

MOAA



VOICE

Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 40, NUMBER 2

“Serving Those Who Serve America”

MARCH 2010



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Dennis and Laurell Meredith along with other members of the Scholarship Committee are doing a superb job of helping the next generations get their educational funding. The Meredith's dedication to assisting others by chairing this important committee is what MOAA is all about!

By getting involved, all of us benefit! Please think about MOAA as something more than a monthly luncheon. As we all know, life is short and we all want to be remembered as someone who did more than was asked; we did what was needed.

Hal Warren is chairing the Membership Committee. He is working real hard to help our chapter grow. Please do your part and help recruit new members.

CPT Lee Hoskins
President 2010

MOAA BOARD MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: March 6th, 2010, 0900 - Santa Rosa Vet's Bldg Conference Room.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: March 6th, 2010, 0930 Santa Rosa Vet's.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: April 10, 2010 - Santa Rosa Vet's.

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

GUEST SPEAKER

For

Luncheon, Thursday March 25, 2010

Our own Chapter member Col Pete Peterka, Past President, will be our guest speaker for the March 25th Luncheon. The topic of his presentation is "Personal Affairs - Survivor Assistance". This program should help our current and future surviving spouses at their time of need.

JOIN MOAA ON A CRUISE

CHAPTER MEMBERS RECEIVE SPECIAL INCENTIVES

MOAA is hosting its first Signature Cruise to Alaska on Holland America's *Zaandam*, Sept. 24. All MOAA members and their family and friends are invited to join MOAA President Vice Adm. Norb Ryan Jr., USN-Ret., on this seven-day roundtrip cruise from Seattle to Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, and Glacier Bay, Alaska. The MOAA Travel cruise package includes two cocktail parties, three MOAA-exclusive shore excursions, travel insurance, pre-paid gratuities, a complimentary dinner for two at the ship's four-star Pinnacle Grill, a complimentary photo, and more.

Because MOAA chapter members are so involved with the association's mission, MOAA Travel has added two chapter-incentive contests to this package. To win, your chapter has to have the most members (including family and friends) from one chapter on board or the highest percentage of members (including family and friends from one chapter on board. The two winning chapters each will receive a recognition streamer and a seven-day resort stay to use for fundraising, membership-development purposes, etcetera.

For more information on MOAA's Alaska Signature Cruise contests or the Wounded Warrior Resort Giveaway, e-mail Loye Eschenburg at loyee@moaa.org. To book a cabin on MOAA's inaugural Signature Cruise, call MOAA Travel toll-free at (866)724-4462.

*Above article has been condensed and edited.
"The Affiliate" March 2010*



MENDOCINO SUB-CHAPTER

Our next Luncheon Meeting will be at 11:30 am, on 20 March 2010, at Jensen's Restaurant, Ukiah. Plan now to join us for another fun and informative luncheon meeting!

Ben Booth, Commander

SONOMA VALLEY SUB-CHAPTER

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 11, 2010, at The Palms Grill, 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 group of regulars. We encourage everyone to come a little early on March 11th and enjoy some conversation and perhaps a libation before we start.

LTC Dennis Meredith,
Subchapter Representative
Board of Directors

LAKE SUB-CHAPTER

At an Operation Tango Mike fundraising breakfast on January 24, Dan Christensen, President of Lake County's Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), presented a check for \$150 to Ginny Craven, founder of Operation Tango Mike. The gift is intended to help defray monthly costs of shipping packages to troops deployed overseas. Last June, MOAA also contributed to the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 951 project when the group introduced the Moving Wall to Lakeport.

MOAA is an association open to all individuals who served as officers in any branch of the United States armed forces. The group meets on the third Thursday every other month at Zino's Restaurant in Soda Bay.

The guest speaker for the February 18 luncheon was Katrina Howard of the Orchard Park retirement facility in Clearlake.

For more information, contact Dan Christensen at 263-3297, Dave Hulme at 987-2612 or

Linda Morrison at 263-4504.

