

MOAA



VOICE

Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 39, NUMBER 1

"Serving Those Who Serve America"

JANUARY 2009

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS



I want to start out by thanking Pete Peterka for his leadership the past three years as President. On December 7th, Pearl Harbor Day, at the Veterans Memorial Building there was the biggest crowd I have ever seen in attending these events most years. There were

over 200 people in attendance. Frank Senello, a WWII submariner, and President of Pearl Harbor Survivors Chapter 23 read the names as the ship's bell was rung for each of over 100 members who have passed on in past decades. In 1996, there were 108 members. Now there are 30 and 7 attended. The Redwood Chordsmen sang a medley of our songs for the Armed Forces. We got even with the Japanese at Truk when we put 60 ships on the bottom minus many warships. I got the opportunity to scuba dive on three transport Maru's in February 2006 at Truk Lagoon at 138 foot depth. The highlight was entering one of the ships from a hole made by an US Navy aerial torpedo. Colonel Pete Peterka was the guest speaker and gave a wonderful speech to the audience on December 7th as he has done over the past three years at several events for Veterans. Following the ceremony, we dedicated the Blue Star Mothers Memorial outside.

Our Holiday Social was well attended with over 70 people in attendance. Gary Meagher arranged the Santa Rosa High School choir to sing Christmas songs. We had plenty of raffle prizes and most won something. The food at the Quail Inn was wonderful.

Captain Tom Poulter

JANUARY PROGRAM

Our January program on Thursday, January 22nd will be an installation of our newly elected officers for 2009. LtCol (USAF Ret) Mort Jarvis who is the CALMOAA Area 1 Director will install the officers and be guest speaker covering the Lake Tahoe MOAA Symposium that Pete Peterka, Leighton Royston, and Tom Poulter attended in October.

2009 ANNUAL DUES NOTICE

Attention all Chapter officer members. The annual membership renewal envelopes for 2009 have been 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.

Upon receipt of this bulletin, if you have not paid, your dues are now past due.

Secretary Bob Safreno, 795-3963

MOAA BOARD MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Feb. 7, 2009, 0930 hours - Santa Rosa Vet's Bldg Conference Room.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Saturday, January 3rd, 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, RECMOAA, will hold their next Luncheon Meeting at 11:30 am, Saturday, 17 January 2008, at Jensen's Restaurant Private Dining Room, 1550 Lover's Lane at North State Street, Ukiah. You may order your lunch and drink choices from their delicious and extensive menu. Attendees please notify our Vice Commander, Mrs. Myrna Hurst, at Tel. #: 707-468-0146, or via email: myrna@pacific.net , or me at Tel. #: 707-964-2174 or via email: booth@mcn.org , for planning purposes. A Guest Speaker is being sought, so if you have suggestions, let Myrna or me know. The Redwood Empire Chapter is seeking updates for the 2009 Membership Roster, so please contact RECMOAA Secretary Bob Safreno Tel. #: 707-795-3963, or email: shadowbob1@juno.com, to update your data. Col "Pete" Peterka has completed 3 years of outstanding service as President, RECMOAA! I think we all owe him and his wonderful wife, Alice, a huge Thank You for their selfless service. Send a Thank You to Pete's email at: petepeterka@earthlink.net . Please bring a prospective member, or a member who hasn't been to lunch for a while, to our 17 January 2009 Luncheon Meeting!

LTC Ben Booth, Commander

SONOMA VALLEY SUB-CHAPTER

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, January 8, 2009, and will again be at Mary's Pizza Hut in Boyes Springs, as was our last meeting in November. Subchapter members will no doubt remember that our scheduled speaker for November's meeting was to be our Chapter President, COL Pete Peterka, who was going to tell us about his experiences in Laos during the "secret war" there. Pete had to cancel due to a conflict which his grandson's date of return from Iraq, where he served with 101st Abn Div. Pete has agreed to make that presentation at our January meeting.

As always, the meeting will start at noon, and members are encouraged to come a little early for possible libations and some camaraderie. BK, Ted, and I will call everyone as usual to get a headcount, but as before we will order from the menu, so everyone can order what they wish without having to decide beforehand. I might add that due to this size of the crowd, Mary's will add a 15% charge to our bills for a gratuity, so there is really no need to leave an additional tip unless members just want to do so.

LTC Dennis Meredith
Subchapter Representative, Board of Directors

LAKE SUB-CHAPTER

No Report

HUMBOLDT/DEL NORTE SUB-CHAPTER

Minutes of 20 December 2008

The meeting was held in the Galley of the Humboldt Coast Guard Station. President Howard Gardner opened the meeting. He led the "Pledge of Allegiance," and Chaplain Bill Odonnell gave the invocation.

