

May 2026 | Volume 5



President's Message

Paul Gonzales, LTC USA (ret.)

Hello to Alameda MOAA members and prospective members. It's been a tumultuous period these past months with government shutdowns and rescheduling of our meetings. Let's hope that the coming months will see stability for everyone. I hope many or most of our General members can attend the 2 June meeting at Coast Guard Island. It will be the Base Commander's last week in Command, CAPT Corey Braddock. He will be our guest speaker in June, before he heads to his new role as Chief of Staff for Vice Admiral Joseph R Buzzella, Commander, US Coast Guard Pacific Area and Defense Forces West.

I was honored to present four scholarship checks from MOAA Alameda Chapter to Cadets and Midshipmen from UC Berkeley ROTC Programs May 8th. at Berkeley. Thank you to all those who contributed donations for our annual effort of \$4500. The past two years we have been able to fully support these scholarships despite not raising funds during Fleet Week.

Our Chapter membership continues to dwindle with non-renewals for various reasons. Rudolf Bredderman has

In This Issue

<i>Guest Speaker: Capt Corey A. Braddock Commanding Officer</i>	2
<i>2026 General Meetings *</i>	2
<i>General Membership Meeting June 2nd</i>	3
<i>Membership</i>	3
<i>Legislative Update</i>	4
<i>Social Media Resources</i>	5
<i>A Day of Remembrance</i>	6
<i>Bay Area</i>	7
<i>Personal Affairs</i>	7
<i>May is for Flowers!</i>	8
<i>2026 Alameda MOAA Membership Application</i>	14



**MOAA – ONE ASSOCIATION, ONE
VOICE– YOURS**

Take Action:

<http://takeaction.moaa.org>

Programs (CG-821) where he oversaw personnel & human resources portfolio; and the CG's an account that made up 60% of the Service's \$12 billion budget. Preceding his Coast Guard service, Corey served in the United States Army. In the Republic of Korea, he was a lead operational planner for a 2,500-soldier aviation brigade and the Commanding Officer for a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter company. Stateside, he trained National Guard and Reserve units for combat operations, led an aviation platoon, and acted as the Executive Officer for a headquarters company



General Membership Meeting June 2nd

- 11:00 – 12:00 Social hour & lunch
- 12:00 – 13:00 General business & Guest Speaker
- [Zoom](#) starts at noon. Click [here](#).

Coast Guard Island, Gresham Room (next to Point Welcome)

Lunch: \$15 per person, pay [here](#) or at the door

Dress: Business Casual

Base Access Contact: LTC Rodney Grayson, secretary@alamedamoaa.org, (925)337-0241

Membership

Rudolf Bredderman, Membership Director

If you know an officer who may be interested, please send their contact information (phone, mailing address, or email) to Rudolf Bredderman, bredderman@sbcglobal.net and he will follow up with Chapter information. Better yet, invite them to attend a chapter meeting to see firsthand what we do.

If you are being transferred or just moving, please let Rudolf know.

Here is our [Membership Application](#).

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Easy pay [here](#)

Want to write a check? Send to the Alameda County Chapter, MOAA, c/o Rudolf Bredderman, 35923 Romilly Court, Fremont, CA 94536.

- \$20 regular members
- \$5 for Surviving Spouses and Spouses
- Free for Active-duty

Please keep your contact information in the national MOAA database up to date.

Log into the MOAA website < <https://www.moaa.org> >, check your profile to make sure it is up to date. Members can also call or email the Member Service Center and one of MOAA's Member Service Representatives would be happy to update the necessary information. Members can email mssc@moaa.org or call 1-800-234-6622 for further assistance.

Legislative Update

James “Skip” Phair, Legislative Director

Just when we thought nothing could be accomplished this session the slight improvement in the state budget outlook and through some strong leadership by key legislators three significant bills have made it to the floor for passage this month.



SB 1407 (Archuleta) *Personal Income Tax Law: exclusions: military retirement pay: survivor benefit pay.* This bill will change California’s maximum gross income exclusion for uniformed service retirement pay and survivor benefits pay from \$20,000 to \$40,000 effective for 2026 income tax. It also effective 2027, the “qualified taxpayer” \$250,000 and \$125,000 maximums will be adjusted annually for inflation. Senator Archuleta tried for full exclusion, changed it to \$80,000 and last Friday on the last day amended it to \$40,000 to get it through.

