North State Street, Ukiah, CA. At Jensen's Restaurant we order from their extensive menu, but we still need your reservations, for planning, by calling or emailing Myrna Hurst, Tel: 707-468-0146 or email: myrna@pacific.net, or Ben Booth, Tel: 707-964-2174 or email: booth@mcn.org. Please join us and bring some new members or members we haven't seen for a while.

LTC Ben Booth, Commander

SONOMA VALLEY SUB-CHAPTER

Our meeting on September 11, 2008 was quite well-attended at our new venue, Issa's, on Sonoma Highway at Verano Ave. As previously discussed, some of us definitely felt it time for a change of scenery, and I believe this to be a good choice. The meeting room at Issa's is smaller, but I believe it will be adequate for our uses, especially if we are judicious about how we arrange the tables and chairs. Our speaker this time was Kris Van Giesen, Chief Development and Community Relations Officer at Hanna Boys Center in Sonoma. He was assisted by Tamara Dunn, Director of External Affairs and Special Events at Hanna. Also speaking were two of the students at Hanna, Joshua Jones and Terran Mace. Both are 15-year-old high school students, and it was interesting to learn also that both are proud of having recently completed the USMC Devil Pups program. These two fine young men talked freely about why and how they came to Hanna, what life is like living, studying, and growing there, and about their aspirations for the future. I believe this was an inspiring program, and I encourage anyone who is curious to learn more about Hanna Boys Center to contact Kris for more information. I have his contact information.

Our next meeting will be November 13, 2008 at Issa's. I've asked Pete Peterka to come and talk to us about his experiences as the senior air delivery officer in Laos during the time of USA combat operations in Vietnam. Pete is out of town as this goes for publication, so I don't have confirmation yet. We will also be conducting our annual election of officers for 2009. If anyone has suggestions or ideas for nominations, BK, Ted and I would appreciate any calls about that.

LTC Dennis Meredith, Commander

LAKE SUB-CHAPTER

No Report - Hey send us some news!

HUMBOLDT/DEL NORTE SUB-CHAPTER

No Report - Hey send us some news!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

General Comments:

CPI Increase Update. It looks like our prediction of the COLA increase will fall a bit short due, primarily, to the rapid drop in fuel prices. This translates to about a 6.0% increase if everything remains the same.

Federal Issues:

Medicare/Tricare Provider Payments With the Senate version of the FY2009 Defense Authorization Bill (S. 3001) stripped of most of the items on our agenda including a permanent fix on Tricare fee increases, we are faced with another problem at the end of the next fiscal year.

As if this is not enough of a problem, ***unless there is positive action starting NOW***, payments to health care providers with a **fat 21% decrease** in reimbursements on **1 January 2010 – fourteen months from now**. So, if you think finding a provider is difficult now, just wait and do nothing.

The problem is further complicated by the fact that the federal government has designated Sonoma County a rural area, therefore, **subjecting providers to even less reimbursement**. All a doctor has to do, is move to Marin County where his payment is higher.

Have any of you looked for a new provider lately? Good luck! There are providers out there, but you

may have to call a dozen or so before finding one who will accept Tricare or Medicare.

What can we do starting now? Contact your Congressperson and express your concerns. A monthly follow up is advisable if you don't get a satisfactory answer.

FY2009 Defense Authorization Bill (H.R. 5658)

The Senate version of this bill stripped almost everything except for the full repeal of the VA benefits deduction from SBP. Also, military pay raise of 3.9% is ok for 2009, but not the other years.

State Issues:

CALVET Loan Bond Proposition which will be on the General Election Ballot is a win-win proposition. Since its inception during the 1920s, NO ONE has ever defaulted on a loan, but has assisted many thousands.

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

“WALL THAT HEALS” COMES TO SONOMA COUNTY

The half-size replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall, containing the names of 58,256 servicemen and women who gave their lives in the Vietnam War, arrived in Santa Rosa on 27 August, was erected in Santa Rosa Memorial Park on the 28th. Opening ceremony was held at 10:00 a.m. Master of Ceremonies was Gary Greenough, American Legion Post 111; Color Guard and Bugler was provided by VVA Chapter 223; speakers included Mayor John Sawyer, Santa Rosa; Supervisor Tim Smith, County Supervisor District #3, and Colonel Pete Peterka, President, Redwood Empire Chapter, MOAA. The wall was sponsored by the Sonoma County United Veterans Council, assembly of the wall, opening and closing ceremonies, as well as the 24 hour security, was handled by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 223. The exhibit remained open to the public 24 hours daily through Labor Day, Sept. 1st.

