



MOAA LANCASTER PA CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

Visit our Web Site at www.moaalancasterchapt.org

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

November 2017

Volume 24 Number 6

◇ **Gordinier Hall Meeting: Dan Horting**

The Lancaster MOAA Chapter's annual Christmas Luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 3rd. The Lehr Dining Room in Gordinier Hall, 30 S. George Street, at Millersville University will be decorated for the season. Wine and soda will be available throughout the social hour at no additional cost. The social hour will begin at 1:00 p.m. Following introductory remarks by our president Tony Cerase the luncheon will begin at 2:00 pm.



Menu

Salad:

Spinach and Apple Salad with Orange Dressing

Entrée:

Sirloin Tips with sliced Portabella Mushrooms, Red Skinned Mashed Potatoes, and a Roasted Vegetable Medley,
Assorted Rolls

Dessert:

Mixed Berry Cobbler

Drinks:

Coffee, Hot Tea, Iced Tea, and Water with Lemon

The cost is \$29.00 per person and reservations can be accepted up until Friday, November 24th. As always, your check is your reservation and should be made payable 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 any guests on your check for name tag purposes and let us know if you need a vegetarian meal. Cancellations may be made by calling Jim Cunningham at 581-5299 prior to November 24th. If you have any questions please call Jim Cunningham.

Directions to Gordinier Hall: Suggest driving into Millersville on Route 999 (Manor Ave) and turning left onto N George Street to S George St and then left onto James

St. Gordinier Hall will be on your right and parking will be on your left.

◇ **From the President's Desk:**

As this year comes to its end I realize that this will be my last communication to you while serving as your president. It has indeed been an honor to hold this office for the last two years. I would like to take this occasion to give a heartfelt thank you to the board members for the support given to me since I was elected, without their support we would not have been able to compete nationally for all the awards we have received. Kudos to all, because of their work we have achieved praises and honors from National MOAA. We proudly show the seal for Level of Excellence at the top of the newsletter which has been awarded for the last two consecutive years.

We had losses and gains in our board, but the excellence in performance has not faltered. Members continue to volunteer to maintain the pace and the organization running.

The membership drives that John Burke has put in place have been very successful and continue to increase our numbers. I urge the new members to get involved in the operations of the chapter.



Lastly, please remember to bring a wrapped gift for a hospitalized veterans. Write on the package if it is for a lady or a gentleman. They are always very appreciative of this gesture.

Dina and I wish you a safe and happy holidays with family and friends.

Tony Cerase

◇ **Military Dates to Commemorate:**

- 10 November - USMC established in 1775
- 11 November - Veterans Day



◇ **2018 Officers: George Knapp**

During our October 26 meeting the following officers were voted into office:

President: John Gareis
 V-President: Dave Shelton
 Past President: Tony Cerase
 Treasurer: Dennis Benchoff
 Corresponding Secretary: Jim Cunningham
 Recording Secretary: Dave Hartmann
 Director (3 yrs.): John Burke
 Director (3 yrs.): Kathleen Knapp
 Director (2 yrs.): Dan Cooper
 Director (2 yrs.): Tom Bender
 Director (1 yr.): Tony Castle
 Director (1 yr.): Kenneth Knapp

◆ **2018 Dues Reminder-Tom Bender**

Our 2018 dues are ready for payment on **January 1, 2018**. Please take a moment now and write your check for either \$15 annual or \$40 for three years made out to Lancaster Chapter MOAA, PO Box 5031, Lancaster, PA 17606-5031. The mailing label on your postal delivery newsletter will show what year your dues are paid through. If the year is 17, you owe dues for 2018. Or click on the MBR Roster tab on our front page web site and open the Member Names roster (you must enter our password to open), and then scroll down to your name. The number after your name is the year through which your dues are paid. If that number is 17, you owe 2018 dues. Contact Tom Bender at 626-4932 or tjbender@dejazzd.com with questions.

◇ **Notable members:**

Craig Stedman is running for Superior Court Judge on November 7 - Elections Day. Currently, he is the District Attorney for Lancaster County.

