

# MOAA

Military Officers Association of America  
Redwood Empire Chapter



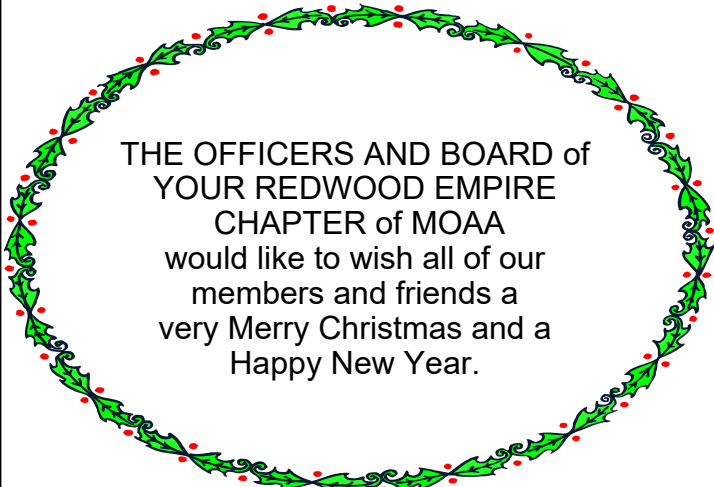
# VOICE

Post Office Box 2801  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 52, NUMBER 12

"Serving Those Who Serve America"

DECEMBER 2022



THE OFFICERS AND BOARD of  
YOUR REDWOOD EMPIRE  
CHAPTER of MOAA  
would like to wish all of our  
members and friends a  
very Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year.

## HOLIDAY LUNCHEON SOCIAL

Our annual HOLIDAY LUNCHEON will be held at **Sally Tomatoes** in Rohnert Park. Socializing begins at 1:00pm and the buffet will be open at 2:00pm. Holiday music will be provided by Craig Matsuda.

**NOTE BELOW:** The cost is \$45.00 each.

**PLAN TO ATTEND, BRING A FRIEND, ANOTHER MEMBER OR POTENTIAL MEMBER.**

If you need a ride, please call one of our Chapter Officers.

Robert Safreno, Chairman

**SEE PAGE FOUR (4) FOR  
DIRECTIONS TO Sally Tomatoes**

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

### ***Holiday Buffet Luncheon, Sunday December 4, 2022***

**Sally Tomatoes ~ 1100 Valley House Dr., Rohnert Park**

*Socializing 1:00pm; Lunch 2:00pm*

**Cost \$45.00**

**Cold Buffet:** Suzanne Salad ~ Rolls & Butter

**Hot Buffet:** Chicken Saltimbocca ~ Grilled Salmon Picatta ~ Mashed Potatoes, Tomato and Zucchini Gratin

**Holiday Desserts:** Tiramisu

Freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaf Coffee and a Selection of Teas. (NO HOST BAR AVAILABLE)

Enclosed is my check for my advanced reservation \_\_\_\_\_ persons (\$45.00 each) Total money sent \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the Col. Brey Scholarship Fund (Fully Tax Deductible) and/or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help defray costs in the Chapter General Fund.

**Entertainment:** Christmas Music by **Craig Matsuda**, Starting at 1:00pm.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_, **Phone:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Guests:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please list the names of all guests, so that we can make NAME TAGS for them, too. Thank you.*

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

**SEE PAGE FOUR (4) FOR DIRECTIONS TO Sally Tomatoes**



## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

My letter this month will be directed toward military retired benefits. California is the only state in the nation that does not provide a personal income tax exclusion to Uniformed Service retirees and survivors. California has the nation's third- largest Uniform Service retirees and survivors community with

approximately 165,000 members. Twenty-eight veteran organizations in California and the California state commanders veterans council publicly support AB 1623. Between 2013 and 2020 the nations population of the uninformed service retirees is increased by approximately 1.015%, while California had an annual decline of 2 to 3%. A significant cause for this migration from California is no exclusion for personal income tax.