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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 – (Add new) **COLE, PETER H. 1LT USA** r **LAUREN** - 707-538-7439 - 1530 RIARFIELD PLACE, SANTA ROSA, CA 95404-0000
phcole235@aol.com

Page 13 – (Drop Moved) **ROBERTS, MRS LAURA G.**

Page 15 – (Moved) **TROMBETTA, MRS VALENTINE** a **VALENTINE**
707-542-0605 - 1401 FOUNTAIN GROVE PKWY UNIT 230, SANTA ROSA, CA 95403-5761

Page 15 – (Moved) **WEAVER, ARTHUR T. LCDR USNR** r **ANNE**
1800 ATRIUM PKWY #121-123, NAPA, CA 94559-4837

Page 19 – (Drop Deceased) **HULL, MELVIN K. LCDR USNR**

Page 19 – (Add) **HULL, MRS MELVIN K.** a **ANITA** - 707-268-0107
7 SUNSHINE WAY, EUREKA, CA 95503-7408

Page 20 – (Wife Deceased) **SINK, ROLAND E. CDR USNR**

Page 25 – (Drop Deceased) **KELLEHER, JEROME W. LCOL ARMY**

Page 25 – (Add) **KELLEHER, MRS JEROME W.** a 707-272-3553

97550 MINA ROAD, COVELO, CA 95428-8516 - ashpad-sea@yahoo.com

Page 29 – (Drop Deceased) **TEPOVICH, ELI CAPT USN**

VETERANS TO CELEBRATE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF CALIFORNIA VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

On the 20th Anniversary date of December 13th, veterans from all over the state will once again march through the streets of Sacramento and gather at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to pay tribute to the 5,822 of California's dead and missing in action veterans of the Vietnam conflict.....reflecting on the Memorial inscription that reads **“All Gave Some, Some Gave All”**

This event, from December 10th to the 14th, is also designated as the official **Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Week** by Concurrent Resolution 151, California State Legislature Assembly. All veterans are invited to join the festivities in Sacramento at Capitol Park to honor those who fought and died on the battlefields of Vietnam.

CHAPTER MEMBER'S SON RECEIVES MOAA \$5000 INTEREST FREE LOAN

MOAA has advised that Zachary W. Crowe, son of CWO3 William R. Crowe, who resides in Eureka and is a member of the Humboldt-Del Norte Sub-Chapter, is a recent recipient of a \$5000 interest free loan from MOAA. Zachary will be attending University of California at Santa Cruz.

Katie L. Clemens, a resident of Arcata, CA also received a \$5000 interest free loan. Ms. Clemens' sponsor is not a member of the Redwood Empire Chapter, but is a member of MOAA National. Congrats to both these lucky young people.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ABSENTEE VOTING:

Only members and auxiliary members are eligible to vote. Mark your choice for each of the positions indicated. Note that in the case of Chapter Directors, you should vote for the number of nominees indicated. You are welcome to "write-in" the name of any regular or auxiliary member you would like to nominate for a specific office.

DO NOT SIGN YOUR BALLOT

When you have completed marking your ballot, place the completed ballot in an envelope; seal and sign your name across the sealed flap on the reverse of the envelopes and mail to:

**ELECTIONS COMMITTEE, M.O.A.A.
P.O. Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405**

Ballot must be received by the Elections Committee not later than October 22, 2008. Ballots received after that date will not be counted.



MOAA Voice

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Distribution USPS Mail Bob Safreno 707-795-3963
email Tim Morgan blkcloud@sonic.net
Online <http://www.redwoodwmpiremoaa.us>

COLA Watch

BLS just released the August CPI data which is down 0.5% from the July CPI. Using seasonally adjusted data the BLS found that energy prices were down 3.2% from July and food prices were up 0.6%. Energy prices continue to have the most effect on the CPI.

If the September CPI-W remains unchanged from the August CPI-W, the December COLA would be 5.9%. This would be the highest COLA since the early 1980s.

