



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

As we approach "The Holidays", a heck, "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year", we all need to think about what we are thankful for. Live is short, so let's all make the most of it!

The Board of Directors and the Executive Committee met on 1 Dec 09 to re-

view two major items: the Club's fiscal status and adopt a budget for 2010; and, the Committees Chairmanship Appointments.

LTC Pete Rizzo has done an excellent job with the budget process and spent a lot of time outlining various proposals. Folks, if we raise the dues \$5 per year for a total of \$25 annually, we will still be almost \$1,600 per year short. We discussed how to help make up this shortfall. It was decided that all profits from the raffles should go into the general fund (about \$900 per year) so the short fall will be about \$700 annually. The Board all felt that we could live with that. The general membership will vote on the dues increase at the Christmas Social.

Please volunteer for a committee as we need everybody's help.

CPT Lee Hoskins
President 2009

MOAA BOARD MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: January 5th, 2010, 0930 hours - Santa Rosa Vet's Bldg Conference Room.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: April 10, 2010, 0930 hours - Santa Rosa Vet's Bldg Conference Room.

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

CHAPTER AWARDED 4-STAR LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



The Redwood Empire Chapter was honored with the award of a 4-Star Level of Excellence Award for it's overall operations during the year 2008. Presenting the award was General Richard Neal, USMC (Retired), Chairman of the MOAA Board of Directors. Col. Pete Peterka accepted the award on behalf of the chapter.

A Young Executive was leaving the office at 6:00pm, when he found the boss standing in front of a shredder with a piece of paper in hand.

"Listen," said the boss, "this is important, and my secretary has left. Can you make this thing work?"

"Certainly, sir," said the young executive. He turned the machine on, inserted the paper, and pressed the start button.

"Excellent, excellent!" said the boss as his paper disappeared inside the machine. "I just need one copy."



MENDOCINO SUB-CHAPTER

A hearty group of members, spouses and guests met for our 21 November Luncheon Meeting at Jensen's Restaurant, Ukiah. The members decided to make an additional contribution to the wonderful Operation Tango Mike (Thanks Much), a tax free charity, which solicits, purchases, packs and sends a myriad of comfort items to our men and women in the Armed Forces, who are in harm's way. The Operation Tango Mike founder, Mrs. Ginny Craven, has spoken at several of our luncheon meetings, and has a great presentation showing some of their many wonderful activities. If you would like to help them out, just Google for "Operation Tango Mike", for their web page, telephone numbers and email address. They are very successful at helping our brave men and women get comfort item stuff that is hard or impossible to get in combat zones. Our next Luncheon Meeting will be at 11:30 am, Saturday, January 16th, 2010, at Jensen's Restaurant, Ukiah. Please notify Myna Hurst, Tel: 468-0146, or email: myrna@pacific.net or Ben Booth, 964-2174 or email: booth@mcn.org for planning purposes. Also try to bring a new prospect or a member or spouse who needs your help to join our happy band. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Ben Booth, Commander

SONOMA VALLEY SUB-CHAPTER

Our meeting on November 12, 2009 was again in the meeting room at The Palms Grill. Once again we had a small but loyal group attend, and I believe we all enjoyed the opportunity to spend some time together. This time we decided that we would not have a program and speaker, but would instead enjoy friendly conversation and camaraderie. I believe everyone who attended agrees that this was a good choice for this gathering. Our only official business was election of subchapter officers for 2010. The group unanimously voted to re-elect our 2009 officers: BK White as Commander, Ted Chenoweth as Vice Commander, and Dennis Meredith as subchapter representative on Chapter Board of Directors.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 13, 2010. There was a conflict for the meeting room at The Palms Grill on our normal meeting date of the second Thursday of the month, so we moved the meeting up by one day. We will email and/or call everyone with a reminder as usual.

Once again, we do not have a speaker scheduled. Our members seem to like the less structured format, with more time for socializing and enjoying the camaraderie of our small but loyal regulars. We encourage everyone to come a little early on January 13th and enjoy some camaraderie and perhaps a libation before we start.

LTC Dennis Meredith,
Subchapter Representative, Board of Directors

LAKE SUB-CHAPTER

The December 17 meeting of Lake County's subchapter of MOAA, Military Officers Association of America's, will have a Christmas theme. MOAA's meeting/luncheon is scheduled for 12 p.m. at Zino's Restaurant on Soda Bay Road.

According to the chapter's commander, Navy Captain Dan Christensen, members will be exchanging gifts at the luncheon.

Other chapter officers are Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Linda Morrison, Adjutant, and Army Colonel Dave Hulme, Vice Commander.

