

MOAA

Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter



VOICE

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 3

"Serving Those Who Serve America"

MARCH 2023



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

It's the beginning of a new month and that means many of us will stop and reflect what we need to do in the following days. It often includes balancing our checkbook, checking our monthly schedule for any meetings, appointments or outings that we will take this month. Have I reviewed my medical needs like renewing my prescriptions or scheduling any needed medical appointments. There's an old saying many of us will remember, GETTING MY DUCKS IN A ROW! It's like taking an inventory of the world we live in. But what about the world of others, for many of us we live in a very secure environment, with a nice home, good food, and the fellowship of good friends and monthly activities that meet most our personal needs. What I find interesting is that many of us don't stop to think about ways in which we can help others. It's not that we're not interested, it's just that the world of others don't often enter our world. Many times it can be a news item on television, or an article in the newspaper, or even a friendly reminder from a friend that causes us to stop and reflect on the needs of others and how we can give of ourselves to reach out and help. Donations that we make to charitable funds is important, but there's nothing more rewarding than given of ourselves to help others. Many of the ways in which we can reach out to help others may only take a few hours. I encourage all of us to take the time to give of ourselves.

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

SEE "Pub Crawl" on Page 2

Thursday, March 23, 2023

**Buffet Luncheon at the
EPICENTER in Santa Rosa
11:00am ~ Dine at Noon**

~~~~~  
**Guest Speaker:**  
**At the time of this publication none were  
available.**

## **PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR DINING**

This is needed for head counts for meals and making name tags. See page no. 5 for the Luncheon menu.

## **"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.

## **"GOOD SPEAKERS ARE NEEDED"**

Chapter members:

Who do you want to hear from?  
Please send your suggestions to  
**Don Nowacki**, (707)595-1047,  
or by e-mail: [nowacki@sonic.net](mailto:nowacki@sonic.net)

## **MOAA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING**

will be at the Santa Rosa Veterans building  
in the Conference room.

Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 11:30am.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

## **CHAPTER DUES FOR 2023**

Chapter Dues are \$25.00 and they are due on January 1, 2023. The By-Laws state that if dues are not paid by March 1st you may be dropped from membership. There was also a mailing sent out to all Chapter member on our Roster that owe dues, with a return envelope. We still have 11 of our members who have not renewed. Please check your records.



## 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 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**  
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.

## **"Pub Crawl" is BACK!!**

Chapter members, Friends and Guests: **"Pub Crawl"**, is back on our event calendar. Because the casino has closed the restaurant we've have been using we will be moving to a new location. For February and March Pub Crawl we will be meeting at the **Epicenter** at 11:30am, on the second Tuesday. In April we have a major change. We will be changing the **DAY** of the week, but the **location will remain the same**. We will now meet on the **THIRD** Monday of each month at 11:30am. Starting in April we will meet at 11:30 at the Epicenter on the **THIRD** Monday of each month. Our pub crawls are a great place to relax and share our past experiences. We all have stories to tell!!

Any other questions, please call your President

Ken Johnson. (408)466-6764.

## Legislative Update- March 2023

### General Comments.

**AB 46 Retired Pay Tax Exemption.** Once more, we are in an “all hands” mode to get support for AB 46. I have attached the Fact Sheet prepared by Asm James Ramos regarding his bill. This will move fast and requires quick action.

There are more than 30 co-sponsors of this bill. I have sent letters to State Sen McGuire and Asm Jim Wood requesting their support.

**If you like, you can plagiarize my letter sent to Assemblymember Jim Wood:**

“The Honorable Jim Wood  
Assemblymember 2nd District  
200 School Street, Ste D  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Assembly Member Wood,

As a veteran and a member of the Military Officers Association of America-California Council of Chapters, I am writing to you regarding one of the top legislative issues of our statewide organization; an income tax exemption on military retirement pay.

Therefore, I am respectfully requesting your support of AB 46 Military Services Retirement and Surviving Spouse Benefit Payment Act which can bring benefits to the economic health to California as is set forth in Assemblymember James C. Ramos’s legislative fact sheet attached.

It is noteworthy that California is the only state which does not provide at least partial relief from taxation of military retired pay. This fact in itself has caused an exodus of highly qualified professionals to leave the state. There is significant economic benefit of retaining military retirees in California upon their retirement, some as young as 38 years old at the time of retirement. Those military retirees play a vital role in California’s workforce development and fill critical defense jobs in California.

Therefore, your support is requested.

Sincerely yours

Vernon McNamee  
Tel: 707-884-3408  
Cell: 707 9172-3066  
Attached: Fact Sheet - Assemblymember Ramos”