After a lunch based on cheeseburgers, Mary Baker of the Eureka Veterans Center, told of VA benefits for veterans returning from the Middle East. She said 100 new centers will soon open around the country. A mobile unit will operate in rural areas of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties and from Garberville to Brookings. Social worker Andy Durham also made remarks.

An election of officers was held. Bob Westberg will be president for 2009, Floyd Stokes will be Vice President, and Howard Garner will be secretary.

A raffle of potted poinsettias was held, and several African violets were given away.

Donald W. Nicol
Secretary

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

General Comments

Until the new Congress meets during the first part of January and until the new Administration gets moving, we really cannot expect much in the legislative area until February.

However, if you think that we had a difficult time trying to get several our priority objectives passed during the last legislative year, only to see them fail at the last minute, don't expect an easier time this year as the competition for money will be even tighter.

Since basically we will be starting at "point zero" on these issues, we are going to need everyone's help and support to get our representatives to cosponsor new bills as they are presented.

While there is frustration of losing out at the last min-

ute on much of our critical issues, we can look back at some of our "wins" during the past year. In this, we can be happy to see:

- A new GI Bill,
- An increase in Medicare/TRICARE Physician Payments (albeit only until January 2010),
- The barring of TRICARE Fee increases for retirees under 65 until the end of the year as well as retail pharmacy copays for all TRICARE beneficiaries,
- A 3.5% Pay Raise for active duty, Guard and Reserve troops,
- A major reduction in select Reserve TRICARE Premiums and,
- Authorization for Preventive Health Services.

However, we will need to look at new attacks on TRICARE fee increases, Medicare/TRICARE Physician reimbursement rates, SBP Offsets and several more. **Stay tuned!**

State Issues

With the State budget crisis the way it is, we really, at this time predict **anything!**

Happy New Year!

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

Retirees Get Some Relief - Next Year

As part of the economic recovery effort, Congress recently passed H.R. 7327, the Worker, Retiree and Employer Recovery Act of 2008, which is now on the President's desk for signature.

This legislation provides a temporary waiver of some required distributions from IRAs and 401(k) plans. The good news is that people age 70½ or older won't be forced to take a distribution from their employer retirement plans next year if they would prefer not to.

Most retirees' plans have taken a beating during the recent stock market decline, and being forced to take money out at the market bottom isn't very attractive for many people who would like to wait and see if the market rebounds before having to take distributions.

The bad news is that the exemption doesn't apply to 2008 distributions, so people age 70½ or older who haven't yet taken a minimum distribution this year will have to do so by the end of December.

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 9 – (Drop out of area) **FOOTE, MRS RICHARD F.** a *BETTY*
Page 22 – (Chg address) **LOSSIUS, ROBERT L. A.** COL USA r *ROMA H.*
707-263-3112 - P. O. BOX 155, UPPER LAKE, CA 95485-0155

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

Do You Need a Living Trust?

As Americans of all ages plan for their family's future, more and more attention is being paid to living trusts—and for a good reason.

Living trusts, also referred to as revocable living trusts, are valid in all 50 states as an alternative method to own property. Assets are transferred from your name into the name of the trust, but you can still maintain complete control because you can name yourself as trustee. The advantages can be significant. For example, a living trust:

- Allows the smooth distribution of assets to heirs or Military Officers Association of America Scholarship Fund at your death and avoids the delay and expense of probate—which, depending on the state, can take up to three years and cost as much as 10 percent of the value of your estate.
- Provides uninterrupted management of your assets if you become ill or incapacitated and have named a successor trustee—eliminating the need for the courts to appoint a conservator or a guardian.
- Protects your privacy; a living trust remains confidential and does not become a matter of public record.

If you choose to establish a living trust, it should be in addition to—not in place of—a will. Although by having a living trust, your will still plays a role, albeit a smaller one, in your estate plan. For example, a will establishes a final cut-off date for creditors bringing claims against your estate, something a living trust cannot do.

In addition, you can add a pour over provision in your will that allows assets not owned by the revocable trust—whether by accident or on purpose, and which pass through the will—to flow into the trust at your death.

While there are many benefits to establishing a living trust, an estate planning attorney can help you determine if a revocable living trust may be right for you.

Please call CAPT Shelley Marshall, USN (Ret.) at 800-234-6622 x169, or e-mail us at shelleym@moaa.org, for more information.

MOAA VOICE

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COL BREY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PERIOD OPEN

The Colonel William G. Brey Scholarship Fund, established in memory of the Redwood Empire Chapter's first president, awards college, vocational, technical, and business school merit scholarships to children, grandchildren or wards of regular or auxiliary members of the chapter. To be eligible, applicants must have graduated (or be about to graduate) from high school, have been accepted (or have reasonable indication of acceptance) by an accredited college, vocational, technical, business, or professional school, and not have previously received a Brey Scholarship award.

