



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

I extend my gratitude and appreciation to Past President Ken Johnson. For three years he graciously led the Chapter with warmth, kindness and thoughtfulness. He introduced us to the Pub Crawl where we enjoy lunch, a beverage, and lots of laughter. I hope may more members will join us.

My goal, as your new President, is to keep the Chapter afloat. I strive to ensure that all the activities and functions we all enjoy will remain intact.

I am thankful and grateful to Mary-Gwen Neisingh for having my six as First Vice-President and to Steve Countouriotis for serving as Second Vice-President. Dayle Johnson, Rosemary Rizzo, and Don Nowacki a warm welcome to the Board of Directors.

I thank you all for your support and will do my very best to serve you well.

Life is short, live it.
Love is rare, grab it.
Anger is bad, dump it.
Fear is awful, face it.
Memory is sweet, cherish it.

- Unknown

A successful man is one who makes more money than his wife can spend. A successful woman is one who can find such a man. - Lana Turner

Donna Poulter, President
707-576-0513 ~ donnaeaglette@yahoo.com

MOAA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

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

Tuesday, June 4, 2024, 11:30am.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

Saturday, June 15, 2024 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 15, 2024**. **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

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

We will meet at 12:00 noon the Poppy Bank Epicenter, June 17, 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 Past President

"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

"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.

Legislative Update - June 2024

General Comments.

Federal:

NDAA 2025 is off to a strong start with several items to improve Service Member's quality of life with a 15% pay raise for junior enlisted members on top of the 4.5% raise for all, improvement of child care, and expansion of the Basic Needs Allowance.

As we approach the summer doldrums, I please continue to beat the drums with our representatives/senators on the issues outlined in the last couple of MOAA Voices and amended because Congress is in the phase of "cut and paste" and needs to hear the noise of our "squeaking wheel".

Service Member Quality of Life Improvement Act (H.R. 8070). This act, incorporated in the 2025 NDAA, will accomplish improvements in the current shortfalls in service members quality of life and improve service member retention. At this time, none of our Representatives have signed on as co-sponsors.

Save Tricare-for-Life. It would be a pity to lose this essential benefit for all military retirees won in the NDAA 2001 after an almost twenty year battle. In the 2001 NDAA, Congress saw fit to include the following text in that bill *in verbis*: "While extending TRICARE/CHAMPUS eligibility to Medicare eligible beneficiaries, the conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to refrain from using deductibles and copayments, in recognition of their participation in Medicare Part B as a condition of participation" Request all look at MOAA's Advocacy in Action to ask your representative to not destroy this essential benefit for military members.

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. 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.

The Major Richard Star Act - Concurrent Receipt for Combat Injured Veterans: Two-thirds of Congress has supported this bill for the past

two years. This legislation would reverse an unjust offset requiring these combat-injured retirees to give up a dollar of DoD-earned retirement pay for every dollar of VA-provided disability benefits they receive. We need to get our legislators back on board for the upcoming year.

State:

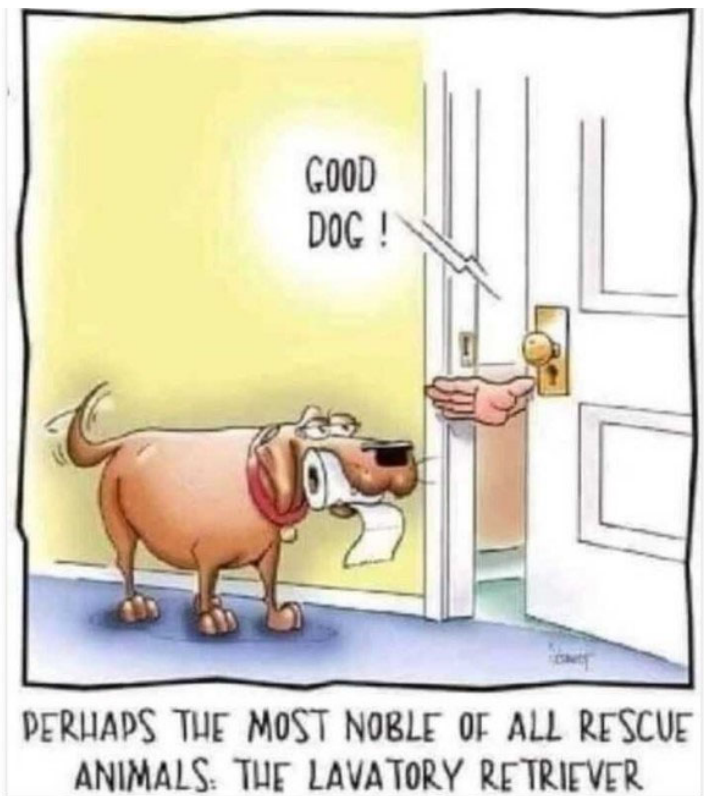
From what I see, CALIFORNIA IS BROKE! Budget shortfalls - \$27.3 B with cuts plus \$17.3 B in proactive cuts for a total deficit of \$44.6 B. OK. Then there is \$4.2 from reserves, \$2.5 B in prison bed reduction. \$15.2 spend later, and so on. Budget analysts put the deficit at \$55 B +. Are you confused? I certainly am - we see a "smoke and mirrors" game. The defects are getting pushed into the future in the same manner as the bills on homeless housing from last March. Our counties and many towns and cities are running deficits as well.