We now have the July and August CPI-W information and await the September CPI-W data which will be last value used to calculate the December COLA.

Mendocino County Subchapter in Action!

The photos below are of the Mendocino County Subchapter Float of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), were taken by the daughter of Dr. Guy Grenny, sitting next to me in the front seat of my 1926 Model T Ford Roadster, with Mrs. Myrna Hurst, and her sister, Mrs. Barbara Webster, sitting in the rumble seat, during the annual Labor Day / Paul Bunyan Days parade, on 1 Sept. 2008, in Fort Bragg CA.

We had a ball! Love, Ben.



Military Humor

"Airspeed, altitude and brains. Two are always needed to successfully complete the flight."



Redwood Empire Chapter

Military Officer's Association of America

ABSENTEE BALLOT - 2009

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CHAPTER PRESIDENT
(Vote for One)

- CPT. TOM POULTER, USA
- _____

VICE-PRESIDENT
(Vote for One)

- CAPT. JIM CURTIN, USN
- _____

SECRETARY
(Vote for One)

- CPT. ROBERT SAFRENO, USAF
- _____

TREASURER
(Vote for One)

- LTC. PETE RIZZO, USA
- _____

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2009-2010
(Vote for Four)

- CPT. LEE HOSKINS, USA
- MRS. MARTINA LEWIS
- LT. WM. MATZ, USN
- LTC. GARY MEAGHER, USA
- _____

SUB-CHAPTER DIRECTORS - 2009

HUMBOLDT/DEL NORTE COUNTY

- LCDR. HOWARD W. GARDNER, USN
- _____

LAKE COUNTY

- CAPT DANIEL CHRISTENSEN, USNR
- _____

MENDOCINO COUNTY

- MRS. MYRNA M. HURST
- _____

SONOMA VALLEY

- CPT. DENNIS MEREDITH, USA
- _____

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

Luncheon, Thursday October 23, 2008

The Quail Inn, On the Golf Course, Oakmont

Socializing 11:00am; Lunch noon

Cost (including tax and tip) - Price \$20.00

Starter: Caesar Salad

Entrée: Grilled Tri-tip with garlic mashed potatoes, crispy onions, seasonal vegetables, and a wine reduction sauce, or Baked Snapper with roasted red peppers, saffron rice and seasonal vegetables.

Dessert: Warm Berry Cobbler.

Coffee, Tea, Rolls and Butter

Please Reserve ____ Beef ____ Fish

Enclosed is my check for my advanced reservation ____ persons @ \$20.00 each. \$_____

Note: Pay At Door - Walk-Ins (no reservation or unpaid reservations) is \$22.00 per person.

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

And/or \$_____ for the Military Support Fund

There will be no speaker due to the elections of officers.

Name: _____

Guests: _____, _____, _____, _____

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

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

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

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

DATES TO REMEMBER:

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

1LT PETER H. COLE, USA
Wife - LAUREN

LTCOL JAMES POORE, USAF (Retired '79)
Wife - MARIA
Member Sonoma Valley Sub-Chapter

DECEASED MEMBERS

JULIE SINK
Wife on CDR Roland E. Sink

LCDR MELVIN K. HULL, USNR
September 5, 2008



Secretary/Treasurer - MOAA, Redwood Empire Chapter
 Post Office Box 2801, Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

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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 the Flamingo Hotel on Wednesday, October 8, at twelve noon. The Telephone Committee will inform you of menu choice. The attending membership found the hotel an excellent venue. Food and service were outstanding. The hotel will charge for any reservation made and abandoned so it is imperative that you contact Susan Linch (538-3342) by the evening before the meeting, of the need for cancelation, otherwise you will be billed for the reservation. Our program this month will be our ANNUAL ART, CRAFTS AND HOBBIES SHOW. Please bring something to share with us. It is always great fun. At the September meeting Tina Lewis graced the tables with deep red mini-chrysanthemums - harbingers of fall. Terry Silva has sent get-well cards to Dorcan Allison and Pat Sayles. The Board has selected Susan Linch and Tina Lewis to serve on the Nominating Committee. A third member will be chosen from the assembly at this October meeting! There will be no further Board meetings until December. Authors Note: Alas, my computer lost its modem. If you have tried to reach me I regret that I have been and am unable to communicate via email. I will be in touch!

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