



MOAA LANCASTER CHAPTER

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

NEWSLETTER

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

5 Star E-Newsletter

May 2022

Editor: Tom Bender

Volume 29 Number 3

• Our Next Meeting is at the Hamilton Club:

On Thursday, June 16th, the Chapter will meet at the Hamilton Club, 106 East Orange Street, Lancaster, PA 17602. The historic Hamilton Club was named in honor of James Hamilton, a prominent political figure in Colonial America and planner of the city of Lancaster. The Hamilton Club was founded in 1889 by 31 prominent citizens seeking a place to gather.

Our dinner gathering will begin with a social hour at 5:00 p.m. when the cash bar will open. The Hamilton Club uses a ticket format to sell beverages. Those desiring a beverage will need to purchase a ticket that will be used to obtain a beverage at the bar. The tickets will be sold by a member of our MOAA chapter and can be purchased at the table where you pick up your nametag.

The meeting will be called to order at 6:00 p.m. with introductory remarks by our president, Bill Confer. Dinner will quickly follow with a menu that includes:

Salad:

Spinach and Strawberry Salad Tossed with Goat Cheese and Avocado Topped with Balsamic Vinaigrette and Assorted Dinner Rolls and Butter

Entrée:

Beef Tips, Mushrooms, and Veal Jus on Toast, Smashed Rosemary Red Potatoes, and Roasted Broccoli

Dessert:

White Chocolate Mousse with Strawberry Sauce and Blueberries

Beverages:

Coffee, Iced and Hot Tea

The cost of the meal will be \$35.00 per person. As always your check is your reservation and should be made out to MOAA Lancaster Chapter and mailed to MOAA Lancaster Chapter, 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.

The deadline for receipt of all checks is Monday, June 13th. Cancellations may be made by calling Jim Cunningham at 717 581-5299 prior to June 13th. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Cunningham.

Parking is available behind the Hamilton Club at the Murray Ins. Lot (#1 in map below), accessible from N. Cherry Street or E. Grant Street. Park in spots numbered 1 to 28 only. Metered street parking along Orange St and N. Duke St. is also available and is not charged after 6 PM. Another parking option is the Duke St Garage where you can enter from either E. Chestnut St. (Route 23) or N. Duke. Disregard parking sites 2,3,4 & 5 in the map below:



Hamilton Club in Lancaster City



Our speaker will be **Kate Merriman**. Kate is a reporter for the Lancaster WGAL News 8 team. She joined WGAL in July of 2021 as a Morning Reporter from sunny South Carolina, spending the past two years at WMBF News in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. There she reported on the COVID-19 pandemic, Hurricane Dorian and Isaias, a deadly North Carolina EF-3 tornado, officers killed in the line of duty, back to school specials and much more. She also started her own franchise 'WMBF Salutes' highlighting veterans in the community.

Kate graduated from James Madison University in 2019 with a bachelor's degree in Journalism from the School of Media Arts and Design. There she helped start JMU's award-winning, student-run newscast, Breeze TV. She was an Anchor and Senior Reporter. Kate also interned at WGAL.

Kate is the recipient of the VA/WVA AP Scholarship for 2019 as well as the scholarship recipient for the Alison B. Parker award for 2018. In Kate's spare time you'll find her out and about with her little pup Winnie, golfing or scouting out the best coffee shops and visiting the local favorites. Kate will speak to us about her experiences while gathering and reporting on the latest news events.

• From the President's Desk:

As President I find myself more involved in MOAA and other activities in the county than I ever imagined. My work here is very rewarding and is truly an act of caring as it is with all the director positions and members of MOAA. You are truly in the spirit of continuous serving as the MOAA motto says. Your organization, the Lancaster Chapter (MOAA) is just a small part of a 350,000 member organization that puts the military in the forefront of the legislative process. You should be very proud of their accomplishments over the years, that without your help could not have been done.



Bill Confer Sr

In that regard, I would like everyone that is computer literate to go into the Lancaster Chapter MOAA web site at www.moaalancasterchapt.org, then click on "MOAA Legislative Affairs" then move on to "key advocacy issues" Then click on "Retirees" and finally Click on "write" and then your representatives will pop up and you can click on them and your letter is on the way to them. This is a very easy process and accomplishes a lot for our Chapter and it only takes a few minutes. There

• From the President's Desk: (cont'd)

are 350,000 MOAA Members in the National Organization and can you imagine the impact if you all would do this? MOAA is the largest lobbying organization for the Military in the U.S.

