
Lancaster Chapter News

Lancaster, PA Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
Editor: Bob Wilcox, 211 Willow Valley Square, Lancaster 17602, 464-2575, bob.wilcox1@verizon.net
Chapter web site: www.moalancasterchapt.org

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October meeting is at Eden Resort

We're looking forward to October 22, when we'll be spending the evening at one of Lancaster's premier meeting venues.

The gathering will begin at 5:00 p.m. with a social hour. The meeting will be called to order at 6:00 p.m. with introductory remarks by our president, Dennis Benchoff. Dinner will follow at 6:15 p.m. and will consist of:

Garden Salad with a choice of Ranch or Raspberry Vinaigrette Dressing

A choice of:

Sliced Roast Sirloin of Beef with
Bordelaise Sauce
Au Gratin Potatoes
Green Beans with Julienned Carrots

OR

Shrimp Tortellini
Green Beans with Julienned Carrots

Pumpkin Pie

Freshly Baked Rolls, Coffee, and Tea

Our speaker will be Dr. Alan Peterson, who will be addressing preventive care in the over 50 population. He's a graduate of Boston University with both a BA and an MD degree. His residency was in Family Medicine at Lancaster General Hospital. He was in private practice for four years and in 1979 was asked to join Lancaster General's Family Medicine Department and teach as well as see patients in their residency program. He has continued to do

so as the Director of Environmental and Community Medicine at LGH and was an Associate Director of the Residency Program until retirement in 2014.

He is also the Chairman of the Lancaster County Immunization Coalition, and a member of the Lead Coalition of Lancaster County, as well as Publications Director of the Edward Hand Medical Heritage Foundation. He's on the Board of the Partnership for Public Health in Lancaster as well as the Vaccine Farm Board.

The cost of the meal will be \$28.00 per person. The cash bar will be open at 5:00 p.m. 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 include your choice(s) of entrée and write the names of your guests on your check for name tag purposes.

The deadline for receipt of all checks is Monday, October 19th. Cancellations may be made by calling Jim Cunningham prior to October 19th. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Cunningham, at 581-5299.

From our President's desk

Since the publication of our last newsletter, I am sorry to have to inform you that one of our long-time members and active participants in the governance of the chapter, Jerry McOmber, has passed away. There is a tribute to him later in this newsletter, which will tell you of his many contributions to our chapter. One of Jerry's final wishes was that any memorial contributions be made in his name to the

chapter's annual scholarship fund. Jerry is the first member to make this kind gesture, and in a tribute to Jerry's memory, your board of directors has voted to name all future scholarships that are awarded to be in his name as the Commander Gerald E. McOmber Memorial Scholarship. In addition we have asked Jerry's wife, Joann, to make the first presentation of his scholarship to next year's recipient. We hope that this small gesture will commemorate Jerry's life and the work he did for our chapter.

I also want to inform you that the Lancaster Chapter has accepted the opportunity to host the biennial Pennsylvania Council of Chapters convention here in September, 2016. This will give us the chance to showcase our chapter and the Lancaster area to the participants who will visit us from the 12 other MOAA chapters located across the Commonwealth. We will keep you abreast of the details as the planning process progresses. Needless to say, there will be a need for chapter members to volunteer to help make this convention a success, and I hope you will consider doing so as the work to be done becomes known.

As I mentioned in my message in the July issue of the newsletter, employment circumstances required that Brian Remy relinquish his many duties associated with the chapter's programs and functions. I am pleased to tell you that Dina Cerase has volunteered to assume the duties of liaison to the Millersville University ROTC detachment and John Burke has agreed to complete Brian's term as a member of our board of directors. I extend my thanks to both Dina and John. However, we are still in need of a member to head our acclaimed Adopt-a-Kid/Adopt-a-Vet program. If you would like to help us in this regard, please let me know. I would greatly appreciate it.

This is the last time I will be sending a reminder to the few members who have yet to pay their dues. You may think you have paid your 2015 dues, but have not. So, if you get your newsletter by mail, please check the mailing label on this issue. If it says "Dues paid through 14", we have not received your check, and we ask that you send it for \$15 for one year or \$40 for three years. Make it to Lancaster Chapter, MOAA, and send it to Lancaster Chapter, MOAA, P.O. Box 5031, Lancaster, PA, 17606-5031. We hope to retain you as a member in the future, but you will have to make it happen.

Please have a safe and enjoyable Labor Day holiday.

Dennis

Our members made news

Ryan Aument, state senator, wrote an article for *LNP* on the state budget impasse. He noted that "Gov. Wolf--within minutes of receiving the (Republican-led) budget---vetoed the entire General Appropriations Act. That had not happened in over 45 years." Ryan also noted that the governor had "proposed a budget that sought to increase spending by \$4.7 billion.

