

# MOAA



# VOICE

Military Officers Association of America  
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 52, NUMBER 6

"Serving Those Who Serve America"

JUNE 2022



## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

My thoughts for our newsletter this month take me into a more personal relationship with our members. As I think about the life I share with my fellow members of the MOAA I realize that our life needs are changing. All of our Interest and values take on a new meaning. We are entering a part of our life when our needs go beyond our military past. Our support today for the activities of our MOAA Chapter is not as much a part of our life today as is our needs for just daily living. I know that for some transportation to our events it's not always possible. I also know that as we age our energy level doesn't always support the things we want to be involved in. Our chapter is not the largest, but it is one of the strongest chapters in this area. Your board members are committed to serve this chapter and provide the best possible leadership they can. Our monthly newsletter is your best resource for keeping up on the activities of this chapter. It will keep you up-to-date and will give you the contact information you may need to reach out to any of the board members.

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

**MOAA BOARD of DIRECTORS will be MEETING at the Santa Rosa Veterans building in the Conference room.**

Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 11:30am.

### "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.

## Saturday, June 18, 2022 Picnic/BBQ location Spring Lake Park. At Lower Jackrabbit Picnic Area

Our Chapter Board of Directors has reserved Spring Lake, Lower Jack Rabbit area to have a **Picnic/BBQ** on **Saturday, June 18, 2022**. **Cost will be \$25.00**. **NOTE: The price of food has increased and we had to raise our prices.**

**Menu: BBQ Chicken, Garlic Bread, Wine, Iced Tea, and Coffee. Salad, Baked Beans, and Dessert provided by the Wives Club. Please bring your own munchies, chips & dip, water, and soda.**

**INFO ON CHAPTER GET TOGETHER**  
**See Page 5 for Coupon**

### "Pub Crawl" by Ken Johnson

Please join us at our 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 had 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 are meeting on the third Tuesday, at 11:30am, June 21st. **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 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.

## Legislative Update- June 2022

### Federal

**Federal Budget . 2022 NDAA.** MOAA annual Advocacy in Action seems to be having effect showing increase in co-sponsorship on MOAA's priority list of legislation for our legislators to consider as the 2022 NDAA funding goes through the final process of negotiations. Here, in our chapter, I had zoom meetings with Rep. Jared Huffman's staff and personally on zoom with Rep. Mike Thompson. You all are to be congratulated on sending the tear out cards from the **Military Officer.**

The three National MOAA priorities are:

**S. 344/ HR 1282 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 with more than 218 cosponsors, it might not "make to cut" when the NDAA gets finalized unless a counter balancing budget line has been found. Happily, **Congressmen Jerad Huffman and Congressman Mike Thompson** are co-sponsors now as Thompson signed on on May 6th.

**H.R. 4824 Stop Copay Overpay Act- TRICARE Mental Health Copayments.** Support for mental health is increasingly important, and the issue is getting attention on the Hill due to pandemic impacts and the effects of social media on children's well-being. This bill seeks to remedy TRICARE's financial barrier to care when it is available will benefit our currently serving families on TRICARE Select and our working-age retirees and their families. **Congressman Mike Thompson** signed on as a cosponsor on May 6th.

**Military Pay Raise at 4.6%.** This proposal should be included in the FY 2023 NDAA based on the President's guidance and input from the Armed Services Committees in both chambers. However, some legislators are interested in adjusting pay for junior enlisted. No details are available at this time. However, although a 2.7% pay raise is included, it does not meet the requirements of the Employment Cost Index (ECI) which is 4.6% for all ranks due to a 2.6% gap from previous years. This issue is significantly important to those who are about to retire.

**COLA continues to rise.** The latest information available shows it 8.3% above the baseline.

**GET INVOLVED!** Please continue to tear out the letters to our legislators from the latest issue of the Military Officer and send to the addressees. With inflation rampant, we all need cover the backs of each other.

