



Military Officers Association of America  
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 40, NUMBER 3

"Serving Those Who Serve America"

APRIL 2010



## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

When we read, watch TV and listen to the radio, we are constantly bombarded with "bad" news. Now for some "good" news: MOAA Scholarship Committee has received four applications!! It shows that some young people

still want an education and are willing to work hard to get it. A very special thanks to Chairman Dennis Meredith for all his efforts running this committee.

Our good friend Gary Meagher is slowly on the road to recovery from his operation. I know we all wish him well and miss seeing him! We will be up and about soon.

Coming up in May is the Santa Rosa Rose Parade. We have got the same 1943 "half-track" for our "float platform", so if you have never ridden in such a rare but so distinctive vehicle which was the ion of WWII, please join fellow MOAA fellow members by riding in the Rose Parade. You don't have to have a uniform.

Look forward to our next luncheon at Quail Inn in Oakmont this 25 March.

CPT Lee Hoskins  
President 2010

## GUEST SPEAKER

For

**Luncheon, Thursday April 22, 2010**

Our speaker for April will be Ron Beiden, past Camp/SAC Division Director and then retired as Juvenile Services Division Director for Sonoma County. He will be speaking on the programs that the county has set up for our juveniles. It is a very interesting subject.



## DECEASED MEMBER



**LENORE JORDAN**  
AUXILIARY MEMBER  
DECEASED APRIL, 2009

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

## A BIG WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

OF THE

**REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER**

**LCDR DUANE COPPOCK, USCG**

## MOAA BOARD MEETINGS

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** April 10th, 2010, 0930 Santa Rosa Vet's.

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



## MENDOCINO SUB-CHAPTER

The Mendocino County Subchapter, of MOAA is met on Saturday, at 11:30 am, 20 March 2010, at Jensen's Restaurant, 1550 Lover's Lane at North State Street, Ukiah. Past President Colonel Pete Peterka and Lt. Col. Dennis Meredith of the Redwood Empire Chapter were our guests. A wonderful spirit of camaraderie and a feeling of gratitude for our shared service to our county was experienced by all the members, spouses and guests. The next meeting of the Mendocino County Subchapter will be held on Saturday, May 22nd at 11:30 am at Silver's at the Wharf, Noyo Harbor, Fort Bragg. Both of these meeting places allows us to order from an extensive menu of great food and libations for their bars. Plan now to join us and try to bring prospective members or members and spouses who may need your help to attend our fine meetings.

Sincerely, Ben Booth, President

## SONOMA VALLEY SUB-CHAPTER

Our March 11, 2010 gathering was once again held in the meeting room at The Palms Grill. We had an encouraging number of loyal members attend, and it was a very happy and pleasant gathering.

As has been our recent practice, we did not schedule a program and speaker, but Mal Rivkins kindly took a few minutes to tell the group of some interesting and amusing experiences from his time in the advertising business involving the use of unusual and unpredictable live animals. The members really enjoyed his brief talk, and we thank him for doing so.

Our next meeting will again be at The Palms Grill at noon on Thursday, May 13, 2010. Please come and enjoy visiting with fellow subchapter members. We will once again email and call all members with reminders.

LTC Dennis Meredith,  
Subchapter Representative  
Board of Directors

## LAKE SUB-CHAPTER

No report this month

## HUMBOLDT/DEL NORTE SUB-CHAPTER

No report this month

## POW UPDATE FROM PETE PETERKA: MARCH 7, 2010

AMERICANS RECOVERED: 1,720 Americans are still listed by Defense POW/MIA Office (DPMO) as missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. The number of Americans returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is now 863, though another 63 US personnel were recovered post-incident and identified before the end of the war, bringing the total to 926. Of the 1,720 unreturned veterans still missing and unaccounted for, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnam's wartime control.

Source: National League of POW/MIA Families

## 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.
- 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 cathouse.
- Man who drive like hell, bound to get there.
- Man who live in glass house should change clothes in basement.
- Man who fish in other man's well often catch crabs.
- Crowded elevator smell different to midget.

