



## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

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

Veterans Day in the United States is celebrated on November 11 to honor veterans of the armed forces and those killed in the country's wars.

The observance originated in 1919 on the first anniversary of the 1918 armistice that ended World War I and was known as Armistice Day. It was commemorated in 1921 with the burial of an unknown soldier from World War I in Arlington National Cemetery. The lack of an apostrophe in "Veterans Day" implies that the occasion doesn't belong to veterans; rather, it's a day that honors all soldiers who once served their country, dead and alive. Veterans Day is different from Memorial Day. Memorial Day explicitly honors military members who've lost their lives while serving. It is common to observe two minutes of silence at 11 AM on November 11, the time and date of the World War I armistice in 1918.

The following is printed from the website of the US Department of Veterans Affairs. The theme for Veterans Day 2023 is "Service." Veterans are proud of their military service in defending our Nation. Honor reflects the military value and tradition of answering the call to duty. There is distinct honor and serving to protect our way of life and the Constitution of the United States of America.

Today one of the most meaningful parts of my life is to be able to acknowledge those past values and experience with other members of our local chapter of the MOAA. Our chapter provides many activities that bring us together not only in roles of service but many social activities that helps to enriching our lives. In the October issue of the MOAA voice there was a ballot for the election of new chapter officers. This is a challenge for any organization as we need volunteers who are willing to give up their time to support the ongoing activities of our organization. Anyone who volunteers to serve in any of the chapter positions will be mentored by an outgoing officer to provide a smooth transition. We all enjoy an active and successful organization, it's up to you to help make this happen. Anyone who is willing to serve can contact the current officers and they will be glad to discuss their roles.

## MOAA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

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

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

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

## SURF & TURF ANNUAL FEED LOBSTER and CROSS-RIB BEEF, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17th

Please see page No. 5 for the reservation form and information on the menu for the evening.

It's November! That means the annual MOAA Lobster Feed, Friday, November 17th, at the Veterans Building. Social hour begins at 5:00pm with a no-host bar and lots of schmoozing. Dinner will be served at 6:00pm, or as soon as the lobsters stop wiggling. Accompanying the crustaceans will be cross-rib. And of course there will be a raffle after dinner.

But here's the really important thing! Because the lobsters come fresh off the plane from the east coast, we absolutely must have an accurate count by Monday, November 13th! The coupon for this popular event can be found on **page No. 5** of this issue of the **MOAA VOICE**. Cut it out right now and get your money in the mail to secure a place at the table. And speaking of money, the \$45.00 cost is amazingly reasonable considering what you're getting for your money.

You don't want to miss this fun event! If you get into trouble with a reservation, call Bob Safreno at Home: (707)795-3963 or Cell: (707)479-9374 But if you call him after November 14th, you might end up eating a \$45.00 hot dog.

See you at the Big Feed!

PLEASE GET YOUR **RESERVATIONS IN BY MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13th**. WE NEED TO HAVE A HEAD COUNT, SO THAT WE WILL HAVE ENOUGH LOBSTERS FOR THOSE DINING.

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



**SEE "Pub Crawl" on Page 4**

## Legislative Update - November 2023

### General Comments:

As you all are well aware, we are still in limbo. A final decision on the NDAA is yet to be finalized and things are working on a temporary Continuing Resolution (CR) until mid-November. **Stay tuned!**

### Federal:

With the NDAA funding still in a fluid situation, let's continue with the same legislative priorities listed in the last three MOAA Voices.

### State:

**AB 46 Retired Pay Tax Exemption** . This will remain our legislative priority during the upcoming year. The bill has been granted another year's reprieve so you will be hearing much more in the coming months.

As an aside, I hope you signed and mailed the letter to Governor Gavin Newsom included in last month's MOAA Voice. If not, please do it now or call or message me if you have any questions.

**Single Payer Health System. SB 770** California legislators continue to aggressively pursue legislation to implement a "Single Payer Health Care System" in California. Basically, California wants to have a state run healthcare program and do away with private providers. A one size fits all approach. I do believe that everyone is entitled to receive health care, but California should not be allowed a "waiver" to receive federal dollars to fund a state health care system, while placing an additional tax burden on our senior citizens on Medicare, disabled veterans entitled to VA Health Care, active duty and retired military members entitled to Tri-Care, along with federal employees assigned to agencies inside California, who are part of the FEDVIP Health Care Program.

