

Lancaster Chapter MOAA

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

www.moaalancasterchapt.org

July 2026 Issue

Editor: Dave Lawrence

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[From MOAA's President: Our Commitment to Community Support](#)

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Chapter NEWS

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Credit Card Payments are available on the Chapter website for chapter dues, donations, and meeting reservations. The chapter payments page may be accessed at: <https://lancaster-chapter-moaa-payments.cheddarup.com>. Email receipts are automatically generated as payment to Lancaster Chapter MOAA Payments, and charges will appear as a payment to "Cheddarup.com" on your credit card statement.

- **August Chapter Meeting: Saturday August 29th, Waltz vineyard picnic, 11:00 am. from Dan Horting:**

Please join us for the Lancaster MOAA Chapter's annual picnic at Waltz Vineyards on Saturday, August 29th. 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

Menu:

Applewood smoked pulled pork BBQ

Hickory smoked beef brisket

Baked beans, macaroni and cheese, potato salad, tossed salad

Dessert



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

The cost will be \$25.00 for each attendee. Please include the names of your guests on your check for name tag purposes. As always, your check is your reservation and should be made out to **Lancaster Chapter MOAA** and mailed to:

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

Reservations may also be made online at:

<https://my.cheddarup.com/c/lancaster-chapter-moaa-payments/items> with payment by credit card.

From the payments main page, scroll down to **Social Events** and select **Chapter Picnic**. Please indicate the number attending, your name, and any guest name(s). The **deadline** for receipt of all checks or credit card payments is **Monday, August 24th**.

Cancellations may be made by calling or emailing Dennis Benchoff prior to August 24th. If you have any questions, please contact Dennis Benchoff at 717 560-1260 or banzhafdl@gmail.com

• **President's Comments from Bill Zeird:**



Our Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776. Here are the primary military principles that emanated directly from the Declaration:

1. International Military Alliances

- **Foreign Aid Legality:** Before July 4, France and Spain could not openly support the colonists.

Doing so would violate international law by intervening in Great Britain's internal affairs.

- **Treaty of Alliance:** By declaring itself a sovereign nation, the United States gained the legal standing to negotiate formal military treaties. This directly cleared the path for the critical **French-American Alliance of 1778**, which provided the French navy, troops, and gunpowder necessary to win the war.

2. Status of Soldiers and Prisoner Exchanges

- **Preventing Treason Charges:** Prior to the Declaration, captured Continental soldiers were legally considered rebels and traitors to the Crown. They faced execution by hanging.
- **Prisoner of War Status:** The Declaration asserted sovereign nationhood, demanding that captured Americans be treated as **prisoners of war (POWs)** under international rules of

combat. This facilitated formal, structured prisoner exchanges between the two recognized armies.

3. Creation of Military Law and Articles of War

- **Replacing British Law:** The Continental Army initially operated under a makeshift set of rules largely borrowed from the British military.
- **The 1776 Articles of War:** Following independence, the Continental Congress completely revised the **Articles of War** in September 1776. This created an independent American system of military justice, codes of conduct, and court-martial procedures separate from the Crown.

4. Psychological Warfare and Morale Boost

- **A Clear Military Objective:** Before 1776, soldiers fought for "redress of grievances" while still pledging loyalty to the King. This mixed message caused hesitation.
- **The Order of the Day:** On July 9, 1776, George Washington ordered the Declaration to be read aloud to his troops in New York. It gave the soldiers a clear, unifying cause: they were no longer fighting to reform an empire, but to protect their own new country.

Reference: Heritage Foundation, Gemini, American Revolution Museum

Contact President Bill Zeird at moaalancasterpresident@gmail.com.

- **Chapter Meeting, Breakfast Meeting, and Board Meeting Information:**

Chapter Meeting Dates for 2026 from Past President, Dan Horting:

Please put these dates on your calendar and plan to join us. You will find many of your favorite venues in the list below. Please note the change of date for the October Meeting.

August 29, Waltz Vineyard picnic, 11 am December 6, Millersville University, 1pm
October 22, Bent Creek Country Club, 11 am

Breakfast Gatherings from Dan Horting:

We meet at Olde Hickory Grill, 709 Olde Hickory Rd, Lancaster, PA 17601 at 9:00 am. Breakfasts are informal with no agenda and occur on Thursday mornings, roughly every other month. They are open

to all members and guests. **Mark your calendar for the next breakfast, Thursday, July 16.** Please note the venue and time change from previous years. For additional information or questions contact Dan Horting at k4sbuilder@comcast.net or 717 285-7320.

July 16
September 17

November 19

Board Meeting Dates from Recording Secretary Barry Schmitt:

Meetings are held six times a year on Wednesdays at 2:00 pm at the Lancaster Airport Authority Conference Room, 500 Airport Road, Lititz, PA 17543. All members are welcome to attend and please let us know if you are interested in serving on the board.

August 12
September 30

November 18

- **Lebanon VA Comfort Items from President Bill Zeird:**

Please remember to bring Comfort items for our hospitalized Veterans to any Chapter event, breakfast, Chapter meeting, or Board meeting. We are pursuing a year-round effort in 2026 for supplying these comfort items to our hospitalized Veterans. Your continued support can have a lasting impact. For current needs please see VA Lebanon website link: <https://www.va.gov/lebanon-health-care/work-with-us/volunteer-or-donate/> Then scroll down to “Make a donation”, then “Personal hygiene/comfort items”, to see a list of specific needs; and drill down likewise under the heading “Clothing”.

- **Feature Article: Susquehanna Cruise and May Breakfast Meeting**

Dan Horting, Chapter Programs Coordinator, planned a wonderful event on the Pride of the Susquehanna, Sunday June 14th. As you can see from the many smiles in the pictures below, the event was a great success.

We also met for breakfast on Thursday May 21st. Please come and join us for the next breakfast on Thursday, July 16th. Please see details on pages 3,4.





Chapter Contacts

President: Bill Zeird

Past President: Dan Horting

Membership: Dave Shelton

Recording Secretary: Barry Schmitt

Treasurer: Dave Shelton

• Join our Lancaster MOAA Chapter:

Our chapter is over 100 members strong in the Lancaster Area. Join us to connect with others who have shared life experiences. Please click on this link for how to join and an application.

<https://www.moaalancasterchapt.org/howtojoin.html>

Happy 250th Birthday, USA

As we celebrate America's 250th birthday, we honor those whose courage and sacrifice secured our freedom—and reaffirm our duty to preserve that legacy for future generations.



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.

