

MOAA



VOICE

Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 11

“Serving Those Who Serve America”

NOVEMBER 2008



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

My comments this month are more a plea than comments. If this chapter is to continue to thrive, we desperately need greater support from the membership than has been experienced these past three years. Critical committee positions have gone unfilled the entire period resulting in less than effective chapter operations. Members balk at assuming positions of leadership in the chapter citing age, other activities, done that before, can't get around well, and any number of reasons not to become an active participant in chapter operations. The true realization of how little support the chapter is getting from the general membership came to light this past month. Our lobster feed, one of the most enjoyed events of the year, had 70 attendees. That sounds like pretty good participation, until one analyzes the roster of attendees which reveals that only 16 regular members attended this function. That's right, 16, and 8 of these were elected officers or board members. The remainder was made up of spouses, auxiliary members, and guests. By any stretch, this cannot be considered acceptable support of chapter activities. Aged and infirmed members and families need our help. We need to be more in touch with our membership if we are to be responsive to their needs and well-being. We need to increase the membership, recruit new members, and bring back members who have left the chapter. There are over 500 eligible, potential members residing in our chapter area, who are not members of this chapter. So, in the few days I have left in this office, I am asking you to take a hard look at your particular situation, make a determined effort or pledge to become more active in chapter operations and functions. THERE IS A JOB FOR YOU, something you can do, no matter your particular situation. There are a myriad of committee positions open, and more coming open the first of the year. If you're willing to support the chapter, give me a call. The chapter needs your help and support.

COL Pete Peterka, President

CHECK CHAPTER ROSTER INFORMATION

We request you check your personal information, contained in the current chapter roster, to insure the information is accurate, complete, and current. We're preparing for publishing the 2009 Chapter Roster and would like to have the information contained therein as correct as possible. If you have an e-mail address listed in the roster, **and please, please, please check your e-mail**, you will receive timely information on events or matters much earlier than waiting for the VOICE. If you opt to receive you copy of the VOICE electronically it saves the chapter postal charges. Any questions please contact your Secretary on last page of this bulletin.

2009 ANNUAL DUES NOTICE

Attention all Chapter officer members. The annual membership renewal envelopes for 2009 are being mailed in early November, to all officer members (with the exception of new members joining the Chapter the latter part of 2008 and other members who have paid their 2009 dues in advance). The envelope is in two-parts. As the instructions indicate, tear off and complete the top perforated portion, place it with your check in the remaining envelope, seal and mail back to Chapter address. Please respond promptly. We appreciate your continued membership and participation. Any questions please contact your Secretary on last page of this bulletin.

MOAA BOARD MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Nov. 1 & Dec. 6, 2008, 0930 hours - Santa Rosa Vet's Bldg Conference Room.

NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Saturday, January 5th, 2009, 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 next luncheon meeting will be held on Saturday, November 15th, 2008, at 11:30 am, at Jensen's Restaurant Private Dining Room, located at: 1550 Lover's Lane at North State Street, Ukiah. At Jensen's we order from the extensive luncheon menu, and drinks are available from the bar. In order to help us plan, please make a reservation with either: Mrs. Myrna Hurst: Tel: 707-468-0146 or email: myrna@pacific.net; or Ben Booth: Tel: 707-964-2174 or email: booth@mcn.org. We have no guest speaker scheduled, but are always glad to have your suggestions for a guest speaker that our members and guests will enjoy. As always, please bring a new or potential member, or help and encourage some of our current members, who haven't been to one of our delightful luncheons recently, to join us. We hope to see you on the 15th at Jensen's for another great luncheon meeting.

LTC Ben Booth, Commander

SONOMA VALLEY SUB-CHAPTER

Our next meeting will be November 13, 2008, at Issa's coffee shop at the intersection of Sonoma Highway and Verano Avenue. Our speaker will be our Redwood Chapter President, COL Pete Peterka, who kindly agreed to come and talk to us about his experiences as senior air delivery officer and advisor in Laos during the "Secret War" there.

The other major business for the meeting will be election of sub-chapter officers for 2009. BK White and Ted Chenoweth will handle the meeting and the election. They will present a proposed slate at the meeting. I am not a candidate for any office this time.

I regret that I will be unable to attend, since Laurell and I will be in Hawaii with old friends from Army days, enjoying the climate as well as camaraderie dating back to service in Germany in early '70s with them.

