

# MOAA



# VOICE

Military Officers Association of America  
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 51, NUMBER 4

"Serving Those Who Serve America"

APRIL 2021



## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

As the sun came out from behind the storm clouds, I looked up and thought to myself **WOW** it's a good time to be alive. As I look over the last few months I feel like there's been some heavy clouds hanging over us, and now it's time for us to look forward to a time when the sun is out and we can get back to our normal daily activities.

Your local chapter of the MOAA known as the Redwood Empire Chapter, has been kept alive these past few months through the dedicated and committed efforts of all of your board members working hard to reach out and encourage a response from all of our members. As we approach the coming summer months we're looking forward to returning to many of our regular activities. Our membership roster is filled with the names of the many of whom we have not heard from in quite some time. In order for us to move forward and to continue our efforts to provide for an active and viable organization we need now to update our membership roster. In the very near future you will be receiving a very simple survey with some simple **YES** or **NO** questions. Because we have not had any contact with our members due to the pandemic, we have lost track as to who is still committed to being a part of our organization. We are hoping that no later than June we will be able to have our normal monthly meetings. Our old meeting location may not be available. As we look for a new location we need to know how many members will be present for our new meeting place.

When you receive this simple survey please respond so that we can set up a current membership roster that we can use to reach out and contact our members as we try to return to our normal chapter activities. There is not a more dedicated organization who strives to serve the needs and interest of all of our retired military members. To that end, our organization is only as strong as other members.

We continue our monthly board member meetings and also have reached out to our members with a monthly "**Pub Crawl**" in hopes of being able to share in a casual way the interest of our members. Please respond to our survey and join us in our monthly "**Pub Crawl**" **ZOOM** meetings so that we can unite together and share with one another our interests, our values and supporting your local chapter.

**Major Kenneth Johnson, USAF, President**  
408-466-6764 ~ kenthetraveler@gmail.com

## NO CHAPTER DUES FOR 2021

Because of the COVID-19 virus and the fact that people had to shelter in place and we had no social gatherings, the Board of Directors has decided to waive the Chapter dues for 2021. We hope that our members will support the Chapter in the future. Our membership is down, and we do not want to lose any more of our members.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021 LUNCHEON at the FLAMINGO RESORT, IS CANCELLED.

Santa Rosa and all Veterans buildings in the County are shut down thru March 2021

The Thursday May 27<sup>th</sup> 2021, Luncheon  
At the Flamingo Resort & Spa  
MAY ALSO BE CANCELLED

### BIG WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS of the REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER

CWO4 JACK W. SCHIPPER, USNR  
Spouse - JOYCE  
LCDR TRAVIS J. SORUM, USPHS  
Spouse - JENNIFER  
COL BRUCE A. STAHLEY, USAR  
Spouse - B. ANN

### "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.

### ZOOM ~ MOAA BOARD MEETING

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 11:30am. Tim Morgan will be sending information on how to join the meeting. If a member of the Chapter wishes to join the meeting, you must contact us by e-mail and we will give you the information needed.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings.

# What would you like? Your Comments - Please.

I have been our chapter Legislative Affairs Chairman off and on since the last part of the XX Century. However, I have asked a few times for your inputs before with little result, now in this period of crisis, I would like to know what you like or dislike of the articles I write. Write, call or email your thoughts. Don't worry about offending me - I have a thick skin developed through the ages.

**LTC Vern McNamee, USA Ret**

**Email:** vernonmcnamee@mcn.org ~ **Cell:** 707-972-3066

## Legislative Update – April 2021 LEGISLATION:

### Federal

NDAA - National Defense Authorization Act 2021-2022. This is still a WIP with many budget details to be worked out. MOAA has submitted its list of priorities which has been published in the Military Officer and is the basis for any talks with our representatives.

S. 344/H.R.1282 Major Richard Star Act. These two bills are being reintroduced *again* to provide for concurrent receipt of retired pay and VA disability payment for those injured in combat who have not completed 20 years service. We urge your action to make sure our Congressmen and Senators are on board supporting this urgent legislation.

### State

State Legislators. In case anyone forgot who you state representatives are, follows are our State Senator and Assemblyman addresses and phone numbers.

