



# MOAA LANCASTER PA CHAPTER

## NEWSLETTER

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MOAA (Military Officers Association of America) Lancaster Chapter  
P O Box 5031, Lancaster, PA 17606

January 2018

Volume 25 Number 1

### ◇ **Lancaster Country Club Meeting: by D. Horting**

Our first membership meeting for 2018 will be a luncheon on March 1st at Lancaster Country Club. This venue is most elegant and offers excellent food quality. The gathering will begin at 11:00 a.m. with a social hour with cash bar. The meeting will be called to order at noon with introductory remarks by our president John Gareis. Lunch will follow at 12:15 p.m. with the following menu:



***Creamy roasted red bell pepper soup***

***Sliced pork tenderloin with applejack brandy jus***

***Whipped sweet potatoes***

***Green beans with oven roasted tomatoes***

***White chocolate mousse topped with red raspberry sauce and fresh blueberries***

***Coffee/hot tea service***

The cost of the meal is \$27.00 per person. As always your check is your reservation and should be made out to Lancaster Chapter MOAA and mailed to Lancaster Chapter MOAA, Attention: Meeting Reservations, PO Box 5031, Lancaster, PA 17606-5031. Be sure to write the names of your guests on your check for name tag purposes. By request a vegetarian meal will be available as a substitute for the above selections. The deadline for receipt of checks is Friday, February 23rd. Cancellations may be made by calling Jim Cunningham prior to Friday, February 23rd. If you have any questions please contact Jim Cunningham at 581-5299.

**Directions:** 1466 New Holland Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601. LCC is located north of US 30 on PA-23.

### ◇ **Speaker: Dina Cerase**

Our March speaker comes to us from MOAA's home office. After two years since the last visit to our Chapter,

COL (R) Terry Coles will be doing a 'health and welfare' visit and sharing a message with the board and membership.

She served over 20 years in the U.S. Army as a Signal Corps officer, serving in a wide range of command and staff assignments including postings in Korea and Germany and command at both the battalion and brigade level. She also served on the Department of the Army staff as an Inspector General and culminated her military career serving as a division chief in the Command, Control, Communications and Computer-J6 Directorate, on the Joint Staff, Pentagon.

After leaving active duty, Terri became active in the local Frederick, MD, community and was selected as a member of the board of associates for Hood College, where she worked to nurture strong relationships between the student vets on campus and the greater Frederick community.

Terri joined MOAA in 2012 and served as Deputy Director in the Career Transition Center before assuming her current role as Senior Director in Council and Chapter Affairs.

She is a native of Philadelphia and holds a Bachelor of Arts in communications from Villanova University and a Master of Arts in strategic studies from the Army War College Pennsylvania.



### ◇ **Lancaster MOAA Chapter New President**

Our new President John W. Gareis, MD, is a native of Baltimore, Maryland. He received undergraduate training at the University of Maryland, College Park and graduated "Cum Laude" in 1963. He has three years of ROTC training in the United States Air Force. John attended the University of Maryland Medical School in Baltimore, Maryland and graduated as a Medical Doctor in 1967. The same year he was commissioned in the US Army Reserve as a First Lieutenant. After a four year residency in Radiology, he was called to active duty in



1971 and served in the rank of Major at the Second General Hospital, Landstuhl, Germany Army Medical Corps until 1974. Returning to the U.S., he joined Lancaster Radiology Associates and practiced at Lancaster General Hospital for almost 30 years; he is now retired.

He has been married to Dolores for 54 years and they have five children and 14 grandchildren. His hobbies include swimming, travel, and membership in historical and hereditary societies. John is currently President of the New Jersey Society of the Cincinnati and previous President of the PA Sons of the Revolution, Lancaster Chapter. He is also a member of the Red Rose Veterans Honor Guard providing military honor to our deceased veterans. He is a life member of MOAA.

#### ◇ From the President's Desk

It is an honor for me to have been chosen to lead our MOAA Lancaster Chapter organization. After serving for the past two years as vice president under Tony Cerase I realize the work that must be accomplished. I will try my best to continue the mission of our organization; to advocate for our military community. The term "Never stop serving" is one frequently used by our MOAA organization and it is particularly appropriate in the world that we live in; as MOAA members we can add our voices to the other veteran organizations in support of our military and those that have served in it. I urge you to continue your membership and participation in the MOAA Lancaster Chapter.

Our chapter is healthy and remains the largest in the state of Pennsylvania. For the past two years we have received the four star Levels of Excellence Award as well as the Communications Award for our newsletter and website. We continue to participate in the scholarship program for local students as well as awards for outstanding ROTC cadets at Millersville University. Our Adopt a Kid/Adopt a Vet Program with its volunteers continues to visit area schools to inform our young students about military service.

If our chapter is to remain strong we need your participation and continued interest. If you would like to serve on one of our committees, participate in the Adopt a Kid/Adopt a Vet Program, or contribute to our chapters success in any other way please contact me and we will find a place for you.

*John Gareis*

#### ◇ Christmas Gifts: Dennis Benchoff

Dennis transported over 200 Christmas gifts to VA which were gratefully received.