The meeting will begin at 1200, as usual, but please feel free to come early and enjoy some conversation. For those who missed the last meeting, at Issa's each member orders from the menu, and they provide us with separate checks, a very nice service.

I look forward to seeing everyone in January. Thanks.

LTC Dennis Meredith, Commander

LAKE SUB-CHAPTER

No Report

HUMBOLDT/DEL NORTE SUB-CHAPTER

No Report

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The legislative update is on sabbatical this month.

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



DECEASED MEMBERS



CDR BRUCE A. BELL, USN (Retired)

It is with deep sorrow that we report the passing of CDR Bruce A. Bell, USN (Retired). CDR Bell passed away October 13, 2008 at his home in Santa Rosa. CDR Bell was a long time member of the chapter and served as Chapter President in 2004. He is survived by his wife, Jean. There are to be no funeral service, however a memorial service will be held at a date to be announced. Our sincere condolences go out to Jean and the family. Bruce will be missed by all. Condolences may be sent to 3768 Sonoma Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95405-5418.

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### MRS. BETTY FOOTE, Auxiliary Member

Betty Foote, a long time auxiliary member passed away on September 27, 2008 at her home in Healdsburg. Betty was preceded in death by her husband, a retired U.S. Army Air Corps Officer and diplomat with the W.M.O. United Nations, in Switzerland. Funeral services were held in Cloverdale on October 1, 2008 and the interment was at Oakmound Cemetery in Healdsburg.

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## RECENT CHANGES - TRICARE DENTAL PROGRAM

Several changes in the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program became effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008, to include -

- Coverage for emergency services now provided to enrollees visiting overseas locations.
- World-wide coverage for those who live overseas and enroll in the new Enhanced- Overseas Program.
- Lifetime orthodontic maximum increased from \$1200 to \$1500 maximum.
- One- and two-surface posterior composite resin fillings payable at 80% of the program allowed amount.
- Implant services now covered, after a 12-month waiting period, at 50% of the program allowed amount.

For more information, call 1-888-838-8737 or go to <http://www.ddpdelta.org>.

Source: Army Echoes, Sep-Dec 08.

## PEARL HARBOR SURVIVORS RECOGNITION AND DEDICATION OF BLUE STAR MEMORIAL PLAQUE

December 7, 2008, Pearl Harbor Day, will again be the date of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Recognition Ceremony, to be held at the Santa Rosa Veteran's Memorial Building. The ceremony will be followed immediately with the dedication of a Blue Star Memorial Plaque honoring veterans of all wars. The plaque will be mounted on a boulder on the front lawn of the Santa Rosa Vet's building at the south-east corner.

## Donations Made in August & September 2008

### SCHOLARSHIP FUND

George Connors  
Amy Gamble  
Jack Krout

### MILITARY SUPPORT FUND

Claire Butler  
Amy Gamble  
Owen Reeves  
Bob Reinking

### MOAA VOICE

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Online <http://www.redwoodempiremoaa.us>

## 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 7 - (Delete Deceased) **BELL, BRUCE A. CDR USN**

Page 7 - (Add) **BELL, JEAN** a *MRS BRUCE A.* 707-546-6988  
3768 SONOMA AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CA 95405-5418

[dinger154@yahoo.com](mailto:dinger154@yahoo.com)

Page 8 - (New Address) **COLE, PETER H. 1LT USA r LAUREN** - 707-538-7439 - 1530 BRIARFIELD PLACE, SANTA ROSA, CA 95404-0000  
[phcole235@aol.com](mailto:phcole235@aol.com)

Page 8 - (Moved) **CORT, OWEN LCDR USNR r** 707-945-1134  
260 CALIFORNIA DRIVE, YOUNTVILLE, CA 94599-0000

Veterans Home of CA - [owencort@sonic.net](mailto:owencort@sonic.net)

Page 12 - (Moved) **PIASTA, JOSEPH A. COL USA r KATHLEEN** - 707-545-7010 - 3510 UNOCAL PLACE STE 200, SANTA ROSA, CA 95403-0000 - [jpiasta@obrienlaw.com](mailto:jpiasta@obrienlaw.com)

Page 25 - (Drop out of area) **KELLEHER, ELENA** a *MRS JEROME W.*

## A little bit of humor !

A man walks into a hardware store and asks for a chain saw that will cut six trees in one hour. The salesman recommends the top of the line model.

