



5 Star E-Newsletter

LANCASTER CHAPTER MOAA

P.O. Box 5031, Lancaster, PA 17606-5031

NEWSLETTER

Visit our 5 Star Web Site at www.moaalancasterchapt.org

January 2022

Volume 29 Number 1

• **Our Next Meeting is at Meadia Heights GC:**

On Thursday, March 3rd, the Chapter will hold our first membership meeting of 2022 at Meadia Heights Golf Club, 402 Golf Road, Lancaster, PA 17602. The luncheon gathering will begin with a social hour with a cash bar from 11:00 a.m. until noon. The meeting will be called to order at 12 noon with introductory remarks by our president, Bill Confer. Lunch will quickly follow with a menu that includes:

Salad:

Garden Salad with choice of Ranch or Vinaigrette Dressing and Dinner Rolls

Choice of Entrée:

Marinated Flank Steak OR Baked Tilapia with Lemon Butter Sauce
Red Potatoes
Green Beans

Dessert:

Chocolate Mousse

Beverages:

Coffee, Tea, and Iced Tea

The cost of the meal will be \$28.00 per person. As always your check is your reservation and should be made out to Lancaster Chapter MOAA and mailed to Lancaster Chapter MOAA, ATTN: Meeting Reservations, P.O. Box 5031, Lancaster, PA 17606-5031. Be sure to write the names of your guests on your check for name tag purposes and please provide your Entrée choice for each attendee.

The deadline for receipt of all checks is Thursday, February 17th. Cancellations may be made by calling Jim Cunningham prior to February 17th. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Cunningham at 581-5299.

Our speaker will be a representative from MOAA National who will first meet with our board of directors and then address our membership after our lunch. MOAA attempts to send a representative to attend local chapter gatherings every three years or so.

• **From the President's Desk:**

I think it's important to first recognize the fantastic group of people who continue to serve by being directors and staff of the Lancaster MOAA Chapter. It goes without saying the as we retire we think we are getting more time to relax but some folks head straight into the fray by doing even more for the service to the military and that is what the Lancaster Chapter of MOAA officers have done.



Bill Confer Sr

Special Thanks to Dan Horting for stepping up as Vice President, as if he didn't already have enough jobs at MOAA, he is truly dedicated. And another special thanks to Dennis Benchoff's continued support as Treasurer for Lancaster MOAA and also Treasurer of the Council of Chapters. Also Thanks to Tom Bender for staying on for at least another year to handle the newsletter and all the rest of the MOAA Directors and staff.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank David Shelton for his outstanding leadership in one of the toughest times in our History. I did sincerely appreciate his leadership and guidance coming into the presidents' position.

It was great to see everyone come out for the Christmas Dinner at the Eden resort and socialize after COVID restrictions that have prevailed for two years. With the great immunizations available, almost 45 people came out to celebrate the Holiday Season and get together with a great group of fantastic people. This reminds me that I should mention that you should call in prior to the meal event if something comes up and you can't attend. Please remember to call if you have to cancel so we can properly plan meals.

I do want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a fantastic and prosperous New Year. I pray and hope that the new year will allow more and more people to come out to our dinners and luncheons and socialize and be a part of this fantastic organization. I also



- **From the President's Desk (cont'd):**

hope that you will be able to spend more quality time with your family over the holidays.

I want to thank everyone who brought a bag of personal items for those Veteran's in the Hospital at the VA in our neighboring Lebanon. This is one of the best and most important projects we have at MOAA and helps to take care of our most vulnerable.

As I've said repeatedly, MOAA is a great group and is our Military family that continues to support great objectives and goals. It has amazed me how many different and various services are represented in MOAA, and we all create a great synergy to accomplish important things in the future. May God Bless you all and keep you safe throughout the year as we go forward and accomplish good things. Please remember the March 3rd membership meeting at Meadia Heights starting at 11 AM. We will have a guest speaker from MOAA National there to speak to us.

If you live near a Surviving Spouse who could use a ride, please bring her along. We want them to stay involved as they are a valuable part of our MOAA family.

- **Our President's Biography:**

Our new President, LTC Bill Confer Sr, USA (Ret), introduced himself as the incoming president and a Vietnam Helicopter Pilot. He served seven and one-half years on active duty from 1966 to 1973.

He came back home to Lock Haven Pennsylvania, finished College and almost immediately joined the National Guard serving as a Battalion Training Officer/Materiel Officer/and a Battalion Executive Officer until moving to Fort Indiantown Gap where he took over as the Chief of Maintenance for the State Surface Maintenance Manager for the Pennsylvania Army National Guard both fulltime and part-time.

At Fort Indiantown Gap he managed a \$10,000,000 maintenance budget and some 350 fulltime soldiers in 22 Maintenance Facilities across the state, retiring in 2002 with almost 36 years total service. Continuing as a contractor for the Guard for master planning, he served until 2010 and continued to do some part-time work for another year or so and finally retired.

He has four Children, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Bill lives at Brethren

- **Our President's Biography (cont'd):**

Village with his wife Helen. They have been married 54 years.