Gene Moore was featured in The Scribbler's column in *LNP*. With an eye for the unusual, The Scribbler picked out an article Gene had written for The Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society. In it, Gene defines the powwow as a practice of the Pennsylvania Germans designed to cure or relieve ailments in humans or animals and to ward off other kinds of evils. He tells, for example, of the powwow as practiced when one is intent on protecting one's home and possessions from fire. That eyebrow-raising powwow itself may seem a bit unsettling for some. Let's just say it starts with doing something highly uncomfortable to the stomach of a black chicken. But does it work? Gene is reported as not sure, but he will not dismiss out of hand a centuries-old practice that sometimes makes "you and your cow feel better, even if only psychologically."

Joe Pitts, U.S. Rep., was reported in *LNP* to be unhappy with the Supreme Court's decision allowing same sex couples to marry anywhere in the United States. He was quoted as saying, "Today's ruling will lead to grave infringements of religious freedom across the United States."

LNP reported that Joe was to be a speaker at the "Rally to Support Israel," at Clipper Stadium.

LNP later reported this comment he made to the rally about the agreement with Iran: "This agreement will be devastating to our security and the security of Israel."

He wrote an article for *LNP* in which he said, "In the past 30 years, life expectancy in the United States has increased by five years, and almost half of that increase took place just in the last decade." He also said, "Right now, there

are nearly 7,000 known rare diseases afflicting nearly 30 million Americans. Of these diseases, only about 500 have cures. Government must not stand in medicine's way."

He wrote an article for *LNP* on Planned Parenthood and the recently revealed videos on sale of body parts, asking the question, "How many more videotapes must be released before people accept the humanity of the unborn child?"

Paul Ripple wrote *LNP*, asking the question, "Should the parents of a girl in high school help pay for the football program?" He noted that, "In Sweden and some other European countries, the public school is 100 percent academic. After school, the student goes to an athletic club and pays a fee."

Craig Stedman, District Attorney, was quoted in *LNP* on why he decided not to release the names of the officers who were involved in the fatal shooting of a fugitive. He said, "I've received information on a number of credible threats to the police officers from a number of different sources. I think in general the public has a right to know...but I do believe the risk to the police officers and those close to them are serious and real in his particular case."

LNP reported Craig's quote on whether we report undocumented immigrants to ICE. He said, "Generally, if we contact ICE, it's to see if it's a person they have an interest in, beyond merely being undocumented. He added, "In most cases, we would know in advance if ICE is requesting detention, and for what reason."

Bob Wilcox wrote an article for the August issue of *Senior News* with the headline, "A Salute to Our Veterans of the Final Battles of WWII.: Although the salute was to all veterans of WWII, the article highlighted the combat experiences of five Lancaster County veterans, including our members Todd Reboul, Dick Scott, and Eston White.

He also wrote an article for the fall issue of *b magazine* with the headline "A tribute to those who served in World War II." It told of the major battles of that war, the ecstatic joy when that war was won, and the dire fate of those who had started it.

He was one of 32 people whose brief recollections of V-J Day were carried in *Senior*

News under the heading "Remembering the day World War II ended."

Say hello to our new members

COL Robert N. (Bob) Jannarone
USA-Ret. (717) 581-3392
3001 Lititz Pike
Lancaster, PA 17606-5093
Spouse: Linda E. Jannarone
Joined: July 27, 2015
Sponsor is: John "Jack" Wilson.

CDR Gerard J. (Jerry) Link
USNR-Ret. 717-626-2142
14 Buttonwood Drive
Lititz, PA 17543-8772
Spouse: Patricia E. Link
Joined: July 29, 2015
Sponsor: MOAA National (and Dick Smith).

Capt Timothy B. Paulin
USAF. 717-898-1217
1019 Ladderback Drive
Lancaster, PA 17601
Spouse: Leslie L. Paulin
Re-joined: August 11, 2015
Sponsor: Dick Smith

MOAA Women's Network to meet October 27:

The Women's Network will meet October 27th at 2:00 p.m., at Dina Cerase's home for coffee and snack. This meeting's subject will be on support that the women can provide to the Pennsylvania Council of Chapters Convention that will be held in Lancaster next year and hosted by our Chapter.

Dina's address is: 1508 Hudson Road, Lancaster, PA 17601. Her community is on Harrisburg Pike on your left after the Health Campus going west. Dina's phone number for RSVP is 299-7177. Please call by October 23rd to confirm your attendance.

Addition to the news of Senior Games

Dave Sunden --age 89--won gold in Frisbee Golf, silver in Soccer Penalty Kick, silver in Bench Press, and bronze in Bicep Curl. One again, we heap laurels on the heads of Dave and all the other chapter members who represented us so well in the Senior Games.

Schedule of our Chapter meetings in 2016

Thursday, March 3, 1100 - Lancaster Country Club

Thursday, April 28, 1700 - Meadia Golf Club

Thursday, June 23, 1700 - Bent Creek Golf Club

Saturday, August 27 - Picnic with time and location TBD

Thursday, October 27, 1700 - Location TBD

Sunday, December 4, 1300 - Gordinier Hall, Millersville University

Victor Bove is a man of many awards

Victor was recently awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by Lancaster's Council 867 of the Knights of Columbus, where he is a fourth degree knight. He was also awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by Saint Joseph College in Maine in 1996 and the Distinguished Service Award by Millersville University in 1984. In 2005 Millersville University published a book titled "150 Years of MU Faces" in which Victor was written about as one of the university's distinguished alumni.

