
Lancaster Chapter News

Lancaster, PA Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
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We meet on April 24 at Meadia Heights

Our guest speaker will be CW5 Barry Loar, USANG. Mr. Loar enlisted in the Air Force in 1975 and in 1980 served in the Maryland Army Guard as a fixed wing crew chief. In 1984 he became an Army Chief Warrant Officer, and since 1985 he has been assigned to the PA Army National Guard. He has served in Honduras, Kosovo, Iraq and lastly from 2012 to 2013 to Afghanistan as a medical evacuation pilot. He will be sharing some of his experiences during those tours of duty.

Our evening begins at 5:00 p.m. with a cash bar and social hour. The meeting will be called to order at 6:00 p.m. with introductory remarks by our president, Dennis Benchoff, and dinner will follow at 6:15 p.m. We'll enjoy a buffet that includes:

California Salad (served)
Steamship Round of Beef
Chicken Cordon Bleu
Roasted Garlic Red Skin Mashed Potatoes
Maple Glazed Baby Carrots
Green Beans, Almondine
Apple Crisp with Vanilla Ice Cream

The cost of the meal will be \$29.00 per person. 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. By request a vegetarian meal will be available as a substitute for the above selections. The deadline for receipt of all checks is Friday, April 18th. Cancellations may

be made by calling Jim Cunningham prior to Tuesday, April 22nd. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Cunningham, 581-5299.

Reminder on March 6 meeting

All details of our March 6 meeting were carried in our January newsletter. But that seems so long ago. So this is a reminder to those who have sent their checks that we meet at 11 a.m. at Lancaster Country Club. Those who have not yet sent their check for \$26 per person have until March 4 for it to be received. Make it to Lancaster Chapter, MOAA, and send it to Lancaster Chapter, MOAA, ATTN: Meeting Reservations, P.O. Box 5031, Lancaster, PA 17606-5031.

Dues payment reminder

If you missed our announcement in the January issue of the newsletter that it was time to pay your dues, there is still time to write your check for \$15, or \$40 for three-years. Dues payments not received by June 1, 2014 would cause your name to be placed on the inactive member list and miss future copies of the newsletter. Just send the check to Lancaster Chapter, MOAA, ATTN: Dues, PO Box 5031, Lancaster, PA 17606-5031. We appreciate your help in this regard.

We made news

The Intell/New Era carried a three-column news story on our election of new officers and directors. Thanks to Dick Smith for the outstanding job he does in getting our news to the local media.

Our members made news

Ryan Aument, State Rep., was one of three authors of an article in the Sunday News that deplored the practice of laying off teachers solely on the basis of seniority. They wrote, “This means we often lose some of our most effective teachers, simply because they have less classroom experience than other teachers in the district.”

In his party’s straw poll, Ryan was reported by the Sunday News to be “the big winner in the competition for a state Senate seat. He was able to find overwhelming support from voting members in the three-way race for the 36th Senatorial District, capturing 58 percent of the ballots cast.”

The Intell/New Era reported that Ryan’s bill “to establish a state-run database of online courses that would make virtual education an option at more schools” had been passed the state House. The article noted that the legislation “embraces the fact that learning is moving beyond the four walls of Pennsylvania’s classrooms.”

Ryan was the first of many local politicians quoted in the Intell/New Era on Governor Corbett’s budget proposal. Ryan said, “The emphasis on education is reflected in his continued commitment to a record investment in public education.”

Jessie Eckhart was pictured along with many mementos and her artwork in a wonderful Intell/New Era article about her flying career. In the rain in 1940, Jessie soloed on her 16th birthday. It ran in her family, since her father was the famous pioneer aviator, Jesse Jones.

The article recounted how, in WWII Jessie became a flight instructor, and how as part of the War Training Service program, she taught many young Army Aviation Cadets to fly. She and the other women instructors were treated like officers, wore uniforms, and received a second lieutenant’s pay, although they were not in the service and received no military benefits.

She then worked for her father at the old Lancaster Airport where he was the first manager. She married future oral surgeon Howard “Howie” Eckhart, who became an experienced pilot himself. In his plane, they crossed the country 25 times. She and Howie

have three sons, all of whom soloed on their 16th birthdays. Jessie and Howie have been active members of our Chapter since joining in June 1999.

