

MOAA



VOICE

Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 12

"Serving Those Who Serve America"

DECEMBER 2008



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Another really busy month. November is always a busy month considering all the Veterans Day ceremonies and then Thanksgiving. This past month members of our chapter participated in Veteran's Appreciation events at the Comstock Middle School, Santa Rosa Christian School, Kiwanis/Rotary Veterans Day luncheon, and the Marine Corps Birthday celebrations throughout the county, and even up into Mendocino County. In addition, your President, Vice-President and Personal Affairs Chairman attended a MOAA National sponsored symposium at South Lake Tahoe in October. A truly informative and well conducted event designed to enhance the recruitment and retention effort of local chapters.

Our program, in January, will attempt to relay some of the information we received at the symposium to the general membership and, even more importantly, implement at least some of the many ideas and suggestions put forth at this symposium.

Col Pete Peterka, President

HOLIDAY SOCIAL

Mark your calendar - December 14th, 2008 - HOLIDAY SOCIAL AT OAKMONT. Socializing begins at 12:00 noon and the buffet will be available at 1:00 sharp. The program will be Christmas Carols by the Santa Rosa High School Glee Club. If you can remember the words, you might be asked to "Sing Along".

PLAN TO ATTEND, BRING A FRIEND, ANOTHER MEMBER OR POTENTIAL MEMBER.

If you'd like to attend but need a ride, call Pete Peterka 542-4076 or 484-4803.

JANUARY PROGRAM

LtCol (USAF Ret) MORT JARVIS, CALMOAA Area 1 Director, will install the newly elected officers of the Redwood Empire Chapter at the January meeting on the 22nd. LtCol Jarvis will also present a program summarizing some of the most significant areas addressed at the Lake Tahoe symposium, the impact on CALMOAA and the local chapters, and the benefits to be achieved through enhanced recruitment and retention efforts, greater integration of Auxiliary members and spouses in chapter operations. And much, much more.

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.

Secretary Bob Safreno, 795-3963

MOAA BOARD MEETINGS

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Saturday, December 6th and 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 Mendocino County Subchapter, REC MOAA, held their November Luncheon meeting at Jensen's Restaurant, Ukiah, on 15 November. We had a good turnout, who enjoyed the great food, service, hospitality and friendly camaraderie. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the US flag, and a prayer of Thanksgiving. Sergeant First Class Eric Kolesar, US Army Recruiting Station, Ukiah, was guest speaker. He spoke on his career and particularly on his voluntary service in the 3rd Infantry Regiment (Old Guard), as an Honor Guard at the Tomb of The Unknowns, Arlington National Cemetery. He explained the demanding criteria, extensive knowledge, exacting training, high standards of discipline and personal conduct necessary for selection and service as an Honor Guard. Only 15 percent of those who volunteer are selected to serve. Our attendees gained a greater appreciation for the reverence shown to those interred in the Tomb of the Unknowns and Arlington National Cemetery. The next luncheon meeting will be held at Jensen's Restaurant, at 11:30 am, 17 January 2009. Please join us and bring a new member or a member who has not met with us recently.

LTC Ben Booth, Commander

SONOMA VALLEY SUB-CHAPTER

Greetings from Hawaii, Island of Kauai. Laurell and I are having a great time relaxing, seeing old friends from Army days, and enjoying the change of scenery.

BK sent an email with some information which I want to pass on to all subchapter members. The first message is that our subchapter and its member were resilient enough to deal with unexpected change with equanimity and poise, as we expected would be the case. BK said that seventeen members came to the Nov. 13th luncheon, about our usual turnout. When we learned a few days prior to the meeting, quite by accident, that Issa's was closed permanently and we had to scramble to find a different place to meet, we came up with a backup plan. Fortunately, BK remembered Mary's Pizza Shack meeting room, and made the arrangements. It appears that the change was for the better, and that our members liked the new venue at least as well as either of the last two meeting places. Also, since Pete Peterka had to reschedule his talk about Laos and the secret war there due to his grandson's return from Iraq, our own Ted Chenoweth graciously stepped up with another well-received installment of his series of interesting and timely talks regarding the history, culture, and politics of Islam. We will work with Pete to reschedule his talk

about his experiences in Laos as soon as it is convenient for him. Finally, we held election of officers for the year 2009. BK White was elected Subchapter Commander, and Ted Chenoweth will serve as Vice Commander. We were not successful in finding someone willing and able to serve as Adjutant, but we believe we can easily compensate for that shortfall due to having a meeting place where we no longer have to make menu reservations and collect money ahead of time, which was a labor-intensive process. In any case, I will continue as the subchapter's representative on the Board of Directors, and will fill in as needed as a subchapter officer.

