



MOAA LANCASTER CHAPTER

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

NEWSLETTER

Visit our Web Site at www.moaalancasterchapt.org

March 2024

Editor: Tom Bender

Volume 31 Number 2

- **March Luncheon at Meadia Heights:**

Our first membership meeting for 2024 is a luncheon on Thursday, March 7th at the Eden Resort. See the January Newsletter for details.

- **Our April Membership Meeting:**

We meet again on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at Meadia Heights Golf Club, 402 Golf Road, Lancaster, PA 17602. The social hour and cash bar will begin at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be called to order at 6 p.m. with introductory remarks by our president, Dan Horting. Dinner will follow with the following menu:

Salad:

Garden Salad with a choice of Ranch and Balsamic Vinaigrette Dressing on the side.

Entrée:

CHOICE of Seared Flat Iron Steak with Bourbon Reduction OR Herbed Seared Salmon.

Sides:

Herb Roasted Red Potatoes and Mixed Vegetables

Dessert:

Chocolate Mousse with Berries

Beverages:

Coffee, Hot Tea, Iced Tea, Lemonade and Water

The cost of the meal will be \$40.00 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 and let us know your ENTRÉE CHOICE. Also let us know if you need a vegetarian meal.

The deadline for receipt of all checks is **Tuesday, April 9th**. Cancellations and any questions should be directed to Dennis Benchoff not later than Tuesday, April 9th, by calling or emailing Dennis at (717) 560-1260, or dlbenchoff2@comcast.net.

Directions to Meadia Heights Golf Club: Take North Prince Street south through Lancaster City, merging with Willow Street Pike (Rte 222 & 272). Travel a short distance and turn left onto Golf Road. The Meadia Heights Golf Club will be on the right.

Our guest speaker for our April membership meeting at the Meadia Heights Golf Club is Captain Jon Guagenti (USAF). He has graciously offered to travel to Lancaster to speak to us about those chaotic rescue missions as the Kabul Airport was falling into the control of the Taliban.

Captain Guagenti is the Chief of Current Operations for the 105th Operations Support Squadron and a C-17 Aircraft Commander assigned to the 105th Airlift Wing, Stewart Air National Guard Base (ANGB), Newburgh, New York. As an Active Guard Reserve airman and Current Operations Chief, he plans and apportions an over \$40 million-dollar, 3700 flying-hour annual program executing NGB and AMC airlift missions. As a C-17 Aircraft Commander, he ensures the safe and efficient delivery of high priority cargo and passengers, worldwide mission preparation, crew coordination, global navigation, Night Vision Goggle operations, conducting strategic and tactical mobility missions, providing global reach, and mission management in austere environments during combat conditions.

He is a graduate of Binghamton University in NY, earning a degree in Computer Science. He was commissioned in 2017 and attended Undergraduate Pilot Training in the same year.

Since returning to Stewart in 2019, Captain Guagenti has flown over 100 combat sorties in support of contingency operations. In August of 2021 he flew on four sorties into Kabul, Afghanistan during the final days of the conflict evacuating 348 refugees, as well as flying the 13 fallen service members out of Kabul on the first leg of their final trip home.



- **From the President's Desk:**

Spring will arrive on March 19th and I am sure all are looking forward to warmer weather and spending some time outside.



I am looking forward to our April 18th meeting at Meadia Heights Golf Club. Our speaker for the meeting is Captain Jon Guagenti. Captain Guagenti is a C-17 pilot with the 105th Airlift Wing located at Stewart Air National Guard Base, New York. Among the many missions that Captain Guagenti has flown are the rescue missions during final days of the US withdraw from Kabul Airport, Afghanistan. Captain Guagenti flew the final rescue mission departing Kabul with the bodies of the thirteen fallen service members who were victims of a bomb blast.

To offer some variety to our membership meetings, the chapter is offering an evening cruise on the Susquehanna River aboard the Pride of the Susquehanna Paddlewheel Riverboat on Sunday, June 2. I hope to see many of you onboard as we depart Harrisburg's City Island for a two hour cruise with the city skyline in the background. Sandwiches as well as a dessert will be included with the cruise. City Island is a 40 minute drive from downtown Lancaster so if possible some may consider carpooling.

The chapter is engaged in several meaningful community Outreach programs. We support three JROTC Programs – the Air Force JROTC at Muhlenburg High School, the Army JROTC at Lebanon High School, and the Navy JROTC at Elizabethtown High School. I have visited all of these programs and am impressed with the work the instructor cadre is doing at each school. Later this spring we will be funding a cadet from each of these schools to attend a STEAM Summer Academy at Saint Francis University.