Publication Title: **MOAA VOICE** is a newsletter of the Redwood Empire Chapter, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). Statement of Frequency: Published monthly. Authorized organization's name and address: MOAA Redwood Empire Chapter, PO Box 2801, Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801. Cost of publication: **FREE**

## RECENT EMAIL FROM BEN BOOTH:

Dear Editor and Ms. Kris Van Hegle:

The Mendocino County Subchapter, Redwood Empire Chapter, MOAA, has supported the US Army Recruiters in Mendocino County, CA, since

9/11. Later MOAA signed a MOU with US Army Recruiting Command to do the same. My wife Barbara and our local MOAA members and spouses, support them by introducing them and their families to local people, as guests at our meetings, include them with the VFW,

American Legion, US Coast Guard, and MOAA floats in the local 4th of July, Labor day/Paul Bunyan days parades and Memorials. We also invite them to our homes and take them out to lunch and dinner in local restaurants. They are inspiring and wonderful!



Here are some recent photos of Staff Sergeants Sean Kallery, and Robert Melton, with my photographer friend,: Sergei Nelson's girlfriend: Katya, in front of the Century 21 Fort Bragg Realty Office, where I work, and having lunch at "The Wharf" at Noyo Harbor, Fort Bragg, CA, with views of the harbor and the Pacific Ocean. We are all proud and grateful for their selfless service and the brave combat records of these patriotic men and women. God Bless them and their families and loved ones. Please forward this email and photos to Ms. Kris Van Hegle of your staff. She wrote a nice piece about our Subchapter some years ago.

Most Sincerely, Lt. Col. Ben Booth, US Regular Army (Ret.), Active Duty from Oct. 1949 through August 1975.

**NOTE: By the time you receive the your copy of the April MOAA VOICE, you should have already received your printed copy of the 2010 roster. If you have not and you desire a copy, please contact Secretary, Robert Safreno (707-795-3963).**

## CHANGES TO 2010 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 8 - (Add new) COPPOCK, DUANE LCDR USCG r 707-546-4388 - 1014 HOPPER AVENUE #435, SANTA ROSA, CA 95403 [duanecpko@comcast.net](mailto:duanecpko@comcast.net)**

**Page 9 - (Chg Phone No.) GAMBLE, AMY M. 707-799-8051**

**Page 9 - (Delete Deceased) JORDAN, Jr., LENORE**

**Page 12 - (Chg E-mail) REINKING, ROBERT G. LtCol USAF [rgreinking@live.com](mailto:rgreinking@live.com)**

**Page 22 - (Chg Address) SKEZAS, GEORGE C. CAPT USN 2119 POPPY LANE, WILLITS, CA 95490-8518**

**Page 24 - (Chg E-mail) GREY, THOMAS L. Maj USAFR [greytjlk@att.net](mailto:greytjlk@att.net)**

The Chapter ByLaws are not included in the 2010 Roster. You will find them on the Wed site, or by getting a copy from your Chapter Secretary. They were last revised January 22, 2009

## FROM MOAA PRESIDENT: NATIONAL HEALTH REFORM AND YOU

In recent days, we've seen a barrage of information (and misinformation, in many cases) about how national health reform legislation might affect currently serving and retired Servicemembers and their families.

Now that President Obama has signed the initial legislation into law, I want to lay out for you what we know.

The biggest question on our members' minds has been: "How will passage of national health reform legislation affect me?" For members under age 65, based on what we know so far, the answer appears to be, "Not much, if at all."

There are some changes to Medicare, but it remains to be seen what the real impact of those may be over time. The most significant of them is likely to be some reduction of availability of Medicare Advantage HMOs.

In the meantime, MOAA has prepared answers to the most-frequently asked questions that we hope you'll find useful.

Unfortunately, there already are messages flying around the internet to the effect that "I heard this will end TRICARE" or "This will force military people to buy other coverage." That's simply not true. If you get such messages, please help educate the senders with MOAA's answers.

As MOAA has said from the beginning, everyone we've talked to in the Administration or the House or the Senate, of either political party, supports protecting military and VA beneficiaries from adverse effects associated with national health reform.

Just to be sure, MOAA and loyal members like you generated more than 100,000 messages to Congress urging protection of the unique military and VA health benefits and protection against any taxation of those benefits. And your voices were heard.