Application forms may be obtained by contacting the Scholarship Committee Chairman, LTC Dennis Meredith, 707-996-8819, or at dennismm@comcast.net. Forms may also be obtained by contacting the Chapter Secretary CPT Bob Safreno, Redwood Empire Chapter, MOAA, P.O. Box 2801, Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801; or downloaded from the Chapter Web Page at <http://www.redwoodempiremoaa.us/programs.html>. Deadline for submission of scholarship application and supporting documentation is March 15, 2009. Any questions contact Col. Pete Peterka: 707-542-4076 or LTC Dennis Meredith: 707-996-8819.



Santa Rosa High School Chorus at 2008 Holiday Social

Military Humor

"Though I Fly Through the Valley of Death , I Shall Fear No Evil. For I am at 80,000 Feet and Climbing." - At the entrance to the old SR-71 operating base Kadena , Japan

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DATES TO REMEMBER: (2009)

- Jan 09
 - 22nd Luncheon Meeting
- Feb 09
 - 7th Executive Committee Meeting
 - 26th Luncheon Meeting
- Mar 09
 - 7th Executive Committee Meeting
 - 26th Luncheon Meeting
 - 31st Executive Committee Meeting
- Apr 09
 - 4th Board of Directors Meeting
 - 23rd Luncheon Meeting
- May 09
 - 2nd Executive Committee Meeting
 - 16th Santa Rosa Rose Parade
 - 25th Memorial Day Ceremony
- S.R. Memorial Park
 - 28th Luncheon Meeting &
Honor Scholarship Winners
- Jun 09
 - 6th Executive Committee Meeting
 - * Support The Troops Rally - Santa Rosa
 - * Annual Picnic - Ursline H.S.
- Jul 09
 - 7th Executive Committee Meeting
 - 11th Board of Directors Meeting
 - 23rd Luncheon Meeting
- Aug 09
 - 1st Executive Committee Meeting
 - * Chapter Annual BBQ
 - * Air Show - Schultz County Airport
- Sep 09
 - 5th Executive Committee Meeting
 - * Lobster Feed
 - 29th Executive Committee Meeting
 - * POW/MIA Recognition Day
- Oct 09
 - 3rd Board of Directors Meeting
 - 22nd General Membership Meeting
Election of Officers
- Nov 09
 - 7th Executive Committee Meeting
 - 11th Veterans Day Parade - Petaluma
 - No Luncheon Meeting in November
- Dec 09
 - 5th Executive Committee Meeting
 - 7th Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
 - * Holiday Social
 - * - Dates to announced/confirmed at later date

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

Luncheon, Thursday January 22, 2009

The Quail Inn, On the Golf Course, Oakmont

Socializing 12:00am; Lunch 1pm

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

Starter: Sonoma County Green Salad with balsamic vinaigrette & seasonal vegetables

Entrée: Choice of Baked Snapper with roasted red peppers saffron rice and seasonal veggies or Beef Stroganoff— Ground beef with a creamy mushroom sauce over penne pasta.

Dessert: Warm Berry Cobbler

Coffee, Tea, Rolls and Butter

Please reserve: Seafood ___ Beef ___

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

Speaker: Mort Jarvis, CALMOAA Area 1 Director, who will present the topics discussed at the Lake Tahoe symposium in October.

Name: _____

Guests: _____, _____, _____, _____

Please list the names of all guest, so that we can make NAME TAGS for them too, thank you. If anyone needs transport to this event contact Lee Hoskins at 538-5167 who will arrange transportation for 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**



December photos: left: 2008 Holiday Social and raffle prizes.

Right and below: Pete, at the December 7th Pearl Harbor Survivors annual ceremony. Directly behind him is the Master of Ceremonies Chairman Frank Sennello.

Bottom: Dedication of the Blue Star Memorial in front of the Santa Rosa Veterans building. Sponsored by the National Garden Club, Inc.





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, January 14, 2009. CDR Lee and Esther Royston will be out guest speakers and the topic will be of interest to all of us, Personal Affairs. You won't want to miss this informative program. Lunch will be served at 12 noon. The Telephone Committee will inform you of menu choices. Cost is \$20, all inclusive, and reservations may be made with Susan Linch (538-3342) up to the morning of the day of the meeting. Please remember, the hotel will charge us for any abandoned reservations. They must be informed of cancellation by 10AM the Tuesday before the meeting. This will be a big day for us. Traditionally we will enjoy sharing memorabilia. Please bring any item from the past which has meaning to you. Parliamentary Lee Owen will be installing our new Officers, Shirley Reeves, Treasurer; Mary Tillman, Secretary; Liz Warren, Vice President and Tina Lewis, President. **Dues are due and please send your \$10, directly to Susan Linch at 4825 Glencannon Street, Santa Rosa 95405.**

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