

MOAA



VOICE

Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 39, NUMBER 5

"Serving Those Who Serve America"

MAY 2009

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS



The Scholarship Committee under the leadership of Dennis Meredith did an outstanding job of selecting two candidates for the COL William G. Brey Memorial Scholarship. The recipients are Tiare Hoegerman of Sebastopol and

Alix Warren of Washington State. Their Certificates of Merits will be presented at the May luncheon.

We have a very active summer ahead of us. Lee Hoskins has arranged a World War II half-track for our entry in the Rose Parade on May 16th. On May 25th, Memorial Day, we will lay a wreath at the Avenue of Flags at the memorial ceremony at Santa Rosa Memorial Park. The June picnic will be held on Saturday, June 13th, at Urslin High School under the guidance of Bob Silva.

The Board meeting in early April approved the \$500 donation to MOMS and we approved purchasing flags of all the uniformed services.

Captain Tom Poulter

MOAA BOARD MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Saturday May 2, 2009, 0930 hours - Santa Rosa Vet's Bldg Conference Room.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Saturday, July 11th, 2009, 0930 hours - Santa Rosa Vet's Bldg Conference Room.

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

WELCOME HOME BBQ - IRAQ & AFGHANISTAN VETS

Sonoma County veterans, who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan, will be honored at a "Welcome Home BBQ" on June 27th at the Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building. This event will be hosted by VVA Chapter #223 and other veterans organizations throughout the county. The event runs from 11:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10.00, and can be obtained by contacting Pete Peterka, 707-542-4076 or 707-484-4803, or e-mail at pete-peterka@earthlink.net.

IRAQ -AFGHANISTAN VETS - THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE AND WELCOME HOME.

HEALDSBURG COMMUNITY BAND PRESENTS SOUSA CONCERT

The Healdsburg Community Band will present it's 20th annual Sousa Concert, Sunday, May 3rd, 2009, at the Jackson Theater, 4400 Day School Place, Santa Rosa. Concert begins at 3 p.m., under the baton of Music Director/Conductor Lew Sbrana, in his final portrayal of "The March King". The program will contain a mix of classical selections, light popular tunes of the period, patriotic pieces, and many Sousa marches.

Tickets are available at Copperfield Books in Healdsburg, Levin & Co. Books, and at the door. General admission - \$10., children 12 & under \$5. For information call 707-433-3413.

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

CPT DAVID RAY BRUCE, USA
SPOUSE - KATHY



MENDOCINO SUB-CHAPTER

The Saturday, 11:30 am, 16 May 2009, Luncheon Meeting of the Mendocino County Subchapter, Redwood Empire Chapter, MOAA, will be held at Silver's At The Wharf Restaurant, Noyo Harbor, Fort Bragg. The Wharf management has agreed to let each member, spouse and guest order individually from their scrumptious menu. The management agreed to enclose a private area on their outdoor deck, with fabulous Pacific Ocean, Noyo River and Bridge views for all to enjoy. To help us plan for space needed, please notify Mrs. Myrna Hurst, Tel: 707-468-0146 or email: myrna@pacific.net , or: Ben Booth, Tel: 707-964-2174 or email: booth@mcn.org of the number of attendees in your group. We are still seeking a Guest Speaker, and we solicit your suggestions for a Speaker, on a relevant topic of interest. Please join us for another fabulous meeting with your fellow members, spouses and friends, and by bringing a potential new member or one who hasn't been with us for a while.

Please mark your calendars for May 5th at 9:25 a.m. On that day at that time, the Lake County Board of Supervisors will proclaim Military Appreciation Month in Lake County!

As you may know, May is National Military Appreciation Month. Once again, I requested from Supervisor Rob Brown that our local government take action on the declaration. Once again and without hesitation, in his support of our military and veterans, Rob responded immediately and the matter is on calendar.

Please be present at the Board of Supervisors Chambers (Courthouse) on Tuesday, May 5th at 9:25 a.m. for the reading of the Proclamation. Come out and show your support for our troops, veterans and military families. A few minutes of our time is little to give in light of their sacrifice. If you are a veteran or active duty, please be present so we may honor you!

Ben Booth, Commander.