### State

**CalMOAA President Fred Green and VP Legislative Jeff Breiton** continue their their efforts in organizing the state support of the National MOAA's Advocacy in Action as well as their timely efforts to get **AB1623 Tax Exemption for Military Retired Pay** passed after more than 15 years of trying, Friends, this is one of the several reasons why we belong to CalMOAA. If you are not a member now, join the Redwood Empire Chapter now; if you know someone who could be a member, ask them to join!

**AB 1623 Tax Exemption for Military Retired Pay** continues to be our major thrust this month to keep this issue in front of our Assemblymembers and Senators eyes.

The good news is that the bill has passed the **Revenue and Taxation Committee** and will go to the **Appropriations Committee** before going to the floor for a vote. There is still a lot of work to do, so now is not a time to re-

lax.

**Voter Voice.net** Another Voter Voice "click and send" self generated letter sponsored by the CSCVC urging our State Legislators to support AB 1623 is ready. It is critically important to keep this issue in front of them. Please send ASAP.

Follows is transcribed from an email received from CSCVC.

"Veterans:

With your help, AB 1623 (Ramos), the bill to exempt military retirement pay from California state taxes, has passed the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee 10-1. The next stop is the Appropriations Committee, which is another major hurdle. Please help Assemblyman Ramos and California's active veterans convince the legislature that this bill needs to pass this committee! Contact your legislators again and ask them to get behind this bill and pass it through Appropriations.

Veterans and Advocates,

**We need your help** on a bill going through the California State legislature that aims to provide state tax exemption for retired uniformed services members: **AB 1623 (Ramos)**. AB 1623 recognizes the vital services these uniformed service members contribute to our nation and intends to extend a state benefit to those who served for twenty years - the uniformed services' retirement age. AB 1623 also recognizes our state's National Guard and provides that the exemption benefit begins at 60 years of age. The purpose of AB 1623 is twofold: to honor those who dedicated their life to serving their country, and to retain and attract uniformed service retirees to California for the purposes of strengthening the state's skilled workforce, bringing stability to communities, and contributing to the state and local tax base.

**Will you take a moment to send a letter to your state legislators today?"**

"Please help us tell the Assembly that the veterans' community strongly supports AB 1623 and supporting those who served in the uniformed services.

**Use our simple, fast online letter-writing tool to send a letter to your legislators today.**

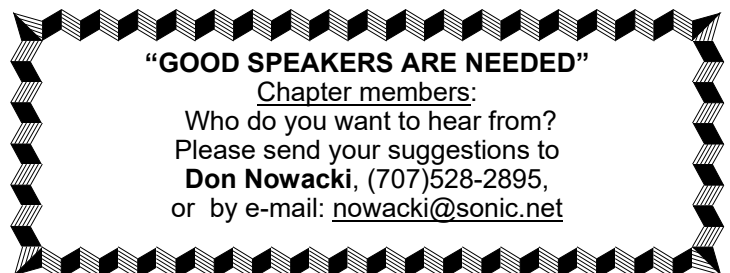
" Thank you for your support!

**Vern McNamee, LTC, USA Retired**

Legislative Chairman

Redwood Empire Chapter, MOAA (CA30)

## SEE "PUB CRAWL" PAGE No. 1



# Spring Lake Park

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
DISCOVERY  
CENTER**  
of Sonoma County

This 320-acre park features camping, fishing, picnic areas with barbecues, and four group picnic areas. Trails are available for walking, hiking, bicycling and horseback riding. The park also includes a 3-acre swimming lagoon and a 72-acre lake. Don't forget to visit the Environmental Discovery Center at Spring Lake for a wonderful educational experience for all ages. Although dogs are allowed within both Spring Lake and Howarth Park, they are not allowed at the swimming lagoon or within Annadel State Park. Please follow all dog leash laws while visiting the parks.

Get a park pass and save money on the daily use fee for each vehicle. 100% of the purchase price goes back to Regional Parks to help us protect these beautiful parks for generations to come. Information about a park pass can be found at [www.sonoma-county.org/parks](http://www.sonoma-county.org/parks) or call 707-565-2041.