In as clear an indication of that as anyone could ask for, the House unanimously passed separate legislation explicitly citing TRICARE as "qualifying health coverage" for purposes of the new law. The Senate is working now to pass the same legislation. VA care and TRICARE For Life already were explicitly designated in law. That means eligible beneficiaries of those programs won't be subject to financial penalties that can be imposed on people who don't have qualifying insurance.

That said, let's be clear on another key issue.

Can anyone guarantee that there will never be any unfavorable changes to military and VA programs? No.

Do we know for sure how all the details will play out? No.

There's always a potential for unintended consequences, and there's always the potential for new ini-

tiatives to arise (see below).

But if you were worried that national health reform legislation is somehow aimed at whacking military beneficiaries' health coverage, that's just not so.

Frankly, we think the much more significant issue for Medicare – and for the military community and the rest of America -- is what proposed changes will be recommended by the new National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform that's supposed to report by Dec. 1 on options to reduce the national debt.

You have my personal pledge that MOAA will continue to be vigilant as implementation of national health reform proceeds – and as the new debt commission proposals become known – and your association will continue to do everything in our power to protect your interests and your service-earned health benefits.

All the best, VADM Norb Ryan Jr., USN (Ret) President

## BOOKS AND GUIDES - MOAA INFO EXCHANGE®

Reap the benefits of membership when you use the award-winning MOAA Info Exchange® - your most reliable resource for plain-English guidance on maximizing your hard-earned military benefits.

MOAA's long history of counseling officers in all stages of life and career gives us the insight and expertise needed to provide you with reliable and accurate guidance. For fastest service, call toll-free (800) 234-6622 to place your order. Be sure to provide your membership number to receive your Member discount\*\*!

Attention Life Members: Call your special access phone number to receive priority order status.



### Help Your Survivors Now: A Guide to Planning Ahead

One of the most important gifts you can give your family is a well-thought-out plan to take care of them after you're gone. This 80-page book guides you through ensuring your hard-earned military benefits are available to your survivors. With easy-to-follow charts, contact information, and sample forms, this comprehensive guide also includes

the tear-out Personal Affairs Workbook (a \$7.95 value) to help you keep your affairs in order.

### Survivor's Checklist: First Steps for Moving On

Keep this checklist on hand to refer to when dealing with a death in the family. While not exhaustive, this list is intended as reminder for surviving spouses about the many subjects that need attention at the time of death of an MOAA member.

[http://www.moaa.org/usergroup/usergroup\\_group\\_pubs\\_infoex/default.htm](http://www.moaa.org/usergroup/usergroup_group_pubs_infoex/default.htm)



## GENERAL EFFECTS ON TRICARE AND VA CARE (FROM MOAA)

**Q1. I heard the new legislation will roll TRICARE into a massive government health care program. Is this true?**

A1. Definitely not.

**Q2. I've seen message traffic saying the new legislation poses a "sneak attack on TRICARE." Is that true?**

A2. The Senate bill language has been public for months, and we don't believe there was any intent to disadvantage TRICARE beneficiaries, though it didn't explicitly state that TRICARE is "qualifying coverage." Just to make it clear, the House unanimously passed separate legislation on March 20, deeming TRICARE as "qualifying coverage" under the new law. On the Senate side, S. 3148 and S. 3162 have just been introduced to deem TRICARE "qualifying coverage". MOAA has written letters of support and we are hopefully they will pass the Senate soon. Defense Secretary Gates has issued a statement asserting that health reform "won't have a negative effect on TRICARE."

Everyone in the Administration and in the House and Senate, of both parties, agrees TRICARE and VA coverage must be held harmless. But there's been inevitable debate among legislators about who cares most and who's doing what to protect troops and vets.

MOAA doesn't care who gets the credit for making sure TRICARE is protected, and we take political hyperbole on both sides with an appropriate grain of salt.

**Q3. What does deeming TRICARE as "qualifying coverage" mean?**

A3. Under the new legislation, people who don't have qualifying coverage will have to pay a financial penalty. Since TRICARE and VA coverage will be qualifying coverage, those beneficiaries won't be subject to the penalty.

**Q4. How about VA care?**

A4. The new legislation states that care rendered under title 38 of the US Code (VA care) is also qualifying coverage.

