



MOAA LANCASTER CHAPTER

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

NEWSLETTER

Visit our Web Site at www.moaalancasterchapt.org

July 2024

Editor: Dave Lawrence

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Next Meeting: Annual Picnic, August 24, 2024

Lancaster MOAA Chapter's annual picnic will be held at Waltz Vineyards on **Saturday, August 24th**. 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. Food will be prepared by Hess Barbecue.

Location: For GPS, Waltz Vineyards is located at 1599 Old Line Road, Manheim, PA 17545

Time: The event will begin with social time from 1100 to 1200. The meal will be served at 1200.

Menu: The menu for the picnic is applewood smoked pulled pork BBQ, hickory smoked beef brisket, baked beans, macaroni and cheese, potato salad, tossed salad, and for dessert, cake.

Beverages: A selection of Waltz wines as well as assorted non-alcoholic drinks are provided in the cost of the picnic.

Cost: The cost will be \$25.00 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 Monday, August 19th. Cancellations may be made by calling Dennis Benchoff prior to August 19th. If you have any questions, please contact Dennis at (717) 560-1260 or email at dlbenchoff2@comcast.net.

Pride of Susquehanna Cruise Cancelled

Due to mechanical problems the planned cruise will not be held. Those who have signed up will have their checks returned or receive a refund.

• From the President's Desk:

As I write this column, I realize that Summer is definitely upon us as temperatures are routinely exceeding ninety degrees. During the Summer months your chapter will be hosting our annual picnic on Saturday, August 24th at Waltz Vineyards. Also please consider attending breakfast on Thursday July 18th. I hope many of you will join us for these events.



Dan Horting

Your chapter has been very busy this past Spring supporting numerous activities in the local area. In May, members of the chapter presented MOAA medals to deserving cadets at the Muhlenberg Air Force JROTC, the Dallastown Marine JROTC, and at the Elizabethtown Navy JROTC. We are also providing funding for two JROTC cadets to attend weeklong Summer STEAM Academies at St. Francis University. Cadet Immanuel Garcia of the Lebanon Army JROTC will be attending the pre-med academy and Cadet Vincent Voung of the Muhlenberg Air Force JROTC will be attending the Computer Science and Cybersecurity Academy.

As an additional Community Outreach program, your Chapter has applied for and received a MOAA grant for \$2500 dollars which will be used to purchase mattresses and bedding for the homeless Veterans in the Lancaster Veteran's Court System. (See article elsewhere in this newsletter, ed). The Lancaster Chapter is one of only 42 Councils and Chapters among the 400 chapters nationwide to receive such an award. The Veteran's Court is an alternative sentencing program aimed at giving veterans who have committed a crime the opportunity to get their lives back on track. This is the first time our chapter has received such a grant and I am very proud of what we have been able to accomplish in helping local students and veterans.



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

The Chapter is always looking for volunteers to serve on the Board of Directors or as committee leaders. If you would like to see what is involved, please feel free to attend any of our board meetings. The dates of the meetings are listed on the website.

Please have a safe and enjoyable summer. I hope to see you at both the July 18th Breakfast and the Annual Picnic in August.

- **Guitars4Vets to Play at Annual Picnic:**

Attendees at our annual picnic this year will be treated to music by several members of the Lebanon Guitars4Vets Group. Guitars4Vets (G4V) is a non-profit national organization that has developed a guitar instruction program aimed at providing Veterans a unique therapeutic alternative. Veterans in the program find themselves struggling with physical injuries, PTSD, and other emotional distresses. G4V pursues its mission, sharing the healing power of music, by providing free guitar instruction, a new acoustic guitar, and a guitar accessory kit in a structured program. 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, is an active member of the organization. The group will perform several songs at the picnic. We hope that you will enjoy their hard work and their dedication to our Vets.

- **Chapter Receives Community Outreach Grant:**

Through the hard work of Immediate Past President Bill Confer and MOAA member Fae Skuya, the Lancaster Chapter has applied for and been awarded a \$2500.00 MOAA Foundation Community Outreach grant. The MOAA Foundation Community Outreach program provides grants to MOAA councils and chapters delivering direct assistance to military families in their local communities in areas of critical military and veteran family need. Financial assistance is provided to military families and veterans of all ranks. The program is supported by corporate, foundation and public donations.

- **Outreach grant (cont'd):**

Our chapter will be supplementing the grant with enough funding to purchase new mattresses for the home being used to house Veterans in the Lancaster Veterans Court Program. Lancaster County's Veterans Court is a treatment court based on proven national research, Drug Court program models, and successfully implemented Veterans Courts in other jurisdictions nationwide. This provides the participant an opportunity to pursue appropriate treatment, while productively addressing associated legal problems.

- **2024 Membership Mtgs & Venues:**

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

Saturday, Aug 24, 11 a.m., Waltz Vineyards Picnic
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 due to increased costs at the different venues. Your chapter is trying hard to keep these meetings affordable. **Please note: We have also changed our Waltz picnic to Saturday Aug 24** to avoid conflicting 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:

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. There were ten attendees at the May Breakfast including President Dan Horting. Come join us and add to the lively discussions. Contact Dan Horting with questions at k4sbuilder@comcast.net or 717-285-7320.



• **Breakfast Gatherings: (cont'd)**

Our schedule for future gatherings is as follows:

- Thursday July 18
- Thursday September 19
- Thursday November 14

• **Chapter Dues Reminder:**

The Chapter has 158 Active members and 28 members with dues in arrears. 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.

• **Health Corner:**

With the beginning of Summer we experience higher daily temperatures and the risk of heat stress. Heat stress can be manifested as either Heat Exhaustion or the more serious Heat Stroke. Heat exhaustion is more common and is the body’s response to an excessive loss of water and salt, usually through excessive sweating. It is most likely to affect older individuals, people with high blood pressure, and those working in hot environments. The physical signs are pale, cool, clammy skin, nausea, dizziness and weakness. Heat stroke on the other hand is a medical emergency. An individual will have hot dry skin, no sweating, and may become confused or unconscious. This is an indication to call 911 immediately. So stay cool, hydrated and have fun this Summer, but be aware of the signs of heat stress.

Next Newsletter Release: Sept 2024

Chapter Contacts:

President:

Dan Horting k4sbuilder@comcast.net

Vice President:

Bill Zeird rgerzsr@gmail.com

Immediate Past President:

Bill Confer Sr conferw@gmail.com

Treasurer:

David Shelton dwsheltn@comcast.net

Corresponding Secretary:

D Benchoff dlbenchoff2@comcast.net

Recording Secretary:

Barry Schmitt sbschmitt@comcast.net

Board of Directors:

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

Machdoc76@aol.com



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