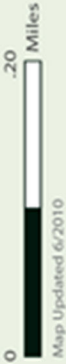


Annadel State Park



## Popular Trails to Explore

Spring Lake Loop	2.30 Miles
Newanga Entry to Boat Launch	0.80
Fishermans Trail	0.47
South Dam to Jack Rabbit	0.43
Horse Loop Trail	2.60
Kerfoot Trail to Howarth Parking	0.15



Map Updated 6/2010



This map is provided as a guide within the park. Reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the map and data provided. The positional accuracy of the data is approximate and not intended to represent map accuracy from a published record survey. THE MAP AND ASSOCIATED DATA ARE PROVIDED WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, either expressed or implied, including but not limited to, the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. For detailed and updated information about accessibility of recreational opportunities or any other park information contact Sonoma County Regional Parks at (707) 565-2041.

- COUNTY PARK
- OTHER PARKS
- SPRING LAKE LOOP
- HORSE LOOP (Bay Area Ridge Trail)
- ROADWAY
- MULTI-USE TRAIL
- BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL
- BRIDGE
- GATE
- VISTA POINT
- CONCESSIONS
- ENVIRONMENTAL DISCOVERY CENTER
- FEE STATION
- EQUESTRIAN PARKING
- CAMPGROUND
- BOAT LAUNCH
- RANGER STATION
- RESTROOM
- GROUP PICNIC AREA
- FISHING
- PARKING

## 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 59 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

### The picnic is at Spring Lake Park, Lower Jack Rabbit picnic area.

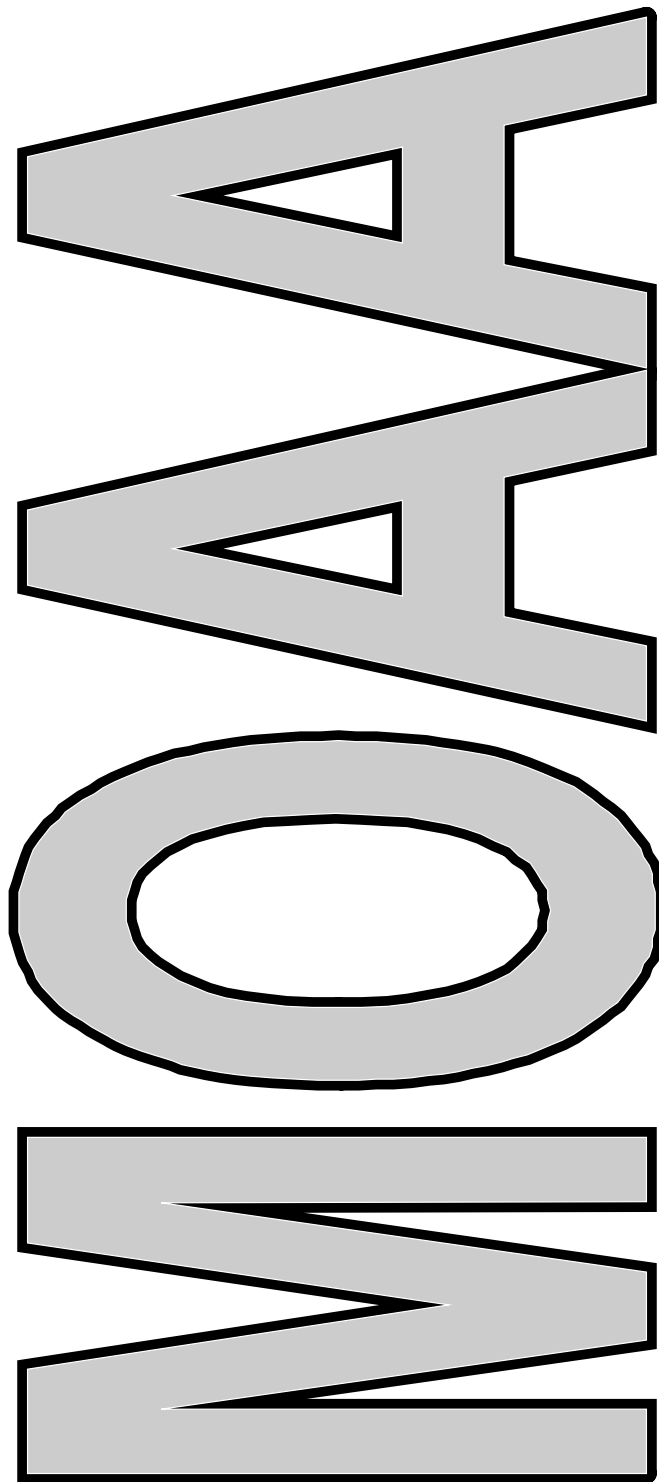
From Hwy 101 take Hwy 12 east towards Sonoma. Cross over Farmer's Lane and continue straight on Hoen Ave. One block after the third traffic light, turn left onto Newanga which will lead you straight to the park entrance. After passing through the gate, turn left. Follow the winding road for a bit, then turn right leading down to a parking lot and boat launch. Shortly before the parking lot, turn left and Lower Jack Rabbit will be on your right.

