

MOAA



VOICE

Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 50, NUMBER 8

“Serving Those Who Serve America”

AUGUST 2020



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Members and associates

With the re-imposition of stricter COVID protective measures it is becoming more likely that we will be unable to have any Chapter events this year. Even when restrictions are eased, we will have to be more cautious than others due to the higher risk factors in our group.

Speaking of risk, it is my sad obligation to inform the Chapter, as I did the Officers and Directors, that I was diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer last month. That vaults me into a very high risk category. But the prognosis is very good [non-smoker, etc.]. I am still awaiting estimates of the time needed for my treatment. While in treatment, my availability will be quite limited. However, with COVID restrictions that may not make much of a difference, as my only ongoing duty is to the Zoom board meeting.

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

Election Emergency

Our Chapter is at risk of being unable to fill all our Officer and Director openings. Deaths and COVID non-renewals have reduced our membership by about 20%, reducing our already small numbers. If we cannot fill all those offices, our Chapter will be at risk of folding. So please let our Secretary, Bob Safreno, knows what office(s) you would be willing to assume. **NOTE:** E-mail and phone number are on page No. 4.

AUGUST 15th BBQ IS CANCELLED.

The Riverfront Regional Park, Annual BBQ has been cancelled, because of the COVID-19 virus. We could not have separations needed and the County probably would not allow us to use the area.

THE September Luncheon dining at Two Rock Coast Guard Station WILL ALSO BE CANCELLED

At the present time the Two Rock Coast Guard Station, has locked down most of the activity on the base. They do not want any of the students to be contaminated by outside people entering their facilities. That includes the dining facilities.

“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.

AUGUST BOARD MEETING IS CANCELLED. (There may be a ZOOM meeting) THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SEPTEMBER 1st BOARD MEETING WILL ALSO BE CANCELLED. (NOTE: AN E-MAIL, VIDEO ZOOM or

AUGUST IS CANCELLED

SEPTEMBER MAY BE CANCELLED ALSO

MOAA BOARD MEETINGS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Tuesday, August 4, 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 – August 2020

LEGISLATION:

Federal

It is obvious that we are still in a state of flux during this COVID -19 crisis and with protests throughout the Nation. However, this being an election year, there is ample opportunity to have our voices heard.

I have noticed that the “Town Hall” meetings by our congressional representatives are principally for political motives and are generally selective in the topics to be aired and do not offer sufficient time to be discussed. Therefore, if you have a topic which is not politically correct it probably will not meet the “criteria” for the meeting.

So, how do we get heard? We really need to be heard. The easiest way is to open the MOAA website to the “Take Action” and use the suggested letters requesting that our Senators and Congressmen support items which we consider essential. Another way is to contact the representative’s local office and talk with them through the resident secretary. Both will be heard, however, the latter may be faster. Snail mail will (tear outs in the magazine work also because the weight of the mail matters.

Current Support Needed:

H.R. 5995 and S. 3393 Concurrent Receipt: These two bills will provide for concurrent receipt of retired pay for those disabled due to combat wounds suffered before reaching normal retirement at 20 years.

MOAA Advocacy for DACA: MOAA is advocating for the passage of legislation which will provide for permanent residency for those serving in the Armed Forces – particularly those 800 considered to be vital service such as translators or medical personnel.

State:

Hang on to your pocket books, the TAX WEAVEL is coming is coming in November! There will be 22 initiatives on the ballot to tempt your pay check.

Barstow Veterans Home. Thanks to everyone’s efforts, the Barstow Veteran’s Home is saved –for now. However, it will be on the chopping block next year. There will be several stakeholder meetings later this year or early next year to resolve – hopefully – with a permanent solution.

Saving money is one thing, but saving to pay a cash stipend to undocumented persons living in California, is another thing. It is unconscionable to balance the budget on the backs of our veterans and even worse to displace the 200 residents who currently call this home.

Proposition 15. Split Roll Property Taxes:

This proposition would amend California’s 40-year-old Prop 13 property tax protections to exclude commercial and industrial properties. It would require business properties to be reassessed at full market value, causing costs to go up on California businesses and then onto California consumers. This will cost everyone in California more for everyday goods and services. This is the largest tax increase proposed in California history. California is already one of the states with the highest cost of living in the country as well as one of the highest poverty rates.

This is a real estate broker’s dream to put much more money in his pocket. Besides opening the door for future change to include taxes on YOUR home, this insidious proposal with seriously affect ALL small business owners, many of whom are veterans trying to make a living in this state. With the lock-down of the economy for almost three months, many small businesses will not survive.

Proposition 21: Rent Control : Prop 21 repeals portions of California’s rent control law that protects single family homeowners and has no plan to build affordable and middle-class housing or deal with the increasing problem of homelessness on our streets. There are no protections for renters, seniors, veterans or the disabled, and it has no provision to reduce rents. This is the same measure that was on the November 2018 ballot as Prop 10 which was opposed by most of the major veterans’ groups and was defeated by 20% points.