*Thank you for your support and generosity to this worthwhile event.*

#### ◇ 2018 Approved Budget: Dennis Benchoff

<u>Expected Income:</u>	3,900
<u>Expenses Category</u>	<u>Allocated \$</u>
Admin Support	700
ROTC Award	550
Meeting Expenses*	400
Member Memorials	150
Newsletter	900
PA COC Dues**	125
HS Scholarship	<u>1,075</u>
	3,900

\* includes the Small Game County Licensing: \$125 per year

\*\* Currently, we have 299 members; however, assumes 250 for year 2018

#### ◇ Welcome The New Members: John Burke

Capt. Joel Minto	LCDR Curtis Bare
USAF, 845-988-7252	USN, 610-299-6054
347 Buch Avenue	4 Greenfield Road
Lancaster, PA 17601	Cochranville, PA 19330
Spouse: Gwendolyn	Spouse: Karen
Sponsor: John Burke	Sponsor: John Burke

LTC William Confer	LtCol. Gerald Hesko
USA, 717-712-3849	USAF, 717-335-8140
69 Circle Drive,	275 Blainsport Road
Lititz, PA 17543	Reinholds, PA 17569
Spouse: Helen	Spouse: Genean
Sponsor: Bob Jannarone	Sponsor: John Burke

The above new members bring the total number of new members for 2017 to 21.

#### ◇ Legislative issues: Dennis Benchoff

Two key policy decisions in the FY 2018 NDAA that affect some of our chapter members - but won't happen without a budget.

**1. Lessens the "widows' tax":** Congress included a provision in the FY 2018 NDAA that provides a permanent extension to the SSIA. Without congressional action, 67,000 military survivors would lose \$2,100 in 2018 if the allowance expired in May, as it was set to, and over \$3,700 a year after that. By extending the SSIA and indexing future increases to COLA, Congress shows it is making a good-faith effort to address the widows' tax. Next year, MOAA will go back to Congress and ask it increase SSIA above



COLA to further reduce the widows' tax.

**2. TRICARE:** Despite yearlong efforts to prevent TRICARE fee increases, the final NDAA included progressive year-over-year increases in pharmacy copayments. Beneficiaries will see steady increases in their cost shares across all medication tiers, which will save DoD more than \$2.1 billion by 2022 and fund improvements in military readiness and the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA). Most of the increases will be through the retail pharmacy sector, but beneficiaries still can obtain medications at military pharmacies for free. The new fees will include mail-order generic prescriptions as well. By 2026, costs are projected to top off at \$14 for a 30-day supply of a generic medication at a retail pharmacy and a 90-day supply by mail. Further, a 30-day supply of a non-generic medication at a retail pharmacy will be \$48, and a 90-day supply by mail will hit \$44.

Additionally, outside of the NDAA provision, the Defense Health Agency has introduced a new TRICARE fee structure that will be applied to the new TRICARE Select option. Increased fees also will apply to the existing TRICARE Prime option. Beneficiaries can view these changes at <https://tricare.mil/About/Changes/Costs>.

These changes to the TRICARE fees and program options will take effect Jan. 1, 2018.

◆ **Stitching for Vets: Kathleen Knapp**

“Stitching for Vets” is a project begun in late 2016 when I learned, through my daughter in social work, that some area veterans entering hospice care had never been recognized for their military service. Some local hospice agencies do partner with the VA, and through a program called “We Honor Veterans”, present each veteran with a lapel pin and certificate recognizing their service. Because I enjoy quilting, I thought I could add to that recognition a handcrafted quilt that would provide veterans both recognition and physical comfort in their last months. With the help of friends and supporters, the “Stitching for Vets” project distributed 96 blankets, including quilts and afghans, from 17 different stitchers by the end of its first year.

Friends and acquaintances, who also enjoy stitching, have supported the effort with their own time and talent. Materials for quilt kits are purchased with donations from local individuals and organizations like the Upper Leacock Township War Memorial Association which acts as the project’s nonprofit fiscal sponsor.

Before the quilts are presented to a veteran, an embroidered recognition label is added. The label includes the specific service of the veteran (Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marines as appropriate) and the name of the stitcher along with “Stitching for Vets”. The veterans have all been very appreciative.

Over this first year, we received many thanks and comments from recipients and families. One of the first stories was from the caregivers of a 95-year-old veteran that served in the Pacific, on Okinawa during WWII with the Army Air Corps. When he saw the “Thank You Note” embroidered on the blanket he smiled and commented, “They remembered me.” He used it daily as a reminder to him that someone cared and remembered. The “Stitching for Vets” project is just another way of taking care of our troops, always.



◆ **2018 Dues Reminder-Tom Bender**

\$15 annual or \$40 for three years  
Contact Tom Bender at 471-6817 or [mot2017@ptd.net](mailto:mot2017@ptd.net) with questions.

◆ **Next Newsletter Release:**

March 5, 2018

◇ **Chapter Contacts:**

**President:**

John Gareis 717-872-8005

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William McElroy 717-228-2071

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Tom Bender 717-471-6817

**Director:**

John Burke 717-627-6968

**Director:**

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**Director:**

Dan Cooper 717-464-6688

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**Director:**

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Dan Horting 717-285-7320

**Scholarship Chair:**

George Resh 717-397-1906

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