SONOMA VALLEY SUB-CHAPTER

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, May 14, 2009, and will most likely again be at Mary's Pizza Hut in Boyes Springs. If we come up with a different venue in the meantime, we will contact each member individually. Our speaker this time will be Krishna Kumar, General Manager of Valley of the Moon water District. He will talk to us about the countywide water situation generally, and specifically about mandatory water conservation measures which most likely will be soon imposed by both the Water District and by the City of Sonoma.

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.

LTC Dennis Meredith
Subchapter Representative, Board of Directors

LAKE SUB-CHAPTER

No Report this month

HUMBOLDT/DEL NORTE SUB-CHAPTER

H. W. Gardner, Adjutant - No report

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Bob Mandelstam

Controversial VA Plan Scrapped

The White House has canceled a plan to allow the Department of Veterans Affairs to bill private health-care providers for treatment they provide to veterans for service-connected maladies. The plan, which had drawn heavy criticism from veterans organizations, was scrapped after members of several groups met with President Obama on March 16, and his chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, two days later. Meanwhile, veterans' advocates are pressing the administration to support a bill pending before Congress that would allow lawmakers to approve the VA's medical-care budget a year in advance. If passed, advocates say, health care funding would be more delivered in a more predictable and timely manner.

Army Announces Timetable to End Stop-Loss

Soldiers who remain on duty because Stop-Loss prevents them from leaving will soon receive the \$500 per month they were promised, the Army announced. Also, the number of soldiers affected by Stop-Loss will begin decreasing. Beginning in August, the Army Reserve will no longer mobilize units under Stop-Loss; the National Guard will follow suit in September. The active Army will stop deploying Stop-Loss soldiers in January 2010. Stop-Loss was implemented in 2001, shortly after the terrorist attacks on New York and the Pentagon, in order to maintain troop levels necessary to wage combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. To date, roughly 13,000 soldiers in the three components remain on duty under Stop-Loss.

SSNs To Be Removed From ID Cards

The Department of Defense is removing Social Security numbers from military identification cards, in order to combat identity theft. The process will take place in three phases. By now, all dependents should have received new cards without their Social Security numbers. By the end of the year, all uniformed personnel and retirees will receive new cards. Finally, barcodes will no longer contain embedded Social Security numbers by the end of 2012. When the process is complete, only Geneva Convention cardholders will have the last four digits of their Social Security numbers available on their military identifications. Holders of ID cards will still have to provide their Social Security numbers when using the cards.

Recovery Act Includes DoD Projects

The Defense Department will reap benefits of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to the tune of nearly \$7.4 billion. Among the DoD projects to be funded under the measure:

- Infrastructure and energy-related improvements, \$3.8 billion;
- Military construction, \$2.1 billion (including \$1.3 billion for hospitals);
- Repair, renovation, and energy-related improvements for medical treatment facilities, \$400 million;
- Family and troop housing, \$100 million;
- Assistance for homeowners who must sell their property at a loss, \$600 million;
- Development of near-term energy efficiencies, \$300 million
- The Energy Conservation Investment Program, \$100 million.

TRICARE4u Users Must Change Passwords

Users of TRICARE4u.com who have not logged into their account since Dec. 21 must change their passwords by March 21. The change is necessary, TRICARE officials say, due to a recent system upgrade. It applies to all TRICARE4u beneficiaries, providers, and government users. To comply, users should enter the site at TRICARE4u.com. Beneficiaries should then select "update security information" on their personal profile page. Providers should select "update my account." Government users should select "update security."

CHANGES TO 2009 ROSTER

NOTE: Members need to check their roster for correct information 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 – (Add new) **BRUCE, DAVID RAY CPT USA** r KATHY
707-546-4541 - 4710 LONDONBERRY DRIVE, SANTA ROSA, CA
95403-0000 - dbruce9901@aol.com

Page 8 – (Chg Email) **GRIEWAND, RICHARD J. CWO-4**
navalengineer4@aol.com

Page 10 – (Delete deceased) **KEEFE, JOSEPH F. CDR USN**

Page 10 – (Add) **KEEFE, MYRTLE a**
867 WILDWOOD TRAIL, SANTA ROSA, CA 95409-4420

Page 10 – (Drop No Dues) **KELLY, R. R. RUSS, LtCol USAF**

Page 10 – (Moved) **LEACH, WARREN G. LtCol USAF** r JACKIE E
707-433-3058 - 1431 OAK CIRCLE, HEALDSBURG, CA 95448-4318
geetoe@comcast.net