#### **Senator Mike McGuire**

2<sup>nd</sup> District  
200 School St. Ste K  
Ukiah, CA 95482 Telephone: 707 468-8914

#### **Assemblyman Jim Wood**

2<sup>nd</sup> District  
200 School St. Ste D  
Ukiah, CA 95482 Telephone 707 463-5770

### Legislation:

SB 467 Oil and gas: hydraulic fracturing, etc. This bill would shut down 96% of California's domestic oil production which is already more than 70% dependent on foreign oil.

Such ban will reduce high paying jobs for veterans among others, besides posing a national security threat to California and the United States. Let's get the pandemic under control before we cut jobs, raise the cost of living, etc.

**Retired Pay Tax Exemption.** Although no measure has been presented - yet - don't count it out. With the infusion of COVID19 help, keep alert.

**AB 1400 California Guaranteed Health Care** - This bill, would create the California Guaranteed Health Care for All program, or CalCare, to provide comprehensive universal single-payer health care coverage and a health care cost control system for the benefit of all residents of the state. In essence, CalCare will take over federal coverage to include VA benefits, TRICARE for active duty personnel serving in the state. "They" propose this will "save" money, however, it will probably cost quality of our health care.

We are opposing this bill because, the way that it's written, military personnel, retired or active living in California, will probably fall under this program negatively affecting most of gains we have won between 1986 and 2000 with the establishment of TRICARE, TRICARE, Select, and TRICARE for Life.

The devil is in the details, "comprehensive universal single-payer healthcare coverage" does NOT mean that everyone will have equal care.

With the urgency reflected by CalMOAA, the following letter was sent to our State Assemblyman in mid-March:

#### **The Honorable Jim Wood**

State Assemblyman - 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
2 The 00 School St., Ste D  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Assemblyman Wood,

As Legislative Affairs Chairman for the Redwood Empire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) - an integral part of the 2,300 member California Council of Chapters of MOAA, I am the principal chapter advocate for our chapter members in relation to concerns regarding proposed state or federal legislation.

Therefore, I am writing to share our concerns that proposed AB 1400 with its current language or lack of language, will negatively impact all our veterans', disabled veterans, active-duty military, military families and military retirees living in California.

AB 1400 contains no language to protect or exempt the 57,000 California residents who serve in the military reserves and National Guard who receive their medical benefits through the federal program Tri-Care. It also does not protect nor exempt the military retirees who, after 20 years of military service, earned federally paid medical insurance and use Tri-Care for Life as a supplemental to their Medicare coverage - a situation which could place the military retirees' medical benefits in jeopardy.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that, as written, you oppose AB1400 because we feel that we could be forced into a single payer health system which, in general would have a deleterious effect on military retirees with Tri-Care for Life and other veterans using Medicare benefits to access federally funded VA hospitals as the state would take control of Medicare funds of California residents.

Thank you for giving attention to this matter.

Sincerely ours,

Vernon D. McNamee  
LTC, US Army Retired  
Legislative Affairs Chairman  
Redwood Empire Chapter MOAA"

Stay tuned. Please let me know of what you need in the future.

**Vern McNamee, LTC, USA Retired**  
Legislative Chair, Redwood Empire Chapter, MOAA

## “PUB CRAWL”

### RECMOAA Zoomers Pub Meeting

Our third Pub Meeting using Zoom on February 9<sup>th</sup> went well with about 10 members attending for most of an hour. It was nice to just chat about various things and most of us shared a funny stories or jokes.

So.....we'll do it again on the second Tuesday in April 13<sup>th</sup> at **4pm**. Tim Morgan will again setup a monthly Zoomer Pub Meeting. Should last about an hour and attendance is purely optional. The access information for the meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup> is as follows:

#### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6103642462?pwd=TlDaYXdwZ3I5OEJ4SGFVcHlwNjFjZz09>

Meeting ID: 610 364 2462

Passcode: 464646

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

**Note:** if the link above does not work for you, go to <https://Zoom.us/Join> and enter the Meeting ID and Passcode above, or for voice only, use the dial in number above.

Hope to ‘see’ more of you there in April.

