



MOAA LANCASTER PA CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

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

July 2017

Volume 24 Number 4

◇ **Picnic: Dan Horting**

This summer's MOAA Picnic will be held at Waltz Vineyards on **Saturday, August 26th**. We used this venue for the past two years and attendees were treated to a great afternoon of good food and wine at a beautiful setting overlooking the rolling hills of northern Lancaster County.



Waltz vineyards is located at 1599 Old Line Road, Manheim, Pa. The event will begin with social time from 1100 to 1200 hours. The meal for the event will be prepared by Hess BBQ and will be served at 1200 hours.

The menu for the picnic is:

Applewood smoked pulled pork BBQ,
Hickory smoked beef brisket,
Accompaniments: baked beans, macaroni and cheese, potato salad, and cole slaw,
Dessert: cake.

A selection of Waltz wine as well as assorted non-alcoholic drinks are included in the cost of the picnic.

The cost will be \$20.00 for each attendee. 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. The **deadline** for receipt of all checks is **Tuesday, August 22**. Cancellations can be made by calling Jim Cunningham prior to **Tuesday, August 22**. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Cunningham, 581-5299.

◇ **From the President's Desk: Tony Cerase**

I would like to thank, on behalf of the Board of Directors and Chairs, the efforts of Tom Bender and Dina Cerase for their dedication to our chapter.

Their work and efforts have been recognized by National MOAA with the Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award. Tom Benders website has received the 5 Star Award for excellent digital media and we have received, for the second time, the 4 Stars Award for our Newsletter.

A lot of work and coordination goes to put these products together and they should be commended and all the board members that provide the input that keeps you, our members, to date on what the chapter is doing.

Congratulations also goes to John Burke, Membership Co-Chair for all the work he has done to build up our membership. The Membership Co-Chairs ensure that we continue to grow and keep current with our parent organization-National MOAA.



◇ **Dues Policy Clarification: Tom Bender**

All dues are payable to the chapter in January of each year. All efforts will be made to contact and remind members who have not yet paid their dues, of their unpaid dues status. After the half year mark (June), final reminder post cards will be sent to each member with unpaid dues. Unresponsive members will be transferred to the inactive list and will no longer receive chapter newsletters.

Active duty members who deploy during any calendar year are eligible to maintain their membership benefits and not pay dues for that calendar year. The responsibility is on the member to keep the chapter informed of their active duty deployment status.

Feel free to contact Tom Bender at 626-4932 or tjbender@dejazzd.com if unsure of your dues status.



◇ **Membership drives update: John Burke**

Our Chapter achieved the end-of-year 95 % membership retention mark for 2016, earning us a \$250 incentive from MOAA National. Only 44 chapters received this recognition.

I want to thank the members that helped to bring new members.

Our plan is to use some of the incentive money in a campaign to get new members for 2017. We count on you to help us by inviting prospective members to our next meeting, the picnic, and making them feel welcome.

We can use your help today to bring the numbers up in the chapter.

◇ **A Day of Appreciation for LtCol Dick Smith**



On 18 May 2017, Tom Bender, Dave Shelton, John Gareis and Tony Cerase visited Dick at the Elderwood Assisted Living. The visit was to honor him with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service to our Chapter.

Dick's service to our Chapter as the Publicity Chair is unmeasurable.

He has been our publications guru for 17 years, in which he was able to communicate effectively with newspapers and TV stations. He ensured that the communities around us had information on all the activities we have that serve the communities in which we live. One of those issues is the Adopt a Kid/Adopt a Vet program which the MOAA Magazine published in 2003 and their cover page had a photo of LCDR Biddle Whigham with a young student. Biddle was the chair for the program at that time and dedicated his time to this program. This was also the first time that the MOAA Magazine had a chapter in the cover page.

Dick sent a letter to our president, Tony Cerase, as he concludes his service to our chapter and here are two quotes from the letter:

"Dear Tony:

I want our membership to know what a pleasure it has been to serve as Publicity Chair for some 17 years for our Lancaster MOAA Chapter - that includes some 13

years as a Board Member. It began in 2000, when at a membership meeting held at Willow Valley, newly elected Lancaster MOAA president Al Granger asked for a volunteer to handle chapter publicity. So, I talked to Al afterwards and said, "I will do that"! It's been a great run - have served under a number of Lancaster Chapter presidents. That phase of my Lancaster MOAA involvement is complete, as I am in recovery from Cellulitis - which struck 5-13-16 and for now am unable to attend any Membership or Directors Meetings. "

"In stepping down, I want to thank member Dave Shelton for saying yes, when asked recently by you to serve as a Director and also chair the Publicity Committee."