**Q5. I've seen message traffic saying that the new law will end TRICARE as of 2014, and that TRICARE beneficiaries will then have to buy other coverage. Is that true?**

A5. That's definitely NOT true. There's nothing like that in the new law.

**Q6. Can I expect my TRICARE enrollment fee, premiums, deductibles or co-pays to go up because of this legislation?**

A6. No, there's nothing in the legislation that would change any TRICARE fees.

That said, it's unrealistic to think that TRICARE fees will never go up, even if retired pay doubles or triples over a retiree's lifetime. But it will be deficit concerns and DoD budget problems, not national health reform, that drive any future changes in TRICARE fees.

**Q7. What's MOAA doing to make sure beneficiaries aren't negatively affected by the national health reform legislation?**

A7. MOAA has pushed House and Senate leaders for much of the past year to make sure that language was included in any health care debate to protect the unique nature of military and VA health benefits and prevent taxation of those benefits.

We've generated more than 100,000 messages to Congress on that topic so far – more than any other association. That strong membership support has gotten results, as the combination of legislation already passed and legislation about to be finished by the Senate substantially accomplishes those objectives.

### EFFECTS ON TRICARE FOR LIFE AND MEDICARE

**Q8. Is TFL also "qualifying coverage" under the new law?**

A8. Yes. Both Medicare and TFL are expressly deemed as such under the legislation already passed by both the House and Senate.

**Q9. I understand Medicare is cut \$500 billion under the new law. Won't that have to cut payments to doctors and threaten TFL?**

A9. It's true that the new law reduces Medicare spending by about that much, but most of those changes are relatively less painful ones that probably won't affect TRICARE or TFL beneficiaries much.

They include \$118 billion from eliminating the extra subsidy to the Medicare Advantage HMO program (which was sold to Congress as a cost-saver, but actually costs 14% more per person than Standard Medicare), cutting about \$150 billion from non-rural hospitals (which the hospital associations say they can handle because expanding insurance coverage to most Americans will mean they won't have to eat the cost of serving the uninsured), and cutting back abuses in medical equipment (under current systems, Medicare will buy you a wheelchair you may only need a few months, or allow a company to rent you one for life for a permanent condition). These are things most of us would probably push to consider if it were our own money paying for them (which it actually is).

**Q10. Are you saying that the funding cut won't affect Medicare beneficiaries at all?**

A10. No. But the implications are probably longer-term ones than shorter-term ones.

The real issue under national health reform is that the money from these Medicare savings will be used to fund expansion of health insurance coverage to those who don't have it now instead of being used to pay for needed fixes to Medicare.

It's hard to argue that reducing the number of uninsured would be a bad thing. But using the relatively "easy" Medicare savings initiatives to fund that means that when the baby boomers start swamping Medicare and Social Security in the next few years, Congress will be forced to look at more painful ways to fund that need.

And that's something that will be considered by the debt commission that is supposed to make recommendations by Dec. 1 on how to reduce the national debt. It's that coming commission that we think will really create some tough options for all Americans, and the military is unlikely to escape unscathed. We'll be keeping an eye on that and keeping our members informed.

#### **MEDICARE/TRICARE PAYMENTS TO DOCTORS**

**Q11. Is it true that the new legislation cuts payments to doctors by 21%?**

A11. No, that's NOT true. In fact, it's PREVIOUS law that calls for a 21% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors as of April 1. Congress is working on separate legislation to prevent that from happening.

**Q12. What's the status of legislation to reverse the 21% cut in Medicare/TRICARE payments to doctors?**

A12. The Senate has passed legislation putting off the date of the cut from April 1 until October 1. The House has passed legislation putting it off only until May 1. Our sources tell us the Senate will pass the May 1 legislation. One problem is that Congress is scheduled to take a two-week recess, and the April 1 deadline will occur right in the middle of the recess. So the short-term solution likely will be to "kick the can" for a month and take it up again when Congress returns after recess. Getting a longer-term fix for the doctor payment problem remains MOAA's #1 health care priority.

