

# MOAA



# VOICE

Military Officers Association of America  
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 55, NUMBER 6

"Serving Those Who Serve America"

JUNE 2025



## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Hello dear Members,  
The month of June, the beginning of summer, brings us halfway through the year. Time surely seems to be flying by. This month on the 6th is D-Day, the 14th is Flag Day, the 15th is Father's Day, and the 25th marks the start of the Korean

Conflict.

I wish a very happy Father's Day to all our chapter fathers.

It was wonderful learning about Honor Flights last month. This month on Saturday, June 14th, is our annual picnic at Spring Lake Lower Jackrabbit area. The chef is Dan Cortez and the Wives Club will provide awesome salads, baked beans, and desserts. Please come and enjoy socializing and all the delicious food.

Take time to relax this month and enjoy the weather and beautiful flowers in bloom.



Don't dwell on those who let you down - - -  
Cherish those who lift you up!

*Anonymous*



A balanced diet means a cupcake in each hand.

~~~~~  
Inside me there's a thin person struggling to

get

out, but I can usually sedate him with

four or five

cupcakes. 😊 😊

*Bob Thaves*

**Donna Poulter, President**

707-576-0513 ~ donnaeaglette@yahoo.com

## SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 6

## MOAA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

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

Tuesday, June 3, 2025, 11:30am.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

## Saturday, June 14, 2025 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 14, 2025. 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

### PULLING A WHEELIE



Age 15

Age 25

Age 45

### "GOOD SPEAKERS ARE NEEDED"

Chapter members:

Who do you want to hear from?

Please send your suggestions to

**Bruce Stahley**, Phone: 415-328-9278

or by e-mail: [bruce.a.stahley@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.a.stahley@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.

# Legislative Update June 2025

## General Comments.

**Federal.** By the time you read this, the waiting should be over. We probably not get all of the legislative benefits we have been asking for. However, some items will pass -lets see.

**State. Military Retired Pay Income Tax Exemption.** For the first time, Governor Gavin Newsom has included a line to cover a small exemption of military retirement. While this is a great milestone, both AB 53 and SB 1 must get out of their respective Appropriations Committee onto the Floor for a vote. E-letters have been sent to the committee chairmen. Follows are excerpts from the Governor's May Budget Revision:

- **SACRAMENTO** — Governor Gavin Newsom today released his May Revision proposal for the 2025–26 state budget, putting forward a balanced plan that strengthens California's future — despite economic disruptions caused by federal instability. While adjusting for a projected \$11.95 billion shortfall driven by a "Trump Slump" — tariffs disruption, market volatility, and a decline in international tourism that have directly resulted in a staggering \$16 billion estimated hit to the state's revenues — and health care cost pressures, the Governor's proposal remains focused on forward-looking investments in housing, education, and infrastructure, while curtailing unsustainable spending.

### Public safety and veterans

The Governor's revised budget also includes historic funding in firefighting and emergency response to match escalating wild-fire risks, and **a tax cut for military retirees, recognizing their service and supporting their financial security.**

### More housing, faster

As part of his revised budget, the Governor is proposing a sweeping legislative package to slash red tape, align permitting timelines, and unlock faster, smarter housing development. The proposal streamlines Coastal Commission approvals to match the timelines of other permitting agencies, prioritizes infill and transit-oriented development to reduce toxic pollution and vehicle miles traveled, and support for incorporating pending legislation that would reform CEQA for infill housing and other development projects, along with a housing and infrastructure bond to build more homes, faster.

