MOAA VOICE

Military Officers Association of **America**
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 56, NUMBER 12 **"Serving Those Who Serve America"** **DECEMBER 2026**

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 **Cattlemens** in Rohnert Park. Socializing begins at 1:00pm and the Luncheon will be at 2:00pm.
The cost is **$55.00** each.

PLEASE NOTE BELOW ACTION NEEDED:
PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BY NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 7th.
Robert Safreno, Chairman

SEE PAGE THREE (3) FOR DIRECTIONS TO Cattlemens

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

Holiday Buffet Luncheon, Monday December 14, 2026

Cattlemens ~ Rohnert Park

Socializing 1:00pm; Lunch 2:00pm

Cost $55.00

Lunch: Grilled Salmon, Baby Back Ribs,
Seasonal Vegetables, Wild Rice
Desserts: Petite Chocolate Peanut Butter Pie

Freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaf Coffee and a Selection of Teas. **(NO HOST BAR AVAILABLE)**

Enclosed is my check for my advanced reservation____ persons ($55.00 each) Total money sent $_____

Donations: Redwood Empire Chapter of MOAA (Administration) $_____ **TOTAL**: $_____

Entertainment: None

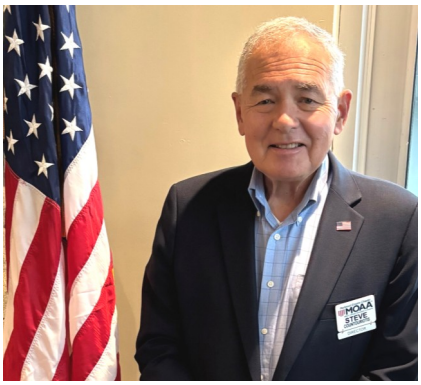
Name: _____, Phone: (____)_____

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: **RECMOAA**

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

SEE PAGE THREE (3) FOR DIRECTIONS TO Cattlemens



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Dear Members,

December has been the setting for several important moments in United States military history. Two of the most significant events are the attack on Pearl Harbor and the Battle of the Bulge, both of which had a lasting impact on our nation's history.

On **December 7, 1941, the Japanese military launched a surprise attack on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.** The assault destroyed battleships, aircraft, and military facilities, while more than 2,400 Americans lost their lives. This attack prompted the United States to declare war on Japan the following day, officially entering World War II. The event united the American people and marked a major turning point in the war.

Another significant December event was the **Battle of the Bulge, which began on December 16, 1944.** This was Nazi Germany's final major offensive against Allied forces on the Western Front during World War II. The battle took place in the Ardennes Forest of Belgium and Luxembourg, where harsh winter weather made fighting extremely difficult. Despite being caught by surprise, American soldiers successfully resisted the German advance. Their determination helped secure an Allied victory and hastened the end of the war in Europe.

These two December events demonstrate the courage, resilience, and commitment of the U.S. military. Pearl Harbor highlighted the importance of preparedness, while the Battle of the Bulge showcased the bravery of American service members under extreme conditions. Together, they remain defining moments in U.S. military history and continue to be remembered with honor.

look forward to seeing you at the MOAA Redwood Empire Chapter Holiday Social at 1:00 pm on Monday, December 14th, at Cattlemen's Steakhouse in Rohnert Park.

Respectfully,

LTC Steve Countouriotis, USAR (Ret) President
707-763-5309 ~ scount@yahoo.com

NO BOARD MEETING IN DECEMBER

MOAA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

will be at the Santa Rosa Veterans building
in the Conference room.
Tuesday, January 5, 2026, 11:30am.
Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

DUES NOTICE FOR 2027

Make Checks Payable to: **RECMOAA**

DUES Requirements: (For complete information check your current by-laws)
Dues become due and payable on January 1st.
Non-receipt of dues payment by March 1st, may result in removal from chapter rolls.

Annual dues .....$35.00 $_____

Wives club dues: (If wife a member) .....$30.00 $_____

Wife's name _____

Donation to the **General Fund**: (to defray costs)..... $_____

Thank You! **Total enclosed..... $_____**

NAME: (First & Last)

_____

(Please Return this notice in envelope provided)

COPY OF DUES NOTICE

Shown **above** is a copy of 2027 Dues notice. It 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 missent. 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 R. SAFRENO, Redwood Empire Chapter Secretary

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******Elected Chapter Officers for 2027******

Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2027

- **President** LTC Steve Countouriotis, USAR
- **1st Vice President** COL Bruce A. Stahley, USAR
- **2nd Vice Pres**. *None at this time.*
- **Secretary** Cpt Robert R. Safreno, USAF
- **Treasurer** CDR Dennis Viglienzone, USN
- **Directors** ~ 2027-2028 (2 yrs)
  - Martina Lewis
  - Susan Linch
  - Mary-Gwen Neisingh
  - Florence Wall
- **Directors** ~ 2027
  - Dayle Johnson
  - Sandy Paxton
  - Maj Ken Johnson, USAF
  - CPT Lewis Wall, USA
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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, 2027, and will close on March 15, 2027. Closing date is firm. Those eligible to apply for scholarship assistance are children, wards, and 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

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

"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.