AB 2022 (Jeff Gonzalez) *Property taxation: exemption: disabled Veteran homeowners.* This bill expands the disabled veterans’ property tax exemption for a veteran who is 100% disabled. Exempts from property tax 50% of the assessed value property owned by, and that constitutes the principal place of residence of, a veteran, the veteran’s spouse, or jointly held property, if the veteran is 100% disabled. Provides a 100% exemption for such property in the case of a 100% disabled veteran or unmarried surviving spouse whose “household income” does not exceed \$40,000, as adjusted for the relevant assessment year. The current exemptions are \$100,00 and \$150,000 (adjusted for inflation) respectively.

SB 888 (Seyarto) *Property taxation: disabled veterans’ exemption: household income.* This bill excludes service-connected disability payments from inclusion in the definition of “household income” for purposes of determining whether the low-income disabled veterans’ exemption from property tax applies. It is anticipated that close to 76% of veterans currently qualified for the property tax exemption will be eligible for the low-income option. Currently, only 7% are below the low-income threshold.

This again is a call to action. Immediately, when you read this newsletter contact your State Senator and Assemblymember to leave an email or phone message encouraging them to vote for each of these bills. Once these bills pass the house where they were introduced, they will still be required to heard and voted in the committees, need a vote in the opposite house and be signed by Governor Newsom.

Tools

California Veterans Legislation Hub <https://leg4vetsca.notion.site/>

California Legislature Position Letter Portal <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>

Sign up for Campaign Notifications: <https://calcommanders.org/take-action/>

Talk with your representatives!

CA: findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov

National: usa.gov/elected-officials

Engage with your community: Ask for letters of support to be sent to Committees, Governor

Join the discussion on Discord: <https://discord.gg/2Pyesk4c>. Check in daily for updates and to engage with other Veterans.

Social Media Resources

In case you do not follow, there are four great ones you should consider:

Get Involved!

- Big DOL LinkedIn: [U.S. Department of Labor | LinkedIn](#)
- Big DOL Twitter/X: [U.S. Department of Labor \(@USDOL\) / X](#)
- DOL VETS LinkedIn: [Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service | LinkedIn](#)
- DOL VETS Twitter/X: [VETS_DOL \(@VETS_DOL\) / X](#)

Chapter Presents ROTC Cadets with Scholarship Awards

Paul Gonazles

2026 UC BERKELEY ROTC Scholarship Recipients:

Air Force ROTC Col. Vance Mitchell Award: For the Vance Mitchell Award, Cadet Samuel Peters is graduating this year with a pilot slot. He is the cadet A3 leader who is in charge of the Leadership Laboratory for cadet execution. The cadet who leads A3 tends to be the 3rd in charge after the cadet wing commander and cadet vice commander and is known to be one of the most knowledgeable and "gung-ho" cadets within the cadet wing.



Army ROTC: CDT Lunden Johnson has been in the program for the past two years and has distinguished himself through his leadership, discipline, and unwavering commitment to the Battalion. Most notably, he has served as the Ranger Challenge Team Captain—an impressive achievement for an underclassman. CDT Johnson is an MS3 majoring in Philosophy with a 3.51 GPA, and he currently holds a 4.0 GPA within Army ROTC. As a student at a university known for its academic rigor, he has consistently demonstrated intellectual curiosity, strong analytical skills, and a disciplined work ethic. Without question, CDT Johnson is one of the most motivated and dependable MS3s in the program. Despite his quiet and humble demeanor, he leads by example in every setting. His leadership of the Ranger Challenge team set a new standard—

he stepped into the role early, took charge, and never looked back. His dedication, reliability, and ability to inspire others have earned him the respect of both peers and cadre. Additionally, he consistently performs at a high level physically, recently scoring an impressive 465/500 on the Army Combat Fitness Test. CDT Johnson was born in Oakland, California, and grew up in San Ramon—a true local who has deep roots in the Bay Area. He attended San Ramon Valley High School, where his strong sense of discipline and service first began to take shape. His decision to pursue a military career in the US Army reflects his desire to serve the community and region that shaped him.