Ken Eshleman was written about by The Scribbler in the Intell/New Era. Ken was cited for helping to solve a 127-year-old error that had been made in the Lancaster New Era of May 13, 1887 when it had said that the 1717 immigrant Peter Leman (an early ancestor of Ken’s) was of French Huguenot stock. Ken knew that, instead, he was Swiss-German from the Canton of Bern and came with other early Mennonites in 1717 to Lampeter (now East Lampeter) Township. The Scribbler article that told about this also said incorrectly that Ken was a Strasburg resident, while Ken actually lives on an historic family farm in Leaman Place, which (although spelled differently) was named for the original Peter Leman.

Dick Kreider was pictured in a feature story in the Intel/New Era that told how he, at age 92, keeps himself fit through regular workouts at the Universal Athletic Club. One of the pictures shows him throwing a mean right hand at the punching bag, looking much as if he was thinking of the Japanese he flew against throughout the Pacific in WWII.

Joe Pitts kicked off his campaign for a 10th two-year term in the US. Congress. He did so at the Farm and Home Center, where he spoke on “the need for more fiscal responsibility and a return to traditional values and smaller government.”

He was cited in the Intell/New Era as the prime sponsor of a bill that passed overwhelmingly to place more security requirements on the new Affordable Care Act insurance exchanges.

When the Intell/New Era carried “The Year in Quotes,” Joe was quoted as saying, “That’s why I’ll keep working to defund, delay, dismantle and repeal this train wreck and replace it with common-sense reforms to lower costs and expand access for all” as he asserted his opposition to the Affordable Care Act.

Craig Stedman, Lancaster County District Attorney, explained in an Intell/New Era front page story that 13 drug drop-off boxes had been established across the county to encourage people to use them to dispose of outdated medicines...a New Era editorial applauded his “muted and appropriate” response to those who

called for immediate action after a 2-month-old girl had been shot to death. Craig had said the investigation had not been completed, "so any opinion as to the appropriate outcome of this case is necessarily uninformed." Later, Craig said "This was clearly an unintentional discharge. He's (the father) absolutely devastated by the death of his daughter."

In the search in a waste station for the body of a Berks County woman, Craig was quoted as saying, "We don't know if she's in there or if this is even a homicide." The body was later found to have been stabbed and burned, with two men charged in her death.

In a front-page story in the Intell/New Era, Craig called on all municipalities to pay the voluntary fee to fund the county's drug task force.

Tom Westphal was pictured in a half-page ad in the Intel/New Era that announced the move of the large orthopedics practice he founded to the General Hospital Campus. Many of us think of Tom as a veteran orthopedic surgeon. But some of us also remember him as a powerful fullback on F&M's football team in the '70s.

Biddle Whigham saw the spelling of his name corrected in Military Magazine. In the headline of an October story about our Adopt-a-Kid/Adopt-a-Vet program, the magazine had misspelled his name...although it gave great credit for the program that Biddle heads.

Bob Wilcox submitted a story for The Scribbler's annual Lancaster Liars Contest. The Sunday News carried the result, including this also-ran submission from Bob: "I always found it difficult to stop eating Utz's Potato Chips, especially those cooked in lard. I liked them so much that I decided to go into business and wholesale them to retailers. I became a big success and finally, at 375 pounds, became the largest distributor on the East Coast."

Bob wrote the Intell/New Era to laud a column by Thomas Sowell that spoke of the folly of penalizing the rich. Bob noted that it would, similarly, be wrong to consider it to be "unfair" that so many professional basketball players are black" and want to "spread around" the opportunity to play, so that more white men could participate."

Paul Wragg wrote the Intell/New Era to say in part, "Many religious groups have founded

hospitals, schools and other institutions to enrich our nation. The problem comes when these institutions seek to impose their religious doctrines on employees who are of a different faith. It's a question for the Supreme Court."