To accomplish this SB 770 was introduced and is currently on Governor Newsom's desk, directing California Agencies to start discussions with federal agencies to obtain a "waiver" to allow California to receive Federal Medicare & Medicaid Funds directly and divert those funds to a state run healthcare system. No language exists in SB 770 to address additional taxes that may be imposed on our Medicare Annuitants. California Medicare Annuitants may find them-

selves paying additional "health care taxes" for their Medicare benefits they have already paid taxes on for decades.

We faced AB 1400 on the same subject two years ago when it failed to find out how it would be financed. You might want to contact State Senator Mike McGuire's office to let him know of your fears of losing Tricare or Tricare for Life.

**Again. Stay tuned!**

**Vern McNamee, LTC, USA Retired**

Legislative Chairman

Redwood Empire Chapter MOAA (CA30)

707 972-3066

[vernonmc@mcn.org](mailto:vernonmc@mcn.org)

## SEE "Pub Crawl" on Page 4





The guest speaker at the September luncheon was Jenn Wall. After working many years in the wine industry, she became involved with Barefoot Bubbly California Champagne, which was launched in 1998. Her PowerPoint explanation of champagne production was accompanied by tasting of six varietals: Brut Cuvee, Brut Rose, Extra Dry, Pinot Grigio, Spumante, and Pink Moscato. She explained that the word champagne can be used because Barefoot was grandfathered in because it was made before 2006. The winner of many awards, look for the Barefoot footprint logo!

**SEE "Pub Crawl" on Page 4**





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**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.

## **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

The application period for COL William G. Brey Scholarships will open on January 1, 2024, and will close on March 15, 2024. 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.

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### **"Pub Crawl"**

Chapter members, Friends and Guests:  
"Pub Crawl", is back on our event calendar.

We will meet at 12:00 noon (**NOTE: NEW TIME**) at the **Epicerter**. November 20, 2023. Always 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.

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

**SURF & TURF**  
**LOBSTER and CROSS-RIB BEEF,**  
**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17th**  
**Veterans Memorial Building (Dining Room) - 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa**

**Menu:** *Maine Lobster 1 1/4 lb or larger and Cross-Rib Beef  
Baked Potatoes, Caesar Salad, Garlic bread.  
Red and White wine will be available. Dessert*

**\$45.00 each**

**5:00 pm: Social, No Host Bar      About 6:00 pm: Lobster served - (if ready)**

Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_ persons @ \$45.00 each. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the Col. Brey Scholarship Fund

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 \*\*\*\*\***



## 2023 DATES TO REMEMBER

### 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, **12:00 noon**
- 25<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting
- 26<sup>th</sup> Luncheon Epicenter, Election of Officers for

### NOVEMBER:

- 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
- 11<sup>th</sup> North Bay Veterans Day parade (Friday)
- 17<sup>th</sup> Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building
- 20<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
- NO United Veterans Council meeting
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Thanksgiving Day

### DECEMBER:

- 5<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
- \*\* 7<sup>th</sup> Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??
- 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Holiday Social, Sally's Tomatoes
- 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- NO United Veterans Council meeting
- \*\* 18<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, **12:00 noon??**
- 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas

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

06/32/06

## "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.

## CHAPTER DUES FOR 2024

Chapter Dues are \$25.00 and they will be due January 1, 2024. A notice will be in the 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

**Bob Safreno**, (707)795-3963, Cell: 707-479-9374

or by e-mail: [shadowbob1@juno.com](mailto:shadowbob1@juno.com)

## 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

The next meeting of the Wives Club will be a buffet lunch at the Epicenter on Wednesday, November 14th. The price is \$25.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be chicken enchiladas, mini meatloaves, esquite, Spanish rice and pinto beans, 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 707-538-3342.

The guest speakers in October were Philip McGough and Scott Jones, Adult Services librarians from the Sonoma County Library. Accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation, we learned about the myriad of things you can do with just a library card. To explore these services, go to [sonomali-brary.org](http://sonomali-brary.org).

The guest speaker for November will be Shana Davis from the Redwood Empire Food Bank. Please join us!

**Tina Lewis**, Publicity 707-539-5546,  
[tinaleswis31@comcast.net](mailto:tinaleswis31@comcast.net)

## 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>	(NONE AT THIS TIME)	
<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

<u>CAL-MOAA Director, Area I</u>	Cpt Tom Walther, USAF	530-673-5499
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<u>Directors-at-large - Term 2022</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 2022-2023</u>		
	(NONE AT THIS TIME)	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

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 Safreno	707-795-3963
E-Mail	Bob Safreno	<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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