⇒ **Legislative Update: Dennis Benchoff**

The PA COC Legislative Affairs Committee is currently supporting nine state bills related to veterans' issues and three federal veterans' related issues. The most Notable state bill was Act 66, The Service Officer Program, which sought to expand outreach to veterans across the state to help them file for current VA benefits. The governor sought \$500,000 in additional funding to expand the program by hiring additional service

officers, which would actually save the state money by increasing the federal VA funds used to support Pennsylvania veterans while reducing state funds used for the same purpose. Unfortunately, the additional funding was cut in the final budget submission due to lack of available resources. Other bills of interest include the expansion of women's veterans' health care, support of the PA civil Air patrol, creation of two additional achievement and service decorations the governor can award, property tax exemption for 100% disabled veterans and proportional property tax exemptions for those veterans not totally disabled.

◆ **National MOAA Corner**

Supply and Demand: The challenge of maintaining an all-volunteer force.

Quality recruits come at a cost. Are we willing to pay it? The Senate defense authorization bill doesn't look promising.

MOAA's strategic goal with our advocacy is to "ensure government enacts and maintains policies to sustain a career force of the size and quality needed to maintain a strong national defense."

We have lobbied to ensure adequate troop strength, but we haven't devoted as much attention to quality. It is now critical to discuss both. They are inseparable, and they are both in jeopardy.

Why the alarm? Because our nation has relied on the all-volunteer force since 1973, and all that time we have taken the volunteer pool for granted. That's about to change — because the pool has changed.

Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Snow, commanding general of the Army's Recruiting Command, identified the crux of the problem in a November 2016 interview with the *Arizona Republic*: "The problem that we are facing is that so few actually can meet the qualification requirements to join the military. ... Only three in 10 of today's youth can actually meet the requirements." That number gets even smaller, around 20 percent, when you take college-bound young people out of the equation.

This problem stems from a bigger picture:

*There are approximately 20 million 17-21-year old in America.

*Of those, 11.3 million meet academic requirements.

*Only about 4.4 million of those are even eligible to join.





*Assessing propensity to join, we are left with about 465,000 truly potential recruits.

*From that poll, DoD needs 250,00 a year.

Adding to the challenge: 52 percent of parents would not recommend military service for their children. This likely cuts the pool of potential recruits even further.

Our nation is facing a basic — but significant — supply and demand challenge. While President Donald Trump and several members of Congress support an increase in our troop strength, they do so in an environment constrained not only by the budget, but also by the pool of qualified and interested recruits whose top reasons for joining are centered on pay and education benefits.

In this environment, it defies logic for the Senate's version of the FY 2018 defense authorization bill to propose a reduced military pay raise of 2.1 percent, versus the 2.4 percent raise that would be consistent with the Employment Cost Index — the legislated benchmark.

Further, the Senate proposes to eliminate a dependent-rate housing allowance for military couples stationed together with children. This erosion of military compensation is out of touch with today's demands of repeated deployments and a worsening recruiting environment. This is an immediate problem, warranting contact with your members of Congress.

Meanwhile, a similar problem might loom in the near future: the 13th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation (QRMC) and the President's charge to the Secretary of Defense to assess the adequacy of military compensation and, essentially, decide if a salary system would be more effective for recruiting and retention.

This government study of military compensation is required by law and must take place no less than every four years. The findings of this study will result in a report to Congress. The focus on the potential for a salary system is of concern to MOAA if it is used to continue reducing military compensation in any way.

Our nation's ability to field the most effective armed forces, of the size and quality needed, is in jeopardy, and there are two key aspects of this problem: First, the supply is dwindling. This is a national problem, which Congress cannot fix. Second, the compensation and benefits that help motivate people to join and stay are eroding. This is a problem Congress can — and must — fix.

To share your concerns with your members of Congress, please visit moaa.org/takeaction.

◇ **2018 Meetings: Dan Horting & Dina Cerase**

March 1, 1100, Lancaster Country Club -speaker: LCC, LTC Clarence Counts, Programs Director for National MOAA.

April 26, 1700 hours - speaker: Prof. Bryan Stinchfield, F&M College.

June 28, 1700 hours - speaker: Lt . Hickey, Lancaster City Police.

August 25, 1200 hours - Picnic.

October 18, 1700 hours - speaker: CAPT Tortora, USN (Ret.)

December 2, 1700 hours: Christmas meal.

Watch for the newsletters for further information.

◆ **Next Newsletter Release:**

January 5, 2018

◇ **Chapter Contacts:**

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