Genevieve Snow

HUMBOLDT/DEL NORTE SUB-CHAPTER

H. W. Gardner, Adjutant - No report this month

SONOMA COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TEMPORARY CLOSURE NOTICE

From Chris Bingham, the Sonoma County Veterans Service Officer (707.565.5960):

Most offices of the Human Services Department will be closed beginning December 24th 2009, and will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, January 4th, 2010. This closure is due to an unpaid leave for employees, one of several cost savings measures adopted to balance the budget and preserve essential county services throughout the year. We appreciate your patience and understanding during the time that our offices are closed.

The following emergency services will continue to be provided during this time:

Child Protective Services Hotline 707-565-4304 or 800-870-7064; Elder and Dependent Abuse Hotline 707-565-5940 or 800-667-0404; Public Administrator/Guardian/Conservator 707-565-5735 (emergency assistance for open cases)

DD-214'S ARE NOW ONLINE

It's official, DD-214's are NOW Online. Please pass it on to other vets. The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214's online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/> or (<http://www.vetrecs.archives.gov/>)

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new on-line military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the website. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that often occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service to these requests by eliminating the records center mailroom and processing time. Additional documents and services such as awards and medals eligibility, replacement medals, benefits and claims, health and medical records, etc., can be provided by NPRC upon request.

Please pass this information on to all retired military service members and their dependents and to all veterans you know. Be sure to log on and check out this useful website.

TRICARE STREAMLINES PHARMACY BENEFITS

Service members and their families will be able to use a single toll-free phone number (877) 363-1303 - when obtaining or refilling retail, specialty, or mail-order prescriptions through TRICARE, the network of military health-care providers. The change is among several TRICARE adopted when it combined mail-order and retail pharmacies under a single contract, provided by St. Louis-based Express Scripts Inc. The change follows an industry-wide trend. Officials are hopeful that beneficiaries will find the new system easier to navigate, while the health-care system saves money.

More information is available on the Web at www.tricare.mil/pharmacy or www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE.

ARE YOU OVERWEIGHT?

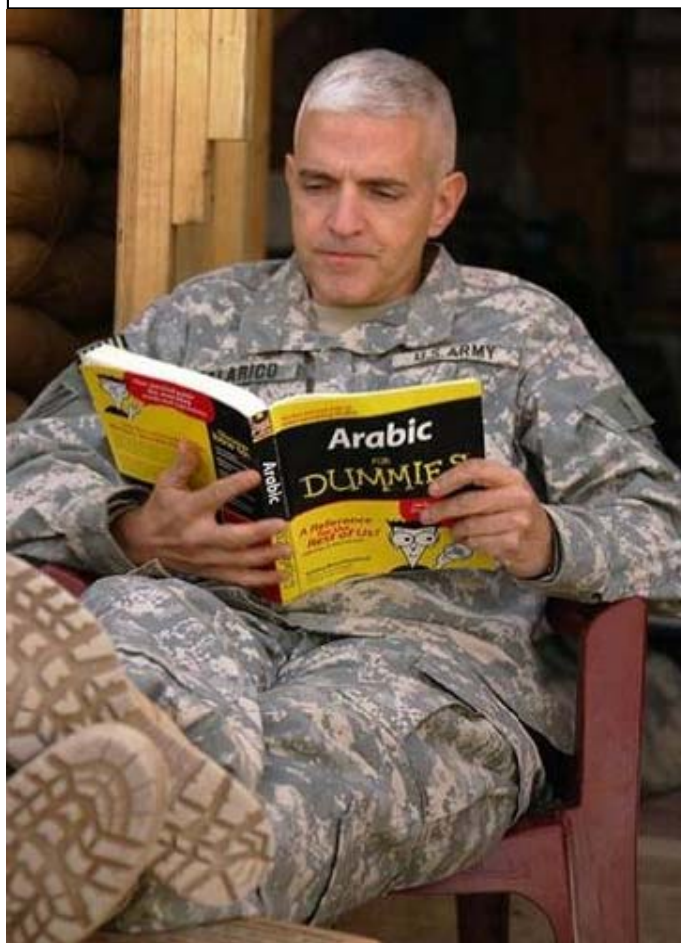
You can calculate your body to see if you are OVERWEIGHT.

Divide your weight in pounds by your height in inches squared. Then multiply that number by 703. This will equal your Body Mass Index (BMI). If BMI is over 25, a person is overweight. If the BMI is over 30, a person is obese.

Easier yet is to go to www.cdc.gov/healthyweight/assessing/bmi/. Click on the appropriate calculator; enter your height and weight; click on "Calculate" and it'll do all the work for you.

Information received from the MOAA, Alta California Chapter.

MILITARY WISDOM/HUMOR



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SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

From The COL William G. Brey Scholarship Committee:

The application period for COL William G. Brey Scholarships will open on January 1, 2010, and will close on March 15, 2010. Closing date is firm. Those eligible to apply for scholarship assistance are children, wards, and lineal descendants (including grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren, natural or adopted) of living or deceased officer, warrant officer, or auxiliary members of the Chapter. Scholarship eligibility is limited to those pursuing undergraduate academic and professional certificate programs. Applications will not be accepted for support of graduate studies.