Give a warm welcome to our new members

CW2 Michael J. Brent
USA (484) 223-8451
5042 Sweitzer Road
Mohnton, PA 19540
Spouse: Susan
Joined: 1/22/2014
Sponsor: Dennis Benchoff

Capt Christopher W. Mattson
USMC (717) 393-9319
1306 Marietta Avenue
Lancaster, PA 17603
Spouse: Mary
Joined: 10/10/2013
Sponsors: Tony & Dina Cerase

LT John Thiry
USN (717) 413-1457
1270 Belle Meade Drive
Lancaster, PA 17601
Spouse: Kristin
Joined: 2/13/2014
Sponsor: Our newspaper publicity

From our president's desk

In my previous message, I mentioned several challenges our chapter faces this year. One was a decline in our membership and what you can do to help. While recruiting new members is hard work, part of our membership decline is due to current members deciding not to renew their memberships. I addressed this as well and can report that our campaign to get current members to send their 2014 dues has been largely successful. However, there are still some members who have yet to decide to commit for this year. I hope that if you are one who hasn't, you will send in your check this week.

As you know, we build our annual budgets based on the number of members who have paid their dues. This year's budget, which also appears in this issue, shows the absolute maximum we can do with the funding we have. The budget committee worked hard to cut unnecessary expenses to avoid an increase in dues this year. I hope our membership level will

continue to provide the funds necessary to sustain our operations without an increase in dues in the future.

Another challenge is to have members volunteer to staff our various committees. Later in this issue you will see descriptions of four positions in which we need leadership volunteers. If you would be interested in serving in any of these four important positions, please do not hesitate to let me know. I'm sure I will be able to explain what needs to be done and how a small amount of your time will greatly help your chapter. I hope to hear from you soon.

You will also find in this issue a list of the general membership meetings, either luncheons or dinners, scheduled for this year. I hope you will put them on your calendar and await a newsletter announcement letting you know how to make a reservation. It would certainly be nice to see many more members attend these opportunities to meet with old friends, share a meal, and learn something from a wide variety of guest speakers. This list of meetings also announces our scheduled board of directors' meetings for 2014. These are always open to chapter members, and it would be nice to have any member interested attend and help us conduct the chapter's business.

In closing I would like to thank the staff and faculty of Our Mother of Perpetual Help School in Ephrata for extending an invitation to our chapter to attend its annual salute to veterans' assembly program.

This is the first year we have been included. Due to the limited amount of time we had for notification, only five members and two spouses were able to take advantage of the invitation and enjoy the patriotic songs and poems presented by the students and refreshments provided by the school.

I believe we'll be invited to participate again next January, and if so, I'll make sure every member knows well in advance about the opportunity, particularly those who live in the Ephrata and Lititz areas. It will be an enjoyable way to support our community and see our youngest generation at their best.

Dennis
717-560-1260 or dibencho@hacc.edu

Our meeting schedule for 2014

General Membership Meetings

- March 6, 2014, 1100 hrs – Lancaster Country Club
- April 24, 2014, 1700 hrs – Meadia Heights Golf Club
- June 19, 2014, 1700 hrs – Hamilton Club
- September 6, 2014, 1200 hrs – Willow valley Cultural Center (Picnic)
- October 16, 2014, 1700 hrs – Bent Creek Country Club
- December 7, 2014, 1300 hrs – Gordinier Hall, Millersville University

Board Meetings

- February 19, 2014 All board meetings begin at 1400 hrs and
- April 9, 2014 are conducted in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, LGH Suburban Outpatient Pavilion,
- June 11, 2014 Building 2100, located on the LGH Health Campus, Harrisburg Pike and Rohrertstown Road
- August 13, 2014
- October 8, 2014
- November 19, 2014

We have volunteer opportunities

In our January newsletter, we listed many activities of our Chapter...and the names of our members who are making them happen. But there are some others that it's important to add to that list. If you're up to being active in any of them, please call our president, Dennis Benchoff, at 560-1260 and let him know. He's provided a heads-up on what each activity entails.

Legislative Support Committee Chair

Monitors local, state and national legislative developments that might affect members or their families

Keeps the chapter's board and members apprised of legislative developments of interest

Recommends to the board new or revised policies or objectives in the area of legislative affairs

Provides liaison with other local organizations concerned with military related legislation or policies

Establishes and maintains good working relationships with local, state and national legislators

Recognition Committee Chair

Selects and recommends for recognition to the board those members who have made significant contributions to the chapter

Recommends to the board the appropriate type or form of award to be presented

Relocation Committee Chair

Serves as a point of contact to current or prospective MOAA members relocating to the Lancaster area

Proves advice about services, destinations, housing, job opportunities, etc.