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Guest Speaker: Officer from Sonoma Sheriff's Department with his K-9 (Dog). He spoke about the Departments Dogs, what they do and how they are trained. Many questions were answered from our diners attending.

IF YOU ATTEND THE PICNIC/  
BBQ ON JULY 17th, AND IF YOU  
DRIVE YOUR CAR THERE,  
PUT THE "MOAA" SIGN  
LISTED BELOW ON  
YOUR CAR DASHBOARD



# COL WILLIAM G. BREY SCHOLARSHIPS

(Five Scholarships Awarded read below)

The Scholarship Committee, in concordance with the Board of Directors, is extremely pleased to announce the winners of the 2022 Brey Scholarships. All applicants are highly qualified and should do very well in their future endeavors. A total of **\$18,000** has been awarded to Macdalah Fry, granddaughter of Wally McCall; Jessica Nowacki, granddaughter of Don and Barbara Nowacki; Anna Linch, granddaughter of Don and Susan Linch; Zoe Phan, granddaughter of Don and Susan Linch; and Adinath Lane, grandson of Jeannine Lane.

My grateful thanks to Lee Hoskins, Mary Gwen Neisingh, and Laurell Meredith for their efforts, work and input on behalf of these students.

A special thank you also to Pete Rizzo for redacting pages and pages of the applications.

**Susan Linch**, Scholarship Committee Chair

~~~~~  
**LISTED BELOW ARE TWO LETTERS THAT WERE RECEIVED, FROM STUDENTS AWARDED OUR COL BREY SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS**  
~~~~~

April 22, 2022  
Jessica Nowacki  
3642 Hadley Hill Dr

Dear MOAA Scholarship Committee and the Chapter Board of Directors,

I would like to sincerely thank everyone for awarding me the Colonel William Brey Scholarship. I couldn't believe it when I saw the letter in my mailbox. My dream of becoming a registered nurse will be challenging and rewarding. I recently committed to the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am so excited to be starting my journey to college this fall. The money from this scholarship will help me so much with my tuition and expenses.