Page 11 – (Chg Email) **MAHONEY, DANIEL T. LTC USA** –
dtmahoney@att.net

Page 11 – (Drop No Dues) **MARRIOTT, PHILIP C. Maj USAF**

Page 11 – (Delete deceased) **MATHEWS, THOMAS CAPT USN**

Page 11 – (Add) **MATHEWS, BETSY a MRS THOMAS P.** 707-778-6448
- 1980 FALCON RIDGE DRIVE, PETALUMA, CA 94954-5877

Page 11 – (Chg Phone No) **MERRILL, HARRY E. LTC USA**
707-762-5333

Page 12 – (Delete deceased) **PERRY, ANDREW CAPT USNR**

Page 12 – (Add) **PERRY, FRANCES a MRS ANDREW J.** 707-542-6295 -
1520 PARSONS DRIVE, SANTA ROSA, CA 95404-3057

Page 13 – (Chg Email) **SAVATIEL, KARL R. CPT USA**
karl.savatiel@yahoo.com

Page 13 – (Drop No Dues) **SMITH, NORMAN LT USNR**

Page 14 – (Drop No Dues) **STUART, PATRICK LT USN**

Page 14 – (Delete deceased) **SWAN, ROBERT A. CDR USNR**

Page 14 – (Add) **BEVERLY SWAN a MRS ROBERT A.** 707-538-0694
177 MOUNTAIN VISTA PLACE, SANTA ROSA, CA 95409-6411

Page 14 – (Chg Address) **SWANEY, BLANCHE a** 707-538-3655
P. O. BOX 2128, SANTA ROSA, CA 95405-0128

Page 15 – (Chg Rank) **WALLACH, MARTIN A. CWO2 AUS**

Page 15 – (Drop No Dues) **WEAVER, ARTHUR T. LCDR USNR**

Page 15 – (Drop No Dues) **WEINERT, JAMES J. LTC USA**

Personal Affairs Contact at Travis AFB Per Bob Reinking

Denise D. Larmer
Casualty Assistance Representative and Assistant, Survivor Assistance Counselor
60th Mission Support Squadron

60 MSS/DPMS
540 Airlift Drive F107
Travis AFB, CA 94535

W: 707-424-2106
Or 866-819-7250

Denise.larmer-02@travis.af.mil



2009 DATES TO REMEMBER

- 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
 13th Annual Picnic - Ursline H.S.
 30th Executive Committee Meeting
- Jul 09
 11th Board of Directors Meeting
 23rd Luncheon Meeting
- Aug 09
 4th Executive Committee Meeting
 * Chapter Annual BBQ
 15/16th Air Show - Schultz County Airport
- Sep 09
 1st Executive Committee Meeting
 25th 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
 1st Executive Committee Meeting
 7th Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
 * Holiday Social
 * - Dates to announced/confirmed at later date

2009 Medicare handbook

The new Medicare handbook is available for reference or downloading at the site below:
<http://www.medicare.gov/publications/pubs/pdf/10050.pdf> It is a PDF file of 128 printed pages which can be viewed on screen or individual pages may be printed as required.

MOAA VOICE

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

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

Luncheon, Thursday May 28, 2009
The Quail Inn, On the Golf Course, Oakmont

Socializing 11:00am; Lunch 12:00pm
Cost (including tax and tip) - **Price \$20.00**

Starter: Caesar Salad - Hearts of romaine with herbed croutons and shaved asiago
Entrée: Choice of **Pork Tenderloin** with garlic mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetables and pan juices, or **Chicken Pacata** with capers, white wine sauce, saffron rice and seasonal vegetables.
Dessert: Chocolate Kiss.
Coffee, Tea, Rolls and Butter
Please reserve: Pork _____, Chicken _____.

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

Guest Speaker: The speaker will be Col. Renee' Rubin, USAF (Ret), member of Sonoma Valley Sub-Chapter, who will speak on "Stormin' The Hill!".

