

MOAA



VOICE

Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 52, NUMBER 1

“Serving Those Who Serve America”

JANUARY 2022



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

For many of us the beginning of a new year, is the time when we reflect on the past and give thanks for the good times we have enjoyed, we look forward to a future of new experiences and adventures. Although our membership has not grown over the past year, we have developed deep and meaningful relationships as we have gathered to celebrate our monthly events. The strength of our organization comes from the commitment to serve the needs of others. We have had numerous events throughout the year, but I want to recognize the efforts those who have made our December events such a huge success.

Our annual lobster feed is one of our most signature events. It is an event that takes many weeks of planning and the support of many of our members to bring it to a success. My thanks and appreciation goes to those planned it, took reservations, collected the money, ordered our lobster, arranged the table settings, provided our music, and those who worked in the kitchen preparing our meal. This was a team effort and a gift to all our members and friends.

Christmas came early for us this year as we gathered for our holiday luncheon social. Our event was held at Sally Tomatoes. It was a joyous celebration and we were entertained with music by Craig Matsuda. (Redwood Empire Chapter of MOAA member). I thought the food there was great, and open bar added to a fun experience.

From all the members of your MOAA board we wish you a **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** For your New Year's resolution make an effort to contact one of your board members and let them know you appreciate their efforts and make an effort to attend one of our monthly activities.

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

Redwood Empire Chapter member

“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, January 4, 2022, 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.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022 Buffet Luncheon at the EPICENTER in Santa Rosa 11:00am ~ Dine Noon

We will have Installation of Officers for 2022. At the time of this publication we do not have a guest speaker.

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR DINNING, this is needed for head counts for meals and making name tags.



Dan Cortez cooking Chapter's "Surf & Turf" feed November 19th at the Santa Rosa Veteran's building in Santa Rosa.

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

TIME TO PAY YOUR CHAPTER DUES, See Page 2

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The application period for COL William G. Brey Scholarships will open on January 1, 2021, and will close on March 15, 2021. Closing date is firm. Those eligible to apply for scholarship assistance are children, wards, and lineal descendants (including grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren, natural or adopted) of living or deceased officer, warrant officer, or auxiliary members of the Chapter. Scholarship eligibility is limited to those pursuing undergraduate academic and professional certificate programs. Applications will not be accepted for support of graduate studies.

Our experience is that it can take some time for prospective applicants to gather all the required supporting documentation, then prepare and submit the completed application before the cutoff date. We therefore recommend that Chapter members advise eligible family members of scholarship availability and contact information early enough to give them sufficient reaction time.

Application forms are available. They may be obtained by writing to:

Secretary, Redwood Empire Chapter, MOAA
P. O. Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

or by directly contacting Scholarship Committee Chairman:

Susan Linch
P. O. Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801 – Phone: (707)538-3342
or e-mail: srmomx5@comcast.net

'susan will provide them immediately to all interested parties by fastest means available.

THE COL BREY SCHOLARSHIP AND MERIT AWARDS HAVE BEEN REVISED TO REFLECT GRADES, MERIT, AND HUMANITY!!! IT IS OPEN TO:

High school seniors or High school graduates

- to pursue a college degree
- to enroll in a professional training program such as fire prevention, electrician, police protection, auto mechanics, culinary school, or comparable training programs.
- college undergraduates
- previous applicants of the Brey Scholarship

The Brey Scholarship is limited to a maximum of **two** awarded scholarships per applicant.

“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

“R.I.C.E.W.”

by Ken Johnson

Please join us as we start an in person event for all our Chapters 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. We have been 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. We have chosen to have our event at the Graton Resort & Casino, in Rohnert Park. They have several restaurants but the one I like is called the Daily Grill. It has both indoor and outdoor seating and a very nice menu. They have three large parking lots so there's plenty of room for parking.

We will try again to meet on the third Tuesday, at 11:30am, January 18th. **NOTE: This is not just for the guys, the wives or spouses are more than 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. A few of our members had a good time doing this by **ZOOM** meetings in the past. However I'm open to any input and suggestions, so call me if you have any questions at 408-466-6764.

REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR DUES FOR 2022

Dues notices were sent out by mail, with a return envelope. Unfortunately the wrong Dues Date was on the form (2023). Dues being collect are for the year **2022**. As of this publication about 35% of our members have already renewed their membership.



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

Buffet Luncheon, Thursday January 27, 2022

Epicenter, 3215 Coffey Lane, Santa Rosa

Socializing 11:00 to 11:45 am, Meeting starts, Lunch 12:00 noon

Cost (including tax and tip) - **Price \$26.00**

Salad: Caesar Salad. Fresh Rolls & Butter.

Lunch: Beef with Mushrooms and Lemon **Chicken.** Herbed Pasta and Seasonal Vegetables.

Dessert: Cookies. Water, Iced Tea, Hot Tea and Coffee

Enclosed: is my check for my advanced reservation _____ persons @ \$26.00 each. \$ _____

Note: All must make **RESERVATIONS** Please Pre Pay if possible. (Late options only **Pay At Door**).
Information is needed for head counts for meals and making name tags.

NO RESERVATION or Walk-Ins will cost \$30.00 per person.

Donations: Col. Brey Scholarship Fund (Fully Tax Deductible). \$ _____ **TOTAL:** \$ _____

Guest Speaker: *None at time of this 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, Tuesday
before the Thursday event to request a refund on prepaid meals."

Legislative Affairs Update January 2022

Federal

Federal Budget . 2022 NDAA. Since the 2022 NDAA is still stuck in Congress, it still not be too late to make last minute pleas to our legislators, preferably using the MOAA dedicated congressional hotline, (866) 272-6622, for four of our priority issues which follow:

SA. 4297 Revision of Arlington National Cemetery Eligibility. This amendment would follow the House bill which would require DoD to revisit the proposed eligibility provisions for burial at ANC.

SA. 4297/S.1972. Young Adult Health Coverage Act. This measure would align dependent children up to age 26 more closely to civilian health care plans - not the proposed \$500.00 month.

S. 344 Concurrent Receipt - aka Major Richard Star Act. This legislative proposal would provide for full retirement benefits for those injured in combat and forced to retire before twenty years off service. Although it has received adequate support, it appears that it might not "make to cut" when the NDAA gets finalized because counter balancing budget line has not been found. Bummer!

H.R. 2214 and S.1669 - The Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act. Financial concerns and stress can be a terrible burden on top of an already stressful situation for a newly widowed spouse. For some, when they discover DFAS may take part or all of that last retirement check back, it can be an overwhelming event. These bills will allow survivors to gradually repay the amount over the next 12 months and have an opportunity to request for debt forgiveness through DoD.

stars will become aligned" this year to get sufficient support, particularly in view of the State "excess" money. Two assembly members have been tentatively identified who will sponsor and cosponsor a bill for this exemption. One is Assembly member James Ramos from the 40th District and the other, Assembly member Megan Dahle from the 1st District. While this is great news, a **lot more work** by all our members statewide to keep the ball rolling is needed. Hopefully, we will see a number assigned to this bill by mid January. When this happens, **everyone** will need to get immediately involved in contacting your State Senator or Assembly member by telephone or, if available, Voter Voice - provided through CSVC - which is the easiest since it is punch and send. This sends the message automatically to your State Senator or Assembly member.

SB 651 CalVet Home Loans. Your efforts through Voter Voice made it possible to get the Veterans Loans recalibrated upon request - something which has not been for decades.

SSL Surviving Spouse Liaison. All are encouraged to pull up CALMOAA's webpage for some very good information.

Support California State Commanders Veterans Council (CSVC) legislation

1. Remove the \$5.00 fee on California Driver's License
2. Veterans License Plate
3. Update Disability Veterans Property

I would like to wish everyone a Very Happy, Healthy, Positive New Year!

