

MOAA

Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter



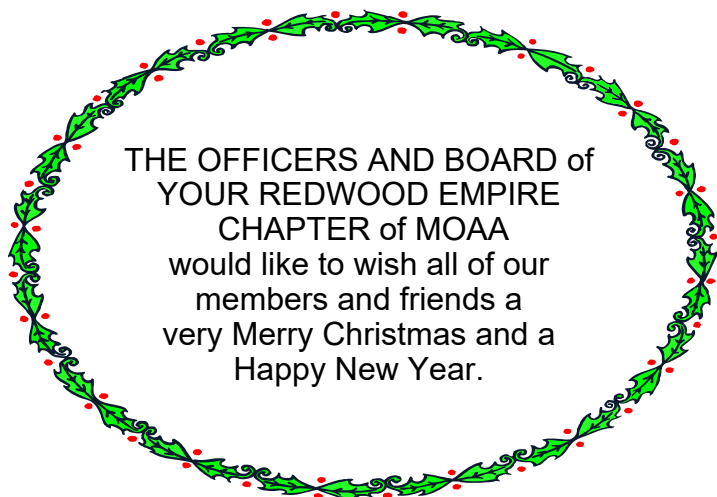
VOICE

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 12

"Serving Those Who Serve America"

DECEMBER 2023



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 (5) FOR
DIRECTIONS TO Sally Tomatoes**

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

Holiday Buffet Luncheon, Sunday December 17, 2023

Sally Tomatoes ~ 1100 Valley House Dr., Rohnert Park

Socializing 1:00pm; Lunch 2:00pm

Cost \$45.00

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

Hot Buffet: Fresh Roast Beef with horseradish cream ~ Fresh Salmon with mango papaya salsa
Scalloped Potatoes ~ Mixed Sauté Vegetables

Holiday Desserts: Raspberry Brownie with whipped cream and chocolate sauce

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 (5) FOR DIRECTIONS TO Sally Tomatoes



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

As I sit down at my desk getting ready to write the current article for the *MOAA VOICE* president's comments, I went through my file cabinets and looked at some of the older issues. My first article from the MOAA voice was in January

2021. That was three years ago. I was newly elected as president and with the support of the board members I've been able to serve our organization with a great sense of pride and good feelings. I first became a member of the MOAA when I was living in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Our membership then was close to 300 and we held our meetings in the old Fort Snelling. We had our own private bar and a dining room that served both lunch and dinner every day. Those were exciting days for the members of the MOAA. Our local chapter has been a meaningful experience for me, since I joined six years ago. It's given me an opportunity to build new and meaningful relationships. I will continue to serve on the board, but I would like to find someone new to take over the reigns as president. Our chapter officers, and board members are exceptional and are to be commended for their efforts and commitments that make this a strong organization. I will not leave an empty chair, I am here to serve until someone else is willing to take my place.

I want to wish everybody a wonderful and joyous holiday season. I look forward to celebrating with you at our Holiday Social at **Sally Tomatoes**, on December 17th.

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

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 of DIRECTORS MEETING

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

Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 11:30am.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

DUES NOTICE FOR	2024	Make Checks Payable to: REC MOAA
DUES Requirements: (For complete information check your current by-laws) • Dues become due and payable on January 1 st . • Non-receipt of dues payment by March 1 st , may result in removal from chapter rolls.		
Annual dues	\$25.00	\$
Wives club dues: (If wife a member)	\$25.00	\$
Wife's name		
COL Brey Scholarship fund:		
Fully tax deductible contribution	\$	
Thank You!	Total enclosed.....	\$
NAME: (First & Last)		
(Please Return this notice with check in envelope provided)		

***** SAMPLE *****

COPY OF DUES NOTICE

Shown above is a copy of 2024 Dues notice. Chapter Dues are \$25.00 and they will be due January 1, 2024. Notices 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 miss placed. 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 Safreno, Redwood Empire Chapter Secretary

NO Pub Crawl CANCELLED For December 2023

Chapter members, Friends and Guests: Pub Crawl, is on our event calendar, come on out and have a good lunch.

We will meet at 12:00 noon (**NOTE: NEW TIME**) at the **Poppy Bank Epicenter**. January 15, 2024. 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.



PUB CRAWL
3rd Monday
November 20th
At the
POPPY BANK
EPICENTER
13 having lunch

Dennis & Norma
 Viglienza
 Susan & Don Linch
 Ken & Dayle Johnson
 Gary & Keith Meagher
 Don & Barbara Confer
 Sandy Paxton
 Bob Safreno
 Donna Poulter



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 60 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

Donald D. Confer Commander, USN ~ Comments

We contacted CPT William Anderson, USA, regarding replacing our garbage disposal. One of his workers arrived and installed the new part. There was some difficulty as Friedman Brothers hardware store had failed to include a power line but CPT Anderson's worker was able to use the original power line with some wire nuts provided by me. We appreciate the work provided, as at 86, I would have had trouble doing it.

