



MOAA LANCASTER CHAPTER

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



FOUR STAR NEWSLETTER

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

July 2025

Editor: Dave Lawrence

Volume 32 Number 4

Next Membership Meeting: Annual Picnic at Waltz Vineyards; Saturday August 23rd, 2025 at 1100 hours.

Please join us for the Lancaster MOAA Chapter's annual picnic at Waltz Vineyards on Saturday, August 23rd, 2025. We have used this venue for the past several years and those who attended were treated to a great afternoon of good food and wine at a beautiful setting overlooking the rolling hills of northern Lancaster County. The event will begin with social time from 1100 to 1200. The meal for the event will be prepared by Hess BBQ and served at 1200.



Address for GPS: 1599 Old Line Road, Manheim, PA 17545.

The **Menu** for the event is:

Applewood smoked pulled pork BBQ, hickory smoked beef brisket, baked beans, macaroni and cheese, potato salad, tossed salad, and dessert.

A selection of Waltz wine as well as assorted nonalcoholic beverages are included in the cost of the picnic.

The cost of the event is \$25.00 per 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 Monday, August 18th. Cancellations may be made by calling Dennis Benchhoff prior to August 19th. If you have

any questions, please contact Dennis Benchhoff, (717) 560-1260 or email at banzhafdl@gmail.com.

• From the President's Desk

Summer has arrived and I am sure many of our chapter members have travel plans. My hope is that between your trips you will find time to attend our picnic on August 23rd at Waltz Vineyards. The staff at Waltz always treats us very well and graciously offers their property to us for the event. The Guitars for Vets will again treat us to a music medley during the picnic.



Dan Horting

Lately the chapter has been busy supporting the local JROTC Units. Wayne Foxworth presented the MOAA Medal to a cadet at the Lebanon High School Army JROTC Award Assembly and Chuck Bechtel presented the MOAA Medal to a cadet at the Dallastown High School Marine JROTC Awards Assembly. I presented the MOAA Medal to cadets at the Elizabethtown High School Navy JROTC Awards Assembly and at the Muhlenberg High School Air Force JROTC Military Ball. While at Muhlenberg I met with Alyssa Hoffman. During the summer of 2024, our chapter sponsored Alyssa to attend a summer STEAM Academy at Saint Francis University, concentrating in pre-med. After attending the academy Cadet Hoffman spoke at our 2024 October Membership Meeting at Bent Creek Golf Club. For those who remember, Cadet Hoffman was very enthusiastic when explaining what she learned while attending the academy. Alyssa is graduating this year and will be studying BioMedicine at the University of Pittsburgh. Our chapter's contribution to Alyssa's interest in the medical field should make us all feel proud that we have supported her in her desire to excel in the field of



• From the President's desk (continued)

medicine. As an additional note, this year she won the award from the Vietnam Veterans of America as the top JROTC Cadet in Pennsylvania.

During April, our chapter's very own Susan Collins attended the MOAA Advocacy in Action in Washington, DC. Susan has been doing a wonderful job as our Surviving Spouse Liaison and serves in the same position on the Pennsylvania Council of Chapters. It is unique to have a member of a chapter attend the Advocacy in Action.

In closing we are seeking volunteers to serve in positions of chapter leadership. We are currently seeking a Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President. Please let me know if you have any interest or questions about these positions.

• Guitars4Vets reprises 2024 performance at Waltz Winery Picnic on August 23rd

Attendees at our annual picnic this year will again be treated to music by members of the Lebanon Guitars4Vets Group. Guitars4Vets (G4V) is a national non-profit organization that has developed a unique therapeutic guitar instruction program for Veterans. Veterans in the program may find themselves struggling with physical injuries, PTSD, and various other emotional stressors. G4V aims to share the healing power of music, by providing free guitar instruction, a new acoustic guitar, and a guitar accessory kit in a structured learning environment. The program is run by volunteers, primarily through Department of Veteran's Affairs facilities and community based medical centers. Dave Bowen, one of our chapter members, is a G4V guitar instructor. Our Vice President, Bill Zeird, who actively supports the organization, will also be performing. We hope that you will enjoy the group's hard work and dedication to our Vets for an afternoon of music and camaraderie.



• Lancaster Chapter Receives MOAA National Awards

MOAA National offer several major awards to local chapters and their members. Your chapter has been designated as a five star Level of Excellence Affiliate. The Level of excellence award is MOAA's most prestigious affiliate award and honors chapters for their efforts across the full scope of the association's mission.



Our Newsletter and Website have both received four star Colonel Marvin J. Harris communications awards. This award identifies Chapters that do an outstanding job communicating with their members. Hours of work go into preparation and applying for these awards. We should be very proud of the results.

• 2025 Membership Mtgs and Venues

Please add these dates to your calendar and plan to join us in 2025:

August 23	Picnic at Waltz Vineyard
October 16	Bent Creek Country Club
December 7	Millersville Univ. Holiday Luncheon

• 2025 Board Meeting Dates

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, Lititz, PA 17543. Members are welcome to attend any and all board meetings:

August 6	October 1
	November 19

• 2025 Breakfast Gathering Dates

Our breakfast gatherings occur on the third Thursday of each month when there is no membership meeting (every other month).

The venue is Oregon Dairy at 2900 Oregon Pike, Lititz, PA 17543 and starts at 8 a.m. These gatherings are informal, have no agenda, and are open to all members and guests. There were 10 attendees at the May breakfast. Contact Dan Horting with questions at k4sbuilder@comcast.net or 717 285-7320.

July 17	September 18
	November 20



• Join our Lancaster MOAA Chapter

Our chapter is 145 members strong in the Lancaster Area. Join us to connect with others who have shared life experiences. Please copy and paste this link to your browser for how to join and an application. <https://www.moaalancasterchapt.org/howtojoin.html>

• Chapter Elected and Staff Officer Positions Available

Your chapter needs your help in continuing our record of MOAA National 5-Star performance. We are seeking passionate, dedicated individuals to assume the roles below:

Elected officer positions: Vice President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer.

Staff officer positions: Membership Recruiting, Publicity, Name tags and Programs.

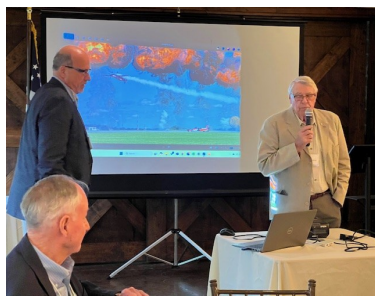
For additional information, please contact:

Chapter President: Dan Horting
Nominations Chair: Bill Confer

• Pictures from Recent Events



May 2025 Breakfast



Leola Inn dinner meeting



More Leola



Next Newsletter Release: Sept 2025

Chapter Contacts:

President:

Dan Horting

Vice President:

Bill Zeird

Immediate Past President:

Bill Confer Sr

Corresponding Secretary:

Dennis Benchhoff

Recording Secretary:

Barry Schmitt

Treasurer:

David Shelton

Board of Directors:

Peter Cardinal COL, USA

John Gareis MAJ, USA

Wayne Foxworth COL, USA

Dave Lawrence CAPT, USN

Jerry Link CDR, USN

Diane Stackhouse Maj, USAF

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

Member 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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