Our scholarship winner gets fine publicity

The Warwick Merchandiser carried a full-color picture of Madelyn M. Class, with the full story of her having won our 2015 Scholarship. It told of the \$1,000 scholarship, its having been presented by past president George Resh, and a recap of the unbelievable assortments of accomplishments that won Madelyn the honor.

An easy way to get your DD 214 form

The DD 214 Separation Form that records a veteran's separation from the military is one of the most important documents a vet needs, yet many of us over the years, have misplaced ours.

If you need one, it's possible to replace it on the Internet. But for some of us, that's not easy. By all means the easiest way to get a copy is through the Lancaster office of our U.S.

Representative (and fellow MOAA member of our chapter) Joe Pitts.

Just call his office at 393-0667 and explain that you need a copy of your DD 214. They will send you a form to be completed, signed, and returned to them. They will then contact the National Personnel Records Center, obtain the needed DD 214, and mail it to you. It's just one more way in which Joe Pitts, himself a Vietnam veteran of 116 B-52 missions, is happy to serve vets like us.

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



CAPT James G. Abert in Washington in 1982.

It happened on a very dark night off the coast of Nova Scotia. The diving officer was LT James Abert, a native of Manheim Township. He was a Navy reservist, as were his two lookouts. When the captain ordered the submarine to submerge, Jim shouted, "Clear the bridge" and sounded the diving alarm. Because of the configuration of the superstructure (called the "sail"), he heard, but did not actually see, the lookouts go down the ladder to safety inside the sub.

He says, "Then I saw moving shadows over by the port side light which was sill glowing red. I jumped up and grabbed the lost lookout by the leg and basically stuffed him down the ladder.

The quartermaster, inside the sub, counts the number of people coming down, and when he would have found we were short, he would have stopped the dive. But that young man lost in the sail would have had to hold his breath for some time if he had remained where he was during the dive.”

Another special memory for Jim was the time his diesel sub was on patrol on the channel between Honshu and Hokkaido, Japan. They were ordered to the Sea of Japan, where they would be part of an exercise with Japanese Maritime Defense Force’s aircraft. He explains, “One of their planes would fly over us, and we would then submerge. I was on the bridge when the plane flew over, and we were to submerge. So I did uga, uga (the sound alarm) and called, ‘Dive, Dive’ on the broadcast system. Just like in the movies. But the sub did not submerge. I flooded every tank I could to make us heavier, and slowly, we did get down. The problem was that the salinity of the Sea of Japan was much higher than the Pacific Ocean. We had no time to do a trim dive before getting on station, so I had literally to drive that boat into that salty sea.”

It’s been said that life aboard subs was great. Was it? “Well, the quarters were very crowded,” he says. “And the air was bad, since lots of people smoked. But the food was great. I remember one time being docked at Subic Bay, in the Philippines next to a British sub. They’d have us over for cocktails, since they had the liquor, and we’d invite them over for dinner, because we had the steaks.”

We honor the memory of...

Gerald “Jerry” E. McOmber, who died July 7. He was a graduate of Miami University of Ohio, where he received his Naval Commission in 1957. He then earned the unusual distinction of having qualified in the Navy as a pilot of single and multi-engine aircraft as well as lighter-than-air craft. He was one of the last Navy blimp pilots flying at NAS Lakehurst, NJ. He retired from the Navy Reserve in 1977 as a Commander. Over the years, Jerry served our MOAA chapter with dedication, He was president in 1997 and served on our board for four years. He and his wife Joann were regular attendees at our chapter meetings throughout the years and were strong supporters of all our chapter’s activities. He is survived by his wife

Joann, a daughter, a son, and 2 grandchildren. Jerry had been a member of our chapter since August 1990.

What’s to like about belonging to our MOAA Chapter? Besides meetings, of course.

Members sometimes think, understandably, that the good thing about being a member, is going to our meetings, and meeting with folks with whom we have a lot in common.

All true. That’s certainly the big thing to many of us. Yet there are so many more things to like about membership.

1. It’s recognition of our accomplishment in becoming an officer in the service of our country.
2. Our Adopt-a-Kid, Adopt-a-Vet program permits our enjoying the satisfaction of treating youngsters to a glimpse of what it’s like to be a member of our military.
2. Our membership provides support for the ROTC program at Millersville University, including an annual cash award to the outstanding cadet in that program.
3. It helps our offering an annual scholarship to an outstanding high school student who is militarily-related and who is headed for college.
4. It provides helpful guidance to us and our families about military matters they need to know about and benefit from.
5. 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.

You heard, of course...

of Johnny Carson’s explaining to a friend, “I never knew Ed McMahon had a drinking problem...until he came in sober one night.”