



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Dear Members,

Our nation's celebration of Independence Day has passed. Hopefully you delighted in activities to honor the day.

I hope you are well and survived some scorching weather.

I trust you all enjoyed our interesting guest speaker Robert Kuchem's presentation on the South China Sea.

August 4th is the birthday of the United States Coast Guard. My father-in-law was a Captain when he retired. August 7th is Purple Heart Day honoring combat wounded Veterans. My husband, Tom, was wounded in Vietnam. Both of those days have a special place in my heart.

I'll see you August 17th at our wonderful annual BBQ in the Redwoods. Make your reservations! I hope to see you

August 19th at the Pub Crawl.

Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work round it.

Michael Jordan

I could dance with you until the cows come home - -
- on second thoughts, I'll dance with the cows and you go home.



Groucho Marx

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

MOAA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

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

Tuesday, August 6, 2024, 11:30am.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

Saturday, August 17, 2024 ANNUAL BBQ

Riverfront Regional Park near Windsor
Lunch about 1:00pm when ready

~~~~~  
**See Pages 3,4 & 5**  
**For more information**

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See page No. 5 for the Luncheon menu.

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**Reservation must be received not later than Thursday,**  
**August 15, 2024.** We need a count to buy for meals.

## DECEASED MEMBER



**CPT LEE P. HOSKINS, USA**

May 30, 2024 ~ Past President 2009-10

**THE REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER OFFICERS AND  
MEMBERS EXTEND OUR SINCEREST SYMPATHY TO  
THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THEIR**

## "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)

## "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 August 2024

## General Comments.

**MOAA National HQ** provides considerable information to all members besides legislative updates, particularly if you are a Life or Prime Member. A significant aspect of these services is through frequent Webinars presented by professionals in their respective areas of expertise. Most noteworthy, is a recent Webinar regarding protecting your family from cyber crimes. Cyber criminals are very active and keep updating their capabilities. For example, beneficiaries of TRICARE-for-Life have been attacked through fake texts.

**Federal. NDAA 2025** is STILL crunching numbers. Therefore, the list of legislative priorities will continue as in the past few months. There are significant differences between the House and Senate versions.

**The Major Richard Star Act - Concurrent Receipt for Combat Injured Veterans:** Two-thirds of Congress has supported this bill for the past two years, however, the House version does not include this bill in the NDAA. Back door information is that it "costs too much". Passage as an amendment to the NDAA by the Senate would more rapidly reverse the 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.

Please request our Senators, who are already cosponsors to support a floor vote for a NDAA amendment.