Proposition 23: Dialysis Reform: Approximately 80,000 Californians with kidney failure rely on dialysis to stay alive. Proposition 23 would put dialysis patients’ lives at risk and hurt all Californians by making the wait longer to see doctors and increasing health care costs by hundreds of millions annually. This is the same measure that was on the November 2018 ballot as Prop 8 which was opposed by most of the major veterans’ groups and was defeated by 20% points

There will be more coming out in the next three months. **Advice of the day - BE ALERT – FOLLOW THE MONEY!**

Vern McNamee, Legislative Chair

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).

COL BREY SCHOLARSHIP INFO:

The letter enclosed, below was from one of our Scholarship applicants to the Redwood Empire Chapter of MOAA:

Dear Scholarship Committee,

I am honored to have been selected as a recipient of the Colonel William G. Brey Scholarship. With all the uncertainty and hardship surrounding us due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I am especially grateful to receive this funding to help me achieve my educational goals.

I look forward to beginning my college education at Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) in the fall. The small class sizes, city campus, and hands-on learning at MSOE are what attracted me to the school. I felt at home the moment I stepped on campus. I'm certain that MSOE will give me an excellent education in Civil Engineering, a field that has interested me for several years and one that I will someday work within, thanks to your generous support.

Thank you for helping me build a bridge - literally - to my future!

Sincerely,

Signed ~ (Lily Swanson)

Math and Science Academy
Class of 2020

Redwood Empire Chapter member WILLIAM ANDERSON

Has made an offer

He realizes that the country is presently going through a rough time, because of the present COVID-19 virus, and there are a lot of people with many different needs. He is offering to our members and any veterans organizations his help.

As a landlord he can repair many house issues for our their members. **FREE!** They only need to pay for parts.

He can transport supplies. He lives in Santa Rosa. He owns 46 properties in this state alone and is his own maintenance service. He does many kinds of things.

Anyone can call him and he will give you more details. Call: William Anderson at 707-331-0366

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**FROM PRESIDENT BILL MATZ:** MOAA-REC member William "Van" Sanderson previously offered to assist any veteran with home repairs. In light of the growing impact of COVID-19. Van has generously extended that offer to any veteran needing help with payment of rent or mortgage. Veterans desiring Van's assistance should contact him at 707-331-0366 or by E-Mail: greyhound1971@hotmail.com

## REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER of MOAA MEMBERS THAT HAVE NOT PAID DUES FOR 2020 ARE LISTED BELOW

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There are **16** members that have not paid their dues. Initials listed below:

RNC,HFC,SDiii,LE,DE,WJH,HWH,BPK,
LCM,JAM,JAP,RAR,AS,DLT,MGW,NDW.

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Because of the COVID-19 virus we are still including you in our Chapter notifications, but only by **e-mail**. If you don't respond, you will be dropped at the end of this year.

Call Secretary for more information  
Bob Safreno ~ 707-795-3963 / 707-479-9374

## 2020 DATES TO REMEMBER

July:  
 7<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Pick a nominating committee  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 CNX 22<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 CNX 23<sup>rd</sup> Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa  
 August:  
 4<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 CNX 15<sup>th</sup> Riverfront Regional Park, Annual BBQ  
 26<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 September:  
 1<sup>st</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2020 officers  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 \*\* 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Air Show at CMS Airport?  
 23<sup>rd</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 CNX 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> ?? Friday, Luncheon, Two Rock USCG (\$10.00?)  
 October:  
 6<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 \*\* 22<sup>nd</sup> Luncheon or Dinner?, Flamingo, Election of Officers for 2021  
 28<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 November:  
 3<sup>rd</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 11<sup>th</sup> North Bay Veterans Day parade (Wednesday)  
 20<sup>th</sup> Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building  
 25<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 26<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day  
 December:  
 1<sup>st</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 7<sup>th</sup> Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??  
 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Holiday Social Flamingo Resort & Spa  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 NO United Veterans Council meeting  
 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas

\*\* Not Confirmed at this time ~ CNX = Cancelled ~ UNK = Unknown  
 All Meals at Flamingo will be Buffets 06/32/06

### IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CHAPTER

## MEMBERS

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO BE FUTURE OFFICERS OF THE CHAPTER TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE MEMBERS ON OUR BOARD AND GIVE THEM YOUR NAME AS A POSSIBLE CANDIDATE FOR THE YEAR 2021.

CALL OR E-MAIL SECRETARY ROBERT SAFRENO. (707) 795-3963 ~ [shadowbob1@juno.com](mailto:shadowbob1@juno.com)

### “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](mailto: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 |

Once again, no MOAA activities during the month of August. The board had a Zoom meeting on July 7th, during which we decided it would be too dangerous to try to hold the annual BBQ at Riverfront Regional Park because social distancing would be impossible. I think we should prepare ourselves for the possibility of not getting together till the transmission of the virus is no longer an issue. We'll see.

Stay safe and well, everyone! And keep laughing!

**Tina Lewis, Publicity 707-539-5546,**  
[tinalewis31@comcast.net](mailto: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 |
|-----------------------|--------------|

### 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

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst     | 707-468-0146 |
| 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         | 707-468-0146 |
| <u>Sonoma Valley:</u> | Maj B. K. White, USMC       | 707-996-1335 |

## MOAA VOICE

|                          |                                                                                     |                                                                            |
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