The guest speaker for the January MOAA luncheon was Jack Tibbetts, a winner of North Bay Business Journal’s Nonprofit Leadership Awards and currently the Executive Director of St. Vincent de Paul, a non-profit organization. St. Vincent de Paul has been very active in helping the homeless with housing. Tibbetts’s PowerPoint presentation focused on Los Guilicos Village, located across Highway 12 from Oakmont in Santa Rosa. To help people transition out of homelessness, sixty fully functional units have been completed. Each unit comes equipped with heating, a bed, device chargers, and storage space. Also available are hot showers, support services, and meals. The village includes visiting doctors and nurses. Day-to-day living is tightly structured, including a curfew and the need to sign in and out. Following Mr. Tibbetts’s very well received talk, he fielded questions from the audience.



## **SUMMARY**

AB 46 will provide a state tax exemption for retired members of the Armed Forces. This bill will also exempt recipients of the Department of Defense's (DoD) Survivor Benefits Program. Since uniform services and California National Guard retirement pay stops upon death of the retiree, the DoD provides a continuous lifetime annuity for their dependents as an inflation-adjusted monthly income.

## **BACKGROUND**

California currently is the only state that fully taxes the pay of its 146,000 military retirees. Many factors affect the decision of members of the Armed Forces regarding where they will live after retirement. Climate, housing costs, where they have been based, and employment opportunities are important. Whether or not a state taxes their military pension benefits is also a factor. Between 2000 and 2016, the nation's population of military retirees increased by 17%. California, which was one of only five states that saw a reduction in the number of its military retirees, saw a decline of 17%. By 2025, after ten years of implementation, the economic gains for California would be substantial:

- > 12,600 more jobs
- > \$830 million added to total personal income
- > \$1.27 billion added to GSP
- > \$2.0 billion added to total business sales

## **PROBLEM**

Currently, a top issue for employers in California is attracting a qualified workforce. Approximately 60,000 high-tech jobs are unfilled. Armed Forces retirees are highly skilled, often in areas requiring technical and management expertise. These men and women often continue to be valuable assets to our schools, local charities, and non-profit organizations.

Substantial new federal funds are infused into the state and local economies not only from retirement pay, but also from the full taxation of their second careers. These retirees may also qualify for federal veterans' benefits, which further bring new monies into the state.

## **SOLUTION**

AB 46 recognizes members of the Armed Forces and their contribution to our nation and seeks to exempt their retirement pay once they retire after twenty years of service. This bill sunsets in 2034.

The purpose of the bill 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.

## **SUPPORT**

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF  
AMERICA, CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF  
CHAPTERS - SPONSOR  
SAN DIEGO MILITARY ADVISORY COUNCIL  
(SDMAC)

## **STAFF CONTACT**

Michael Chen  
Office of Assemblymember James Ramos  
[Michael.chen@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Michael.chen@asm.ca.gov)  
(916) 319-2045

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

1/26/23

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

**Buffet Luncheon, Thursday, March 23, 2023**  
**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:** Greek Salad ~ Broccoli Salad

**Lunch:** Beef Stroganoff with Butter Noodles ~ Roasted Chicken with Herbs and Gravy ,Glazed Carrots

**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 the meals and making on name tags.

**NO RESERVATIONS or Walk-Ins will cost \$30.00 per person**

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

Guest Speaker: **Unknown at time of 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

**\*\*\*\*\* PLEASE BRING A RAFFLE PRIZE IF YOU CAN \*\*\*\*\***

**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 57 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

**NOTE:** Fellow defenders of the Constitution, my son William at 17 is performing basic training. On a path to an AROTC slit as well. Proud daddy of course. If any one wishes to correspond with him, his mailing address is: Anderson, William, Bravo Company, 3-34 INF REGT 165th IN BDE 11954 Golden Arrow Rd, Fort Jackson, SC 29207-6819

**Colonel Robert P.J. Lindseth, USAF (Ret)**  
Director Convention Volunteer Operations,  
Association of Old Crows, (AOC) – crows.org  
6852 Tiddle Way  
Lorton VA 22079-1331

**RE: AOC Convention Support – Letter of Appreciation**  
PFC William A. Anderson  
B Co. 3-34 In REGT  
11954 Golden Arrow  
Ft. Jackson SC, 29207

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

It was a distinct pleasure to have **PFC W.A. Anderson** serve as a leader and SME (Subject Matter Expert) at three Annual AOC convention's here in Washington DC. His ability to manage large groups of untrained civilians was his greatest capability. PFC Anderson focused on the Mission of the AOC - Electronic Warfare and Cyber Operations. He quickly learned the critical nature of America's adversaries and was able to convey the importance of these concepts to those he guided through the Exhibit Area. The people in his group applauded his knowledge and leadership. **PFC W.A. Anderson** is welcome to participate at our Convention anytime.

Very respectfully.

//s//

**Colonel R.P.J. Lindseth, USAF (Ret)**  
Director Convention Volunteer Operations  
Association of Old Crows, (AOC)

## 2023 DATES TO REMEMBER

**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  
 14<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, 11:30 am  
 15<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission Scholarship Applications  
