



# MOAA LANCASTER CHAPTER

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

## NEWSLETTER

Visit our Web Site at [www.moaalancasterchapt.org](http://www.moaalancasterchapt.org)

May 2024

Editor: Dave Lawrence

Volume 31 Number 3

### Pride of the Susquehanna Cruise June 2, 2024



For our [next membership meeting](#), please join us for a two-hour cruise on the Pride of the Susquehanna Riverboat on Sunday, June 2, 2024.

The Pride of the Susquehanna is the only authentic paddlewheel riverboat on this side of the Mississippi and one of only six remaining in the USA.

The cruise will depart Harrisburg City Island at 6 pm and return at 8 pm. The cost of the cruise is \$45.00 for each attendee and includes a meal consisting of a selection of sandwiches and a dessert. There is a cash bar on the lower deck of the boat that will be offering alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. There are restroom facilities onboard the boat as well as air conditioning on the enclosed lower deck.

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 checks for name tag purposes. The deadline for receipt of all checks is Friday, May 31. Cancellations and any questions should be directed to Dennis Benchhoff not later than Friday, May 31, by calling or emailing Dennis at 717-560-1260, or [dlbenchhoff2@comcast.net](mailto:dlbenchhoff2@comcast.net).

### • From the President's Desk:

I have just returned from our chapter membership meeting at Meadia Heights Golf Club. It was a pleasure to see all of you who turned out to hear C-17 pilot Captain "Rooster" Gaugenti speak about his experiences while evacuating refugees from Kabul Airport during the August 2021 US withdrawal from Afghanistan. It was an informative and at times a very moving presentation.



Dan Horting

In March, for all of you who attended our membership meeting at the Eden Resort you were treated to a presentation by our very own Ed Hurston. Ed has an extensive knowledge of beekeeping and honey production and delivered a very informative description of how honey is produced. I hope to see many of you at our next membership meeting where we will board the "Pride of the Susquehanna" paddlewheel riverboat for a two-hour cruise on the Susquehanna River. Details about this event are included in this newsletter.

Over the next month we will be providing funding for several JROTC Cadets to attend one week Summer STEAM Academies at Saint Francis University. The funding is in the amount of \$649.00 for each cadet and that covers their room and board as well as the instruction they will receive. At this time, we are waiting on Saint Francis to open the application process. Tentatively, a student from the Muhlenberg Air Force JROTC will be attending the Cyber Security Academy and a student from the Lebanon High School Army JROTC will be attending the Pre-med Academy.

The chapter is still in search of a volunteer to chair the adopt-a-kid adopt-a-vet program. This position involves coordinating with local elementary schools to host a group of vets who will meet with small groups of students. A few weeks after the group meetings the school will host an assembly



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

where the students will describe what they learned from the veterans. Please contact me if you are interested in chairing this program.

For now, enjoy the approaching warm weather and please join us at our breakfast gathering on May 16th and river cruise on June 2nd.

- **Directions to Harrisburg City Island:**

The Pride of the Susquehanna is located at 11 Championship Way, Harrisburg, PA 17101. To get to Harrisburg City Island follow Interstate 283 West to Exit 43, then take Interstate 83 South to the South Second Street Exit. Follow Second Street to the center square in Harrisburg, then turn left on Market Street and cross the Market Street Bridge to City Island. When you arrive on City Island exit right (you will see the parking lot and the baseball stadium in the distance). After parking proceed on the paved walkway under the Walnut Street Bridge (black steel bridge) and veer to the right to reach the dock along the river.

- **Tom Bender passes the torch:**

Tom Bender has been an essential part of the Lancaster Chapter as the longtime newsletter editor, database manager, and webmaster. A retired Navy Captain and former Destroyer Commanding Officer, he has provided these vital functions which are the glue that keeps us together and informed.

Tom is passing along his duties to Jerry Link and Dave Lawrence. Jerry is the new database manager and webmaster and Dave takes over the newsletter. Tom is retaining the position of chapter communications coordinator.

We owe Tom a great deal of gratitude for his years of service and loyalty to the chapter. Please join us in congratulating him for a job well done.

- **JROTC:**

The Chapter supports a number of Junior ROTC programs at regional high schools. Among them are Lebanon (Army) Elizabethtown (Navy), Dallastown (Marine Corps), and Muhlenburg (Air Force). Chapter Officers will be attending the upcoming Muhlenburg AFJROTC Military Ball and the Dallastown MCJROTC awards ceremony. MOAA medals and certificates will be presented at both of these events.

- **Photographer needed:**

Do you love taking pictures with your phone, point and shoot or digital SLR? You can easily be of service to the Chapter by taking pictures at meetings and events which will appear in our newsletter. If you are interested, please contact the newsletter editor at: machdoc76@aol.com or 717-940-8557.

- **2024 Membership Mtgs & Venues:**

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

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:**

Board of Directors meetings are held six times a year and start 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 remaining board meetings:

May 22  
 August 14  
 October 2  
 November 20.

- **Breakfast Gatherings:**

Our breakfast gatherings are held on the third Thursday each month when 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. During nicer weather we will meet on the patio. Contact Dan Horting with questions at k4sbuilder@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:**

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](mailto:dwsheltn@comcast.net), if you have a question on your dues status.

• **Welcome To New Members:**

- CAPT Kevin L. Powell, USN (RET.)
- LTJG Cheryl L. Waack, USN
- LTJG Ronald L. Waack, USN

• **Pictures from Recent Meetings:**



Ed Hurston talks Bees in March



With President Dan Horting



April Meeting  
Afganistan Experience



President Dan Horting  
and CPT Gaugenti



**Next Newsletter Release:** July 2024

**Chapter Contacts:**

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***Vice President:***

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Bill Confer Sr [conferw@gmail.com](mailto:conferw@gmail.com)

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***Recording Secretary:***

Barry Schmitt [schmitt@comcast.net](mailto:schmitt@comcast.net)

***Board of Directors:***

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

***Adopt a Kid/Adopt a Vet:***

Vacant

***Chaplain:***

Kim Bade

***Legislative Affairs:***

Diane Stackhouse

***Member Assistance:***

Dennis Benchoff

***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:***

Dave Lawrence

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