Outreach Committee Chair

Receives notification from other chapter members about members or spouses who are ill at home or in the hospital

Contacts by phone or personal visit each ill member

Charity Support – funds contributions to support military and community related charities supporting service members, veterans or their families

Admin Support (formerly chapter expenses) – funds expenses related to the general operations of the chapter to include but not limited to postage, office supplies, publicity, PO box rent, web site fees, or other expenses incurred by members or in support of members in the execution of their chapter duties

Meeting Support – funds beverages, guest meals and other expenses for the bimonthly general membership meetings not covered by the amount of meeting reservations received

PACOC dues – funds the \$0.50 per chapter member per year dues charged by the PA Council of Chapters for its operational funding

Scholarship – funds the high school senior scholarship (and ROTC scholarship if membership level permits) at a level of \$3 per member per year determined by the number of active members who were current in their dues the preceding year

Newsletter – funds publication and distribution of the six bimonthly newsletters mailed to members without email addresses

Liability Insurance – funds the liability insurance covering the chapter’s operations

Contingency – funds any shortages experienced in the other expense categories

Our Approved 2014 Budget

<u>Expense Category</u>	<u>2014 Budget (\$) **</u>
Member Memorials	200
Charity Support	200
Admin Support	400
Meeting Support	100#
PACOC Dues	200
Scholarship	1,000++
Newsletter	1,500
Liability Insurance	700
Contingency #	200
Totals	4,500

Notes:

** Based on membership of 335

New category ++ HS Award only

Expense Category Definitions:

Member Memorials – funds contributions to charities/organizations to honor the memories of deceased members and limited to \$25 per deceased member

It’s all in the family...

Rachel LaBuda, daughter of **Gary and Cynthia LaBuda**, was pictured in the *Intell/New Era* in a story that told of her having applied to Congressman Joe Pitts for a nomination to the U. S. Naval Academy. The article said, “She hopes to follow in the contrails of her father, Gary LaBuda, a retired Navy captain who is now a pilot for American Airlines.” Joe later confirmed Cynthia’s nomination.

Bob LeMin, son of our **Bob LeMin**, is an artist whose lithograph, “Up From The Mines” won a Scholastic Art Award in 1973. His lithograph was shown in an *Intell/New Era* article on the Lancaster Museum of Art show, “Where Are

They Now,” a look at 24 people who won Scholastic Art Awards during the past 50 years.

What’s to like about belonging to our MOAA chapter? Let us count the ways...

Our Chapter recognizes and honors our accomplishment in becoming commissioned officers in the service of our country.

It permits our knowing and enjoying the company of some pretty exceptional people who have similarly served their country.

It permits our enjoying the satisfaction of an important service to young people through our “Adopt-a-Kid, Adopt-a Vet” program.

It provides many kinds of needed support for the ROTC program at Millersville University, including an annual cash award to the outstanding cadet in that program.

It helps our offering an annual scholarship to an outstanding high school student who is militarily-related and who is headed for college.

It provides helpful guidance to us and our families about military matters they need to know about and benefit from.

It supports the highly important, every-day efforts of national MOAA in working for the best interests of our military.

So, if your hectic schedule prevents your attending our Chapter’s meetings, please never feel that you, therefore, aren’t pulling your weight with this Chapter. Your membership supports the Chapter in many other very important ways. And we hope you’re as proud of your membership as we are to have you as a member.

A piece of history from Jessie Eckhart

Member Jessie is the daughter of Jesse Jones, the legendary Lancaster airman who, among other things, was the first manager of Lancaster Airport when it was dedicated in 1935.

She has co-authored an article for *The Journal of Lancaster County’s Historical Society* that gives an insight into an interesting slice of Lancaster aviation history.

The Sensenich Brothers had been manufacturing wooden propellers since 1932 in a factory adjacent to the airport. In January of 1937, Jesse Jones was contacted by Harry Sensenich to see if he would be interested in test flying a single blade propeller that had been developed. Jesse agreed, and the propeller was installed on Jesse’s 40 horsepower Continental Cub airplane. No one knew what would happen when the plane flew, but Jesse took off at dawn on January 26, 1937, to prove that a single blade prop worked fine.

Two days later, he flew to Floyd Bennet Field in New York, removed the propeller from the plane, and showed it at Sensenich Brothers’ booth at the New York Aviation Show. It became one of the curiosities of the show, but nobody believed it could be flown. Officials at Floyd Bennet Field confirmed, however, that it had actually flown there.