DIRECTIONS TO CATTLEMENS

Use Hwy 101 if you are traveling North or South, turn towards the **West** on **Golf Course Drive**. Turn North on Redwood Drive. Keep driving just past Wallmart parking lot turn in and Cattlemens will be on you right.

2026 DATES TO REMEMBER

December:
- 7th Pearl Harbor Day
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 14th Monday, Holiday Social, **Cattlemens**
- 25th Christmas

NO PUB CRAWL IN DECEMBER

2027 DATES TO REMEMBER (Draft)

January – 2027
- for 2027 are payable at this time
- 5th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information.
- 13th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 18th Pub Crawl at Epicenter, **12:00** noon
- 28th Luncheon, **Epicenter** – Installation of Officers

February:
- 2nd Proposed target date to publish the 2027 Roster
- 2nd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
- 10th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 15th Pub Crawl at Epicenter, **12:00** noon
- 25th Luncheon, **Epicenter**

March:
- 2nd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 10th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 15th Deadline for submission Scholarship Applications
- 15th Pub Crawl at Epicenter, **12:00** noon
- 25th Luncheon, **Epicenter**

April:
- 6th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 14th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 19th **Pub Crawl at** Epicenter, **12:00** noon
- 22nd Luncheon, **Epicenter**

May:
- 4th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 12th Wives Club Luncheon, Epicenter
- 17th **Pub Crawl at** Epicenter, **12:00** noon
- 27th Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 31th Memorial Day Ceremonies

June:
- 1st BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
- 9th NO WIVES CLUB MEETING
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- ** 12th /19 Saturday, Picnic 1st Dues Spring Lake, Lower Jackrabbit Area Honor Scholarship Recipients?
- 21st **Pub Crawl at** Epicenter, **12:00 noon**

July: (No Board meeting)
- 14th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 19th **Pub Crawl at** Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
- 22nd Luncheon, Epicenter

August:
- 2nd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am, select a nominating committee
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 11th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- ** 14th /21 Saturday, Riverfront Regional Park, Annual BBQ
- 16th **Pub Crawl at** Epicenter, **12:00** noon

September:
- 7th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2028 officers
- 8th Wives Club Luncheon, Epicenter
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 20th **Pub Crawl at** Epicenter, **12:00** noon
- 23rd Luncheon**,** Epicenter

October:
- 5h BOARD MEETING - 11:30am
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 13th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 18th **Pub Crawl at** Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
- 28th Luncheon, **Epicenter** – Election of Officers for 2028

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

MOAA WIVES CLUB

(Sonoma County Main - All members welcome)

2026 Officers

President: Susan Linch	707-538-3342
Vice President: Donna Poulter	707-576-0513
Secretary: Tina Lewis	707-758-9739
Treasurer: Norma Viglienzone	707-542-1458
Parliamentarian: Donna Poulter	707-576-0513

ABOUT TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES!

ONLY $30.00 (note that dues have been raised)
Mail check to Norma Viglienzone 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 2027. You can either pay in person at a luncheon or mail a check to Norma Viglienzone. Make the check payable to MOAA Wives Club.

As usual, the Wives Club does not meet in December. Instead, we join the Chapter on Monday, December 14th for a holiday luncheon at Cattlemen's Steakhouse in Rohnert Park. We urge the Wives Club members to attend. All the details can be found elsewhere in this issue of the VOICE.

Because of rising costs and the need to keep the Wives Club solvent, 2027 dues will be raised to $30.00, and starting in January the luncheons will be $30.00. It's important to attend the luncheons to renew friendships and enjoy a good meal.

Tina Lewis, Publicity 707-758-9739, tinalewis31@comcast.net

Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2026

President:	LTC Steve Countouriotis, USAR	707-763-5309
1st Vice President	COL Bruce A. Stahley, USAR	415-328-9278
2nd Vice President	COL Bruce A. Stahley, USAR	415-328-9278
Secretary:	Cpt Robert R. Safreno, USAF	707-479-9374
Treasurer:	LCDR Tim Morgan, USNR	707-695-9293
Imed. Past President:	Donna Poulter	707-576-0513

CAL-MOAA Director, Area I

Cpt Tom Walther, USAF	530-673-5499

Directors-at-large - Term 2026

Martina Lewis	707-758-9739
Susan Linch	707-538-3342
Mary-Gwen Neisingh	707-481-7614
Florence Wall	707-837-7389

Directors-at-large - Term 2026-27

Dayle Johnson	408-466-6764
Sandy Paxton	707-696-0107
Maj Ken Johnson, USAF	408-466-6764
CPT Lewis Wall, USA	707-837-7389

Sunshine Committee: Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst 707-468-0146

MOAA VOICE

Co-Editor	Tim Morgan	707-695-9293
E-Mail	Tim Morgan	blackcloudbrew@comcast.net
Editor Mail Distribution	Bob Safreno	707-479-9374
E-Mail	Bob Safreno	shadobob@sonic.net

Online …….. http://www.redwoodwmpiremoaa.us

Publication Title: **MOAA VOICE** is a newsletter of the Redwood Empire Chapter, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). Statement of Frequency: Published monthly. Authorized organization's name and address: MOAA Redwood Empire Chapter, PO Box 2801, Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801. Cost of publication: **FREE**