Thanks are due to all members for your flexibility and understanding as we made changes to our meeting venue and program on the fly. I believe we are in good shape, and I thank and congratulate BK and Ted for their willingness to continue to serve as subchapter officers. We are in good hands.

We will meet next at Mary's on January 8, 2009.

LTC Dennis Meredith, Commander

LAKE SUB-CHAPTER

No Report

HUMBOLDT/DEL NORTE SUB-CHAPTER

No Report

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

General Comments

CPI Increase Update. While most of you probably are aware, our COLA increase did not hit the 6.0% as forecast. However, a 5.8% increase will be appreciated by all, particularly, if gasoline prices continue to fall.

Federal Issues

FY2009 Defense Authorization Bill (H.R. 5658)

All of the bills on concurrent receipt, SBP, TRICARE fee protections, Guard/Reserve retirement age, etc., that didn't get wrapped into the FY2009 Defense Authorization Act officially die. And the long lists of legislator cosponsors that you helped build for them expire, too.

This means that when the new Congress convenes in January, we will need to go back to “square one” to get co-sponsors on these important legislative bills – **so stay tuned!**

Update on Concurrent Receipt, SBP Payments

VA Retro Payments – This three-year joint effort by DFAS and the VA recalculated concurrent receipt and VA payments due to disabled retirees. This will affect some 230,000 retirees for a total of \$174 million in retroactive payments

Paid-up Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) – As of 31 October, SBP payments ended for retirees who are at least age 70 and have paid 30 years (360 cumulative months) of SBP premiums.

This affects 137,000 retirees, who will should have seen their retired pay go up last month, however, this amount is taxable. If you did not see an increase, your December Retiree Account Statement, an “SBP Counter” will show the total months of SBP premiums paid to date, so individuals can better project when their premiums will end.

Lame Duck Session. Don't expect much in the way of retiree or other DoD issues to be taken up until next year. About the only thing we can expect is to see if we will be benefitted by an economic “jump start” measure.

Budget Changes Coming for Defense. With the new Administration coming in next year, rumours are floating about that the Defense budget may get squeezed by the fiscal bailouts and proposed tax cuts.

State Issues

Major State Legislative Issues passed this year were:

Proposition 12, the Veterans Bond Act of 2008.

This authorized the CalVet Home Loan Program to issue \$900 million in Veterans General Obligation Bonds to make loans to wartime California Veterans.

Expanded employment opportunities veterans.

Legislation introduced that will give veterans of all military branches greater access to civil service jobs.

New Veterans' Homes. Groundbreaking on three new veterans' homes in West Los Angeles, Ventura and Lancaster-the largest investment of this kind in state history. Two additional homes are in the planning stages in Redding and Fresno.

Predatory Lending. Legislation to protect service members and their families from predatory and deceptive lending practices and unlawful financial and investment schemes.

As our year comes to a close, we should reflect on the meaning of this season and the need for brotherhood between all **Merry Christmas to All and Happy New Year!**

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

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 – (Chg Moved) **BANDA, DOLORES** a *MRS EMIL A.* 707-763-8666 - 101 ELY BLVD S APT 205, PETALUMA, CA 94954-4807

Page 13 – (Delete moved) **RADTKE, ESTHER** a *MRS LAURENCE H*

Page 13 – (Add new) **SAVATIEL, KARL R. CPT USA** r *BARBARA* 707-875-3252 - P. O. BOX 231, BODEGA BAY, CA 94923-0231 – karl.svatiel@comcast.net

Page 15 – (Moved) **VAN ESCHEN, FREDERICK CWO4 USAF** r *MARION* - 707-539-3765 - 297 BELHAVEN CIRCLE, SANTA ROSA, CA 95409-0000

Page 29 – (Add new) **POORE, JAMES LCOL USAF** r *MARIA* 707-939-3741 - 710 AMHERST CIRCLE, SONOMA, CA 95476-0000 – james.poore@comcast.net

NOTE: Members need to check their roster for correct information, as we will be printing a 2009 roster early next year.

Donations Made in October 2008

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

George Connors
Amy Gamble
John H.C. Riley

MILITARY SUPPORT FUND

Ann Bulawsky
Clair Butler
Owen Reeves

MOAA VOICE

Editor Tim Morgan 707-695-9293, blkcloud@sonic.net
Distribution USPS Mail Bob Safreno 707-795-3963
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Online <http://www.redwoodwmpiremoaa.us>

ROSTER AUDIT

The 2009 Chapter Roster will go to press hopefully in February. It is important that the information contained therein, as it applies to the members, be correct. Each member can do the chapter a great service if he/she will take the time to pull out the 2008 roster, check the information as it applies to him/her, and let us know if there needs to be any corrections and/or changes. Call or e-mail any corrections or changes to:

Pete Peterka 542-4076 or 484-4803,
email: petepeterka@earthlink.net, or

Bob Safreno 795-3963
email: shadowbob1@juno.com.