**Military Housing and Barracks:** Both the House and Senate NDAA include provisions to invest in deteriorating barracks. Hopefully, this will stop the "lip service" given in the recent past.

**Military Pay.** Increase of 4.5% in basic pay has been included in both House and Senate versions. However, while the House approved a 15% raise for lower grade enlisted, the Senate version does not - again "too expensive".

**Arlington National Cemetery (ANC):** The Expanding America's National Cemetery Act of 2023, H.R. 1413, is not included in either version of the NDAA. The proposed eligibility reduction for ANC remains on hold in the federal rule-making process.

**State. AB 46 Retired Pay Exemption.** This bill is still alive, albeit on life support. Last month you

were given the opportunity to send a letter through the CSVSC to Gov. Gavin Newsom. If we were not able to send the letter through them and would still like to, please call me - I'd be happy to help.

Support AB 46 (Ramos) - Governor Campaign

**Vern McNamee, LTC, USA Retired**

Legislative Chair

Redwood Empire Chapter MOAA (CA30)

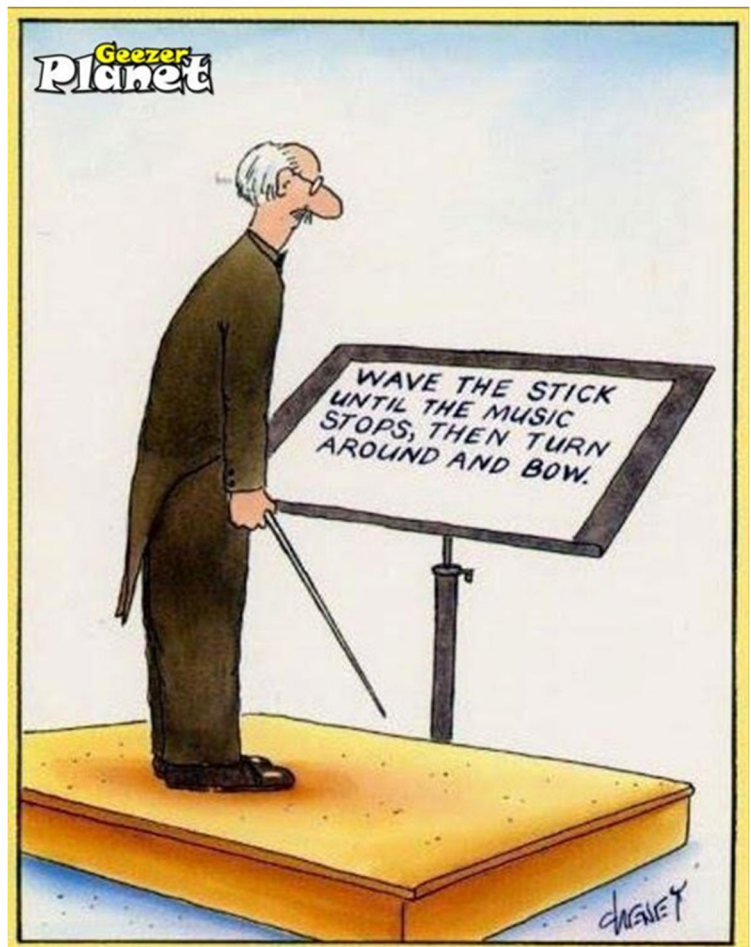
707 972-3066 vernonmc@mcn.org

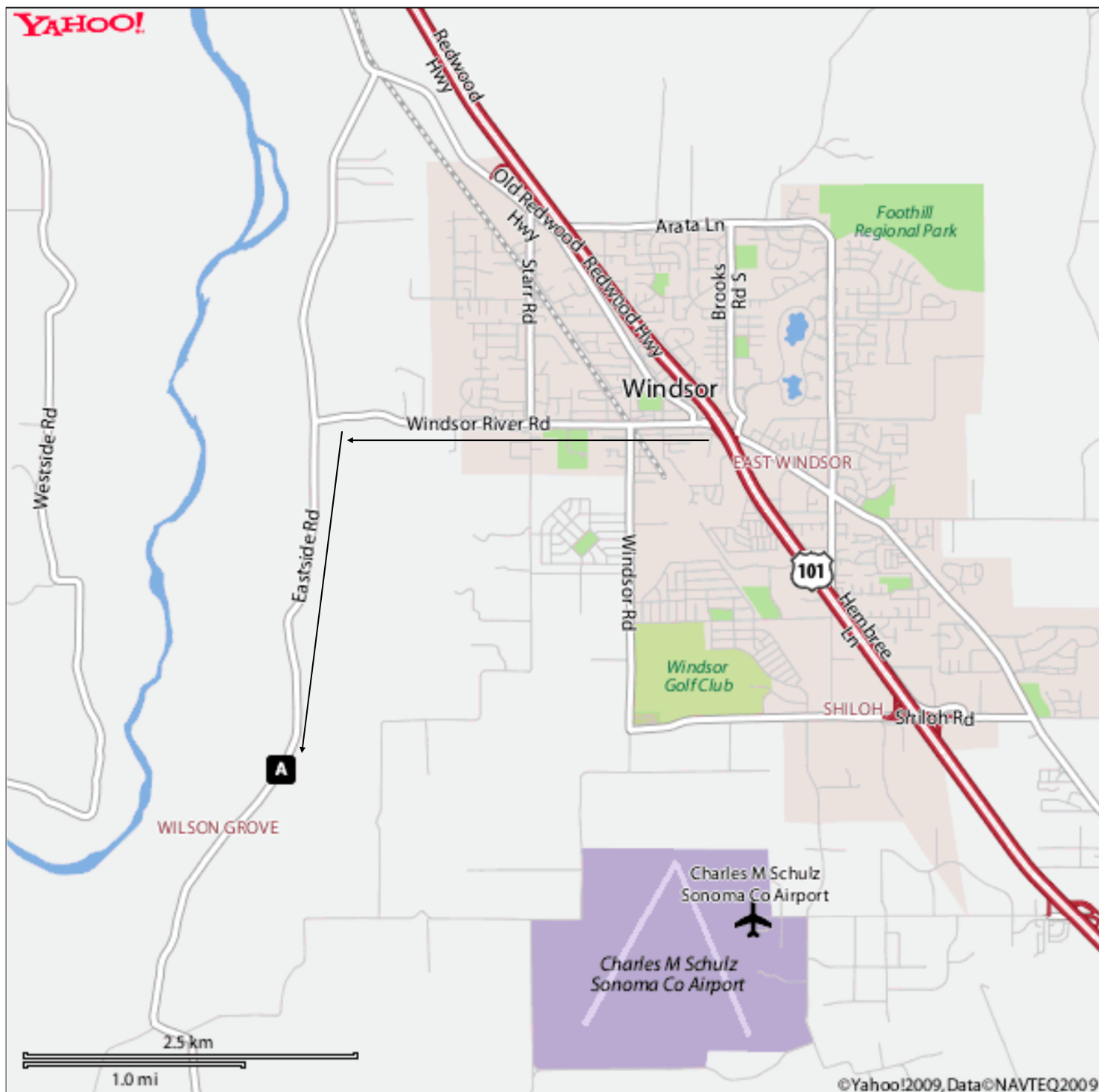
## Pub Crawl"

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

We will meet at 12:00 noon the Poppy Bank Epicenter, August 19, 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 Ken Johnson. (408)466-6764.





## RIVERFRONT REGIONAL PARK

**DIRECTIONS:** Take Highway 101 North from Santa Rosa to Windsor. Turn off at Central Windsor Exit. Go West on Windsor River Road about 2 miles to a "T" intersection which is Eastside Road. Left (South) for 1.8 miles and "**Riverfront Regional Park**" will be on the right. (Marked with an "A") It takes about 20 to 25 minutes from central Santa Rosa to get there.

## INFORMATION ON BBQ

Our annual BBQ will take place on Saturday, August 17, 2024, at 1:00 pm. It will be at the Riverfront Regional Park near Windsor. The park is a glen of tall

redwood trees affording plenty of cool shade and beauty.

- New restrooms are available and the ground area is relatively flat and maneuverable.
- There is a sandy volleyball court but be warned, for those who make use of this, there is no cardiac equipment available...
- Recommend you bring a sweater or windbreaker in case it chills later in the afternoon.
- The **parking fee** will be handled by the chapter but the parking spaces is somewhat limited, so carpooling is requested.
- If you have a County pass, please use it and share rides to save money.





"Quit blubbering. This is why I hate taking you shopping."



IF YOU ATTEND THE BBQ ON  
AUGUST 17th, AND IF YOU  
DRIVE YOUR CAR THERE,  
THEN CLIP THE "MOAA"  
BELOW AND PUT ON  
YOUR CAR DASH BOARD

MOAA

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

