

MOAA



VOICE

Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 50, NUMBER 4

"Serving Those Who Serve America"

APRIL 2020



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Members and associates

Well, folks, as I am sure you can imagine, our schedule for the next 2-3 months has been thrown into question with the COVID-19 pandemic. While we are thankful that there have been only a few cases in Sonoma County, we must be especially careful with over 90% of our membership considered to be in the "high risk" category. At this point our March luncheon has been cancelled, as have all March activities at the Veterans Memorials. Our April 7 Board meeting will likely be postponed or cancelled, and the April luncheon remains in doubt.

In case you were not aware, Sonoma County is under a mandatory shelter in place order. There are exceptions for medical, food shopping trips, and various exempt employment categories. The length of this restriction will depend upon how effectively people follow procedures to limit the spread of COVID-19. Let us hope that widespread proactive prevention behavior by our population will limit the spread to far less than its feared potential.

One bright spot in our government's response appears to be the VA. It is now clear that the VA has been preparing for many weeks not only to treat its veterans but to step into its secondary mission as a national backup health resource.

Finally, despite my disappointment in the cancellation of the long-anticipated presentation by Vic Trione about Henry Trione, Vic assured me this week of his flexibility to allow re-scheduling his presentation at the first possible date. We will advise of this and other program changes as soon conditions allow.

Please continue to take all recommended precautions to avoid catching and/or spreading disease. I hope to have a large celebratory meeting with all of you once we are through this challenge.

LT William P. Matz, USN , President
707-837-2161 - matz@sonic.net

"Sunshine Lady"

Call Myrna Hurst, 707-468-0146,
if you know of anyone in the chapter who
might enjoy a get well or sympathy card.

MARCH LUNCHEON WAS CANCELLED.
THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY OF APRIL 23rd
LUNCHEON, MAY ALSO BE CANCELLED

**** POSSIBLE ****

APRIL LUNCHEON MEETING

Thursday, April 23, 2020

As of this publication a Guest Speaker has not been obtained.

See Page 5, for the Buffet Luncheon menu, if we have the luncheon. If directed, the luncheon will be cancelled in plenty of time to contact members and the Flamingo Hotel.

DECEASED MEMBERS



Col THOMAS P. KELLY, Jr., USAFR

Past Chapter Judge Advocate & Parliamentarian
February 24, 2020

CAPT ROMAN J. SCHNEIDER, USA (DDS)

March 4, 2020

THE REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER OFFICERS AND
MEMBERS EXTEND OUR SINCEREST SYMPATHY TO
THE, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THEIR
DEPARTED LOVE ONES

APRIL BOARD MEETING CANCELLED.
THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY OF THE MAY 5th BOARD
MEETING WILL ALSO BE CANCELLED

MOAA BOARD MEETINGS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Tuesday, May 5, 2020,
11:30am, In the Santa Rosa Vet's Bldg Conference Room.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings.
Refreshments will be served.

Legislative Affairs – April 2020

LEGISLATION:

Federal:

Chapter 61 of Title 10 – Retirement or Separation for Physical Disability. In 2004, Congress approved concurrent receipt for retirees who are rated 50 percent disabled or greater prior to which military retirees could not receive both retirement pay and disability pay .

However, this left those who were medically retired prior to completing 20 years of military service could not receive this benefit which today represents more than 200,000 service members. They are called “Chapter 61 Retirees” which is an injustice. There will be more information on this subject later.

“Widows Tax” SBP-DIC Offset. Most of the information related to the “Widows Tax is valid. DAFS and DoD know who you are and will be in contact with you later, if not already done so. As was previously stated, there will be NO offset in 2020. The first reduction will be only in 2021 and will be completely removed by 2023.

If you do not have SBP eligibility because your military retiree spouse never enrolled, this change does not affect you. This is only for survivors who have eligibility for both SBP and DIC. This change does not allow members to enroll in SBP if you were not enrolled in SBP at the time of military retirement; you will not be allowed to enroll.

If you received a premium refund as a result of the DIC offset, the refund does not have to be returned to your pay agent as a part of the SBP-DIC Offset change.