### Lower drug costs and reproductive freedom

California is shining a light on the middlemen who inflate prescription drug prices, while protecting access to essential medications, including abortion pills. The Governor's revised budget leads efforts to license and regulate Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) for the first time, increasing transparency and accountability in the pharmacy supply chain. It also expands CalRx's authority to procure brand-name drugs and respond to politically motivated supply disruptions, helping shield access to critical medications like mifepristone.

### Securing water for all of California

With climate extremes intensifying, the Governor is fast-tracking modernization of the State Water Project through the Delta Conveyance Project. His proposal streamlines permits and reduces litigation delays to accelerate construction, while protecting water access for 27 million Californians and preparing for a future marked by more severe droughts, floods, and climate volatility.

### Students and families

The Governor's revised budget continues transformational investments that make education more accessible. Universal transitional kindergarten is now fully funded for all four-year-olds. Free school meals remain available to every student, and expanded before school, after school, and summer programming will benefit children across the state. The budget also

invests \$545 million in literacy programs to boost reading outcomes, with a strong focus on supporting multilingual learners.

### Smart government, Cap-and-Invest

The budget reflects the Governor's push for a more effective government — including a new state agency to better coordinate housing and homelessness programs, and continued progress on California's Cap-and-Invest program to fund major climate projects like high-speed rail and a utility credit that will put up to \$60 billion back into the pockets of Californians through 2045.

Numbers were not included because their inclusion would only create more confusion. However, the bottom line is that they MUST go to a Floor vote before the Governor will sign the budget. **Let us hope!**

**Vern McNamee, LTC, USA Retired**

Legislative Chair Redwood Empire Chapter MOAA (CA30)  
[vernonmc@mcn.org](mailto:vernonmc@mcn.org) ~ 707 972-3066

## COLONEL WILLIAM BREY SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

As selected by the Scholarship Committee and approved by the Board of Directors, the following students have been awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$2500. each:

- **Jared Feldstein**, attending UC Davis, grandson of Don and Barbara Confer
- **Justin Feldstein**, attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, grandson of Don and Barbara Confer
- **Mary Cellini**, attending University of Oregon, granddaughter of Bob and Bev Safreno
- **Nicholas Linch**, attending San Diego State University, grandson of Don and Susan Linch

My heartfelt thanks go to the members of the Committee, whose hard work and thoughtful consideration make the awarding of the scholarships possible. Those members are Mary Gwen Neisingh, Dayle Johnson, Donna Poulter, Lew Wall and Tim Morgan. Many thanks also to Pete Rizzo for the considerable amount of time he spends redacting the applications.

**Susan Linch**

Scholarship Committee Chairman

## 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](tel:707-331-0366) at 707-331-0366

# 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](http://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       |
| Fishermans Trail                 | 0.47       |
| South Dam to Jack Rabbit         | 0.43       |
| Horse Loop Trail                 | 2.60       |
| Kerfoot Trail to Howarth Parking | 0.15       |



Map Updated 6/2010



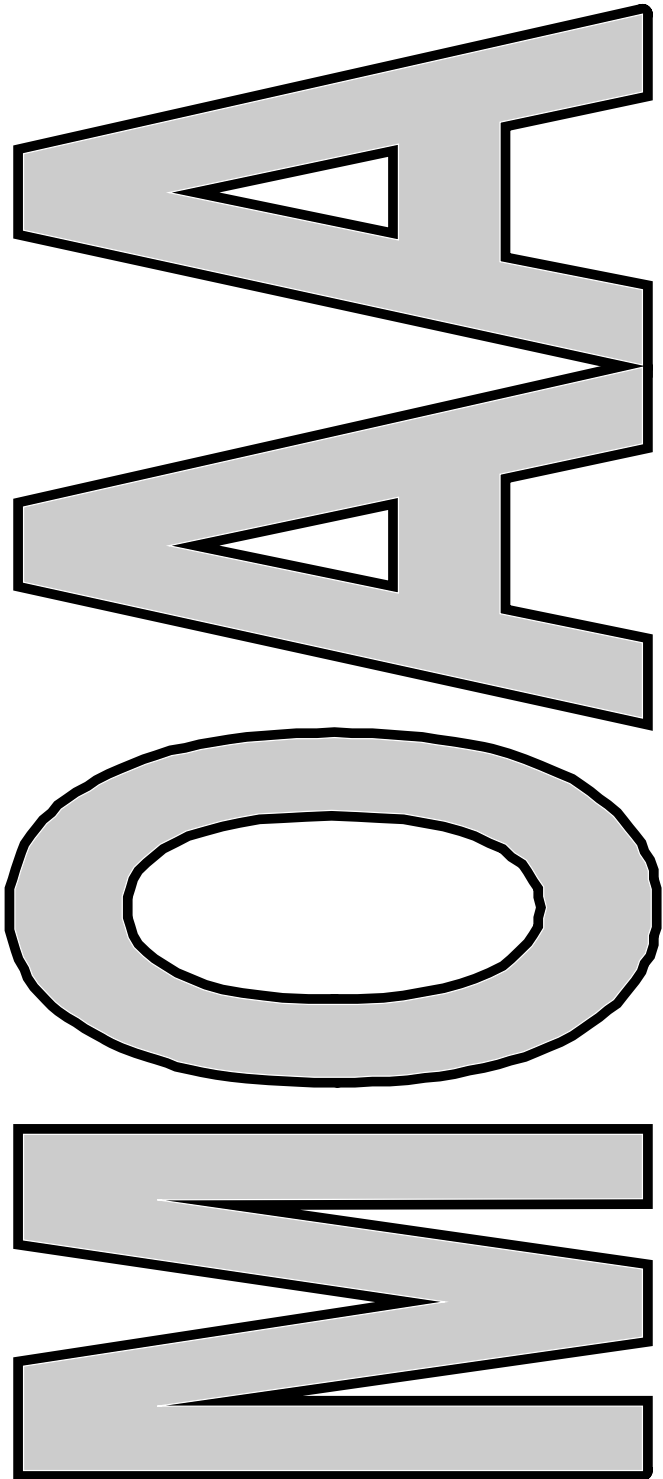
This map is provided as a guide within the park. Reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the map and data provided. The positional accuracy of the data is approximate and not intended to represent map accuracy from a published record survey. THE MAP AND ASSOCIATED DATA ARE PROVIDED 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.

- COUNTY PARK
- OTHER PARKS
- SPRING LAKE LOOP
- HORSE LOOP (Bay Area Ridge Trail)
