



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)

March 2021

Volume 28 Number 2

### • From the President's Desk:

It was interesting to look back at our March 2020 newsletter with its recap of chapter winter activity and the plans for an April membership dinner meeting. Everything came to halt shortly thereafter and hopes for a rapid return to normal activity slowly died as the year progressed. At least now, a year later, we can be optimistic of a return to that level of normalcy in the foreseeable future.

As COVID-19 vaccinations increase and infections continue to decline, the Board of Directors feels confident we could return to our usual membership meeting schedule in the last half of the year beginning with our annual picnic. We may also look at re-starting informal breakfast gatherings earlier in the summer at an outdoor venue. We will certainly want to gauge member interest for in-person gatherings as we get ready, so you can look for a newsletter query or email questionnaire sometime in May.

I am pleased to announce the Board of Directors has unanimously approved Colonel Peter Cardinal to join the board. He is replacing Dennis Monroe who resigned for personal reasons. My thanks to Colonel Cardinal for stepping up to fill this three-year position on short notice.

As noted in the January newsletter, our scholarship efforts are well underway with all high school student applications due by the end of this month. Please contact me or Scholarship Chair Ed Hurston if you are interested in serving on this year's selection committee. ROTC Liaison Colonel Cardinal, Lieutenant General Benchoff and I participated on the Millersville ROTC scholarship board 24 February to conduct candidate interviews. The final



Shelton

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

selection is pending completion of class work and leadership scoring by the ROTC Cadre.

The quarterly MOAA Pennsylvania Council of Chapters meeting I attended in February focused primarily on state legislative initiatives including improvement in child and domestic abuse reporting, Guard and Reserve employment protections and providing college credits for military service experience. Council lobbying efforts in conjunction with the PA War Veterans Council also were successful in restoring the full year's funding for Veterans' Service Officers.

Hopefully many are eligible and working their way through the vaccination process. Stay safe and hope to see you all soon.

### • 2021 Membership Meetings:

The following meeting dates have been established but they are expected to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and accordingly, their venue reservations have not been made or finalized:

Thur Mar 4<sup>th</sup> luncheon at Lancaster CC  
Thur Apr 22 dinner at Meadia Heights GC  
Thur Jun 24 dinner at Hamilton Club

The following meeting dates have been established and their meeting dates reserved with the venues:

Sat Aug 28 picnic at Waltz Vineyards  
Thur Oct 21 dinner at Bent Creek CC  
Sun Dec 5 luncheon at Millersville Univ.

Our Social Chair, Dan Horting, intends to survey chapter members to determine interest regarding their attendance at future meetings.



### • Breakfast Gatherings :

Our Social Chair, Dan Horting, is tentatively planning to begin scheduling breakfast gatherings in the spring when temperatures allow comfortable outside dining. As more of our members receive the required doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, they may be more comfortable in an outdoor breakfast setting. If interest does not exist, the breakfast meetings will be discontinued until interest returns.

### • 2021 Friendly 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, and mail 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. 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](mailto:mot2017@ptd.net).

### • Surviving Spouses:

Just a reminder that our Chapter bylaws were recently changed and now state that surviving spouses are exempt from paying \$15 annual Lancaster 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](mailto:mot2017@ptd.net). As active members, surviving spouses are always welcome

### • Surviving Spouses (cont'd):

to attend chapter meetings and activities.

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.

### • Important Chapter Needs:

**Newsletter Editor**-Tom Bender plans on stepping down as newsletter editor after publishing the November 2021 newsletter. MS Publisher is currently being used to publish the newsletter but one may also use MS Word as Bob Wilcox did for many years. The newsletters are published in Jan, Mar, May, July, Sep and Nov. UPS makes copies and mails out newsletters for the Chapter. Our files have copies of newsletters over the last 25 years. As we all realize, our newsletters serve as the vital glue that binds our Chapter. If interested in assuming this important responsibility, please contact Tom at [mot2017@ptd.net](mailto:mot2017@ptd.net) or 717 471-6810.

**Membership Committee**-The Chapter needs help in assisting the membership committee to identify, invite and follow up on potential members with identifying potential members as the most important and lacking trait. From a high of 250 members two years ago, we are now at 170, having lost over 80 members. Additionally, anyone with experience in MS Excel (spreadsheet program) and/or MS Access (relational database program) would be especially helpful in maintaining the master database. If interested in helping, please contact either Tom Bender or John Burke.

### • Useful Information from our Vice President:

The Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) at <https://www.dfas.mil/>, contains useful retired and annuitant information including the monthly electronic Retiree Account Statement (eRAS) which is only available on a MyPay account created for 20+ year retirees. If you qualify and haven't set up your own MyPay account, here are some helpful steps to create a MyPay account



● **Useful Information from our Vice President (cont'd):**

from Bill Confer:

Go to the DFAS website at <https://www.dfas.mil/>

Click on the MyPay link in the top right corner

Under Sign in on the right-hand side, click the "Forgot or Need Password" link

Enter your SSN & click that you are associated with the individual and click continue

If you have an email on file you have the option to have a password emailed or mailed

Then wait for your password to arrive (DFAS establishes Annuitant MyPay accounts on the 2nd of each month.)

If you get an error at any point, please send me a note at conferw@gmail.com so I can have DFAS look into it. Once you receive your password, follow the steps on your password received DFAS email.

● **Pictures of Past Memories:**



Adopt a Kid/Vet



Millersville ROTC Commissioning



Picnic Waltz Vineyards



Speaker-Craig Stedman



Dinner is Served

**Next Newsletter Release:**

May 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

***Board of 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)

Peter Cardinal 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/Nwsltr 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

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