State:

Property Taxes (Proposition 13) The recent election resulted in the defeat of the Proposition 13 Tax measure which would allow for bonds for schools, parks etc.

However, a major hurdle for property taxes under Proposition 13 passed in 1978 with the November measure which would remove the benefit for commercial property.

Heads up! We have not seen the end to the hungry tax machine in Sacramento!

Military Retired Pay Exclusion. We will try again to get some form of tax exemption for military retirement. Granted that this idea is a long term wishful thinking. However, there are now only TWO states, California and Vermont that do not grant, at least a partial exemption to military retirees and/or SBP recipients.

Again, we have a ray of hope – SB 1071 (Sen Wilk) which proposes a phased in exemption over several years and SB 1007 (Sen Huseo) which will phase in in 2021.

We need to get our State Senator McGuire on board. I will try to get to talk to him once I get some more talking info.

Proposition 8 – Dialysis Clinics. This bill was defeated last year, but the Governor sign an opposing bill, AB 290 which would have cut out private dialysis clinics – principally in rural areas creating severe hardships for veterans and the lower income patients. The new bill is being sponsored by the unions and, again, needs to be strongly opposed.

VSO Support – AB 2688 Assemblyman Cervants’ bill proposes \$11 million for county VSO support. This is a vitally important need since budgets have sacrificed the county VSOs, particularly in the northern counties.

AB 2380 SBP Exemption Proposes to make the payments from Survivor Benefit Plans (SBPs) tax free within California. Much like a life insurance policy, SBPs are an optional benefit that many military service members

opt to pay into. These plans collect a portion of the member’s paycheck and if the individual dies, whether service connected or not, the benefactor (spouse or child) receives up to 50% of the service member’s retirement income.

Since the SBP are issued in proportion of the deceased retirement income, they are not treated like a life insurance plan, which is currently recognized as a non-taxable income. So, while the life insurance payments for the death of a loved one remain tax free, these payments to spouses and children for service members are not.

This is another “hot button issue” and we’d like your support to contact Assemblyman Woods to ask him to support this bill.

Vern McNamee, Legislative Chair

MOVIE STAR - TOM HANKS

Editors NOTE: I found out about a year ago that I was related to Tom Hanks. He is a remote cousin to my fathers side of the family. The information below was sent to me by e-mail, and I thought I would share it with those that read this publication and are having trying times.Robert Safrano

- Tom Hanks survived 4 years on island as a castaway;
- He spent a year in an airport without being able to leave;
- Caught AIDS in Philadelphia;
- He was in World War II and rescued Private Ryan;
- He went to Vietnam and rescued Lieutenant Dan;
- Was on a boat kidnapped by Somali pirates;
- Survived Apollo 13 trying to reach the Moon;
- Landed a Boeing on the Hudson River;

**If that son of a bitch dies of coronavirus,
We are ALL stuffed!!!**

Facts & Trivia (UPBEAT TIMES, INC. ~ March 2020

- The first St. Patrick’s Day celebration in the United States was held in Boston in 1737.
- The color of St. Patrick’s Day was originally blue. Wearing green has become a staple of St. Patrick’s Day, but the holiday was originally associated with the color blue. It’s thought that the shift to green happened because of Ireland’s nickname “The Emerald Isle,” the green in the Irish flag and the shamrock, or clover. Green ribbons and shamrocks were worn as early as the 17th century.
- Legend says that each leaf of the clover has a meaning: Hope, Faith, Love and Luck.
- Beer is one of the most widely consumed beverages on St. Patrick’s Day.
- Bayer registered Aspirin as a trademark. Aspirin is considered by many to be the first wonder drug.
- ~1930~ General Foods put the first individually packaged frozen foods - “Birds Eye Frosted Foods” on sale in Springfield, Massachusetts.
- ~1950, Silly Putty was introduced as a toy by Peter Hodgson. It was invented in 1943 by James Wright in an effort to make synthetic rubber.