LtCol Richard Leaman Smith, USAF (Ret), Elderwood Assisted Living, 120 Rider Ave., Lancaster, PA (717) 682-0557

We truly thank Dick Smith for all the work he has put into this chapter. He still has his email address and can continue to correspond with all of us. We also wish him a speedy recovery in the hope that he can once again join us at a meeting.

◇ **Scholarship Award: George Resh**

It is unfortunate that our scholarship recipient was not able to celebrate with us at the June meeting; but, he has a perfectly good excuse - he started his studies early. However, he sent me a thank you note as follows:



" Dear Col. Resh, Thank you for selecting me as your scholarship award recipient. It is an honor and a privilege to be selected especially since my cousin is currently serving in Afghanistan. This scholarship will be helpful as I start my studies in astrophysics at Penn State. With Appreciation, Collin Heckman"

Collin is a well deserving young man that we can wish the best the future can offer as he goes into a field that takes him beyond our planet.

⇒ **VA Cemetery Eligibility : Dennis Benchoff**

The VA recently announced it will provide eligibility determinations for interment in VA national cemeteries, which includes Fort Indiantown Gap, prior to



the time of need. Through the Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility Program, upon request, individuals can learn whether they are eligible for burial or memorialization in a VA national cemetery.

Chapter members may obtain the proper forms by calling the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 800-535-1117, or by sending a written request to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office, PO Box 510543, St. Louis, MO 63151.

The VA will review the applications, provide written notice of determination of eligibility, and save determinations and supporting documentation in an electronic information system to expedite burial arrangements at time of death.

◇ **ROTC activities: Dina Cerase**



The Commissioning Ceremony was held on 12 May, and two of the four cadets were the recipient of our MOAA awards: 2LT Daley received the Leadership Medal and 2LT Kurtz was the scholarship winner. Dina Cerase made the presentation of the last four Gold Bar kits, as we will only continue to support the Millersville ROTC with the Leadership Medal and the \$500 scholarship.

******For the women that have served in our military******

At the 22 June membership meeting we had as a speaker Major General Dee Ann McWilliams, USA (Ret), President of the Women's Memorial Foundation at Arlington, VA. The members had a very informative evening as she spoke of some of the difference that makes the men and women unique in our military forces. She also made a heartfelt call to have all the women that have served our nation to register at the Women's Memorial. **Registration is free;** hence, she asked those in attendance to pass the word. Women service to the nation started in the Civil War and has continued on with pride and grit. All that needs to be done is log onto: www.womensmemorial.org and fill the registration form. You can do it for your Mom or grandmother! You can even send items of the time in service to be cataloged and exhibit. There is nothing more emotional than a son or grandson realizing their mother or grandmother serviced of our nation.

◇ **Standing Operating Procedures (SOP):**

The chapter Board of Officers to include all the project chairs have just finished updating all the officers positions responsibilities and the project chairs SOPs. This project took two months to complete and the intent was to give the next board members and chairs a document that they can follow with step by step instructions making the jobs less ominous.

It is the hope of the board that more people volunteer to keep the chapter running as the document provide the standards to follow.

VOLUNTEER, even when there are no open positions at the moment, you can be placed on a recall list. Talk to the officers and chairs, listed to the right, to see how you can help and be the next person in line.

◇ **Meeting Dates for 2017 : Dan Horting**

August 26 - Waltz Vineyards, 1100 hours

October 26— Eden Resort, 1700 hours

December 3—Millersville, 1300 hours

◇ **Chapter Contacts:**

President: T

Tony Cerase 299-7177

Vice President:

John Gareis 872-8005

Immediate Past President &

Member Assistance:

Dennis Benchoff 560-1260

Treasurer:

Dennis Benchoff 560-1260

Corresponding Secretary:

Jim Cunningham 581-5299

Recording Secretary:

Dave Hartmann 568-8166

Membership Co-Chairs:

John Burke 627-6968

Tom Bender 626-4932

Chaplain:

William McEllroy 228-2071

Director:

Dan Cooper 464-6688

Director & Memorials:

Tom Bender 626-4932

Director:

Tony Castle 394-8646

Director:

Dave Shelton 285-5971

Director, Programs, ROTC Liaison & Newsletter Editor:

Dina Cerase 299-7177

Social Chair:

Dan Horting 285-7320

Scholarship Chair:

George Resh 397-1906

Nominations:

George Knapp 581-1221

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