AB 46 Retired Pay Exemption. This did not get out of suspension and is, therefore, dead for this legislative session. We will keep trying.

AB 2200 Health Care for All. This bill would cut Tricare and Medicare out of there current plans. Financing is not assured without extra taxation. Ask your Assembly Person to oppose it as presented.

Vern McNamee, LTC, USA Retired

Legislative Chair
Redwood Empire Chapter MOAA (CA30)
707 972-3066 vernonmc@mcn.org



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 or call 707-565-2041.



Annadel State Park

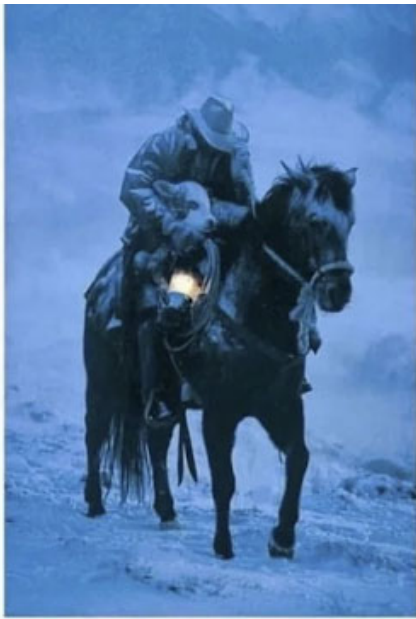


Popular Trails to Explore

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

0 .20 Miles
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.



Cowboys would put a lantern on their saddle at night so they could find the trail when they were far from home. This was early Saddle Light Navigation.

IF YOU ATTEND THE PICNIC/BBQ ON June 15th, AND IF YOU DRIVE YOUR CAR THERE, PUT THE "MOAA" SIGN LISTED BELOW ON YOUR CAR DASHBOARD

MOAA



It's been discovered that William Tell and his son belonged to a bowling league. But Swiss historians have not been able to determine the name of the league's sponsors. So we'll never get to know for whom the Tells bowled.

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

PICNIC/BBQ - SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024, 11am to 3pm

LOWER JACK RABBIT PICNIC AREA
Spring Lake Park, Santa Rosa

Directions: Check on page No. 3

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, Total\$_____ **Please make name tags for:**

_____, _____, _____,

_____, _____, _____,

Reservation must be received not later than Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Enclosed is \$_____ for the Col. Brey Scholarship Fund (Fully Tax Deductible)

Make check (s) payable to: **RECMOAA**

Mail To: MOAA, Redwood Empire Chapter, P.O. Box 2801, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

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

NOTE: CARS MAY HAVE TO PAY FOR PARKING, UNLESS OWNER HAS A GOLDEN PASS OR FREE ACCESS

Redwood Empire Chapter member CPT WILLIAM ANDERSON, USA

**Is offering his service to
members and veterans in need.**

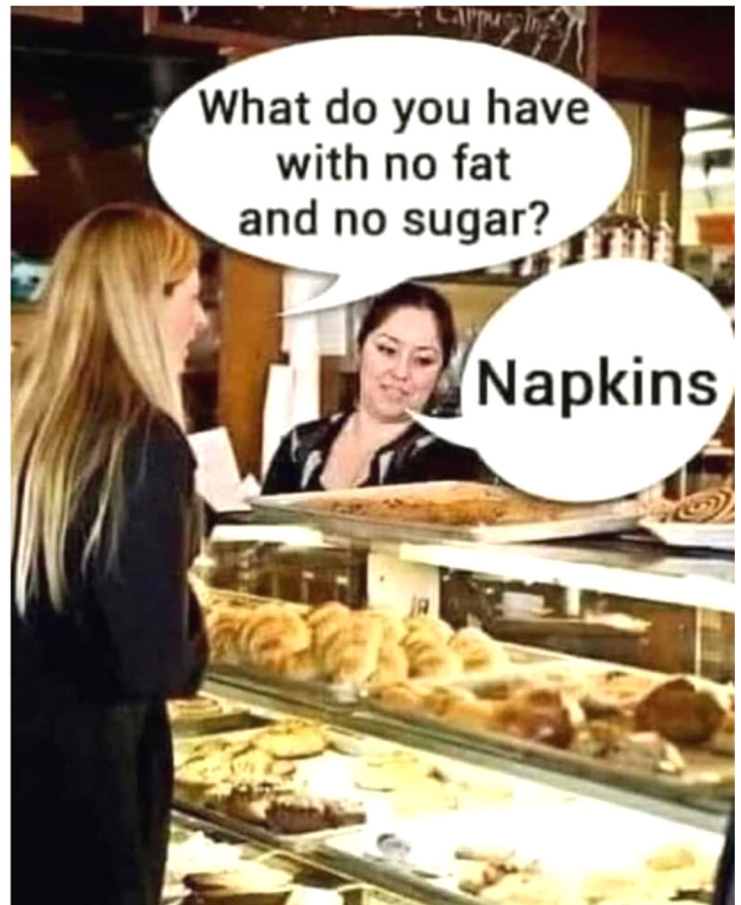
He realizes that the country is presently going through a rough time, because of the present COVID-19 virus and shelter in place, there are a lot of people with many different needs. He is offering to our members and any veterans organizations his help.