Jessie Eckhart’s father, Jesse Jones, ready to depart for Los Angeles in March, 1937 in a plane equipped with a single blade propeller.

In March of the same year, Jesse flew a Cessna C37 with a 145 horsepower engine and a single blade prop cross country to Los Angeles. The flight generated a lot of publicity, and the first single blade propeller which flew was donated to the Smithsonian Institution.

Jesse, flying with the single blade propeller, was successful in competition in many air races, including the 1938 Light Plane Race in Miami, which he won “by a large margin, finishing by fully a quarter mile lead.”

By summer 1938, dozens of the 40 horsepower propellers had been sold in the U.S. and some foreign countries. Later, problems with the propeller’s use with higher horsepower engines

developed. Yet, experience with the single blade proved useful in the development of Sensenich Brothers' more complicated two blade propellers.

Thanks to member Gene Moore for having forwarded the Historical Society article.

An anecdote from the military days of one of our members, past or present

Ellen Cassaday was married by the Mayor of Paris... who spoke not a word of English. But that was only the strangest twist that started with her finding her future husband on a blind date

The lucky young guy was Warren Cassaday, who was recruited to be her date when the one who was supposed to be her date couldn't make it. Ellen says sparks flew right away, and that led to her engagement to Warren when she was still in high school.

The bad news was that Warren was drafted early in 1941 and was shipped off to the Army. The good news was that Ellen wasn't about to let go of him. They wrote to each other virtually daily. And after she graduated from the School of Nursing at West Jersey Hospital in Camden N.J. and earned her RN, she wrote to say she was "coming to get him." And she enlisted in the Army. The chances of her actually joining him, of course, were remote, but she plunged ahead, always hopeful that it would actually happen.

When she and the other nurses shipped overseas in March 1945, they were told they were headed for Japan. But, after three days at sea, they learned they were actually headed for Camp Lucky Strike in Rouen, France. They got there on March 29, 1945, the day President Roosevelt died.

By then, Warren had come from North Africa to Normandy to Belgium, where he, now a warrant officer, ran an officers mess that served many of the top generals, including Eisenhower, Bradley, Patton, Montgomery, etc. Just after VE-Day, General Hodge loaned Warren his airplane to fly Warren to Camp Lucky Strike, where he was to see Ellen again for the first time in four years.

Within days, they made wedding plans. Warren borrowed a Jeep that took them to Paris, and Ellen and Warren were married in full dress

uniform. Since they spoke no French, and the mayor of Paris, by whom they were married, spoke no English, Ellen says, "We had to say 'Oui' wherever it seemed appropriate. Although we were officially married, we then went to the American Church in Paris, where we were married again by an army chaplain. Then, after a wonderful, two-week honeymoon in Paris, it was back to our units."

Both Ellen and Warren came to Lancaster 1n 2005, where each joined our MOAA Chapter. Warren died in 2006, while Ellen has remained a valued member of our Chapter.

We honor the memory of...

Judith W. C. Eshleman, who died February 2. She was the wife of our Ken Eshleman. Judy was a graduate of the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing in 1952. She was the recipient of the Nightingale Award, given to the one graduating nurse who best exemplified the principles of professional nursing. Working at the hospital, she became head nurse of its Neurology Department.

She married Ken in 1954. She and Ken moved to Lancaster in 1959, when Ken established his psychiatric practice with her constant support. She was an active member of the Iris Club, the Junior League of Lancaster, the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, and many other organizations. She is survived by her husband, a daughter, and a brother. Judy had been part of our Chapter since September 1997.

John P. Valentino, who died January 17. Many of us knew him as the owner and operator of Valentino's Café. He served as a B-29 navigator in the Pacific Theater from 1944-1947.

A 1943 graduate of J.P. McCaskey High School, he earned 12 varsity letters in soccer, basketball, track, gymnastics, and cheerleading. He was inducted into the J.P. McCaskey Hall of Fame and was also inducted into the PA Sports Hall of Fame. He was the PIAA Eastern Regional State Champion in Gymnastics. Later, at Penn State, he was the Eastern Intercollegiate Tumbling Champion in 1944. He is the brother of our member, Rudy A. Valentino. John had been a member of our chapter since August 1997 before terminal illness recently forced his retirement.