Air Force ROTC: We'd like to nominate Cadet David Larkin (AS300, third year). He is studying mechanical engineering at SFSU with a 3.94 cumulative GPA. He is presently a flight commander, responsible for 12 underclassmen and hopes to become a pilot. He's ranked #2/9 in his class for his leadership, organization, and enthusiasm. He consistently stands out among his peers for superior leadership abilities and keen sense of dedication to the AF ROTC Program and hopes to serve a career in the Air Force.



Navy ROTC: MIDN 3/C Tabitha Lee Chon, a Global Studies & Maritime Affairs major at Cal Poly Maritime Academy, has demonstrated exceptional dedication, leadership, and professionalism in her role as a squad leader for the UC Berkeley NROTC unit. Through her superb performance in this role, she has directly contributed to the training and accountability of Marine Option midshipmen, ensuring they are prepared to meet program standards. She has also played a key role in planning and coordinating the upcoming Field Exercise (FEX), demonstrating strong organizational ability and attention to detail. Her efforts have strengthened unit readiness and reinforced standards across the unit. Additionally, MIDN Lee Chon's commitment to physical readiness is evident in her outstanding score of 273 on the Spring 2026 Physical Fitness Test, reflecting her discipline and determination. Her achievements embody the core values of honor, courage, and commitment, making her a standout member of the battalion and a promising future leader in the United States Marine Corps.

A Day of Remembrance

Veterans Affairs

"That Nation which respects and honors its dead, shall ever be respected and honored itself."
– Brevet Lieut.-Col. Edmund B. Whitman, 1868

Originally called Decoration Day, it was formalized by a "Memorial Day Order" issued by Grand Army of the Republic Commander-in-Chief John A. Logan in 1868. The modern proclamation calls on Americans "to observe Memorial Day by praying, according to their individual religious faith, for permanent peace."



In the waning years of the Civil War (1861–1865) and immediately afterward, communities in the North and South, Black and White, decorated soldiers' graves with floral honors on springtime "decoration days." The practice of strewing flowers on graves has been documented from Classical Roman times to western Europe in the nineteenth century.

On May 5, 1868, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), a politically powerful organization of Union veterans led by Major General John A. Logan — issued General Orders No. 11 or the "Memorial Day Act." This issuance formally established "Memorial Day" as a Decoration Day on which the nation would remember its war dead and decorate their graves with flowers.

In subsequent decades competition flourished to claim when and where the first such gathering occurred — in one way or another. Recent scholarship, however, points to the ladies of Columbus, GA, who in April 1866 lobbied for a clearly defined Memorial Day on which to place flowers on the graves of Civil War dead.

CALIFORNIA		
<u>Bakersfield National Cemetery</u>	5/23	9:00 a.m.
<u>Benicia Arsenal Post Cemetery</u>	5/25	10:00 a.m.
<u>Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery</u>	5/25	10:00 a.m.
<u>Golden Gate National Cemetery</u>	5/25	11:00 a.m.
<u>Los Angeles National Cemetery</u>	5/25	8:00 a.m.
<u>Mare Island Naval Cemetery</u>	5/25	9:00 a.m.
<u>Miramar National Cemetery</u>	5/24	1:00 p.m.
<u>Riverside National Cemetery</u>	5/25	11:00 a.m.
<u>Sacramento Valley National Cemetery</u>	5/23	9:00 a.m.
<u>San Francisco National Cemetery</u>	5/25	11:00 a.m.
<u>San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery</u>	5/24	9:00 a.m.

Bay Area

- [Memorial Day Commemoration, Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland, CA](#): 10:00 a.m.
- [USS Hornet Museum – Alameda](#): Doors open at 10:00 a.m. Event 1:00 p.m.
- [Campbell Veterans Memorial Day Ceremony](#): 9:00 a.m.
- San Francisco National Cemetery at the Presidio 10:30 – 11:30

... and more [here](#)

Personal Affairs

Sue Stewart, Personal Affairs

National Military Appreciation Month (NMAM), designated by Congress in 1999, takes place throughout May to honor, remember, and recognize the U.S. Armed Forces, including active duty, National Guard, Reserve, and veterans. May was chosen because it holds many key military milestones, including Loyalty Day, Armed Forces Day, and Memorial Day.

