



4 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](http://www.moaalancasterchapt.org)

January 2021

Volume 28 Number 1

### • From the President's Desk:

Welcome to 2021. I hope everyone has been able to enjoy at least some holiday spirit at the end of what has been a difficult year for many. Ideally we can look forward to brighter days ahead



Shelton

as vaccinations have now begun in the hopes of preventing infection and eliminating the COVID-19 pandemic. For now, the board of directors and program chairs will continue to meet via video conference as we manage routine chapter business and work toward resumption of membership dinner meetings

I, for one, have always looked forward to our usual early March meeting at the Lancaster Country Club with signs of spring beginning to show. As previously reported however, we do not expect to resume in-person events until late summer, beginning with the annual picnic now planned for Saturday August 28<sup>th</sup>.

Most all MOAA chapters in Pennsylvania are taking the same approach with board meetings conducted by telephone or video conferencing, and membership contact maintained via newsletters and email. Several chapters have reported some success with membership meetings held online similar to the annual meeting we did in October. The Cumberland Valley chapter has held several meetings using Zoom which have included entertainment or other presentations. We may explore online meeting options further at our next board meeting in February. If you have thoughts on possible presentations, or the level of membership interest in online meetings, please let me know. You may also contact any board member or our Social Chair, Dan Horting.

### • From the President's Desk (cont'd):

In the meantime, the beginning of the year always starts our process to identify candidates and select recipients of our Chapter Memorial Scholarship for a Lancaster county high school senior and our Army ROTC Scholarship for a Junior Cadet of the Blue Mountain Battalion Detachment at Millersville University. COVID-19 restrictions should have little impact on the ROTC process since we are working with a relatively small centrally located group. With the school districts varying in conduct of online versus in-person classes also being complicated by individual student options on participation, our high school efforts may become a bit more complex. Hopefully with the usual help of school guidance counselors and by making applications available online we can make sure deserving students have an opportunity to apply.

In closing, I would just like to say let's all continue to keep safe as we fight through this pandemic. Hope to see everyone at Waltz Vineyards in August for sure.

### • 2021 Dues Reminder:

Our 2021 dues are due starting Jan 1, 2021. Please take a moment now and write your dues check for either \$15 annual or \$40 for three years. Make the check out to Lancaster Chapter MOAA, PO Box 5031, Lancaster, PA 17606-5031. The mailing label on your PO delivered newsletter will show what year your dues are paid through. If that year is 20, you owe dues for 2021. You may also click on the MBR Roster tab on our website's front page and scroll down to the second listed roster "Member Names" and click on it to select (you must enter our pass word to open) and then in that roster, scroll down to your name listed alphabetically



- **2021 Dues Reminder (cont'd):**

The number listed after your name is the year through which your dues are paid. If that number is 20, you owe 2021 dues. Contact Tom Bender with any questions at 717 471-6817 or mot2017@ptd.net.

- **We honor the memory of :**

1LT George N. Vurdelja, USA (FMR), 91, who passed away on December 2, 2020 at LGH. He is survived by his wife Marjorie with whom he shared 66 years of marriage. He was an active 20 year member of the Chapter having joined in November 2000. He was a life member of MOAA National. He worked in manufacturing operations in Pittsburgh, Windsor and Lancaster, retiring in 2000. He served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Korea from 1952 through 1954. A memorial service will be held at a later date with interment held in Strasburg Mennonite Cemetery, Strasburg, PA. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Masonic Village, 1 Masonic Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022.



