



LANCASTER CHAPTER MOAA

P O Box 5031, Lancaster, PA 17606-5031

NEWSLETTER

Visit our Web Site at www.moaalancasterchapt.org

September 2019

Volume 26 Number 5

● Our October Meeting at Bent Creek:

Bent Creek Country Club at 620 Bent Creek Drive, Lititz, 17543, will be the venue for our next Membership Meeting on Thursday, October 17, 2019. Bent Creek offers a beautiful setting for us to gather on a fall evening. Following a social hour that begins at 5:00 p.m., the meeting will be called to order at 6:00 p.m. with introductory remarks by our president, John Gareis. The menu for the evening includes

Salad:

Bent Creek House Salad served with a choice of two salad dressings

Entrée:

Apple Cider Marinated Pork Tenderloin, Granny Smith Apples, Caramelized Sweet Onions, Au Jus

Dessert:

Warm Seasonal Fruit Cobbler

Beverages:

Coffee, Iced and Hot Tea

The cost of the meal will be \$35.00 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. **Please Note: Transactions at the beverage bar will be via credit card.**

The deadline for receipt of all checks is Friday, October 11th. Cancellations may be made by calling Jim Cunningham prior to October 11th. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Cunningham at 717 581-5299.

Our speaker will be our own Col (Ret) Ed Hurston, USAF. Col Hurston is a native of Lafayette, LA. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and his commission through the ROTC Program at the University of Southwestern Louisiana.

Throughout his military career he served in positions of increasing responsibility as a military healthcare administrator and Medical Readiness Officer. Leadership opportunities have included Chief Operating Officer for three military treatment facilities and the functional areas of Medical Readiness, Health Plan Management, Human Resource Management, and Medical Logistics. Col Hurston currently is the Senior Aerospace Science Instructor at JP McCaskey High School and will provide an overview of his Air Force Junior ROTC Program.

● From the President's Desk:

Dear fellow veterans: We are in the midst of a summer slowdown in our chapter but the MOAA National activities continue. There is an on going threat by the Defense Dept. to cut 20% of our Armed Forces medical personnel. MOAA is opposed to these cuts and they urge each of us to write letters to our congressmen to stop this action. If you go to the MOAA website and click on advocacy you can see a discussion about "What these medical cuts could mean for you". They also list a simple process by which you can contact members of Congress regarding this issue. It only takes a few minutes and it might help.

Also, it is my pleasure to announce to you that the Lancaster Chapter of MOAA has been awarded



John Gareis



the **Four Star Level of Excellence Award** for our work during the year 2018. Hearty congratulations to the Board and to our many members who have supported us during 2018!

Have a great rest of the summer and a pleasant Fall!

John W. Gareis, MD

• Treasurer's Report:

Your chapter treasurer is pleased to state that the financial status of the chapter is excellent. Income has exceeded budget estimates due to increased contributions to our scholarship funds because of our IRS tax exempt status. While dues income is still not 100 percent because there are a few members who have not yet renewed their chapter memberships, we are confident income will meet or exceed expectations by year's end. Our expenses continue to remain below budget projections at this point in our fiscal year and should remain so through the rest of 2019.



Dennis Benchhoff

I want to thank member Ed Hurston who on 2 July conducted a thorough and detailed audit of our 2018 financial records. He was helped by our chapter vice president, Dave Shelton. All income received and expenditures made were examined and reconciled with bank statements. No variances from standard acceptable accounting procedures were noted. I appreciated Ed's diligence and Dave's assistance in this extremely important function. Our checking account balance as of 31 August is \$18,367.67.

• Friendly Dues Reminder:

Dues are slowly coming in but still have 41 members owing 2019 dues. Dues are \$15 per year or \$40 for three years. Checks should be made out to Lancaster Chapter MOAA and sent to the Chapter address. Contact Tom Bender at 717 471-6817 or mot2017@ptd.net with any questions.

• Welcome our newest member:

1stLt Robert D. Sweeney, USAF (ACT)
104 Grey Hawk Court
Kathleen, GA 31047
717 222-2736
Spouse: Danielle
Joined: Aug 22, 2019
Sponsor: to be assigned

• We honor the memory of:

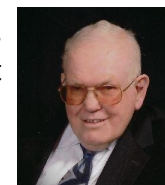
LCDR Joseph Besecker, USN (FMR) MD, 85, who died on Sunday, August 4, 2019. He is survived by his wife, Helen (Lynne) Besecker, who now assumes Chapter membership as a full member. He was a Chapter member for over 18 years, having joined in 2000. Donations in his memory can be made to the Emerald Foundation, 2120 Oregon Pike, Lancaster, or Lancaster Catholic High School or the Fulton Theatre.



Lt Col Harry G. Mann, USAF (RET), 89, who died on Wednesday, August 14, 2019. Harry was a long-time member (37 years) of our chapter, having joined in 1982. He served multiple terms as a Director on our Board of Directors. He was married for over 62 years to the late Patricia Mann, who died in 2015. Donations in his memory may be made to the Columbia Food Bank, PO Box 96, Columbia, PA 17512 or to the Salvation Army, 131 S Queen Street, Lancaster, PA 17603.



LTC Raymond A. Acker, USA (RET), 87, died on Thursday, August 15, 2019, at Calvary Homes in Lancaster. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Jean Acker, who assumes full Chapter membership. Ray served as an Army Chaplain and after Army retirement as a Missionary. He was a long-time Chapter member since joining in 2000. He is to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. Donations in his memory may be made to the Memorial Fund at Harvest Bible Church, 1460 Eden Road, Lancaster, PA 17601.





• **From our Surviving Spouse Liaison Chair:**

Just a reminder that I will have copies of Surviving Spouse booklets and pamphlets available to hand-out to members for review and ordering at our meetings at or near the sign-in table.

These booklets provide important information both before and after the death of a spouse.



Bill Confer

• **Annual Carlisle Barracks Retiree Appreciation Day:**

A reminder for our Army members, this annual event is scheduled for Saturday, October 5, 2019, at the Army War College starting with registration at 7:30. Contact the Retirement Services Office at 717 245-4501 for more information.

• **Picnic Pictures:**



Our cake—Let Freedom Ring



Waltz Wines



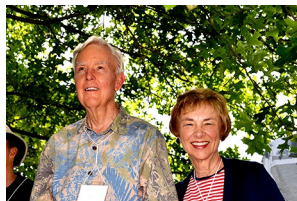
Lucy



Burke—Thought he was Army?



Thaler & Bochenko



Reid



Knouse



Bender & Vurdelja



Gareis & Crease



Confer Table

Next Newsletter Release:

November 1, 2019

Chapter Contacts:

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Dave Shelton 717-285-5971

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Dennis Benchoff 717-560-1260

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Recording Secretary:

Barry Schmitt: 717-877-1810

Chaplain:

Kim Bade 717-228-1546

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John Burke 717-627-6968

Tom Bender 717-471-6817

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George Resh 717-397-1906

Nominations:

Vacant

Surviving Spouse Liaison:

Bill Confer 717-712-3849

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