Key Observances in May 2026

- Loyalty Day (May 1): Reaffirms loyalty to the U.S.
- Public Service Recognition Week (May 3-9): Honors government employees, including military.
- Military Spouse Appreciation Day (May 8): Honors the sacrifices of spouses.

- Armed Forces Day (May 16): Celebrates those currently serving in the six branches.
- Memorial Day (May 25): Remembers those who died in service.

Many businesses offer special discounts on or around Military Appreciation Month or Military Appreciation Day. Find some of the discounts below; this list will be updated on the MOAA National website throughout May to reflect new additions, as some deals won't kick in until later in the month. MOAA members can find year-round savings on a range of products and services through our [member discounts page](#).

Blue Star Museums: Museums, zoos, nature centers, and other partners in the Blue Star Museums program will offer free admission for currently serving members and their families from May 16 through Sept. 7. Check out [a state-by-state list of participating locations](#).

SeaWorld: Parks in Orlando, Fla., San Antonio, and San Diego will offer [free one-day admission](#) to veterans and up to three guests for a single visit May 10 to June 30. Veterans also can purchase single-day tickets for up to six guests at half price. **Academy**

Sports+Outdoors: Servicemembers and veterans can take 10% of their purchase (in-store and online) through July 4. [Learn more here](#).

Rack Room Shoes: Military personnel and families [receive a 20% discount](#) on in-store purchases on Memorial Day and July 4. Must present military ID at checkout.

MORE DISCOUNTS: [Military.com](#)

May is for Flowers!

Sue Gonzales, Surviving Spouse Liaison

I hope that all of you were able to spend Mother's Day with family or friends and bask in all the love! The weather has turned very nice here and hopefully that means that we will continue to have beautiful weather. The flowers are blooming; fruit trees are starting to provide all those wonderful goodies! I know my pear tree is already showing fruit and my garden is coming right along.



Here are some of the things May is known for:

- **Symbolism & Nature:** Symbolizes growth and renewal, often associated with the Roman goddess Maia. The "Flower Moon" often occurs in May.
- **Major Holidays & Observances:**
 - **May 1 is May Day** Traditional Spring festival, often featuring Maypole dancing and **International Workers' Day** Celebrated globally to honor workers' rights.
 - **May 5 is Cinco de Mayo** Commemorates the Battle of Puebla, widely celebrated in Mexico and the U.S.
 - **May 16 is [Armed Forces Day](#)**, which honors those who serve in all branches of the United States military.
 - **May 22 is [National Maritime Day](#)**. Created in commemoration of the first transoceanic voyage via steamboat (completed by the U.S.S. *Savannah* in 1819), this holiday recognizes the efforts of the U.S. merchant marine during both war and peace.
 - **Memorial Day (Last Monday of May):** Honors fallen U.S. military personnel, signaling the unofficial start of summer.

- **Awareness Months:** May is dedicated to mental health awareness, skin cancer awareness, and military appreciation.
- **Birthstone & Flowers:** The birthstone is the **emerald** (symbolizing love and success), and birth flowers are the **lily-of-the-valley** (sweetness/return of happiness) and **hawthorn** (hope).
- **Zodiac Signs:** Taurus (until May 20) and Gemini (May 21 onwards).

May Recipes:

- <https://www.almanac.com/recipe/spinach-lasagna>-<https://www.almanac.com/recipe/asparagus-frittata>
- <https://www.almanac.com/recipe/rhubarb-pie-1>

- Check out our full list of [Springtime Recipes](#) to get inspired. (Courtesy of Farmers' Almanac.)

PGA HOPE - Helping Our Patriots Everywhere



PGA HOPE (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere) is the flagship military program of PGA REACH, the charitable foundation of the PGA of America. PGA HOPE introduces golf to Veterans and Active-Duty Military to enhance their physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being.