LT Genevieve Snow, USNR

Dan Christensen, President of Lake County's Subchapter, MOAA, shows the check



(PHOTO COURTESY OF DAN CHRISTENSEN)

HUMBOLDT/DEL NORTE SUB-CHAPTER

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

HAVE YOU HEARD? Confucius Say:

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.

None at this time.

NEW 2010 ROSTER TO BE PUBLISHED IN EARLY MARCH

Man who eat many prunes get good run for money.

War does not determine who is right, war determine who is left.

Wife who put husband in doghouse soon find him in cat-house.

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DOD BUDGET ON PAY RAISE, CONCURRENT RECEIPT, TRICARE FEES

2010/02/05

The Pentagon rolled out its FY2011 defense budget this week, proposing a \$549 billion base budget (a 3.4% increase over 2010) and \$159 billion more to support war operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

During testimony before the House and Senate Armed Services Committee this week, Secretary of Defense Gates outlined three major priorities in the DoD base budget:

- Strengthening the nation's commitment to the all-volunteer force
- Rebalancing America's defense posture to prevail in current conflicts
- Continuing DoD's commitment to reform, especially in acquisition

Highlights of initiatives proposed in the new budget include:

Pay Raise - A military pay increase of only 1.4%. This would match private sector pay growth between 2008 and 2009. But it would be the lowest military raise since 1963. If enacted, it would be the first year since 1999 without at least some progress in reducing a basic pay raise gap that still stands at 2.4%.

Concurrent Receipt - The budget again proposes a five-year plan to phase out the disability offset to military retired pay for all members whose service-caused conditions forced them into medical retirement.

Congress failed to enact a similar proposal last year after being unable to identify cost offsets.

Family Support - The budget provides \$8.8 billion - an increase of \$450 million from last year - to emphasize the importance of child support and youth programs, spouse employment, commissaries, and schools.

Health Care - The budget proposes \$50.7 billion to fully fund the Defense Health Program without any TRICARE fee increases for retirees.

When asked about rising health costs, Secretary Gates made it clear he thinks retiree fees should rise. "There has not been an increase in the premium for TRICARE since the program was founded in 1995," he said. "I ask anybody to point me to a health insurance program that has not had a premium increase in 15 years...We absolutely want to take care of our men and women in uniform and our retirees, but at some point, there has to be some reasonable tradeoff between reasonable cost increases or premium increases or co-pays or something and the cost of the program."

Gates said that when DoD previously proposed fee hikes and cut the budget to reflect that, Congress refused to make the increases, so the funding shortfall had to be made up. Rather than facing that scenario again, DoD has proposed full program funding, and looks to Congress for any action on TRICARE fees.

Source: MOAA Legislative News

HAVE YOU HEARD? Confucius Say:

Man who run in front of car get tired.

Man who run behind car get exhausted.

Man with one chopstick go hungry.

Man who scratch butt should not bite fingernails.



DECEASED MEMBER



MAJOR RICHARD C. SHARKEY, USAFR
DECEASED FEBRUARY 14, 2010

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



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

From The COL William G. Brey Scholarship Committee:

The application period for COL William G. Brey Scholarships opened on January 1, 2010, and will close on **March 15, 2010**. Closing date is firm. An additional reminder in the form of a one-page flier was mailed to each member of the Chapter in December.

We have already provided application packets to several prospective scholarship applicants.

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 now available. They may be obtained by writing to:

Secretary, Redwood Empire Chapter, MOAA
P. O. 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 707-996-8819
dennismm@comcast.net

MOAA VOICE

Editor Tim Morgan 707-695-9293, blkcloud@sonic.net
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Online <http://www.redwoodwmpiremoaa.us>

2010 DATES TO REMEMBER

March:

1st Members who have not paid dues will be dropped.
6th Executive Committee Meeting
6th Board 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

June:

1st Executive Committee Meeting
15th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
19th MOAA Picnic at Ursuline High School

MILITARY WISDOM/HUMOR

'Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons.'