Col. Thomas Philip Kelly, Jr.
October 2, 1936 - February 24, 2020

Santa Rosa attorney Thomas P. Kelly, Jr., 83, died February 24, 2020 after an extended illness. Tom was born in Fort Worth, Texas, to Thomas P. Kelly, Sr. and Cecilia E. Kelly (née Rice) and grew up in several Texas cities, eventually graduating from Central Catholic High School in San Antonio. From there he worked his way through college and law school at the University of Texas at Austin as a brakeman on the Southern Pacific Railroad. Tom landed his first civilian job with the SP in San Francisco after duty in Vietnam in the Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps. In San Francisco, Tom met and married a lovely English girl, Joyce Mary Wright.

Upon moving to Santa Rosa, he became a founding member of Anderson, MacDonald, Belden and Kelly and was with that firm for many years before forming his own firm. Throughout his life and even from the hospital bed, Tom maintained a lifelong commitment to putting in extra hours every week to serve his clients. His example was catching: all of his three children, Tom III (Melissa Jones) of Santa Rosa, John (Gianna) of Sonoma, and Heather Trachtenberg of Houston, Texas are all practicing lawyers. Tom is also survived by six brothers and sisters, Dr. Katherine Montgomery of North Adams, Mass.; William, Hugh Rice, Peter, and James Tynan of Houston; and Mary Kelly Pauwels of Austin, Texas, three of whom are also lawyers.

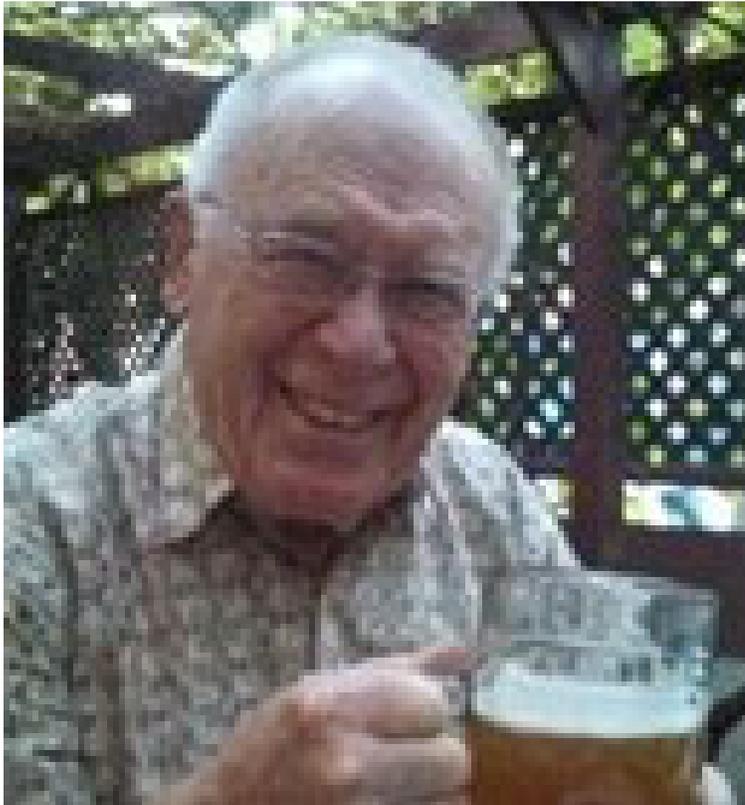
In addition to Joyce and their three children, Tom is survived by seven grandchildren: Arthur Thomas Kelly of Petaluma; Miles, Clara and Ruby Trachtenberg of Houston; Allegra, Sienna and Margaux Kelly of Sonoma; by eleven nieces and nephews in New York, Texas, Minnesota and California, by a large extended family of Irish Americans in Central Texas, and by Irish Catholic cousins overseas in counties Kildare and Down.

After leaving active duty in the Air Force, Tom remained proudly active in the reserves, eventually attaining the rank of full Colonel in the Judge Advocate General's Corps at the time of his retirement.

Tom was a devout Catholic and a long-time member of St. Eugene's Parish where he served as a lector and on the finance committee for decades. He was also a law professor at Empire Law School, past president of the Sonoma County chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, a long-time member and past president of the Empire Breakfast Club, and an enduring advocate for the Eritrean Community in Santa Rosa. Tom was awarded the famed glass hammer when inducted into the Construction Hall of Fame by the North Coast Builders Exchange in 2017.