Spring sessions start in March! Find your course here: [PGA HOPE - Northern California Section](#)
####

2026 Alameda MOAA Board of Directors

ELECTED POSITIONS

- President: LTC Paul Gonzales, USA (ret.)
- Immediate Past President: CAPT Fred Jaffin, USN
- Treasurer: Maj. Dan Bitner,
- Secretary: LTC Rodney Grayson, USA
- Surviving Spouse Liaison Mrs. Susan Gonzales (spouse)

APPOINTED DIRECTORS

- Director of Membership: CDR Rudolf Bredderman, USN
 - Membership Committee: MAJ Sidney Jordan, USA (ret.) and LTC Jason Kuroiwa (ret.)
- Legislative Affairs: COL James “Skip” Phair, USA (ret.)
- Personal Affairs: CAPT Susan Stewart, USN (ret.)
- Director of Programs: CAPT Perry Milton, USN (ret.)
 - Program Committee: CDR Lance Sopera, USN (ret.)
- Director of Communications: Capt., Ramona Chávez, USAF (ret.)
- Director of Scholarships: LTC Paul Gonzales, USA (ret.)
- Facilities Coordinator: LCDR Jerry Jacobs, USNR (ret.)
 - Facilities Committee: LTC Rod Grayson, USA (ret.), LTC Paul Gonzles, USA (ret.), LTC Ingo Biscoff, USAR
- Assistant Treasurer Mrs. Marvera Kline (Spouse)

Membership in National MOAA

Rudolf Bredderman - Acting Membership

All our 2025 members who are eligible for national MOAA membership are members of MOAA at the national level except for our two newest Active-Duty members. Forty-two are LIFE members and seventeen are Premium members at the national level. Fourteen (including 3 Active-Duty Members) of our Chapter members are “Basic” members of MOAA at the national level. MOAA is encouraging all “Basic” members to become either “Premium” or “LIFE” members, i.e., dues paying members.

It is important that Chapter members who are Premium (Annual) members of national MOAA keep their national MOAA membership current with the payment of annual dues; or upgrade to “LIFE” membership in national MOAA.

Please visit the national MOAA website <https://www.moaa.org> . It provides current information of significance to military personnel, active, former and retired and to spouses of military personnel; and it is easy to navigate. Access to much of the MOAA website requires logging in as a MOAA member. To do so, you will need to enter your MOAA membership number, and you will have to create a password. If you do not know your MOAA membership number, please contact me bredderman@sbcglobal.net or

(510) 796-2485. I should be able to tell you your MOAA membership number. If you have a problem logging in to the MOAA website, email <msc@moaa.org> or call 1-800-234-6622 for assistance.

When you log in to the MOAA website, check your profile to make sure it is up to date. Please keep your contact information in the national MOAA database up to date. I can review it, but I cannot change it. Members can contact Member Service Center at 1-800-234-6622 or email msc@moaa.org and one of MOAA's Member Service Representatives would be happy to update the necessary information.

MOAA Membership Costs as of 1 January 2024

Basic MOAA membership is FREE!

Premium (Annual) Membership: Annual Dues

	<u>Regular Members</u>	<u>Surviving Spouses**</u>
One Year	\$66	\$60
Two Years	\$112	\$102
Three Years	\$149	\$135

Note** If you are the surviving spouse of a military officer who was a LIFE Member of MOAA, you are a LIFE Member of MOAA and do not pay annual due.

Life Membership: LIFE membership costs vary from \$921 for someone 49 years old or less to \$107 if you are 95 to 99 years old. If you are over 100, LIFE Membership is FREE. LIFE membership passes to your spouse if you predecease your spouse.

MOAA membership is incredibly significant when MOAA lobbies Congress on issues important to the military community. To join national MOAA visit <https://www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa/>

If you need help in becoming a member of national MOAA, let me know. If I have your written permission, I can sign you up to be a "Basic" MOAA member at no cost. The best way is to send me an email <bredderman@sbcglobal.net>



National MOAA and the Alameda MOAA Chapter are nonpartisan organizations.

To join, visit <https://www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa/>

You defend the country. We defend your benefits.