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

SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 1



2024 DATES TO REMEMBER

May:

- 7th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners
- 8th Wives Club Luncheon, Epicenter
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 18th Armed Forces Day – Rose Parade, Santa Rosa
- 20th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
- 22nd United Veterans Council meeting
- 23rd Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 27th Memorial Day Ceremonies

June:

- 4th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 15th Saturday, Picnic Spring Lake, Lower Jackrabbit Area
Honor Scholarship Recipients?
- 17th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
- 26th United Veterans Council meeting

July:

- 10th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 15th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
- 24th United Veterans Council meeting
- 25th Luncheon, Epicenter

August:

- 6th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am, select a nominating committee
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 14th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 17th Saturday, Riverfront Regional Park, Annual BBQ
- 19th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
- 28rd United Veterans Council meeting

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

September:

- 3rd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2025 officers

10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information

11th Wives Club Luncheon, Epicenter

16th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**

20th - 22nd Air Show at CMS Airport?

25th United Veterans Council meeting

26th Luncheon, Epicenter

October:

- 1st BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
- 9th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 21st **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
- 23rd United Veterans Council meeting
- 24th Luncheon Epicenter, Election of Officers for 2025

November:

- 5th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 11th North Bay Veterans Day parade (Monday)
- 13th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 15th Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building
- 18th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
- NO** United Veterans Council meeting
- 28th Thanksgiving Day

December:

- ** 7th Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- ** 15th Sunday, Holiday Social, Sally's Tomatoes
- NO** United Veterans Council meeting
- ** 16th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00 noon??**
- 25th Christmas

06/32/06

MOAA WIVES CLUB

(Sonoma County Main - All members welcome)

2024 Officers

President: Barbara Confer	707-763-8198
Vice President: Donna Poulter	707-576-0513
Secretary: Tina Lewis	707-758-9739
Treasurer: Norma Viglienzzone	707-542-1458
Parliamentarian: Donna Poulter	707-576-0513

In June we will be joining the chapter for our annual picnic, so there will be no regular Wives Club luncheon. This year the picnic will be on Saturday, June 15th, 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. If you want to help set up for the picnic, please arrive at the site around 10:30am. If you make a reservation but find you can't be there, please tell Susan Linch. Call her at 707-538-3342. The Spring Lake picnic area is lovely. We have met there in the past. We hope you all will join us.

The guest speaker at the May luncheon was Monique Meza, Quality Operations Specialist, from Santa Rosa Community Health. The services offered are vast. One very popular thing is the Baby Closet, which provides blankets, diapers, and clothing for newborns through 2T. For further information, visit the website at <https://srhealth.org> or email Monique at moniquem@srhealth.org.

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

Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2024

<u>President:</u>	Donna Poulter	707-576-0513
<u>1st Vice President</u>	Mary-Gwen Neisingh	707-481-7614
<u>2nd Vice President</u>	LTC Steve Countouriotis, USA	707-763-5309
<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>	Maj Ken Johnson, USAF	408-466-6764

<u>CAL-MOAA Director, Area I</u>	Cpt Tom Walther, USAF	530-673-5499
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<u>Directors-at-large - Term 2023-24</u>		
	Martina Lewis	707-539-5546
	Susan Linch	707-538-3342
	LTC Gary Meagher, AUS	707-544-4089
	1/Lt Donald Nowacki, USANG	707-595-1047

<u>Directors-at-large - Term 2024-25</u>		
	Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst	707-468-0146
	Dayle Johnson	408-466-6764
	Rosemary Rizzo	707-539-3346
	CPT Lewis Wall, USA	707-837-7389

<u>Directors Representing Sub-Chapters:</u>		
<u>Mendocino:</u>	Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst	707-468-0146

MOAA VOICE

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