- ROADWAY
- MULTI-USE TRAIL
- BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL
- BRIDGE
- GATE
- VISTA POINT
- CONCESSIONS
- ENVIRONMENTAL DISCOVERY CENTER
- FEE STATION
- EQUESTRIAN PARKING
- CAMPGROUND
- BOAT LAUNCH
- RANGER STATION
- RESTROOM
- GROUP PICNIC AREA
- FISHING
- PARKING



**IF YOU ATTEND THE PICNIC/  
BBQ ON JUNE 14th, AND IF YOU  
DRIVE YOUR CAR THERE,  
PUT THE “MOAA” SIGN  
LISTED BELOW ON**

Claudio Calvo, President, North Bay Honor Flight, was our guest speaker at the May luncheon. David Mohle, a board member of the North Bay Honor Flight Organization, assisted Claudio with details. Claudio gave a heart-felt presentation of the history of this donor-funded national organization, which provides these Honor Flights (a 3-day trip to Washington, DC) free of charge to any veteran, including national guard and reserve, who served in the military between the years 1941 and 1975. Claudio spoke and showed a video about a recent trip where they started from Santa Rosa, flew to Seattle, and then on to Washington, DC. While in DC, the veterans visited many sites and memorials of military interest including Arlington Cemetery. Upon returning to Santa Rosa, they were welcomed by a crowd of thousands. On each of these Honor Flights the veteran is accompanied by a guardian, a volunteer who pays their own way (currently about \$1,800), and who is there to ensure the safety of the veteran. Anyone except spouses can be a guardian, and volunteers are needed. Medical assistance is provided during the Honor Flight. The Honor Flight is a way to give back to veterans who never received a welcome home; namely from the Vietnam War. North Bay Honor Flight is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and is a member of the National Honor Flight Network. Established in 2023, North Bay Honor Flight (NBHF) serves more than 52,500 veterans from the Northern California counties of Sonoma, Napa, Marin, Mendocino, Lake, Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity. For more information you can visit the website [www.northbayhonorflight.org](http://www.northbayhonorflight.org).



**SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 6**

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

**PICNIC/BBQ - SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025, 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 10, 2025

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**

**PLEASE CONSIDER BRINGING  
A RAFFLE PRIZE**



**LTC Steve Countouriotis, USA**

Steve Countouriotis was guest speaker at the April luncheon. From January to July, 1993, he was a Military Observer with the United Nations (UN) Peace Keeping Mission in Cambodia. Using a PowerPoint presentation, he gave background information from 1975-1991 that resulted in the 1991 Peace Accords, when the UN had control over Cambodia from Vietnam, and a constitution was formed, resulting in a free and fair national election in 1993. While he was there, he took many pictures, which greatly enhanced his talk.

**NOTE: TWO (2) MEMBERS STILL  
NEED TO PAY THEIR DUES.  
ONLY \$25.00**

**ANDREW M. LEMARQUAND  
FLOYD WHITE**

**Will be dropped June 30, 2025**

**SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 6**

## 2025 DATES TO REMEMBER

June:

3<sup>rd</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 14<sup>th</sup> Saturday, Picnic Spring Lake, Lower Jackrabbit Area  
 Honor Scholarship Recipients?  
 16<sup>th</sup> **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00** noon  
 25<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council **ZOOM** meeting

July: (No Board meeting)

9<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**  
 21<sup>st</sup> **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00** noon  
 23<sup>rd</sup> United Veterans Council **ZOOM** meeting  
 24<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, Epicenter

August:

5<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am, select a nominating committee  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 13<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**  
 18<sup>th</sup> **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00** noon  
 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Riverfront Regional Park, Annual BBQ  