[Join Now](#)

Resources at Your Fingertips

- [California Department of Veterans Affairs](#)
- [Alameda County Veterans Services](#)
- **Need a DD-214?** Visit <https://www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/>
- **DOL VETS:** <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets> The U.S. Department of Labor is the Congressionally mandated lead agency for programs and services to Veterans, transitioning service members, and military spouses.
- **Alameda, MOAA Board Members for 2021:** <http://www.alamedamoaa.org/Chapter-Officers>
- **MOAA Alameda Membership/Renewal Application Last** page of newsletter or online here: <http://www.alamedamoaa.org/Join>
- **MOAA National application** <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Join-MOAA/Why-join-MOAA.aspx>
- **Alameda Chapter Website** <http://www.alamedamoaa.org>
- **Alameda Chapter Editorial and Privacy Policy:** <http://alamedamoaa.org/Editorial-and-Privacy-Policies>
- **MOAA Legislative Update/Action Center:** <http://alamedamoaa.org/Legislative-Update>
- **Useful Websites for California Veterans**
- **CA Legislation:**
<https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml>
- **California State Senate:** <http://senate.ca.gov/>
- **California State Assembly:** <http://assembly.ca.gov/>
- To find CA Law, including the Military and Veterans Code: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml>
- Find your State and Local Legislator: <http://votesmart.org/>
- **CALMOAA Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/582556558468846>
- Northern California Coast Guard Retiree Council Website is NCCGRC.org
- PACT Act General PSA (30) : https://youtu.be/Rj1Eo0C_UNE
- PACT Act General PSA (15): <https://youtu.be/1-MPpbhRPS0>
- PACT Act Veteran PSA (30): <https://youtu.be/tulW0c76pC0>
- PACT Act Veteran PSA (15): <https://youtu.be/ohaeNLC6fRY>
- PACT Act Doctor PSA (30): <https://youtu.be/0qEf3wEr81A>
- PACT Act Doctor PSA (15): https://youtu.be/P4Z04L16_2A
- PACT Act Caregiver PSA (30): https://youtu.be/fDGw1ykpQ_0
- PACT Act Caregiver PSA (15): <https://youtu.be/W94lGxmqlFo>
- PACT Act Caregiver PSA (Spanish, 30): https://youtu.be/I9o42_7COmY
- PACT Act Caregiver PSA (Spanish, 15): <https://youtu.be/AzrE5Gdrejc>
- PACT Act Benefits PSA (30) : <https://youtu.be/LDH5rcSW0q0>
- [TRICARE For Retirees](#)
- [TRICARE For Life](#)
- [MEDICARE](#)
- [Social Security Administration](#)
- [Veterans Health Administration](#)

- [National Cemetery Administration](#)
- [Veterans Benefits Administration](#)

2026 Alameda MOAA Membership Application

<p>Please Check One</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New Member</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Renewal</p>	<p>Please Check One</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Surviving Spouse</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Name and Rank of qualifying officer's spouse: _____</p>
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Military Status (please check one)

Active-duty
 Retired
 Guard/Reserve
 Former / Inactive

U.S. Service (please check one)

Army
 Air Force
 Coast Guard
 Marine Corps
 Navy
 USPHS
 U.S. Space Force
 NOAA

Date: mm/dd/yyyy National MOAA #*: _____

**National MOAA # not required; however, you can acquire free basic membership at: <https://www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa/>*

Name: _____ Rank: _____ Date of Birth: mm/dd/yyyy
 Email: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____ Apt: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____
 Spouses Name: _____

I am interested in participating in a Chapter office or committee Yes No

Membership is for the calendar year commencing 1 January of each year.

Annual Dues: 1) Active-duty: \$0 2) Regular: \$20 / \$10 if joining after July 1 3) Spouse/Surviving Spouse: \$5

New Members: Please attach a copy of your military ID, DD-214, or other proof of service as a military officer.

Make checks payable to: ALAMEDA COUNTY CHAPTER, MOAA or Easy Pay [here](#)

Submit: Can be filled out electronically and emailed to alamedamoamembership@alamedamoaa.org or mail MOAA Alameda County Chapter, c/o: Rudolf Bredderman, 35923 Romilly Court, Fremont, CA 94536.