**Q13. Are there any changes in the new law that will affect payments to providers?**

A13. Yes, there are some changes to periodic "market basket" and other assumptions that affect annual adjustments. These would generally tend to dampen annual increases over time, based on the assumption that productivity will improve over time. This is probably a weak assumption, given past experience with such things. If the expected productivity increases don't materialize, Congress may have to revisit these assumptions in the future. On the other hand, the new legislation sustains a 5% increase in payments to mental health providers.

#### **PHYSICAL, SPEECH, AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**

**Q14. Does the new legislation do anything to fix the current \$1,860 cap on annual Medicare payments for outpatient physical, speech, and occupational therapy?**

A14. Yes, the new legislation allows an exception to the cap (until Dec. 31, 2010) for medically necessary therapy. That's a big relief for accident and stroke victims who can run up big therapy bills quickly. But it means we'll have to get another extension before the end of the year.

#### **COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN UNTIL AGE 26**

**Q15. I understand the new health care bill allows adult children to stay on their parent's healthcare plan until age 26 if their employers don't offer insurance. Will TRICARE adopt this policy?**

A15. Yes, we expect TRICARE will do that.

**Q16. When would I be able to take advantage of that new TRICARE option?**

A16. It's hard to say at this point. It will take a law change (Rep. Martin Heinrich (NM-1) has introduced H.R. 4923, the TRICARE Dependent Coverage Extension Act), and the vehicle may be the FY2011 Defense Authorization Act, which probably won't become law until at least October, if not later. Then, the Pentagon would have to negotiate a change to the TRICARE contract and issue new regulations, and get computers and finance systems changed. For past changes, that has taken anywhere from 12 to 24 months. So it could be 12 to 24 months or more before the change takes effect for TRICARE. Because such children aren't military dependents we expect the parent would be charged the full premium, which at this point is too early to guess, for TRICARE.

**Q17. Is there anything I can do now to cover a child who is about to "age out" of TRICARE?**

A17. Yes. TRICARE already offers coverage for people who lose TRICARE eligibility because of separation or children who lose eligibility because of age. It's called the Continued Health Care Benefit Program (CHCBP). CHCBP is renewable in quarterly increments and costs about \$933 a quarter for an individual – but you have to sign up for it within a pretty short time after losing eligibility. If you have a child who's now age 25, that child doesn't qualify for CHCBP.

#### **MOAA's MEDIPLUS® TRICARE SUPPLEMENT**

**Q18. Will the new legislation affect my MEDIPLUS® TRICARE supplement in any way?**

A18. At this point it's too early to know for sure. We don't think there will be any negative impact, but we're working to verify this with our insurance provider.

## **LETTER TO A REC MOAA MEMBER**

Dennis Meredith  
Sonoma, California 95476

Dear Dennis:

I am writing to update you on the Medicare physician payment system and the seriously flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula that is scheduled to impose a 21 percent cut to payments to doctors this year. Despite the many challenges we have faced in trying to fix the broken SGR payment system, I want to assure you that I will continue to fight for sensible, permanent reform. On March 2, the Senate passed H.R. 4691 providing a 30-day extension to prevent the scheduled 21% physician payment reduction from going into effect. This legislation passed the House on February 25 and will apply retroactively to February 28. I am hopeful that over the next 30 days, common sense will prevail and we can get a smarter, more efficient system in place that will put an end to last-minute, short-term fixes.

I am deeply troubled by the yearly ritual we have fallen into where we wait until the last minute to enact short-term

patches for the physician payment schedule. This irresponsible practice leaves patients worrying that they will lose access to their doctors, and doctors worrying about how they will be able to continue to serve their patients. This is unacceptable, and we must act now to repeal the Medicare SGR formula and replace it with a system to ensure that seniors have access to the care they need, and doctors are fairly compensated for their important work.

This is a problem that has gone on for too many years. Since 2002, when the first payment reduction would have gone into effect, I have voted to override the reduction every time it has come up. In 2007 I voted for the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act, which would have modified the SGR system and replaced the flawed formula that results in annual reductions in reimbursement rates for physicians. Most recently, on November 19, 2009, I voted for the Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act, H.R. 3961, which passed the House. This bill would permanently reform the Medicare payment system, and replace it with a stable system that protects seniors, preserves their relationship with their doctors and promotes primary care.