The early part of this month I attended a two day zoom meeting for the CALMOAA annual meeting. During this meeting the most talked about subject was surviving spouses benefits. During this presentation it was made clear how many surviving spouses are not able to claim their full benefits. CALMOAA has asked Kathy Prout to develop a roster of surviving spouses in our chapter In order to give them the support they may need. To save me the task of asking each surviving spouse for permission to share their contact information with Kathy you may contact Kathy directly. Kathy's contact information is prout.kathy@gmail.com or 619 -980-6623. I think it's important that we have a contact person that we can go to answer our questions.

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

## Pub Crawl by Ken Johnson

Our pub crawl is on hold for the next two months, but in the meantime we will have had our annual Lobster Feed and a Christmas party. It is possible that the Graton casino well open up a new restaurant where the Daily Grill used to be. I won't be able to confirm a new meeting place for our Pub Crawl until a new meeting place can be found.

## 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.

## MOAA BOARD MEETING

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Tuesday, December 6, 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.

DUES NOTICE FOR	2023	Make Checks Payable to: REC MOAA
<b>DUES Requirements:</b> (For complete information check your current by-laws) Dues become due and payable on January 1 <sup>st</sup> . Non-receipt of dues payment by March 1 <sup>st</sup> , may result in removal from chapter rolls.		
Annual dues .....	\$25.00	\$
Wives club dues: (If wife a member) .....	\$25.00	\$
<b>Wife's name</b> _____		
Donation to the <b>General Fund:</b> (to defray costs) .... \$		
<b>COL Brey Scholarship fund:</b> _____		
Fully tax deductible contribution ..... \$		
<b>Thank You!</b>		<b>Total enclosed</b> ..... \$
<b>NAME:</b> (First & Last) _____		
(Please Return this notice in envelope provided)		

## COPY OF DUES NOTICE

Shown above is a copy of 2023 Dues notice. It will be sent out by First Class mail, with a return envelope. If you do not receive a dues notice, you may not owe dues or it was missent. If you think you should be paying dues, but did not get a notice, contact your secretary for an explanation or the need for him to send you another dues notice.

Thank you .....ROBERT R. SAFRENO, Redwood Empire Chapter Secretary

## \*\*\*\*\*Elected Chapter Officers for 2023\*\*\*\*\*

### Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2023

- President Maj Ken Johnson, USAF
- 1st Vice President (*None at this time*)
- 2nd Vice Pres. 1Lt Donald J. Nowacki, USANG
- Secretary Cpt Robert R. Safreno, USAF
- Treasurer LCDR Tim Morgan, USNR
- Directors ~ 2023-2024 (2 yrs)
  - Martina Lewis
  - Susan Linch
  - LTC Gary Meagher, AUS
  - Mary-Gwen Neisingh
- Directors ~ 2023
  - Capt Lee R. Berry, USMC
  - Mrs Myrna M. Hurst
  - Donna Poulter
  - CPT Lewis Wall, USA

## Legislative Update- December 2022

**General Comments.** As the dust settles after the mid-term elections, I feel that we are in a "wait and see" mode to watch how things work out. We have already published National MOAA's priorities. Our legislative thrust in the next year will be returning to the subject of Exemption of Military Retirement from State income tax

**CSCVC** has requested our support in renaming the Mare Island Heath clinic. Please see the following request and click and send.

Veterans and Advocates,

Veterans served our country with distinction and should be recognized for their service and sacrifice. The CSCVC supports causes and legislation that honors and promotes recognition of our service members. Today, we have an opportunity to recognize the incredible service of Delphine Metcalf-Foster, the first African-American woman State Commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Dept. of CA, as well as its National Commander.

Following her service, Metcalf-Foster has served as a selfless champion for veterans across the state, and we ask our elected officials to recognize her service by renaming the Mare Island Clinic to the Delphine Metcalf-Foster VA Clinic. Please help us highlight her incredible work supporting our current and retired service members by contacting your Congressional representative using our advocacy tool today. Thank you,

So, in a nutshell, I would like to wish everyone a **HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS** and that **2023 BRINGS YOU JOY AND PEACE.**

Vern McNamee, LTC, USA  
Retired Legislative Chair  
Redwood Empire Chapter MOAA (CA30)  
707 972-3066 [vernonmc@mcn.org](mailto:vernonmc@mcn.org)

The pass, an expansion on the annual free pass for currently serving troops and their families, grants free access to about 2,000 parks and lands managed by the National Park Service; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Forest Service; Bureau of Land Management; Bureau of Reclamation; and the U.S. [Army](#) Corps of Engineers, according to an announcement on the park service website. It also gives discounted amenity fees in some locations.