- General MacArthur

(A Sonoma County Main Chapter event; all members are more than welcome)
To Secretary, MOAA, Redwood Empire Chapter, P.O. Box 2801, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Luncheon, Thursday March 25, 2010
The Quail Inn, On the Golf Course, Oakmont

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

Starter: Caesar Salad

Entrée: 1. **Sautéed breast of Sonoma County chicken Picata w/ lemon, capers white wine & rice.**
2. **Beef Stroganoff - Beef w/ a creamy mushroom sauce over penne pasta.**

Dessert: Warm Berry Cobbler

Coffee, Tea, (Iced Tea) Rolls and Butter

Please Reserve ___ Chicken ___ 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 (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.

Pete Peterka is the speaker and will speak on personal affairs.

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.

**NEWS FROM THE AFFILIATE
BY MARTINA LEWIS**

Just a reminder about ordering prescriptions. If you are near a military base, you can fill your prescriptions for free at a military treatment facility (MTF). However, most people don't live close enough to a base to warrant traveling the distance to fill prescriptions. Most people would benefit more by using The Mail Order Pharmacy (TMPO) through Express Scripts. Ordering from Express Scripts allows you to get a 90-day supply of most drugs, as opposed to a 30-day supply at pharmacies. Express Scripts will notify you by computer or phone of your prescriptions' shipping dates and will ship them to a temporary address if you are traveling. There are no shipping charges. TMPO will contact your doctor when an annual prescription renewal is due, or you may mail the renewal prescription to them. Medications requiring refrigeration are shipped in cold packs, but they cannot be left outside for a long time. To avoid this, ask a neighbor to pick them up or call TMPO to see when the

delivery is expected to be made so that you can make arrangements to be home. It's easy to enroll in TMPO. Either call 877-363-1303 or visit www.expressscripts.com/tricare.

TAX INFO ONLINE FROM MOAA:

1. The 2010 MOAA Tax Guide now is available! Whether you're comparing tax information by state to plan your retirement or getting the latest state tax forms, the MOAA Tax Guide is your best online tax resource. <http://www.moaa.org/taxguide>
2. Will New Tax Laws Affect My Estate Plan? It's an extraordinarily uncertain time — tax-wise, that is. This is the first year in decades that American tax law repealed the federal estate tax. As of Jan. 1, 2010, federal estate taxes are repealed for any deaths that occur during this calendar year, regardless of the size of that person's estate (state estate/inheritance taxes still will apply). <http://www.plan.gs/Article.do?orgId=971&articleId=12805>

MOAA WIVES CLUB

(Sonoma County Main - All members welcome)

2010 Officers

President Tina Lewis	539-5546
Vice President Alice Peterka	542-4076
Secretary Mary Tillman	584-8350
Treasurer Shirley Reeves	539-7839
Parliamentarian Lee Owen	537-1282

The regular meeting will be at the Flamingo Hotel on Wednesday, March 10th. Our program will be presented by Robert Brady, violinist. Your Telephone Committee will advise you of menu choices and the all inclusive cost is \$21. If the Telephone Committee does not reach you, please call Reservations Chairman Helen Gregory (528-4677). Reservations may be made up to the evening before the meeting but cancellations must be made by the Monday preceding the meeting. The February Memorabilia display was small but most interesting. Sally Wright displayed her necklaces of charms collected over the years. The necklace grew from the abundance of charms on her bracelets and represented her years in service, visits to other countries and family mementos. Barbara Confer displayed a wonderful collection of tiny dolls and an antique "farm" complete with little wooden barn and animals. Among the animals was a tiny elephant which! Barbara, herself, found somewhat incongruous. Family Services Chairman, Terry Silva told us that our Treasurer, Shirley Reeves, is not doing well and she has sent Shirley a card. Your Board has determined that we will dispense with prizes at each meeting. Our budget dictates the change.

Connie Miller, Publicity 563-8311
Conkrest@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:	Col Harold R. Warren, USMCR	763-6957
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
	CWO-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

Return Service Requested

Secretary/Treasurer - MOAA, Redwood Empire Chapter
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