At the time of his passing, he was the most senior member of the Sonoma County Bar Association and had received 50-year member awards from the State Bar of Texas and the State Bar of California. Tom was a voracious reader: at one point he was said to have read every book on the shelves of the Santa Rosa library dealing with history and diplomacy, and by the time of his death he had read tens of thousands of serious nonfiction books. But he preserved a special place for his family and also formed a special bond with Rufus, the family Brittany Spaniel, and Georgia, a stray orange cat adopted by the family. Tom will be greatly missed by all.

Family and friends are invited to attend Vigil services on Monday, March 9th at 6:00 P.M. at Daniels Chapel of the Roses, 1225 Sonoma Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95405, Funeral Mass on Tuesday, March 10th at 11:00 A.M. at St. Eugene Cathedral, 2323 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa, CA 95405 followed by a burial at Calvary Catholic Cemetery at 2930 Bennett Valley Rd., Santa Rosa, CA 95404. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Law Enforcement Chaplaincy Services at sonomacountychaplains.org.



CAPT ROMAN J. "Romie" SCHNEIDER, USA
Roman "Romie" J. Schneider, DDS

Roman passed into eternal life on March 4, 2020. He is survived by his loving spouse, Patricia, Patty, Schneider and his children: Thomas (Laura) Schneider, Elk Grove, CA, Joseph (Monique) Schneider, Tacoma, WA, Constance Schneider, Torrence, CA, Jeanne (William) Muttera, Susanville, CA, Mark (Carisa) Schneider, Sammamish, WA, Daniel (Kathryn) Schneider, Elk Grove, CA, John (Naomi) Schneider, Lake Tapps WA, Monica (Drew) Ramsay, Sebastopol, CA.

He is also survived by fourteen grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, his siblings: Leon (Elizabeth decd) Schneider, Danville, CA, Claude (Mary Aquin decd) Schneider, Gainesville, GA, Marilyn (Rudy) Lorbiecki,-Sartell, MN, Dorothy (Robert decd) Berg, Waite Park MN, and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews

He is preceded in death by his first wife, Eileen Kelly Schneider-the mother of their eight children, his parents, Dorothy and Louis Schneider, brothers Melvin and Ardwin (Marilyn) Schneider and great-grandchild Dakota Schneider.

Roman was born and raised in St. Cloud, MN, the oldest of seven siblings. Following graduation from Cathedral HS, he attended St. John's College, Collegeville, MN, for his pre-dental courses before entering Marquette University-Milwaukee, WI. While at Marquette, Roman was a PFC in the US Army. In 1944 all dental students were released from service at the convenience of the government. He graduated from the Marquette School of Dentistry in March 1946.

Following graduation, Roman set up his dental office in La Crosse, WI, where he practiced for four months before being called back into military service. He served as a Captain in the US Army Dental Corp in occupied Korea and Japan until 1948. Following an honorary discharge, he again set up practice in La Crosse where he practiced for ten years. In 1959, he moved his family to Santa Rosa where he practiced until he retired in 1989. During his 43 years as a dentist, Roman set up continuing education programs in La Crosse and Santa Rosa, he served on numerous boards and committees on the local, state and national level. In 1971, he was named the Redwood Empire Dental Society "Dentist of the Year."

Roman was active in many civic and religious organizations. He was a Life Member of the American Legion having joined in 1945. He was an Honorary Life Member of the Knights of Columbus. 3rd and 4th Degree and a Life Member of the American Dental Association. He was a past president of the California Dental Association and a past president of the Sons in Retirement-Luther Burbank Branch 17, a 40 year member of Kiwanis Clubs of Santa Rosa where he instituted the "Most Improved Sophomore Award". He began skiing at age 50 and became a member of the Santa Rosa Ski Club, skiing until age 84. He was a former Docent at the Luther Burbank Home & Gardens.

In 2008 Roman took up woodcarving, became a member of the Sonoma County Woodcarvers and the California Carvers Guild. He became an accomplished woodcarver winning many blue ribbons and Best of Show awards at local and state competitions.

Roman was an avid gardener and he enjoyed having something blooming in his yard year round.