The guest speaker at the October luncheon was our own Bob Safreno. Roughly fifteen years ago, Bob visited the NA 'AINA KAI Botanical Gardens and Sculpture Park on the island of Kauai, and he showed us pictures he took while there. These beautiful gardens and sculptures are attributed to Charles Schulz's first wife Joyce and her husband, so there's even a Sa

SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE 2

**WE NEED
YOU!**



**COMING SOON!!!!
THE COL BREY
SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION
HAS 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.

**THE COL BREY SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION
HAS BEEN REVISED**

The application period for COL William G. Brey Scholarships opens November 1, 2023 and will close March 15, 2024. All applications must be postmarked by March 15, 2024. Those eligible to apply for scholarships are children, grandchildren (natural or adopted), and wards of living or deceased members of the Chapter. Living members must be a member in good standing for a minimum of one year and a participating member at the time the application is submitted. Deceased members must have been in good standing at the time of death. Scholarship eligibility is limited to those pursuing undergraduate academic and professional certification 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

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

Legislative Update December 2023

General Comments. It seems like we are watching a long three act opera that goes on and on. I am sure you all are well aware, we still are pretty much in limbo. A final decision on the NDAA is yet to be finalized with continue to work by Continuing Resolution (CR) until mid-January - early February. **Again, stay tuned!**

Federal

With the NDAA funding still in a fluid situation, we will continue with the following legislative priorities listed below:

The Expanding America's National Cemetery Act (H.R. 1413), This is a significant piece of legislation protecting full uniformed services burial benefits introduced March 7 by Reps. Lisa McClain (R-Mich.) and Chrissy Houlahan (D-Pa.) is designed to preserve the option for full military honors now available at ANC and offers a long-term solution to Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) which would inevitably run out of room. It would authorize designating the next national cemetery location with equivalent honors to continue these benefits, rather than reducing eligibility at ANC. Unfortunately, some staffers have indicated: "No one promised you full military honors at your funeral," said one staffer – a troubling indicator of the challenge faced by MOAA and other military and veteran advocacy groups when only 18% of lawmakers have served in uniform. We need to reach out to our Congress members to support this bill.

Please use the **MOAA Advocacy in Action** to follow up with our Representatives.

Respect for Military Families Act (H.R. 3232/ S.1588) This act would prevent the government from immediately recouping any overpayment of benefits and instead gives survivors the opportunity to repay the benefits over a 12-month period. It would also allow the secretary of defense to forgive the repayment. We need co-sponsors from our representatives and senators.

Military Spouse Hiring Act (H.R. 1277). This act will help spouses who are currently discriminated against for employment due to their husbands frequent transfers. Both Senators are on board as co-sponsors, however, we need to get our Representatives on board.

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. We are waiting to see what will happen after January 2024.

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

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 Road, then right on Valley House Drive

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 Street, which becomes Petaluma Hill Road

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

Sally Tomatoes is the first building on the left.

Coming From the East:

Take Petaluma Hill Road. south, either via Santa Rosa Avenue, or take Bennett Valley Road, turning right on Grange and then left on Petaluma Hill Road.

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

Sally Tomatoes is the first building on the left.



Veterans Day, Saturday, November 11, 2023 Parade
Lee Hoskins driving, other veterans
and our President Ken Johnson

2023 DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER:

5th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 7th Pearl Harbor Survivors program NO PROGRAM THIS YEAR
 17th Sunday, Holiday Social, Sally Tomatoes
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 NO United Veterans Council meeting
 NO Pub Crawl at Poppy Bank Epicenter, **CANCELLED**
 25th Christmas

2024 DATES TO REMEMBER

January – 2024

1st Dues for 2024 are payable at this time
 2nd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information.
 10th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 15th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00** noon
 24th United Veterans Council meeting
 25th Luncheon, **Epicenter** – Installation of Officers

February:

1st Proposed target date to publish the 2024 Roster
 6th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 14th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 19th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00** noon
 22nd Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 28th United Veterans Council meeting

March:

5th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 13th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 15th Deadline for submission Scholarship Applications
 18th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00** noon
 27th United Veterans Council meeting
 28th Luncheon, **Epicenter**

April:

2nd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 10th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 15th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00** noon
 24th United Veterans Council meeting
 25th Luncheon, **Epicenter**

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

06/32/06

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

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

ABOUT TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES! ONLY \$25.00

Mail check to Norma Viglienzzone at
 1651 Cunningham Way, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

If you want to get a jump on things and get this off your mind, you can pay your dues for 2024. You can either pay in person at a luncheon or mail a check to Norma. Make the check payable to MOAA Wives Club.

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've met there before, and everyone always has a wonderful time. We urge the Wives Club members to attend. All the details can be found elsewhere in this issue of the MOAA VOICE.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

Tina Lewis, Publicity 707-539-5546, tinalewis31@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 2023</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 2023-2024</u>	(NONE AT THIS TIME)	
	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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