 27<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council **ZOOM** meeting

September:

2<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2025 officers  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 10<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, Epicenter  
 15<sup>th</sup> **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00** noon  
 \*\* 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Show at CMS Airport?  
 24<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council **ZOOM** meeting  
 25<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, Epicenter

October:

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  
 20<sup>th</sup> **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00** noon  
 22<sup>nd</sup> United Veterans Council **ZOOM** meeting  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Luncheon Epicenter, Election of Officers for 2026

November:

4<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 (Tuesday)  
 12<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**  
 17<sup>th</sup> **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00** noon  
 \*\* 21<sup>st</sup> Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building  
 26<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council **ZOOM** meeting  
 27<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day

December: (No Board meeting)

\*\* 7<sup>th</sup> Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 15<sup>th</sup> Monday, Holiday Social, Cattlemens  
 NO United Veterans Council meeting  
 15<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

## Pub Crawl

Chapter members, Friends and Guests: Pub Crawl, is our Chapters fun event lunch  
 We will meet at 12:00 noon the Poppy Bank Epicenter, June 16, 2025. 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

### MOAA WIVES CLUB

(Sonoma County Main - All members welcome)

#### 2025 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 |

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 14th, 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 10:30. 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 hope you all will join us.

The guest speaker at our May luncheon was Denise Cagman from Safari West. She showed beautiful slides of many of the animals who live in the 400 acres of Safari West and told us about the many things Safari West offers. Her talk sparked discussions and comments after she left. One book that many had read and greatly enjoyed is "West with Giraffes" by Lynda Rutledge. Please join us for our monthly luncheons! We've had amazing speakers in the past and look forward to more in the future. And the camaraderie at the luncheons is wonderful.

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

### Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2025

|                              |                              |              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| <u>President:</u>            | Donna Poulter                | 707-576-0513 |
| <u>1st Vice President</u>    | LTC Steve Countouriotis, USA | 707-763-5309 |
| <u>2nd Vice President</u>    | COL Bruce A. Stahley, USAR   | 415-892-2248 |
| <u>Secretary:</u>            | Cpt Robert R. Safreno, USAF  | 707-479-9374 |
| <u>Treasurer:</u>            | LCDR Tim Morgan, USNR        | 707-695-9293 |
| <u>Imed. Past President:</u> | Maj Ken Johnson, USAF        | 408-466-6764 |

#### CAL-MOAA Director, Area I

Cpt Tom Walther, USAF 530-673-5499

#### Directors-at-large - Term 2025-26

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Martina Lewis         | 707-758-9739 |
| Susan Linch           | 707-538-3342 |
| LTC Gary Meagher, AUS | 707-544-4089 |
| Mary-Gwen Neisingh    | 707-481-7614 |

#### Directors-at-large - Term 2024-25

|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst | 707-468-0146 |
| Dayle Johnson       | 408-466-6764 |
| Rosemary Rizzo      | 707-539-3346 |
| CPT Lewis Wall, USA | 707-837-7389 |

#### Directors Representing Sub-Chapters:

Mendocino: Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst 707-468-0146

#### MOAA VOICE

|                          |                                 |                            |
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