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**

DECEASED MEMBERS

CDR JOSEPH F. KEEFE, USN

April 9, 2009

CDR ROBERT A. SWAN, USNR

April 7, 2009

CAPT THOMAS P. MATHEWS, USN

November 2008

CAPT ANDREW J. PERRY, USNR

February 16, 2008

THE REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER OFFICERS AND
MEMBERS EXTEND OUR SINCEREST SYMPATHY TO THE
FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF OUR DEPARTED LOVE ONES.

Military Humor:

Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do
- Unknown Marine Recruit

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News from The Affiliate by Tina Lewis

The MOAA Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee has worked hard to offer excellent advice and help on the MOAA Web Base. To access the military surviving spouses section, type into your Internet browser www.moaa.org/survivors. When the homepage comes up, click on whatever topic you are interested in. Some of these topics include articles written by surviving military spouses about their past experiences; community-service projects auxiliary members are working on; lists of books for surviving family members; and publications and services that MOAA offers for military surviving families. You will be taken directly to a page that will display everything MOAA has to offer in whatever category you choose.

If you need help or have additional questions, you can contact the committee at aux-comm@moaa.org.



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)

2009 Officers

President Tina Lewis	539-5546
Vice President Liz Warren	763-6957
Secretary Mary Tillman	584-8350
Treasurer Shirley Reeves	539-7839

The regular May meeting will be on Wednesday, May 13, in the Oak Room at the Flamingo Hotel. Lunch is served promptly at noon and the menu choices are Butternut Squash Ravioli with Toasted Hazelnuts or a Classic Cobb Salad with Grilled Breast of Chicken. The price is \$20, including fancy dessert, beverage, tax and tips. Each month we are reminded that reservations may be made up to the morning of the meeting but cancellations MUST be made on Monday before the meeting. Your Reservations Chairman is Alice Peterka (542-4076). Our program will be an account of "A Yank at Oxford." Peg Steele, who received her PhD at age 70 from Oxford University, will tell us of her adventures in the pursuit. Your hostesses will be Shirley Reeves and Mary Tillman. Family Services Chairman Terry Silva, reports that Betty and Frank Kappeler are back in their home again but ask that no phone calls or visits be made at this time. Dues are well past due for some of us. As we do not have a collection agency, it's up to you to send your \$10 to Membership Chairman Susan Linch at 4825 Glencannon St., Santa Rosa, 95405.

IF YOU ARE SIGNED ON FOR OUR TRIP TO LUNCH (MARIE CALLENDER'S 12 NOON) AND THEATRE (MAME! 2 PM) ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECK TO SUSAN LINCH, MADE OUT IN HER NAME. COST IS \$16.50 PER PERSON. AS SUSAN FINANCED THIS TP, SHE WILL APPRECIATE YOUR RESPONSE NOW.

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

Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2009

President:	CPT Tom Poulter, USA	576-0513
Vice President:	CAPT Jim Curtin, USN	527-9021
Secretary:	CPT Robert R. Safreno, USAR	795-3963
Treasurer:	LTC Pete Rizzo, USA	539-3346
Past President:	Col Louis Peterka, USA	542-4076
Membership:	Vacant	
CAL-MOAA Director, Area 1:	LCOL Bob Huss, USAF	530-876-1090
Directors-at-large - Term 2009 - 2010		
	CPT Lee P. Hoskins, USA	538-5167
	Martina E. Lewis, AUX	539-5546
	LT William P. Matz, USN	837-2161
	LTC Gary T. Meagher, AUS	544-4089
Directors-at-large - Term 2009		
	CDR Don D. Confer, USN	763-8198
	LCOL Kevin Connolly, USAR	544-9338
	CDR Leighton M. Royston, USN	578-4464
	Col Harold R. Warren, USMCR	763-6957
Directors Representing Sub-Chapters:		
Humboldt/Del Norte:	LCDR Howard W. Gardner, USN	443-9627
Lake:	CAPT Daniel W. Christensen, USNR	263-3297
Mendocino:	Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst, AUX	468-0146
Sonoma Valley:	LTC Dennis M. Meredith, USA	996-8819