While not every park or visitor area requires an entrance fee, many do. For example, Yosemite National Park in California charges a \$35 entrance fee per vehicle, while Craters of the Moon National Monument charges \$20. Other locations charge for entering museum or curation areas in the visitor center. For instance, the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center in the Chugach National Forest, Alaska, charges \$5 per adult to access a film and exhibits.

Those fees are waived for holders of the new lifetime pass, as well as those with the free active-duty America the Beautiful military pass or other passes sold or awarded by the agencies. The new pass covers the holder and any accompanying passengers in a private vehicle at sites that charge per car, or the pass owners and up to three adults age 16 and over at sites that charge per person.

The new lifetime pass program does not exclude veterans with so-called "bad paper" discharges. To get the pass, veterans must submit one of the following:

- Unexpired Department of Defense Identification Card (DD Form 2, DD Form 2765, or Next Generation USID replacement)
- Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)
- Veteran ID Card
- Veteran designation on a state-issued U.S. driver's license or identification card

To receive a pass visit a National Parks or parks and land agency store or staffed fee kiosk, or order via the [U.S. Geological Survey store](#). Passes ordered online carry a \$10 processing and shipping fee. Passes received in-person are free.

Gold Star family members can receive the pass by presenting a self-verification form certifying they are the next of kin to a military member killed during service overseas. The form includes a signature block and confirmation that the user is an "eligible next of kin (NOK) of a member of the United States Armed Forces who lost his or her life in qualifying situation."

No other identification or proof is required for Gold Star family members who want to get a lifetime pass.

-- Amy Bushatz can be reached at [amy.bushatz@military.com](mailto:amy.bushatz@military.com).

## Free Lifetime National Parks Passes Are Here for Veterans and Gold Star Families

All U.S. veterans and Gold Star family members will be able to get a free lifetime entrance pass for federal parks and recreation sites nationwide starting Nov. 11.



## 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. He still offers a weeks worth of goods and 5 gallons of gas to needy members, vets and classmates.

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

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## DIRECTIONS TO SALLY TOMATOES

1100 Valley House Dr., Rohnert Park

### Coming From the North:

Go south on Hwy 101

Exit at the Rohnert Park Expressway, turn left.

Turn right on Petaluma Hill Rd., then right on Valley House Dr.

Turn right just before a large office building complex; **Sally Tomatoes** is on the left.

### Coming From the South:

Go north on Hwy 101

Take Exit 476, Old Redwood Hwy

Turn right on Redwood Hwy, then right on Main St., which becomes Petaluma Hill Rd.

Turn left on Valley House Dr., then right into a large office building complex.

**Sally Tomatoes** is the first building on the left.

### Coming From the East:

Take Petaluma Hill Rd. south, either via Santa Rosa Ave.

Or take Bennett Valley Rd., turning right on Grange and then left on Petaluma Hill Rd.

Turn right on Valley House Dr., then right into a large office building complex.

**Sally Tomatoes** is the first building on the left.



## Understanding World War I

The guest speaker at the October Chapter lunch was Robert Kuchem, whose PowerPoint presentation "Understanding World War I" focused on clarifying the causes of World War I. The cause of the war is typically attributed to the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand of Austria and his wife Sofie; however, Mr. Kuchem's focus was that the assassinations were the spark, not the cause. He led us through the rise of Germany as a nation, through the war, to the armistice signed on November 11, 1918. A Q&A session followed his presentation.



## DUES NOTICE

All regular members should have received your dues notice by the time you get this bulletin by mail. The notices were sent First Class mail, with an envelope that could be used to return your payment of dues.

From By-Laws: **Article VII, Section B.**

Annual dues shall become due and payable on the first day of January. Members who fail to renew their membership by that date shall be reminded of their overdue status and, if payment is not received by the first day of March, shall be dropped from the rolls. Membership may be reinstated upon payment of current dues.