**Annual BARBEQUE, SATURDAY- August 17, 2024, 1:00 pm**  
**Riverfront Regional Park near Windsor [Dining at 1:00 pm]**  
**See directions and other important information on page 4**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**MENU CHOICES** - Menu is Pork Ribs and Chicken, BBQ Beans, Salad, Garlic Bread and Chef's Special Dessert Bread Pudding with whipped cream. Coffee, Water and Wine will also be available. BYOB, Soft Drinks and Snacks.

Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_\_ persons @ **\$25.00** each, Col Brey Scholarship Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_ Total \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please make name tags for: \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,

**Reservation must be received not later than** Thursday, August 15, 2024. We need a count to buy for meals.

**NOTE:** We have to pay for parking. If you have a County pass, please use it and share rides to save money.

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

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

"Contact the Chapter Secretary @ 707-795-3963, prior to 12:00 noon Monday,

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

**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. 2**





## 2024 DATES TO REMEMBER

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

September:  
 3<sup>rd</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2025 officers  
 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**  
 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Show at CMS Airport?  
 25<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 26<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, Epicenter

October:  
 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  
 21<sup>st</sup> **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**  
 23<sup>rd</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 24<sup>th</sup> Luncheon Epicenter, Election of Officers for 2025

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

December:  
 \*\* 7<sup>th</sup> Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??

10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Holiday Social, Sally's Tomatoes  
 NO United Veterans Council meeting  
 16<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



## 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 |

The next meeting of the Wives Club will be a buffet lunch at the Epicenter on Wednesday, August 14th. The price is \$25.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be boneless wings with garlic parmesan, mini tortillas with asada, esquite, fruit salad, 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 speaker in August will be Tim Morgan, who will again share photography from his travels and adventures.

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

|                                          |              |
|------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <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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| Online                   | ..... <a href="http://www.redwoodwmpiremoaa.us">http://www.redwoodwmpiremoaa.us</a> |                                                                            |

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