 22<sup>nd</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Luncheon, **Epicenter**

**APRIL:**  
 4<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 12<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**  
 17<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, 11:30 am  
 26<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 27<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, **Epicenter**

**MAY:**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 10<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**  
 14<sup>th</sup> Armed Forces Day – Rose Parade, Santa Rosa  
 15<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, 11:30 am  
 24<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 25<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, **Epicenter**  
 29<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Ceremonies

**JUNE:**  
 6<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 17<sup>th</sup> Saturday, Picnic Spring Lake, Lower Jackrabbit Area  
 Honor Scholarship Recipients?  
 19<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, 11:30 am  
 28<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting

**JULY:**  
 4<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – selection of nominating committee

12<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**  
 17<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, 11:30 am  
 26<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 27<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, **Epicenter**

**AUGUST:**  
 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  
 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Riverfront Regional Park, Annual BBQ  
 21<sup>st</sup> "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, 11:30 am  
 23<sup>rd</sup> United Veterans Council meeting

**SEPTEMBER:**  
 5<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2024 officers  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 13<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**  
 18<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, 11:30 am  
 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> Air Show at CMS Airport?  
 19<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> ?? Friday, Luncheon, Two Rock USCG (\$10.00?)  
 27<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting

**OCTOBER:**  
 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**  
 16<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, 11:30 am  
 25<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 26<sup>th</sup> Luncheon **Epicenter**, Election of Officers for

\*\* = Not Confirmed at this time ~ **CNX** = Cancelled ~ **UNK** = Unknown

06/32/06

## MOAA WIVES CLUB

(Sonoma County Main - All members welcome)

### 2023 Officers

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| President: Dayle Johnson       | 408-466-6764 |
| Vice President: Barbara Confer | 707-763-8198 |
| Secretary: Tina Lewis          | 707-758-9739 |
| Treasurer: Florence Wall       | 707-837-7389 |
| Parliamentarian: Donna Poulter | 707-576-0513 |

### TIME TO PAY

### DUES!

**ONLY \$25.00**

Pay when you come to a luncheon or mail a check to Florence Wall at  
 655 Chardonnay Place, Windsor, CA 95492

The next meeting of the Wives Club will be a buffet lunch at the Epicenter on Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. The price is \$25.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be fried chicken with gravy, roasted pork tenderloin, tempura vegetables, smashed red potatoes, Caesar 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 707-538-3342.

At the February luncheon Barbara Confer brought many of her absolutely beautiful quilts. She is one talented quilter! In March we plan to hear personal stories from the attendees: where you grew up, how many siblings, how you met your husband, and where you went on your first date. Time will be very limited, so life after marriage is for a different day. It will be great to learn more about the MOAA Wives.

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

### YOUR

## Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2023

|                              |                               |              |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| <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. Safrano, 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 |

|                                  |                       |              |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| <u>CAL-MOAA Director, Area I</u> | Cpt Tom Walther, USAF | 530-673-5499 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|

|                                            |                       |              |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| <u>Directors-at-large - Term 2023-2024</u> |                       |              |
|                                            | Martina Lewis         | 707-539-5546 |
|                                            | Susan Linch           | 707-538-3342 |
|                                            | LTC Gary Meagher, AUS | 707-544-4089 |
|                                            | Mary-Gwen Neisingh    | 707-481-7614 |

|                                       |                         |              |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| <u>Directors-at-large - Term 2023</u> |                         |              |
|                                       | 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 |

|                                             |                       |              |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| <u>Directors Representing Sub-Chapters:</u> |                       |              |
| <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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**SEE "Pub Crawl" on Page 2**