Notices will be sent only to members who need to renew their dues for 2023. There are still a few members who have not renewed their dues for 2022 as of the publication of this bulletin.

**NOTE:** Members should not pay Wives Club dues unless their wife is a member of the Wives Club. Every year your Treasurer receives additional payment for wives and then passes on payment to Florence Wall for the payment of dues for about 5 or 6 women who are not Wives Club members. She then has to call and inform them, or send checks back to the member that has paid his wives dues in error.

**Please note members dues are \$25.00 a year.**

**Wives dues are \$25.00, ONLY  
if they belong to the Wives Club**

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The application period for COL William G. Brey Scholarships will open on January 1, 2023, and will close on March 15, 2023. 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 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**  
Post Office Box 2801  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

or by directly contacting Scholarship Committee Chairman:

**Susan Linch**

4825 Glencannon Street,  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-7911 – Phone: (707)538-3342  
or e-mail: [srmomx5@comcast.net](mailto:srmomx5@comcast.net)

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



**COMING SOON!!!!  
THE COL BREY  
SCHOLARSHIP AND  
MERIT AWARDS  
HAVE BEEN REVISED TO  
REFLECT GRADES, MERIT,  
AND HUMANITY!!!  
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.

**WE NEED  
YOU!**



## 2022 DATES TO REMEMBER

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

### November:

- 1<sup>st</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
- 9<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 11<sup>th</sup> North Bay Veterans Day parade (Friday)
- 18<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:

- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Holiday Social, **Sally Tomatoes**
- 6<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am

### CNX

- 7<sup>th</sup> Pearl Harbor Survivors program
- 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- NO** United Veterans Council meeting

### CNX

- 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  
06/32/06

## 2023 DATES TO REMEMBER

### JANUARY:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Dues for 2023 are payable at this time
- 3<sup>rd</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
- 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 25<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting
- 26<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, **Epicenter** – Installation of Officers

### FEBRUARY:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Proposed target date to publish the 2023 Roster
- 7<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
- 8<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 22<sup>nd</sup> United Veterans Council meeting
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Luncheon, **Epicenter**

### MARCH:

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

8<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**

10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information

15<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission Scholarship Applications

22<sup>nd</sup> United Veterans Council meeting

23<sup>rd</sup> Luncheon, **Epicenter**

**SEE PAGE FOUR (4)  
FOR DIRECTIONS TO  
Sally Tomatoes**

## CHAPTER DUES FOR 2023

Chapter Dues are \$25.00 and they will be due January 1, 2023. The notice is in this December **MOAA VOICE**. There will also be a mailing sent out to all Chapter member on our Roster, with a return envelope.

**"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)

### 2022 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 |

## ABOUT TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES! ONLY \$25.00

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

As usual, the Wives Club does not meet in December. Instead, we join the Chapter in a holiday luncheon at Sally Tomatoes in Rohnert Park. We met there last December. Everyone had a wonderful time, and the food was delicious. We urge the Wives Club members to attend. All the details can be found elsewhere in this issue of the VOICE.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

**Tina Lewis**, Publicity 707-539-5546, [tinalewis31@comcast.net](mailto: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,     | 707-595-1047 |
| <u>Secretary:</u>            | Cpt Robert R. Saferno, 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 Lynch           | 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>Mendocino:</u>     | Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst   | 707-468-0146 |
| <u>Sonoma Valley:</u> | Maj B. K. White, USMC | 707-996-1335 |

## MOAA VOICE

|                          |                                                                               |                                                                            |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Co-Editor                | Tim Morgan                                                                    | 707-695-9293                                                               |
| E-Mail                   | Tim Morgan                                                                    | <a href="mailto:blackcloudbrew@comcast.net">blackcloudbrew@comcast.net</a> |
| Editor Mail Distribution | Bob Saferno                                                                   | 707-795-3963                                                               |
| E-Mail                   | Bob Saferno                                                                   | <a href="mailto:Shadowbob1@juno.com">Shadowbob1@juno.com</a>               |
| Online                   | <a href="http://www.redwoodwmpiremoaa.us">http://www.redwoodwmpiremoaa.us</a> |                                                                            |

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