Lafferty & Smith Colonial Chapel (4321 Sonoma Highway, Santa Rosa, 95409) will provide visitation hours on Thursday, March 26, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. to 8 p.m. A Vigil/Rosary Service will be held in the Main Chapel at 7:00 p.m.

Family and friends are invited to attend his Funeral Mass on Friday, March 27, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. at the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church (398 Tenth Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95401). A reception in the Parish Hall will follow the Mass. All are invited to attend the Graveside Committal Service at 2:00 p.m. at Calvary Catholic Cemetery (2930 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95404).

Should friends desire, contributions in Roman's name may be sent to the St. Rose of Lima Restoration Fund (Address above), Sutter Hospice (110 Stoney Point Road, #200C, Santa Rosa, CA) or the charity of your choice.

Published Online in the Press Democrat from Mar. 18 to Mar. 22, 2020

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

Buffet Luncheon, Thursday April 23, 2020
Flamingo Resort & Hotel, 2777 4th Street, Santa Rosa
Socializing 11:00 to 11:45 am, Meeting starts, Lunch 12:00 noon
Cost (including tax and tip) - **Price \$27.00**

Salad: Spinach, Romaine, & Endive Salad, carrots, cucumbers, olives, cherry tomatoes, Parmesan cheese. Fresh Rolls & Butter

Lunch: CHICKEN CORDON BLEU
RICE PILAF, Seasonal Vegetables.
Fresh Rolls & Butter

Dessert: Chef's Selection of Desserts. Coffee service, Tea available upon request and Iced Tea.

Enclosed is my check for my advanced reservation _____ persons @ \$27.00 each. \$ _____

Note: Pay At Door - Walk-Ins (no reservation or unpaid reservations) is \$30.00 per person.

Enclosed is \$ _____ for the Col. Brey Scholarship Fund (Fully Tax Deductible)

Guest Speaker: *Unknown at time of publication*

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: **RECMOAA**
To: MOAA, Redwood Empire Chapter, P.O. Box 2801, Santa Rosa, CA 95405
"Contact the Chapter Secretary @ 707-795-3963, prior to 10:00am, Wednesday before the Thursday event to request a refund on prepaid meals."



PUB CRAWL
"5thPublication"

by Ken Johnson

I'm not a Brit, but I enjoy a cold beer, especially in the company of good friends. Please join me as I start a new event for all our MOAA members. No agenda, just a place and a time where we can gather and share a beer or two and talk about items of interest to all of us. I'm looking for a place that is easy for all of us to get to, and someplace that's quiet so we can gather in our own little corner and just talk and have time together. I'm setting our next event at the **Toad in The Hole** pub (bar) located at 116 5th Street in Santa Rosa. They have a good selection of beer and a great menu for fish and chips. They have weekly specials on Mondays, so why not start there! We will try again to meet on the first Monday, at 5:00pm, May 4th may be next?
NOTE: This is not just for the guys, the wives or spouses are more that welcome. Our time and date for future meetings will be up to the needs of interested members. This is just the start of a fun way to get together and have great times together. I'm open to any input and suggestions, so call me at 408-466-6764.

EDITORS NOTE:

Advice just received prior to publication

**Putting a drink in each room
of my house today and calling it a
"PUB CRAWL"**

Chapter Event Refund Policy

By Tim Morgan, Treasurer

Over the past year, due to several different reasons, no shows at chapter events (Luncheon, Dinners, etc.) have become a problem for accounting. For events held at the Flamingo Hotel, we are required to provide the hotel an estimate of the expected attendance at the event. We are typically charged by the Flamingo a fee based on our estimate of this number. When a prepaid member is unable to attend the event, for whatever reason the Chapter is expected to pay the Flamingo for that meal. If we know ahead of time (any time prior to 10am on Wednesday before the Thursday event), that the member can't make it (and/or the number of guests change), we can adjust the head count estimate to the Flamingo and avoid this problem. At the February 2020 Board meeting, a policy on no show refunds was determined. The policy is as follows:

RECMOAA – Event Refund Policy

For members who have paid in advance for an event and for any reason, determine that they will be unable to attend that event, a refund will be provided to the member, if the chapter Secretary is contacted prior to 10am on the Wednesday before the event. Upon request the member also may optionally indicate to the Secretary that funds be directed to the Col. Brey Scholarship Fund in lieu of a refund. After 10am Wednesday, should a prepaid member fail to show at the event, the funds will be directed to the Chapter General Fund.