Awards and Decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with 35 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with the V device, the good conduct medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal with 4 stars, the Vietnam Service Medal and various other state awards and the Samuel Sharpe Master Gunner of Ordnance Medal.

- **Our 2022 Membership Meetings:**

Thu, Mar 3, 11 a.m. luncheon-Media Heights GC

Thu, Apr 21, 5 p.m. dinner-Fireside Inn

Thu, Jun 16, 5 p.m. dinner-Hamilton Club

Sat Aug 27, 11 a.m. luncheon picnic-Waltz Vineyards

Thu Oct 20, 5 p.m. dinner-Bent Creek CC

Sun Dec 4, 1 p.m. luncheon-Millersville Univ.

- **January & February Breakfast Gatherings:**

The Chapter will continue Breakfast Gatherings throughout 2022. Our next two Breakfast Gatherings will occur on Thu Jan 20 and Thu Feb 17. As usual, the venue is Oregon Dairy, 2900 Oregon Pike, Lititz. These gatherings are very informal, have no agenda and are open to all members and guests. Come and enjoy the camaraderie! If you plan to attend, please notify Dan Horting at k4sbuilder@comcast.net or 717 285-7320. The notification helps ensure adequate seating is arranged.

- **2022 Officers and Directors:**

The following officers and directors were approved by members present at the Oct Bent Creek meeting. and were installed at our Dec 5th Eden Resort meeting:

Officers:

President: Bill Confer Sr, LTC, USA (RET)

Vice Pres: Dan Horting, Lt Col, USAF (RET)

IMM PP: Dave Shelton, Lt Col, USAF (RET)

Corres Sec: Jim Cunningham, Lt Col, USAF (RET)

Rec Sec: Barry Schmitt, Lt Col, USAF (RET)

Treasurer: Dennis Benchoff, LTG, USA (RET)

Directors:

Kim Bade, CDR, USN (RET)-3 yr term

Peter Cardinal, COL, USA (RET)-2 yr term

Ed Hurston, Col, USAF (RET)-2 yr term

Tom Bender, CAPT, USN (RET)-1 yr term

Enedina Cerase, MAJ USA (RET)-1 yr term

Tony Cerase, CW3, USA (RET)-1 yr term



- **Say Hello to our Newest Member:**

COL Ken D. Chase USA (RET)

27 Bentley Lane

Lancaster, PA 17603

Spouse: Ann Marie

Email: ken.d.chase@gmail.com

Date joined: Dec 2, 2021

Sponsor: Dan Horting

- **We Honor the Memory of:**

Elaine Forman, wife of our LTC Bill Forman, USA (RET). Elaine died on Thursday, November 11, 2021, at Brethren Village Communities. A celebration of life and memorial service will be held at Brethren Village within the next several months at the convenience of the family. Bill remains an active member of the chapter (17 yrs). He served as our chaplain for several years.

Karen M. Davis, 75, one of our surviving spouses, died Dec 16th, in Lancaster. Her deceased husband, CAPT Edward Davis, USN (RET), who died over ten years ago, was a chapter member. She will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery, next to her husband. A memorial service celebrating Karen's life was held at the Lancaster Country Club Dec 28th.

- **2022 Dues Notice/Invoice:**

Our 2022 dues are now due. Dues continue to be \$15 per year or \$40 for three years. So, since we rely on our newsletter notice instead of sending invoices, and if your dues are only paid through 2021, now is the time to get your check book out and write a check to MOAA Lancaster Chapter and send it to our chapter address. Contact Tom Bender with any questions at 717 471-6817 or mot2717@ptd.net.

- **Membership Recruiting:**

Many thanks to Dave Shelton who has agreed to serve as our membership recruiting chair. He relieved John Burke who ably filled that position over the last six years.

- **Chapter Photo's:**



Passing the Gavel



Benchhoff MOAA National Leadership Award



Job Well Done!

Next Newsletter Release: Mar 1, 2022

Chapter Contacts:

President:

Bill Confer Sr 712-3849

Vice President:

Dan Horting 285-7320

Immediate Past President:

David Shelton 285-5971

Treasurer:

Dennis Benchhoff 560-1260

Corresponding Secretary:

Jim Cunningham 581-5299

Recording Secretary:

Barry Schmitt 877-1810

Board of Directors:

Kim Bade CDR, USN (RET)
 Tom Bender CAPT, USN (RET)
 Peter Cardinal COL, USA (RET)
 Dina Cerase MAJ, USA (RET)
 Tony Cerase CW3, USA (RET)
 Ed Hurston Col, USAF (RET)

Chaplain:

Kim Bade

Mbr Asst & Legislative Affairs:

Dennis Benchhoff

Membership Recruiting:

David Shelton

Mbr Database/Memorials/

Webmaster/Nwsltr Editor:

Tom Bender

Nominations:

Tony Cerase

ROTC Liaison:

Peter Cardinal

Scholarship Chair:

Ed Hurston

Social & Programs Chair:

Dan Horting


Surviving Spouse Liaison:

Bill Confer Sr

MOAA Lancaster Chapter
P.O. Box 5031
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