On Thursday, April 28th I was honored to award the MOAA, Lancaster Chapter ROTC Scholarship to a Millersville University Student for her Outstanding accomplishments in ROTC. In addition another student will receive an ROTC Medal. This year so far has been both a challenging and rewarding first few months.

Our MOAA Chapter is one of the largest in Pennsylvania and I encourage you all to please participate in our Dinners, Lunches and the August Picnic coming up soon. Because of COVID we are experiencing a slow regeneration of activities but thankfully we are increasing in our dine-in activities. Our next dinner is at the prestigious Hamilton Club at 5 PM on the 16th of June, Thursday. Please come and bring a friend if you like, but remember one of my cardinal rules, if you live near or are friends with a Surviving Spouse, please ask them if they need a ride and encourage them to get out to the Dinner.

Our next breakfast gathering is at 8 a.m. on 19 May at the Oregon Dairy and all are invited to come along, but please call Dan Horting, our Vice President and advise him so he can plan on a specific number of people so we have enough table space reserved for our Group. Dan's phone number is listed near the end of this newsletter. Our conversation is usually guided by our own locally governed interests and nothing that all can't engage in. It's very casual and fun, and you get to know people better through our discussions.

As the War in Ukraine keeps boiling over, please keep the people of that region in your prayers as they truly know that "Freedom isn't Free," and are pursuing a miraculous fight against aggression. Donations to the Charity of your choice are good also for the Ukrainian cause.

Our last dinner at the Strasburg Fireside Inn was an excellent event with about thirty-six fellow MOAA members and spouses. We had an excellent speaker in Chris Vera, who explained the great importance of Columbia and the Underground Railroad that existed and functioned there over the years of Slavery in the south and how the people of Columbia took-in fleeing slaves and freed them to live a peaceful life in Columbia.



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

Lastly, I'd again like to encourage you to come out to our next dinner at the Hamilton Club and enjoy a dinner at one of Lancaster's most prestigious venues for a meal. God Bless your safe travels.

- **Our Remaining 2022 Membership Mtgs:**

Please put these four dates in your calendars and plan on joining us for good food and camaraderie:

Thu Jun 16, 5 p.m. dinner-Hamilton Club
 Sat Aug 27, 11 a.m. picnic-Waltz Vineyards
 Thu Oct 20, 5 p.m. dinner-Bent Creek CC
 Sun Dec 4, 1 p.m. luncheon-Millersville Univ.

- **Our Remaining 2022 Bd of Directors Mtgs:**

Wed Jun 1, 2 p.m. Conf Rm Lancaster Airport
 Wed Aug 10, 2 p.m. Conf Rm Lancaster Airport
 Wed Oct 5, 2 p.m. Conf Rm Lancaster Airport
 Wed Nov 16, 2 p.m. Conf Rm Lancaster Airport

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

Susan Collins, Surviving Spouse

309 Declaration Avenue
 Ephrata, PA 17522
 (571) 216-4701

Spouse: Wesley (Dec) Maj, USAF
 Joined: 3/4/2022

Maj Diane M. Stackhouse, ANG (Ret)

485 Hillside Drive
 Mountville, PA 17554
 (717) 572-8080

Spouse/Other: Tina Warren
 Joined: 3/4/2022

- **2022 Friendly Dues Notice:**

Our 2022 dues were due on Jan 1st. Dues continue to be \$15 per year or \$40 for three years. If you haven't paid your 2022 dues, now is the time to get your check book out and write a check to MOAA Lancaster Chapter and send it to: MOAA Lancaster Chapter, P.O. Box 5031, Lancaster, PA 17606-5031. Contact our Treasurer, Dennis Benchoff, with any dues questions at 717 560-1260 or dlbencho@hacc.edu. Surviving Spouses pay no Chapter dues.

- **Surviving Spouse Corner:**

Check out these links that go to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) website for information concerning retirement pay and Surviving Benefit Plan (SBP) issues:

<https://www.dfas.mil/sbp2023childoptrev> (SBP)-DIC Offset
 Phased Elimination News

<https://www.dfas.mil/sbp2023childoptrev>-Optional Dependent Annuity Elimination/Reversion to Surviving Spouses

Next Newsletter Release: July 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 Benchoff 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)
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Webmaster/Nwsltr Editor:

Tom Bender

Nominations:

(Vacant)

ROTC Liaison:

Peter Cardinal

Scholarship Chair:

Ed Hurston

Social & Programs Chair:

Dan Horting


Surviving Spouse Liaison:

Bill Confer Sr

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