Vurdelja

- **Say hello to our new members:**

**Col Jack F. Peters, USAF (RET)**

821 Pleasantview Drive

Ephrata, PA 17522

Spouse: Brenda

Email: oldvynzin@gmail.com

Date Joined: 9/27/2020

Sponsor: Tom Bender

**COL Chuck M. Bechtel, USA (RET)**

780 Prince Circle

Hummelstown, PA 17036

Spouse: Joan

Email: chuckbechtel@verizon.net

Date joined: 11/16/2020

Sponsor: Bill Confer

- **Say hello to our new members (cont'd):**

**Maj Al R. Glover, USAF (RET)**

950 Willow Valley Lakes Drive, K-409

Willow Street, PA 17584-9663

Spouse: Olivia

Email: arglover@earthlink.net

Date joined: 12/6/2020

Sponsor: John Burke

*This raises our membership total to 172 active members.*

- **Our Chapter life-line to Surviving Spouses:**

Chapter bylaws now state that surviving spouses are exempt from paying \$15 annual chapter dues. Surviving spouses also assume full active chapter membership on the date of their spouse's death, should they wish to continue this active chapter membership. Surviving spouses who are continuing active membership will also receive the bi-monthly chapter newsletter by confirming a current email or mailing address to our newsletter editor at (717) 471-6817 or email at mot2017@ptd.net. As active members, surviving spouses are always welcome to attend chapter meetings and activities.

If the deceased spouse is a MOAA National member and the surviving spouse wishes to continue MOAA National membership, there are three avenues open:

- (1) if the deceased spouse has a fully paid-off Life membership, it is transferred to the surviving spouse at no extra cost.
- (2) if the deceased spouse is a Premium member, the surviving spouse receives a complimentary premium membership for one year on top of the remaining deceased member's active membership. Once the membership approaches the expiration date, the surviving spouse will receive renewal notification and will have the option to continue membership. Premium membership cost for a surviving spouse is \$43 for one year, \$73 for two years or \$97 for three years.



• **Our Chapter life-line to Surviving Spouses (cont'd):**

(3) if the deceased spouse has a Basic membership, there is no transfer of membership.

The chapter's surviving spouse liaison point of contact is Bill Confer Sr, who can be reached at (717) 712-3849. Bill will gladly assist our surviving spouses with any questions or concerns they may have.

MOAA National offers useful and informative publications from their website. Bill Confer can assist in obtaining any of these following references:

*Survivor's Checklists*-a short but critical list of important phone numbers to contact on a military member's passing.

*Survivor's Planning Guide*-a before death planning document.

*Your Guide to Military Burials*-covers Arlington and State National Cemeteries.

*Turning a Corner*-a helpful guide which explains the five stages of grief.

*Family Planning Document*-a planning guide that helps families organize important information.

• **2021 Proposed Meeting Dates:**

It appears that the March, April and June general member dinner meetings will not be possible to schedule as President Dave has discussed in his comments above. However, maybe we can meet for the August, October and December meetings!! The following dates are for information only. The Board of Directors will as always make the final call.

Thursday, Mar 4 (luncheon) Lancaster Country Club

Thursday, April 22 Meadia Heights Golf Club

Thursday, June 24 Hamilton Club

Saturday, Aug 28 (picnic) Waltz Vineyard

Thursday, Oct 21 Bent Creek Country Club

Sunday, Dec 5 (Christmas luncheon) Millersville University  
Gordineir Hall

***HAPPY NEW YEAR!***

**Next Newsletter Release:**

Mar 1, 2021

**Chapter Contacts:**

***President:***

David Shelton 717-285-5971

***Vice President:***

Bill Confer Sr 717-712-3849

***Immediate Past President:***

John Gareis 717-872-8005

***Treasurer:***

Dennis Benchoff 717-560-1260

***Corresponding Secretary:***

Jim Cunningham 717-581-5299

***Recording Secretary:***

Barry Schmitt 717-877-1810

***Directors:***

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

***Chaplain:***

Kim Bade 717-228-1543

***Mbr Asst & Legislative Affairs:***

Dennis Benchoff 717-560-1260

***Membership Co-Chairs:***

John Burke 717-627-6968

Tom Bender 717-471-6817

***Memorials/Webmaster:***

Tom Bender 717-471-6817

***Newsletter Editor:***

Tom Bender 717-471-6817

***Nominations:***

Tony Cerase 717-299-7177

***ROTC Liaison:***

Peter Cardinal 717-778-7515

***AF JROTC Program:***

Ed Hurston 717-923-0181

***Scholarship Chair:***

Ed Hurston 717-923-0181

***Social & Programs Chair:***

Dan Horting 717-285-7320

***Surviving Spouse Liaison:***


Bill Confer Sr 717-712-3849

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

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