Our experience is that it can take several weeks for prospective applicants to gather all the required supporting documentation, then prepare and submit the completed applications before the cutoff date. We therefore recommend that Chapter members advise eligible family members of scholarship availability and contact information early enough to give them sufficient reaction time.

Application forms are in process of an update revision, but will be available in December. They may be obtained by writing to:

Secretary, Redwood Empire Chapter MOAA
PO Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

or by directly contacting

Scholarship Committee Chairman

Dennis Meredith
615 Fano Lane
Sonoma, CA 95476
707-996-8819, or dennismm@comcast.net

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2010 DATES TO REMEMBER

January – 2010

1st Dues for 2010 (\$25.00) are now due
5th Executive Committee meeting
(None) Board meeting
15th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information.
27th United Veterans Council meeting
28th Luncheon, Oakmont – Installation of Officers 2010

February:

1st Proposed target date to publish the 2010 Roster
2nd Executive Committee meeting
15th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
24th United Veterans Council meeting
25th Luncheon, Oakmont

March:

1st Members who have not paid dues will be dropped.
2nd Executive Committee meeting
15th Deadline for submission Scholarship Applications
15th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
24th United Veterans Council meeting
25th Luncheon, Oakmont

April:

6th Executive Committee Meeting
10th BOARD MEETING - Scholarship winners
15th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
22nd Luncheon, Oakmont
28th United Veterans Council meeting

May:

4th Executive Committee Meeting
15th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
15th Armed Forces Day – Rose Parade, Santa Rosa
26th United Veterans Council meeting
27th Luncheon – Honor Scholarship Recipients
31st Memorial Day Ceremonies

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

Luncheon, Thursday January 28, 2010

The Quail Inn, On the Golf Course, Oakmont

Socializing 11:00am; Lunch noon

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

Starter: Sonoma mixed greens with seasonal vegetables and balsamic vinaigrette

Entrée: 1. Chicken Picata w/lemon, capers & white wine. Rice pilaf & Seasonal veg.

2. Baked Red Snapper w/ roasted red peppers, rice pilaf & seasonal veg.

Dessert: Warm Berry Cobbler

Coffee, Tea, (Iced Tea) Rolls and Butter

Please Reserve ___ Chicken ___ 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 (Fully Tax Deductible)

And/or \$_____ for the Military Support Fund

And/or \$_____ to help defray costs you may also donate to the Chapter General Fund.

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

Name: _____, Phone: (____) _____

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

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

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

DONATIONS MADE IN AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, AND OCTOBER 2009

Scholarship Fund

Ann Bulawsky
Kevin Connolly
Jack Krout
Tina Lewis
John HC Riley
Hal Warren
Bob Wicklund

Military Support Fund

Kevin Connolly
Jack Krout
Tina Lewis
Owen Reeves
Bob Wicklund
John Withers
Sally Wright

DECEASED MEMBERS

COLONEL JAMES C. FITZ- PATRICK, USAF (RET) DECEASED NOVEMBER 19TH, 2009

He joined the U.S. Army Air Corps and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1943 and had 30 years of active service. Col. Fitzpatrick resided in Bodega Bay and is survived by his wife, Mary.

A memorial service was held on Tuesday, December 1st, 2009 at St. Phillips Catholic Church in Occidental at 1100 hours. Internment will be at the Arlington National Cemetery.

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



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 meeting will be at the Flamingo Hotel on Wednesday, January 13. This will be the Installation meeting and new Committee Chairmen will be announced. Your Telephone Committee will advise you of the program and menu choices. The cost may be raised to \$21.

Please contact Alice Peterka at 542-4076 for reservations up to the evening before the meeting but to cancel, you must advise her by the Monday preceding the meeting. Family Services Chairman, Terry Silva, has sent cards to Treasurer Shirley Reeves and Peg Smith. Your Board has determined that we will enjoy one fine gift, to be awarded by raffle, instead of the smaller table prizes.

Connie Miller, Publicity 563-8311
 Konkrest at aol.com

REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2010

President:	CPT Lee P. Hoskins, USA	538-5167
1st Vice President:	CDR Don D. Confer, USN	763-8198
2nd Vice President:	Col Harold R. Warren, USMCR	763-6957
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 2010		
	Martina E. Lewis, AUX	539-5546
	LT William P. Matz, USN	837-2161
	LTC Gary T. Meagher, AUS	544-4089
	LCOL Robert G. Reinking, USAF	575-7873
Directors-at-large - Term 2010/2011		
	LCOL Kevin Connolly, USAR	544-9338
	MAJ Robert Mandelstam, ARMY	537-8724
	CWP-4 Robert J. Silva, USCG	544-6445
	CAPT Robert M. Wicklund, USN	538-3344
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