GO LOOK RIGHT NOW!

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Beginning January 1st, 2009, eligible dependents of chapter members may apply for the Col Wm. Bray Memorial Scholarships to be awarded in 2009. Instructions for submission of applications, eligibility criteria, supporting documentation, and application forms may be obtained after January 1st, 2009, by writing to:

Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Deadline for submission of applications is March 15, 2009.

Military Humor

Why does the Air Force need expensive new bombers? Have the people we've been bombing over the years been complaining?

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DATES TO REMEMBER: (2009)

January – 2009

1st Dues for 2008 (\$20.00) are now due
3rd Board of Directors meeting
22nd Luncheon, Oakmont
31st Proposed target date to publish the 2008 Roster

February:

7th Executive Committee meeting
26th Luncheon, Oakmont

March:

1st Members who have not paid dues will be dropped.
7th Executive Committee meeting
15th Deadline for submission Scholarship Applications
26th Luncheon, Oakmont
31st Executive Committee Meeting

April:

4th BOARD MEETING - Scholarship winners
23rd Luncheon, Oakmont

May:

2nd Executive Committee Meeting
17th Armed Forces Day – Rose Parade, Santa Rosa
26th Memorial Day Ceremonies
28th Luncheon – Honor Scholarship Recipients

June:

6th Executive Committee Meeting
Support The Troops Rally, Santa Rosa
20th Saturday, Picnic at Ursuline High School

July:

7th Executive Committee Meeting
11th BOARD MEETING
23rd Luncheon, Oakmont

August:

1st Executive Committee Meeting
29th BBQ?

September:

5th Executive Committee Meeting
25th Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building
29th Executive Committee Meeting

October:

3rd BOARD MEETING - Scholarship winners
22nd Luncheon, Election of Officers for 2009

November:

7th Executive Committee Meeting

December:

5th Executive Committee Meeting
13th Sunday, Holiday Social

(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**

A BIG WELCOME to NEW MEMBERs of the REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER

LCOL JAMES POORE, USAF

Spouse *MARIA* (Sonoma Sub-Chapter)

CPT KARL R. SAVATIEL, USA

Spouse *BARBARA*

AUXILIARY NOTES:

MOAA's Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee is asking auxiliary members to find new members for national MOAA and for our local MOAA chapter. The committee advises:

Talk to people to find out who is eligible to be a MOAA member. Wear a MOAA pin so people can see it when you talk to them.

Explain what MOAA is, why you're a member, and what MOAA has done for you.

Let people know that by joining MOAA they can discover many ways MOAA can help them.

The name of the MOAA newsletter is MOAA VOICE, and the stated purpose of the organization is MOAA One Powerful Voice. The surviving spouses of MOAA are the heart behind One Powerful Voice.

Tina Lewis, Chapter Auxiliary Liaison

707-539-5546

TinaLewis31@comcast.net



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

We will celebrate Christmas with MOAA members on Sunday, December 14. Please use the coupon in your MOAA VOICE to make reservations. SUSAN LINCH, RESERVATIONS CHAIRMAN, HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT RESERVATIONS MAY BE MADE UP TO THE MORNING OF OUR MEETING BUT **CANCELATIONS** MUST BE MADE THE MORNING BEFORE THE MEETING. WE ARE OBLIGED TO PAY FOR ABANDONED RESERVATIONS. Our November meeting was very well attended with long time member Evilda Dewey attending for the first time in a long time. Welcome back, Evilda. Connie Miller's guest, Beanie Kieffer, has joined us. The Nominating Committee, Shirley Reeves, Tina Lewis and Chairman Susan Linch, presented a most excellent slate. The slate named Shirley Reeves to repeat as our Treasurer, Mary Tillman to serve as Secretary, Liz Warren for the Vice President position and Tina Lewis, President. Barbara Confer moved to accept the slate as presented and the motion carried with a unanimous vote. Verna Kraut, whose career was invested in raising exotic birds, decorated our tables with marvelous turkeys carved from cocoanuts seated on autumn leaves. Terry Silva, Family Services, sent a sympathy card to the family of Commander Bruce Bell.

Connie Miller, Publicity 563-8311/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