Much to my disappointment and dismay, the Senate has failed to act on the Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act, just as they never considered the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act in 2007. As a result, doctors and patients are again faced with an impending fee reduction of 21 percent.

Please know that I am committed to solving this very serious problem and to protecting our seniors and their doctors. I hope you are passing your concerns along to our Senators as well.

Sincerely,  
MIKE THOMPSON  
Member of Congress

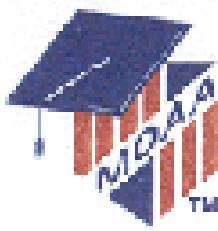
### WHEN INSULTS HAD GLASS

The exchange between Churchill & Lady Astor:  
She said, "If you were my husband  
I'd poison your tea."

He said, "If you were my wife, I'd drink it."

#### MOAA VOICE

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



## UPDATE--2010 COL WILLIAM G BREY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM:

This year's scholarship applications have been received, and copies rendered anonymous by

redacting the applicants' identifying information have been provided to members of the Scholarship Committee. The evaluation process is underway, and the Committee will meet the morning of March 25, 2010 to discuss our recommendations for this year's scholarship awards. We will present our recommendations to the Chapter Board of Directors for consideration at its meeting on April 10th, and expect that the announcement of successful applicants to be made at the Chapter's luncheon meeting on April 22d. We believe that the objectives of the COL William G. Brey Scholarship program will be met again this year with awards to well-deserving students.

The Committee plans to launch a more active fund raising program in preparation for the 2011 Scholarship awards cycle. Our Chapter and Scholarship Fund treasurer, LTC Pete Rizzo, provided a financial statement for the Fund as of February 28, 2010 that shows we can sustain the program for about another ten years if continued at the current funding level. We hope to conceive a campaign of fundraising through proceeds from special events and donations over the next several months which will result in an improved financial posture by the end of this year. We will provide information about fundraising activities and results in future issues of MOAA Voice and will make announcements at Chapter gatherings.

We Committee-members want to thank the entire Chapter membership for all the support provided to date. We will continue to try to meet all the program's objectives of supporting deserving students who are offspring and descendants of Chapter members for years to come. If any member has any questions or wants more information about the program, I welcome any call or letter and will respond promptly.

**Dennis Meredith**, Chairman,  
Scholarship Committee.

## **VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS:**

Veteran service organizations (VSOs) are designed for the benefit of the veteran and community. Most areas of the country have a local American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, or Veterans of Foreign Wars post/chapter. There are many more service organizations, such as the Marine Corps League, Viet Nam Veterans of America, Non-Commissioned Officers Association, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Fleet Reserve Association and others geared to particular groups of veterans. Each organization has its own individual requirements for membership, of which some are more stringent than others. The requirements range from honorable service during any time period to service in a combat zone to requiring a service-connected disability. These VSOs welcome any eligible member, regardless of age, race, religion or gender. Many of these organizations host auxiliaries so that spouses and other family members can also participate. These organizations provide countless hours of local community service. You'll see veterans proudly marching with our nation's flag at the forefront of parades or donating time and money to local causes. The firing squad and the person who presents the flag at a military funeral are members of veteran service organizations. Sometimes it's as simple as going to the VA hospital to play cards or bingo with the patients. Although they are all separate organizations, there is commonality in their goals:

- They are a voice for returning and currently deployed service members and their families;
- They monitor and lobby for legislation that directly impacts our veteran community;
- They help to develop the next generation of patriots through character-enhancing programs. VSOs sponsor Boy Scout troops, Badger Boy's State, Legion Baseball, scholarships and the annual oratorical contests.

Virtually all of our veteran's legislation has been driven by these VSOs or the combined efforts of 36 of them through the military coalition (TMC). The United States wouldn't have the GI Bill if not for them. Each of these groups has service officers who assist and advocate for veterans in filing claims for service-connected disabilities and negotiating the ways of the Veterans Administration. VSOs are responsible for getting post-traumatic stress disorder and the Agent Orange related diseases, among others, recognized by the Veterans Administration. VSOs are at the forefront of public policy related to national defense, services for homeless veterans, adequate funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs, concurrent receipt of retirement pay and disability compensation by disabled military retirees, veterans employment and training, POW/MIA accountability and flag protection. What can you do for them? Simply put, join one and participate. Contribute your time, energy, and assets. Take advantage of the camaraderie unique to military veterans. Help out at a fundraiser. There is strength in numbers. When the National Commanders go to Congress to lobby for veteran-friendly legislation, numbers count. Large organizations have clout. Nationwide, memberships in veteran service organizations are down. In order for these organizations to be around when you need them, they must be self-perpetuating. Joining one is something to consider the next time you are concerned about a veteran related issue. They are a voice for all of us.