An additional community Outreach Program is being pursued by immediate Past President Bill Confer. Bill is working to obtain a MOAA grant of up to \$5000.00 dollars to support the Lancaster Veterans Court. I will provide updates on this effort as it unfolds.

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

Please have an enjoyable spring and stay safe in your travels. I hope to see many of you at Meadia Heights Golf Club in April. It should be a great event!

- **2024 Membership Mtgs & Venues:**

Please put these dates in your calendars and plan on joining us in 2024:

Thursday, Mar 7, 11 a.m., Eden Resort
 Thursday, April 18, 5 p.m., Meadia Heights GC
 Sunday, Jun 2, 6 p.m., River cruise
 Saturday, Aug 24, 11 a.m., Waltz Vineyards
 Thursday, Oct 17, 5 p.m., Bent Creek CC
 Sunday, Dec 8, 1 p.m., Millersville University

We have made several changes to this schedule from last year. We dropped Lancaster Country Club when they appended an expensive room fee to our billing statement. So we cancelled that event and moved our luncheon to the Eden Resort where we have met before. We dropped the Hamilton Club due to increased costs and are trying a new venue with an evening summer cruise on the Susquehanna River. We also changed our Waltz picnic from Saturday Aug 31 to Saturday Aug 24 due to the conflict with the Labor Day holiday weekend.

- **2024 Board of Directors Meetings:**

All Board of Directors meetings are held starting at 2 P.M. on a Wednesday in the conference room at Lancaster Airport Authority, 500 Airport Road. Members are always welcome to attend the following board meetings:

April 3
 May 22
 August 14
 October 2
 November 20.

- **Breakfast Gatherings:**

Our breakfast gatherings meet on the third Thursday each month that there is no membership meeting. The venue is Oregon Dairy at 2900 Oregon Pike, Lititz 17543, starting at 8 a.m. These gatherings remain informal, have no agenda and are open to all members and guests. Contact Dan Horting with questions at k4s-builder@comcast.net or 717 285-7320.



• **Breakfast Gatherings:** (cont'd)

Our tentative schedule for these gatherings is as follows:

- May 16
- July 18
- September 19
- November 14

• **Chapter Dues Reminder:**

Of the chapter's 155 current members, 33 have not yet paid their dues for 2024. We encourage members to take advantage of the discounted 3-year rate of \$60, otherwise annual dues are \$25 per year. Checks should be made payable to Lancaster Chapter MOAA and mailed to the same at P.O. Box 5031, Lancaster PA 17606-5031. Please call or email the chapter treasurer, Dave Shelton, 717-342-4600, dwsheltn@comcast.net, if you have a question on your dues status.

• **Say Hello To Our Newest Member:**

COL Peter J. Ross USA (RET)
 1033 Grandview Blvd, Lancaster, PA 17601
 Spouse: Louise
 Joined: 2/25/2024

• **Millersville Parade Support History:**



2023
 Confer/Cardinal/Gareis



2019
 Shelton/Cerese/Benchhoff



2022
 Shelton/Cunningham



Next Newsletter Release: May 1, 2024

Chapter Contacts:

President:

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Bill Zeird rgerzsr@gmail.com

Immediate Past President:

Bill Confer Sr conferw@gmail.com

Treasurer:

David Shelton dwsheltn@comcast.netD.

Corresponding Secretary:

D Benchhoff dlbenchhoff2@comcast.net

Recording Secretary:

Barry Schmitt schmitt@comcast.net

Board of Directors:

- Dave Lawrence CAPT, USN (RET)
- Diane Stackhouse Maj, USAF (RET)
- Kim Bade CDR, USN (RET)
- Jim Cunningham Lt Col, USAF (RET)
- Peter Cardinal COL, USA (RET)
- John Gareis MAJ, USA (RET)

Adopt a Kid/Adopt a Vet:

Vacant

Chaplain:

Kim Bade

Legislative Affairs:

Diane Stackhouse

Member Assistance:

Dennis Benchhoff

***Membership Recruiting/Introductions/
 Nominations/Publicity:***

David Shelton

Mbr Records/Webmaster:

Jerry Link

Surviving Spouse Liaison:

Susan Collins

ROTC Liaison:

Peter Cardinal

Social/Programs/Meeting Sites/Menus

Dan Horting

Newsletter Editor:

Tom Bender

The MOAA Lancaster PA Chapter Newsletter is published by the Lancaster Chapter, which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are nonpartisan.

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