The man is suitably impressed, and buys it. The next day he brings it back and says, "This chainsaw is defective. It would only cut down one tree and it took ALL DAY!". The salesman takes the chain saw, starts it up to see what's wrong, and the man says, "**What's that noise?**"

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Harold's new job had him working really late. He decides to get his wife a watchdog. He goes to the pet store and asks for a Doberman. The employee said, "If it's a guard dog you want I have a dog just for you." The man walks to the back of the store to get a dog and comes back with a little poodle. Harold says, "This small thing, a watch dog? You're kidding me, right?" The employee says, "No, this dog is special; he knows karate." "Karate? I don't believe it," Harold says.

The employee puts the dog down and says, "Karate the sign." And he points to a sign advertising dog food. The Dog runs up and rips the sign to shreds. Harold is amazed at this. The employee then says, "Karate the chair." And he points to a chair in the corner. The dog runs up and rips the chair to shreds. By now Harold is convinced. "I'll take him," he says. When he gets home he surprises his wife and she yells out, "This little thing, a watch dog? No way." Harold says, "But this dog knows karate." "Karate," she yells. "**Karate my foot!**"

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A mother is reading a book to her three year old daughter. Mother: "What does the cow say?" Child: "Moo!" Mother: "Great! What does the cat say?" Child: "Meow." Mother: "Oh, you're so smart! What does the frog say?" The wide-eyed little three year old looks up at her mother and in her deepest voice replies, "**Bud.**"

## **Families to SecDef: Simplify Benefit Systems**

"Other than winning the wars we are in, my highest priority is providing the best possible care for those who are wounded in combat," were the heart-felt words from Secretary of Defense Robert Gates at an October 20 Pentagon summit for wounded, ill and injured service-members and their families and survivors.

The families were flown in from around the world so Pentagon officials could listen to their concerns and ideas on how to improve existing support services. The families acknowledged that much progress has been made, but a number of gaps still exist.

Key needs include simplified health and benefits systems, because current health, disability and other programs are so complicated that beneficiaries have a hard time understanding them, let alone navigating them.

One wounded member said the different eligibility rules for different program benefits (military, VA, civilian) and inconsistent communications about available programs has cost his family significant money.

Families also want a system of care that offers some choice in care and services and is flexible enough to meet their individual family needs, whether they live adjacent to or far from military or VA facilities.

One child got the attention of all at the meeting in saying that children of the injured need their own support, too.

### **Editors Note:**

Hey, do you recognize any of the following emails?

thardy@cwnet.com  
tankcdr@mindspring.com  
rdmillberry@comcast.net  
joy.byrd@mchsi.com  
britton@mcn.org  
isensee@earthlink.net  
f.stokes1@cox.net  
awhurley@sbcglobal.net  
donlynai@cox.net  
habumj@pacbell.net  
jean66@adelphia.net

Well, neither do we, and the electronic MOAA VOICE is not being delivered to these fine members. If you do recognize one of these as yours be older or incorrect please email the editor (blkcloud@sonic.net) directly with the correct email address so we can be sure that you receive the VOICE electronically. We haven't heard from you by the end of November we will drop your electronic subscription to the VOICE. Thanks, Ed.

## **The origins of TAPS**

It all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captian Ellicombe heard the moan of a soldier who lay mortally wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, The captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment.

When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The captain lit a lantern. Suddenly, he caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, he enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was partially granted. The captain had asked if he could have a group or Army band members play a funeral dirge for the son at the funeral. That request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate.

Out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of his dead son's uniform. This wish was granted.

This music was the haunting melody we now know as "Taps" that is used at all military funerals.

### **These are the words to "TAPS".**

Day is done,  
Gone the sun,  
From the lakes,  
From the hills,  
From the sky,  
All is well.  
Safely rest.  
God is nigh.

### **Military Humor**

"What is the similarity between air traffic controllers and pilots? If a pilot screws up, the pilot dies; If ATC screws up, .... The pilot dies."

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

## **Holiday Buffet Luncheon, Sunday December 14, 2008**

**The Quail Inn, On the Golf Course, Oakmont**

*Socializing 12:00am; Lunch 1pm*

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

Starter: Caesar Salad

Entrée: Roast Turkey, Baked Ham w Pineapple Glaze, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Traditional Stuffing, Yams, Gravy

Dessert: Assorted Pies including Pecan & Apple.