[Source: Jackson County WI Service Officer Randy Bjerke article 24 Mar 2010 ++]

## 2010 DATES TO REMEMBER

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



### FREE - YOU ARE INVITED!

The Belles & Beaus of Sebastopol Christian Church are hosting a 1940's PARTY

The 'senior boomers!' at SCC are hosting the 40s musical trio, the Fondettes - similar to the Andrew sisters are coming to Sebastopol Christian Church, 7433 Bodega Ave. 823-8242

SATURDAY, APRIL 17TH, 7:00 P.M.  
1940'S FOOD AND DÉCOR  
Attire: 1940's – 2010

(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 April 22, 2010** **The Quail Inn, On the Golf Course, Oakmont**

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

**Starter:** Sonoma County greens & seasonal vegetables w/ balsamic vinaigrette

**Entrée:** 1. Bake Sapper w/ roasted red peppers, saffron rice & seasonal veg.

2. Grilled tri-tip with garlic mashed potatoes, crispy onions, seasonal veggie and a red wine reduction sauce.

**Dessert:** Chocolate Kiss - Warm soufflé-cake served with raspberry sauce.

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.

**Speaker:** Ron Beiden, past Camp/SAC Division Director and then retired as Juvenile Services Division Director for Sonoma County.

**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.

## 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 held at The Flamingo Hotel on Wednesday April 14. Luncheon is served at 12 Noon and the price is still \$21. Our telephone committee will advise you of menu choices. Reservations may be made up to the evening before the meeting but cancellations must be made by the Monday preceding the meeting. Reservations Chairman, Helen Gregory may be reached at 528-4677. The program will be presented by Dan De-benedetti of Clo the Cow renown. Our April meeting was very well attended and Violinist Robert Brady most certainly enchanted his audience. Mr. Brady has an artistic quality far beyond technical and we certainly felt the magic. No illnesses were reported but we had a surprise guest: Sally Wright brought her twin sister and we defy anyone to distinguish between the two voices! We were all pleased to see Shirley Reeves, Treasurer, with us after an illness. A small reminder: if you are signed on for the Forever Plaid adventure (Wednesday, August 4), please get your checks to Susan Linch, 4825 Glencannon Street, Santa Rosa 95405. Susan paid for our tickets out of pocket so do it now!

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

## REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2010

<b>President:</b>	CPT Lee P. Hoskins, USA	538-5167
<b>1st Vice President:</b>	CDR Don D. Confer, USN	763-8198
<b>2nd Vice President:</b>	Col Harold R. Warren, USMCR	763-6957
<b>Secretary:</b>	CPT Robert R. Safreno, USAR	795-3963
<b>Treasurer:</b>	LTC Pete Rizzo, USA	539-3346
<b>Past President:</b>	Col Louis Peterka, USA	542-4076
<b>Membership:</b>	Col Harold R. Warren, USMCR	763-6957
<b>CAL-MOAA Director, Area 1:</b>	LCOL Bob Huss, USAF	530-876-1090
<b>Directors-at-large - Term 2010</b>		
	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
<b>Directors-at-large - Term 2010/2011</b>		
	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
<b>Directors Representing Sub-Chapters:</b>		
<b>Humboldt/Del Norte:</b>	LCDR Howard W. Gardner, USN	443-9627
<b>Lake:</b>	CAPT Daniel W. Christensen, USNR	263-3297
<b>Mendocino:</b>	Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst, AUX	468-0146
<b>Sonoma Valley:</b>	LTC Dennis M. Meredith, USA	996-8819

*Return Service Requested*

Secretary/Treasurer - MOAA, Redwood Empire Chapter  
Post Office Box 2801, Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801



NON PROFIT ORGS.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401  
Permit No. 147