Major Kenneth Johnson, President

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### Redwood Empire Chapter member CPT WILLIAM ANDERSON, USA

**Is offering his service to  
members and veterans in need.**

He realizes that the country is presently going through a rough time, because of the present COVID-19 virus and shelter in place, 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

## Idle Thoughts....

- I had amnesia once -- or twice.
- Protons have mass? I didn't even know they were Catholic.
- I am neither for nor against apathy.
- All I ask is a chance to prove that money can't make me happy.
- If the world were a logical place, men would be the ones who ride horses sidesaddle.
- What is a "free" gift? Aren't all gifts free?
- They told me I was gullible ....and I believed them.
- Teach a child to be polite and courteous in the home, and when he grows up, he'll never be able to merge his car onto the freeway.
- Experience is the thing you have left when everything else is gone.
- One nice thing about egotists ... they don't talk about other people.
- My weight is perfect for my height ... which varies.
- I used to be indecisive. Now, I'm not sure.
- The cost of living hasn't affected its popularity.
- How can there be self-help groups?
- Show me a man with both feet firmly on the ground, and I'll show you a man who can't get his pants off.
- Is it just me, or do buffalo wings taste like chicken?

#### This happened yesterday and is important information

A friend had his 2nd dose of the vaccine at the vaccination center after which he began to have blurred vision on the way home.

When he got home, he called the vaccination center for advice and to ask if he should go see a doctor, or be hospitalized.

He was told NOT to go to a doctor or a hospital, but just return to the vaccination center immediately and pick up his glasses.



#### “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)

## 2021 DATES TO REMEMBER\*

\*COVID-19 Virus could change all these events and dates!

March:  
 2<sup>nd</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
**15<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission Brey Scholarship Applications**  
 24<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 CNX 25<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa  
 CNX  
 April:  
 6<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa  
 CNX 28<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 CNX  
 May:  
 4<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 \*\* 15<sup>th</sup> Armed Forces Day – Rose Parade, Santa Rosa  
 \*\* 26<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 \*\* 27<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa  
 \*\* 31<sup>st</sup> Memorial Day Ceremonies  
 June:  
 1<sup>st</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 \*\* 5<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> Saturday, Picnic at Two Rock? Honor Brey Scholars  
 \*\* 23<sup>rd</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 July:  
 6<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – select nominating committee  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 \*\* 22<sup>nd</sup> Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa  
 \*\* 28<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 August:  
 3<sup>rd</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 \*\* 14<sup>th</sup> Riverfront Regional Park, Annual BBQ  
 \*\* 25<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 September:  
 7<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2020 officers

10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 \*\* 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> Air Show at CMS Airport?  
 \*\* 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> ?? Friday, Luncheon, Two Rock USCG (\$10.00?)  
 \*\* 22<sup>nd</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 October:  
 5<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 \*\* 27<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 \*\* 28<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, Flamingo Resort & Spa, Election of Officers, 2021  
 November:  
 2<sup>nd</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 (Thursday)  
 \*\* 19<sup>th</sup> Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building  
 \*\* 24<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 25<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day  
 December:  
 7<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 \*\* 7<sup>th</sup> Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??  
 \*\* 4<sup>th</sup> or 11/12<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

SEE "PUB CRAWL" Page 3

## MOAA WIVES CLUB

(Sonoma County Main - All members welcome)

### 2021 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

As more and more of us become fully vaccinated, we're hoping that later in the year we will be allowed to meet again in person. That's certainly a goal to strive for! Sonoma County has finally turned red! Let's do our best to keep changing the color. A green Thanksgiving would be something to really be thankful for!

Stay vigilant, stay safe, stay in touch. And as always, don't forget to laugh.

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

## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CHAPTER MEMBERS

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO BE OFFICERS OF THE CHAPTER AND TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. AT THE PRESENT TIME (2021) WE DO NOT HAVE A **FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**. PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE MEMBERS ON OUR BOARD AND GIVE THEM YOUR NAME AS A POSSIBLE CANDIDATE TO FILL IN FOR THIS YEAR. CALL OR E-MAIL SECRETARY, ROBERT SAFRENO. (707) 795-3963 ~ [shadowbob1@juno.com](mailto:shadowbob1@juno.com)

## Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2021

<u>President:</u>	Maj Ken Johnson, USAF	408-466-6764
<u>1st Vice President</u>	(VACANT)	
<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 2021-2022

Martina Lewis	707-539-5546
Susan Linch	707-538-3342
LTC Gary Meagher, AUS	707-544-4089
Mary-Gwen Neisingh	707-481-7614

### Directors-at-large - Term 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

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