Vern McNamee, LTC, USA Retired
Legislative Chairman
Redwood Empire Chapter, MOAA (CA30)

State

Tax Exemption for Military Retired Pay. Perhaps "the

2022 DATES TO REMEMBER*

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

January – 2022

- 1st Dues for 2022 are now due for the year. \$25.00
- 4th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am (ZOOM)
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information.
- 18th "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino
- 26th United Veterans Council meeting
- 27th Luncheon, **Epicenter** – Installation of Officers

February:

- 1st Proposed target date to publish the 2022 Roster
- ** 1st BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am (ZOOM)
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- ** 26th United Veterans Council meeting
- ** 27th Luncheon, **Epicenter**

March:

- 1st BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
- 1st Members who have not paid 2022 dues may be **dropped**.
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 15th Deadline for submission Scholarship Applications
- 15th "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino
- ** 23rd United Veterans Council meeting
- ** 24th Luncheon, **Epicenter**

April:

- 5th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 19th "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino
- 27th Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 28th United Veterans Council meeting

May:

- 3rd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- ** 14th Armed Forces Day – Rose Parade, Santa Rosa
- 17th "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino
- 25th United Veterans Council meeting
- ** 26th Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 30th Memorial Day Ceremonies

June:

- 7th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am

- ** 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 4th / 11th / 18th Saturday, Picnic at Two Rock? Honor Scholarship Recipients
- 21st "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino
- 22nd United Veterans Council meeting
- July:
- 5th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – selection of nominating committee
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 19th "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino
- ** 27th United Veterans Council meeting
- 28th Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- August:
- 2nd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 16th "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino
- ** 13th / 20th Saturday, Riverfront Regional Park, Annual BBQ
- 24th United Veterans Council meeting
- September:
- 6th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2023 officers
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- ** 17th - 18th Air Show at CMS Airport?
- 20th "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino
- ** 16th or 23rd ?? Friday, Luncheon, Two Rock USCG (\$10.00?)
- 28th United Veterans Council meeting
- October:
- 4th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 18th "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino
- 26th United Veterans Council meeting
- ** 27th Luncheon or Dinner?, **Epicenter**, Election of Officers for 2021
- November: TBD
- December: TBD
- ** Not Confirmed at this time ~ CNX = Cancelled ~ UNK = Unknown
- All Meals at **Epicenter** will be Buffets 06/32/06

MOAA WIVES CLUB

(Sonoma County Main - All members welcome)

2022 Officers

President: Dayle Johnson	408-466-6764
Vice President: Liz Warren	707-763-6957
Secretary: Tina Lewis	707-758-9739
Treasurer: Florence Wall	707-837-7389
Parliamentarian: Donna Poulter	707-576-0513

TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES!

ONLY \$25.00

Mail check to Florence Wall at
655 Chardonnay Place, Windsor, CA 95492-6685

Time to pay your dues! Either mail a check to Florence Wall or pay when you come to the luncheon. We hope you will come to the luncheons, fully vaccinated of course. We all want to be safe.

The next meeting of the Wives Club will be a buffet lunch at the Epicenter on Wednesday, January 12th. The price is \$25.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be chicken alfredo pasta, pepperoni flatbread, seasonal vegetables, house salad, and cookies.

If the Telephone Committee does not contact you, you may make a reservation up to the day before the meeting; however, cancellations must be made by Monday preceding the meeting. For either situation, call Susan Linch at 538-3342.

There will be no traditional, formal ceremony in January to install new officers. Because of the pandemic and lack of meetings in 2021, all the officers have graciously agreed to serve another term. Thanks to all of them!

The January 12th program will be the ever-popular Bingo! Come and have fun!

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

Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2022

<u>President:</u>	Maj Ken Johnson, USAF	408-466-6764
<u>1st Vice President</u>	(NONE AT THIS TIME)	
<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 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 2022-2023

Capt R. Lee Berry, USMC 707-308-4160
Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst 707-468-0146
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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