Coffee, Tea, Rolls and Butter

Cash Bar

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 speakers but there will be a choir to sing Christmas Songs.**

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

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

### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

NOV: 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Committee Meeting  
15th Deadline for MOAA-VOICE Submissions

DEC: 6<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting  
14<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Holiday Social  
15th Deadline for MOAA-VOICE Submissions

### **MOAA WIVES CLUB**

(continued from page 6)

A group trip may be arranged. Amy is not financially involved in the tours but will be happy to give you details. The Nominating Committee, Susan Linch, Tina Lewis and Shirley Reeves, met with Parliamentarian Lee Owen and will report the Nominees for Office in November. Elections will be at that meeting and Installation will be at our January meeting. Barbara Confer decorated our tables with autumn-color candles surrounded by silk autumn leaves on a scarlet saucer. Barbara led the Pledge of Allegiance and Lee Owen gave the Invocation. The Arts, Crafts and Hobbies show, under the leadership of Marie Minchin, was a grand and colorful success.

Connie Miller, Publicity 563-8311/conkrest@aol.com

### **AUXILIARY NOTES:**

**Remarriage** - think before you jump! If you're seriously thinking about remarriage, make sure you understand the possible impact on your military benefits. Here are just some of the possible impacts remarriage could have on your benefits.

- Loss of DIC (Dependency and Indemnity Compensation)
- Suspension of Survivor Benefit Plan
- Loss of TRICARE
- ID Card (commissary/exchange privileges)
- Social Security

If you would like additional information on the impact of remarriage on any of the above listed benefits, contact the Sonoma County Veterans Service Office, local Social Security Office, or contact the Chapter Auxiliary Liaison.

Tina Lewis  
Chapter Auxiliary Liaison  
707-539-5546  
TinaLewis31@comcast.net



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 the Flamingo Hotel on Wednesday, November 11, at 12 Noon. If the Telephone Committee does not reach you, please call Susan Linch (538-3342) for reservations. Ms. Linch informs us that reservations may be cancelled as late as the morning of the meeting. The hotel has been most cooperative, but they will charge the club for reservations made and abandoned. Entree choices are: Hot Spiced Marinated Pork Loin or Penne Alfredo with Grilled Chicken. Both entrees are served with Seasonal Vegetables and dessert will be Chocolate Mousse Cake. Cost, all inclusive, is \$20. Alice Peterka, Program Chairman, announced that our Guest Speaker will be a representative from Children's Village of Sonoma. Terry Silva, Family Services Chairman, sent cards to Marge Donaldson (we are happy to report that Marge was able to make the meeting - hobbling only slightly) and Helen Frawley. Ms. Silva sent sympathy cards to the families of long time members Martha Rockey and Betty Foote. Amy Gamble told us there will be tours of Japan in Spring and Fall of 2009. If you would like further information contact Amy at 537-1459. (continued on page 5)

## Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2008

|                                             |                                  |              |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>President:</b>                           | COL Louis Peterka, USA           | 542-4076     |
| <b>Vice President:</b>                      | CPT Tom Poulter, USA             | 576-0513     |
| <b>Secretary:</b>                           | CPT Robert R. Safreno, USAR      | 795-3963     |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>                           | LCOL Pete Rizzo, USA             | 539-3346     |
| <b>Past President:</b>                      | LtCol Robert G. Reinking, USAFR  | 575-7873     |
| <b>Membership:</b>                          | Vacant                           |              |
| <b>CAL-MOAA Director, Area 1:</b>           | LCOL Mort Jarvis, USAF           | 530-673-8402 |
| <b>Directors-at-large - Term 2007-2008</b>  |                                  |              |
|                                             | 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     |
| <b>Directors-at-large - Term 2008-2009</b>  |                                  |              |
|                                             | 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     |
| <b>Directors Representing Sub-Chapters:</b> |                                  |              |
| <b>Humboldt/Del Norte:</b>                  | LCDR Benjamin D. VanZandt, USNR  | 442-5898     |
| <b>Lake:</b>                                | CAPT Daniel W. Christensen, USNR | 263-3297     |
| <b>Mendocino:</b>                           | Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst, AUX         | 468-0146     |
| <b>Sonoma Valley:</b>                       | LCOL Dennis M. Meredith, USA     | 996-8819     |