I have nothing but deep respect for the sacrifices that all the military branches have made to make it possible for us to live in the greatest country on earth. Without our military, going to college might not even be an option. My grandfather served as an officer in the U.S. army and I'm so proud of him. Thank you again. I will stay in touch with the MOAA.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Nowacki

~~~~~  
May 2022

Dear MOAA Scholarship Committee,

I would like to sincerely thank you for your generosity in granting me the Colonel William Brey Scholarship. I am extremely grateful for this scholarship because it will aid me in my academic journey beyond High School. I plan to attend Arizona State University to pursue a career in Nursing. The support on your behalf is deeply appreciated and I am exceptionally thankful to the MOAA Scholarship committee for providing aid to those seeking to broaden their education. I understand the value of attending college and your scholarship will help support me throughout my endeavors.

Sincerely,  
Anna Linch

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

**PICNIC/BBQ - SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2022, 11am to 3pm**  
**SPRING LAKE PARK**  
At  
**The Lower Jack Rabbit Picnic Area**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Menu:** BBQ Chicken, Garlic Bread, Wine, Iced Tea, and Coffee

**Wives Club will provide:** Salad, Baked Beans, and Desserts.

**Members, Friends and Guests:** Please bring your own munchies, chips & dip, water, and soda.

Enclosed is my check for # \_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$25.00

each for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** If you want to donate anything for the Col. Brey Scholarship Fund (Fully Tax Deductible), put amount

below for: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ add for Grand Total\$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please list the names of all guest, so that we can make **NAME TAGS** for them too, thank you.*

**Please make name tags for:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Reservation must be received not later than**  
Tuesday, June 14, 2022

We will be having a Raffle to help with our funds. If you are able to bring a Raffle Prize we would be grateful.

Make check (s) payable to: **REC MOAA**  
To: MOAA, Redwood Empire Chapter, P.O. Box 2801,  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

## 2022 DATES TO REMEMBER\*

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

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

June:  
 7<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 18<sup>th</sup> Saturday, Spring Lake at Lower Jack Rabbit site.  
 Honor Scholarship Recipients.  
 21<sup>st</sup> "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino  
 22<sup>nd</sup> United Veterans Council meeting

July:  
 5<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – selection of nominating committee  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 19<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino  
 27<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 28<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, **Epicenter**

August:  
 2<sup>nd</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 16<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino  
 13<sup>th</sup> Saturday, Riverfront Regional Park, Annual BBQ  
 24<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting

September:  
 6<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2023 officers  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 \*\* 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> Air Show at CMS Airport?  
 \*\* 20<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino  
 \*\* 16<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> ?? Friday, Luncheon, Two Rock USCG (\$10.00?)  
 28<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting

October:  
 4<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am

10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 18<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino  
 26<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 27<sup>th</sup> Luncheon or Dinner?, **Epicenter**, Election of Officers for 2023

\*\*

November:  
 1<sup>st</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 (Friday)  
 \*\* 15<sup>th</sup> Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building  
 23<sup>rd</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 24<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day

December:  
 6<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 \*\* 7<sup>th</sup> Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??  
 \*\* 4<sup>th</sup> / 10/11<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Holiday Social ??  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
NO United Veterans Council meeting  
 20<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" Daily Grill, Graton Resort & Casino  
 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas

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

## 17 MEMBERS NEED TO PAY DUES

**SEE "PUB CRAWL" PAGE No. 1**

## 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

In June, we will be joining the chapter for our annual picnic. This year the picnic will be on Saturday, June 18th, at Spring Lake Regional Park. Reservations must be made through the chapter. The reservation form can be found in this newsletter, along with specific directions for access to the park and location of the picnic grounds. If you have any questions, call Bob Safreno at 707-479-9374.

Callers will contact you to ask if you are coming to the picnic and if so, whether you want to bring salad, baked beans, or dessert. The picnic area is lovely. We have met there several times in the past. We hope you all will join us.

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

## Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2022

President: Maj Ken Johnson, USAF 408-466-6764  
1st Vice President (NONE AT THIS TIME)  
2nd Vice President 1/Lt Donald J. Nowacki, USANG 707-595-1047  
Secretary: Cpt Robert R. Safreno, USAF 707-795-3963  
Treasurer: LCDR Tim Morgan, USNR 707-695-9293  
Imed. Past President: 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:

Mendocino: Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst 707-468-0146  
Sonoma Valley: Maj B. K. White, USMC 707-996-1335

### MOAA VOICE

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