If there are any questions about this policy, please contact Tim Morgan, Treasurer (707-695-9293).

2020 DATES TO REMEMBER

April:
 7th CNX—BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 22th CNX—United Veterans Council meeting
 23rd UNKNOWN—Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa

May:
 5th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 16th Armed Forces Day – Rose Parade, Santa Rosa
 25th Memorial Day Ceremonies
 27th United Veterans Council meeting
 28th Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa

June:
 2nd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 13th Saturday, Picnic at Two Rock. Honor Brey Recipients
 24th United Veterans Council meeting

July:
 7th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Pick a nominating committee
 4th Parade in Calistoga
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 22th United Veterans Council meeting
 23rd Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa

August:
 4th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 15th Riverfront Regional Park, Annual BBQ
 26th United Veterans Council meeting

September:
 1st BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2020 officers
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 19th - 20th Air Show at CMS Airport?
 23rd United Veterans Council meeting
 18th or 25th ?? Friday, Luncheon, Two Rock USCG (\$10.00?)

October:
 6th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 22nd Luncheon or Dinner?, Flamingo, Election of Officers for 2021
 28th United Veterans Council meeting

November:
 3rd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 11th North Bay Veterans Day parade (Wednesday)
 20th Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building
 25th United Veterans Council meeting
 26th Thanksgiving Day

December:
 1st BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 7th Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??
 6th Sunday, Holiday Social Flamingo Resort & Spa
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 NO United Veterans Council meeting
 25th Christmas

** Not Confirmed at this time
 All Meals at Flamingo will be Buffets 06/32/06

“GOOD SPEAKERS ARE NEEDED”

Chapter members:
 Who do you want to hear from?
 Please send your suggestions to
Don Nowacki, (707)528-2895,
 or by e-mail: nowacki@sonic.net

MOAA WIVES CLUB

(Sonoma County Main - All members welcome)

2020 Officers

President: Dayle Johnson	408-466-6764
Vice President: Liz Warren	707-763-6957
Secretary: Tina Lewis	707-539-5546
Treasurer: Florence Wall	707-837-7389
Parliamentarian: Donna Poulter	707-576-0513

The next meeting of the Wives Club
 scheduled for Wednesday, April 8th
 has been canceled.

Stay safe, everyone!

Tina Lewis, Publicity 707-539-5546, tinalewis31@comcast.net

Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2020

<u>President:</u>	William P. Matz, USN	707-837-2161
<u>1st Vice President</u>	Maj Ken Johnson, USAF	408-466-6764
<u>2nd Vice President</u>	1/Lt Donald J. Nowacki, USANG	707-595-1047
<u>Secretary:</u>	Cpt Robert R. Safreno, USAF	707-795-3963
<u>Treasurer:</u>	LCDR Tim Morgan, USNR	707-695-9293
<u>Imed. Past President:</u>	CPT Lee P. Hoskins, USA	707-328-2316

CAL-MOAA Director, Area I

Cpt Tom Walther, USAF	530-673-5499
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Directors-at-large - Term 2020

CDR Donald D. Confer, USN	707-763-8198
Martina Lewis	707-539-5546
LTC Gary Meagher, AUS	707-544-4089
Mary-Gwen Neisingh	707-481-7614

Directors-at-large - Term 2020-2021

LTC Robert L. Ayers, Jr.	707-230-2571
Col Jack L. Krout, USAF	707-762-8613
Donna Poulter	707-576-0513
CPT Lewis Wall, USA	707-837-7389

Directors Representing Sub-Chapters:

<u>Lake:</u>	CAPT Daniel W. Christensen,	707-263-3297
<u>Mendocino:</u>	Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst, AUX	707-468-0146
<u>Sonoma Valley:</u>	Maj B. K. White, USMC	707-996-1335

MOAA VOICE

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